



**THE 7th REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)
INTERSESSIONAL MINISTERIAL MEETING
2 March 2019, Siem Reap, Cambodia**

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The Ministers from the 16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) attended the 7th RCEP Interseasonal Ministerial Meeting held on 2 March 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. The Meeting was opened by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and was chaired by H.E. Chutima Bunyapraphasara, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Acting Minister of Commerce of Thailand, reviewed the developments since the 2nd RCEP Summit on 14 November 2018 in Singapore, particularly the outcomes of the 2nd Special TNC Meeting held on 25-26 January 2019 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and the 25th RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) Meeting and Related Meetings held on 19-28 February 2019 in Bali, Indonesia.
2. The Ministers recalled the Leaders' determination to conclude a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial RCEP in 2019, and resolved to exert utmost effort to achieve this target. They commended the RCEP Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) for the good progress made to date on both market access and text-based negotiations but at the same time recognized that more work still needs to be done to advance both aspects of the negotiations. The Ministers urged all RPCs to address specific sensitivities while working towards achieving commercially meaningful and balanced outcomes. The Ministers remained confident that with collective commitment and pragmatism, the chapters and annexes that would comprise the RCEP Agreement can be concluded soon. The Ministers reiterated that it is the collective responsibility of all RPCs to ensure progress by overcoming negotiation challenges and finding solutions to the remaining issues through constructive engagement.
3. To ensure that progress is made towards meeting the Leaders' mandate for conclusion in 2019, the Ministers agreed to intensify engagement for the remainder of the year, including by convening more interseasonal meetings. The Ministers agreed to meet next at the 8th RCEP Interseasonal Ministerial Meeting to be held in August 2019 after the 27th RCEP TNC Meeting and Related Meetings.

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 Dr. Amin Liew Abdullah**, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II, Brunei Darussalam;
- (c) **H.E. Pan Sorasak, Minister of Commerce**, Cambodia;
- (d) **H.E. Li Chenggang**, Assistant Minister of Commerce representing **H.E. Zhong Shan**, Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of China;
- (e) **H.E. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu**, Minister for Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation, 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. Ms. Myung Hee Yoo**, 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. Thaung Tun**, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Myanmar
- (l) **Michael Wood MP**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Ethnic Communities representing **Hon Damien O'Connor**, Minister of State 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, Acting Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
- (p) **H.E. Tran Quoc Khanh**, Vice Minister of 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.
