



**THE 6th REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)
INTERSESSIONAL MINISTERIAL MEETING
13 October 2018, Singapore**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Ministers from the 16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) attended the 6th RCEP Interseasonal Ministerial Meeting held on 13 October 2018 in Singapore. The Ministers reviewed the developments since the 6th RCEP Ministerial Meeting on 30-31 August 2018 in Singapore, particularly the outcomes of interseasonal meetings held by various Working Groups and Sub-Working Groups in September 2018 as well as the Special RCEP TNC Meeting on Market Access held on 6-9 October 2018 in Jakarta.
2. The Ministers welcomed the intensification of market access negotiations. While appreciating some narrowing of gaps, the Ministers emphasised the need for further improvements. The Ministers noted the progress in the negotiations of other chapters on rules, and urged all RCEP Participating Countries to continue to exert all efforts toward meeting the targets set out in the Package of Year-End Deliverables. The Ministers provided guidance on specific issues elevated by the Trade Negotiating Committee.
3. The Ministers reaffirmed their resolve to bring negotiations to a substantial conclusion and reiterated that the completion of the Package by the year-end is an important milestone, particularly at the time of uncertainties in global trade. The Ministers agreed to work together to overcome any difficulty or challenge as the RCEP negotiations enter into the last mile.
4. The Ministers agreed to meet next at the Preparatory RCEP Ministerial Meeting prior to the 2nd RCEP Summit in November 2018.

LIST OF RCEP MINISTERS

- (a) **Hon. Mark Coulton MP**, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment representing **Hon. Simon Birmingham**, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Australia
- (b) **H.E. Dato Ahmaddin Rahman**, Deputy Minister of Finance (Fiscal), Ministry of Finance and Economy representing **H.E. Dato Dr. Amin Liew Abdullah**, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II, Brunei Darussalam;
- (c) **H.E. Sok Sopheak**, Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Commerce representing **H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce**, Cambodia;
- (d) **H.E. Wang Shouwen**, Vice Minister of Commerce and Deputy China International Trade Representative, People's Republic of China representing **H.E. Zhong Shan**, Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China;
- (e) **Mr. C R Chaudhary**, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry representing **H.E. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu**, Minister for Commerce and Industry, India;
- (f) **H.E. Enggartiasto Lukita**, Minister of Trade, Republic of Indonesia;
- (g) **H.E. Hiroshige Seko**, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Japan;
- (h) **H.E. Hyun Chong KIM**, Minister for Trade, Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, Republic of Korea;
- (i) **H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR;
- (j) **H.E. Darell Leiking**, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
- (k) **H.E. Set Aung**, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance representing **H.E. Soe Win**, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Myanmar;
- (l) **Hon David Parker**, Minister for Trade and Export Growth, New Zealand;
- (m) **H.E. Ramon M. Lopez**, Secretary of Trade and Industry, Republic of the Philippines;
- (n) **H.E. Chan Chun Sing**, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore;
- (o) **H.E. Chutima Bunyapraphasara**, Deputy Minister of Commerce representing **H.E. Sonthirat Sonthijirawong**, Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
- (p) **Mr. Luong Hoang Thai**, Director General, Ministry of Industry and Trade representing **H.E. Tran Tuan Anh**, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam; and
- (q) **H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi**, Secretary-General of ASEAN.
