

Immediate Release

SINGAPORE WELCOMES MEXICO AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS

Singapore welcomes Mexico as a participant in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. We are confident that Mexico will contribute positively to the TPP's aim of a high-ambitioned and comprehensive trade agreement.

2. Singapore has always supported Mexico's membership. Mexico is the second-largest Latin American economy and Singapore's second-largest trading partner in Latin America. The TPP now represents another platform for Singapore to further strengthen our bilateral ties with Mexico.

3. Singapore reiterates its strong support for Japan and Canada's membership in the TPP. Their membership, in particular Japan as the world's third largest economy, will add weight to the TPP and bring us closer towards the eventual goal of a Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific. This will also emphasise the TPP's commitment to establishing an open and inclusive trade architecture that is open to all countries in the region.

Please refer to Annex for the full joint statement by Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States of America and Vietnam.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
19 JUNE 2012**

ANNEX***JOINT STATEMENT BY AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CHILE,
MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, PERU, SINGAPORE,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND VIETNAM*****TPP members welcome Mexico as a new member in Trans-Pacific
Partnership negotiations**

New Zealand Minister of Trade Tim Groser is pleased to make the following statement on behalf of the nine members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

“Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States of America and Viet Nam today welcomed Mexico as a new participant in negotiations to conclude a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement.

“We believe that Mexico’s participation in the negotiations will contribute to the objective of creating a 21st-Century agreement that will spur economic growth and development, promote innovation, benefit our consumers, and support the creation and retention of jobs, higher living standards and the reduction of poverty in our countries and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

“The current TPP members particularly welcomed Mexico’s commitment to achieving the shared goal of a comprehensive, high-ambition, next-generation agreement as rapidly as possible, consistent with the statements made by TPP Leaders and Trade Ministers on 12 November 2011 in Honolulu. We look forward to working with Mexico as we seek to conclude a comprehensive and balanced package, taking into account the diversity of our levels of development.

“The current TPP participants will now complete their domestic legal procedures, where applicable, after which Mexico will formally join and participate in the negotiations.”