

**LIM HNG KIANG TO ATTEND 45TH ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS'
(AEM) MEETING AND RELATED MEETINGS IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM,
19-21 AUGUST 2013**

Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Lim Hng Kiang will be in Brunei Darussalam to attend the 45th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting and related meetings – the 10th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting and the 1st Ministerial Meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), from 19 to 21 August 2013.

At the AEM and AEC Council meetings, ASEAN Economic Ministers will discuss the progress of regional economic integration initiatives, and focus on working towards establishing an ASEAN Economic Community by 2015. The AEC 2015 aims to transform the region into a single market and production base.

The ASEAN Economic Ministers will also meet their counterparts from Australia, Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States to discuss ways to deepen economic relations, including areas relating to ASEAN's free trade agreements. The 1st Ministerial Meeting of the RCEP will discuss the progress of negotiations on the wider regional agreement involving ASEAN and its Free Trade Agreement Partners of Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand.

While in Brunei Darussalam, Mr Lim will also attend the annual ASEAN Business and Investment Summit and the ASEAN-China Youth Forum, held on the sidelines of the main AEM Meeting.

Mr Lim will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
18 AUGUST 2013**