

For Immediate Release

**MINISTER OF STATE KOH POH KOON ATTENDS
OPENING CEREMONY OF THE 13TH CHINA-ASEAN EXPO
IN NANNING, GUANGXI**

1. Singapore is participating in the 13th China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) that will be held in Nanning, Guangxi, from 11 to 14 September 2016. Minister of State for Trade & Industry and National Development Dr Koh Poh Koon was in Nanning for the CAEXPO. He visited Singapore's National Pavilion and met with Chinese and ASEAN leaders on 10 September, and attended the opening ceremony on 11 September 2016.
2. CAEXPO is an annual trade fair and an important platform that seeks to promote economic cooperation between ASEAN and China through activities such as investment promotion seminars and a trade exhibition. This year, Singapore is showcasing our strengths as a business hub and as a premier transport nexus with excellent infrastructural, financial and business connectivity. The National Pavilion, titled "Singapore – 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and Modern Connectivity Hub" ("新加坡—21世纪海上丝绸之路与现代互联互通的枢纽"), highlights Singapore's growing professional services, transportation, ICT, infrastructure, and tourism sectors.
3. Sharing his view on ASEAN-China economic collaboration, Dr Koh said, "China's outbound investments are increasing rapidly and ASEAN is a growing market with great potential. The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community, the upgraded ASEAN-China Free Trade Area this year, as well as China's Belt and Road initiative, all seek to encourage regional economic integration through enhanced connectivity. Against this backdrop, Singapore is well-positioned to facilitate and strengthen ASEAN-China trade and investment links".
4. Chinese companies looking to enter the ASEAN market can leverage Singapore's strong regional linkages, well-connected infrastructure, reliable legal and intellectual property ecosystem and robust financial system to launch their businesses into the region. Moreover, with Singapore's long-standing economic relations with China, many Singapore businesses have close ties with their Chinese commercial partners and have established strong people-to-people networks that have facilitated commercial collaborations with Chinese companies.
5. The strong and deep Singapore-China economic relations are underpinned by the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (CSFTA), which came into effect in January 2009. In 2015, for the third consecutive year, China was Singapore's top trading partner while Singapore was China's largest foreign investor. Trade and investment relations between Singapore and Guangxi have also deepened in recent years. From 2011 to 2015, the

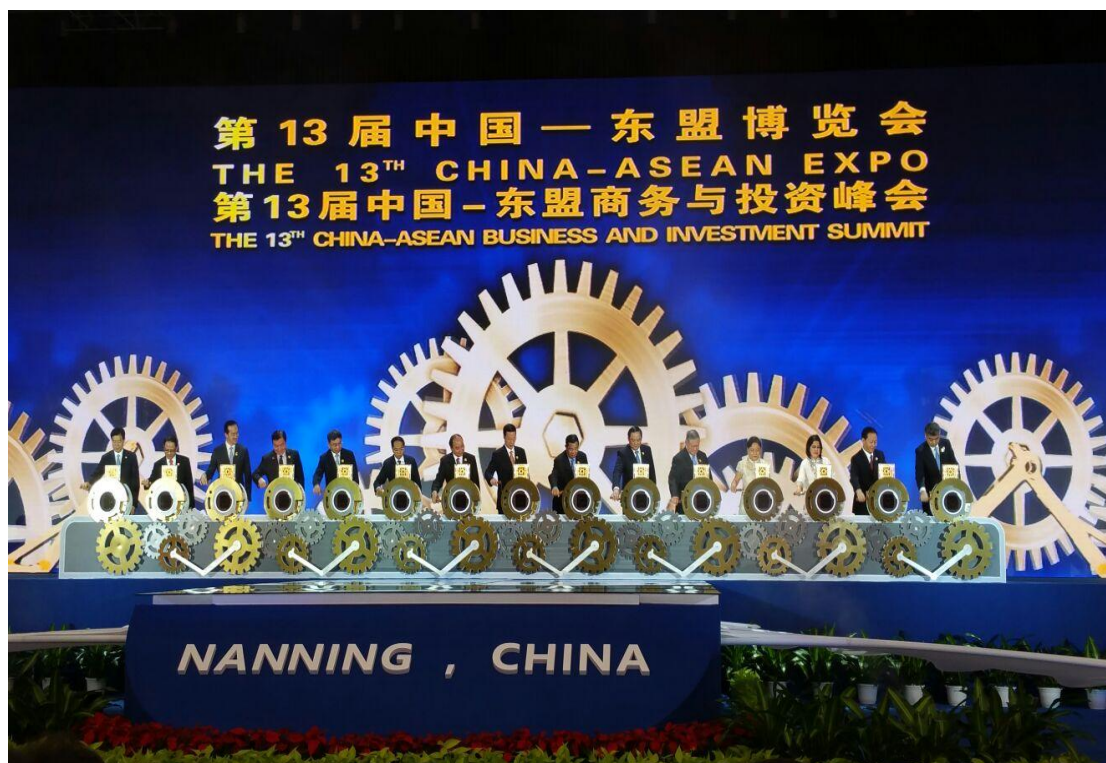
total Singapore-Guangxi trade increased by more than threefold to reach US\$ 822 billion. As of end-2015, Singapore's cumulative investments in Guangxi reached US\$ 1 billion across about 200 projects and accounted for about 26% of the total foreign direct investment in Guangxi. Singapore will continue to enhance our bilateral economic relations with China and is working closely with China to complete the CSFTA upgrade negotiations.

6. The Singapore Business Federation (SBF), which led a business delegation to participate in the CAEXPO, is organising a Singapore Day Seminar at the side-lines of CAEXPO. The seminar aims to highlight Singapore's strengths as a launch pad for Chinese companies looking to internationalise and explore collaboration opportunities with Singapore companies to undertake projects in third-country markets.

7. Dr Koh was accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economic Development Board, International Enterprise Singapore and the Singapore Tourism Board.



Minister of State for Trade Dr Koh Poh Koon (fifth from left) at Singapore's National Pavilion with Ms Mo Changying, Vice-Chairman of Guangxi Political Consultative Conference (fourth from left), Mr Teo Siong Seng, Chairman of Singapore Business Federation (third from right) and Mr Chua Teng Hoe, Singapore Consulate-General in Guangzhou (second from right) on Saturday, 10 September 2016.



Minister of State for Trade Dr Koh Poh Koon (third from left) at the opening ceremony of the 13th China-ASEAN Expo on Sunday, 11 September 2016.

Ministry of Trade and Industry
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