

MEDIA RELEASE

**LEE YI SHYAN TO ATTEND 21ST APEC SME MINISTERIAL MEETING IN NANJING,
5 SEPTEMBER 2014**

Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Lee Yi Shyan will attend the 21st APEC Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Ministerial Meeting in Nanjing, the People's Republic of China, on 5 September 2014.

The APEC SME Ministerial Meeting is an annual platform that brings together Ministers responsible for SMEs from the 21 APEC economies. At the Meeting, the Ministers will discuss ways to further promote innovation by SMEs in the APEC community, and help them grow their businesses sustainably. The Ministers will also review and affirm the SME Working Group (SMEWG) Strategic Action Plan 2013 – 2016, which provides a roadmap focusing on the core issues of SME development in the priority areas of (i) building management capability, entrepreneurship, and innovation; (ii) financing; and (iii) business environment, market access and internationalisation.

Singapore will be supporting many initiatives of the APEC SMEWG, as there is beneficial downstream effect for local SMEs. Some examples include U.S.'s business ethics capacity building for SMEs and Chinese Taipei's APEC Accelerator Network initiative. Mr Lee would elaborate further on the subject and share Singapore's experience in creating innovation capacities among SMEs.

Mr Lee will be making a visit to the Singapore-Nanjing Eco High-Tech Island on the sidelines of the APEC meetings. It is a project spearheaded by a consortium led by Yanlord and SembCorp to develop a 15 square km ecologically-friendly island, which provides a work-live-play environment and houses high-tech industries and innovative enterprises.

Mr Lee will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, SPRING Singapore and IE Singapore.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
4 SEPTEMBER 2014**