

**LEE YI SHYAN TO ATTEND 11TH CHINA-ASEAN EXPO (CAEXPO)
IN NANNING, GUANGXI, 15 - 17 SEPTEMBER 2014**

1. Singapore is participating in the 11th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) and China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (CABIS) held in Nanning, Guangxi, from 15 to 17 September 2014. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong will be delivering the keynote address at the official opening ceremony. Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development Lee Yi Shyan who is travelling with PM, will also attend the ceremony.
2. CAEXPO is an annual trade fair that seeks to promote economic cooperation between ASEAN and China through activities such as investment promotion seminars and trade exhibition. Singapore is the Country-of-Honour at the 11th CAEXPO this year, which also marks the beginning of the “Diamond Decade of China-ASEAN cooperation”. Singapore will be showcasing our key strengths in both physical and trade connectivity at CAEXPO. The National Pavilion, titled “Connect Singapore – Your Window to ASEAN and the World” (“新加坡 – 与您携手迈向东盟与世界”), will highlight the ease of doing business in Singapore, as well as Singapore’s strategic position to facilitate investments into the ASEAN market and the world.
3. On Singapore’s role to foster greater collaboration between China and ASEAN, Mr Lee said, “With the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, and the full implementation of the ASEAN-China FTA coming to its 4 years of operation, it is opportune for ASEAN and China to construct a new vision for the next phase of cooperation. Singapore looks forward to contributing further in initiatives that promote deeper regional cooperation and integration of the larger market of ASEAN and China. As an international financial centre and regional logistics and communications hub, Singapore is ready to play an active role to support regional growth.”
4. Singapore and China enjoy strong and deep economic links, underpinned by the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (CSFTA), which came into effect in January 2009. China was Singapore’s top trading partner in 2013, with bilateral trade volume increasing 11% year-on-year to reach S\$115.2 billion. Singapore was China’s top foreign investor in 2013, and has invested US\$66.5 billion cumulatively in China as of end-2013. Singapore is also a key investment destination for Chinese companies venturing overseas, and was China’s 5th largest investment destination in 2012.
5. Trade and investment links between Singapore and Guangxi have also deepened in recent years. Singapore and Guangxi’s trade increased by 172.6% year-on-year to reach US\$660.3 million in 2013. Singapore’s cumulative investments in Guangxi also reached US\$560 million as of end-2013.
6. The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) will be leading a 260-member business delegation, including representatives from nine Trade Associations and Chambers (TACs) and some 90 companies, to participate in the 11th CAEXPO. The delegation comprises Singapore companies from diverse industries, including logistics, professional services, port services and shipping, food and beverage and tourism management.

7. While in Nanning, Mr Lee will also attend the inaugural China-ASEAN Industry and Commerce Forum as well as the Singapore Day Seminar. The China-ASEAN Industry and Commerce Forum is an event jointly organised by the Chinese State Administration for Industry and Commerce and the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region government. It aims to promote investment between ASEAN and China through understanding of countries' market access policies and regulations. The Singapore Day Seminar, organised by the SBF and Ministry of Trade and Industry, will highlight Singapore's strengths as a springboard for Chinese companies looking to expand into the ASEAN markets.

8. Mr Lee will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, International Enterprise Singapore, Economic Development Board and the Singapore Tourism Board.

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

15 SEPTEMBER 2014