

For Immediate Release

**LIM HNG KIANG TO ATTEND 49TH ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS'
MEETING AND RELATED MEETINGS IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES,
6 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2017**

1. Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade) Lim Hng Kiang will attend the 49th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Meeting and Related Meetings in Manila, Philippines, from 6 to 10 Sep 2017. These include the 31st ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) Council Meeting, the 20th ASEAN Investment Area (AIA) Council Meeting, the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the various AEM Consultations with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners. These meetings will take place as ASEAN celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding.

2. At the meetings, the Ministers will discuss how to take forward the work to further deepen regional economic integration under the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 Blueprint and deliverables under The Republic of the Philippines' 2017 ASEAN Chairmanship. Ministers from ASEAN and its Dialogue Partner countries will also exchange views on economic cooperation, including the progress of negotiations on the RCEP and ASEAN's six Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

3. Singapore will assume the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2018. During our Chairmanship, we will work with our ASEAN partners to tap on opportunities from global trends in areas such as the digital economy and trade facilitation to help businesses grow.

4. Mr Lim will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
6 SEPTEMBER 2017**

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