

## For Immediate Release

## MINISTER LIM HNG KIANG CO-CHAIRS 4th SINGAPORE-THAILAND ENHANCED ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP MINISTERIAL MEETING IN BANGKOK

The 4<sup>th</sup> Singapore-Thailand Enhanced Economic Relationship (STEER) Ministerial Meeting was held today in Bangkok, Thailand. Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade) Lim Hng Kiang co-chaired the meeting with his counterpart, Thailand's Minister of Commerce Mrs Apiradi Tantraporn.

The STEER meeting affirmed the growing bilateral economic ties between both countries and discussed ways to deepen cooperation in agriculture & food, tourism, trade facilitation, air connectivity and info-communication & technology (ICT). Both sides also explored possible investment opportunities in areas such as transport & logistics and green energy.

At the end of the meeting, the Ministers witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) and Thailand's Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) which aims to further bilateral intellectual property cooperation.

While in Bangkok, Minister Lim also called on Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak. At the meeting, both sides underscored the strong economic relations between Singapore and Thailand and expressed mutual interest to deepen bilateral economic collaboration and further regional economic integration.

In 2014, bilateral trade between Singapore and Thailand stood at S\$30.2 billion. Thailand was Singapore's 9<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner in 2014<sup>1</sup>, while Singapore was Thailand's 5<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner<sup>2</sup>. Singapore was also the top ASEAN investor and the second largest investor in Thailand in 2014<sup>3</sup>. In the first eight months of 2015, Singapore ranked as Thailand's top investor with investment value of 13.1 billion baht (S\$ 512 million) from 51 projects.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: IE Singapore

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Source: Thailand's Ministry of Commerce

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Source: Bank of Thailand

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Source: Thailand Board of Investment