

For Immediate Release

**MINISTER LIM HNG KIANG TO ATTEND  
23<sup>RD</sup> ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS RETREAT**

1. Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade) Lim Hng Kiang will attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Retreat in Manila, Philippines, from 8 to 10 March 2017.
2. At the retreat, the ASEAN Economic Ministers will discuss matters related to the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) including the implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025 in deepening economic integration. They will also discuss ways to improve trade facilitation through the ASEAN Single Window (ASW) which will lower administrative procedures and cost for traders.
3. The Ministers will also discuss the progress of ASEAN's Free Trade Agreements (FTA) including the ongoing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. The RCEP was launched by the Leaders of ASEAN and its six FTA partners - Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand - in November 2012 to deepen ASEAN's engagement with them.
4. While in Manila, Minister Lim will participate in the 15<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers – European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Consultations to enhance trade and investment links between ASEAN and the EU.
5. Minister Lim will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

**Ministry of Trade and Industry  
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