



**Joint Media Statement on
ASEAN Economic Ministers Roadshow to Japan**

8 April 2017 Osaka, Japan

ASEAN Economic Ministers Roadshow (AEM Roadshow) to Japan took place on 6-9 April 2017 involving the cities of Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Wakayama, Japan. The Roadshow was organised by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan with the support of the AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC), the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), business organisations, government-affiliated organisations and local governments.

1. The Ministers were pleased that the AEM Roadshow was successfully held in the commemorative year to celebrate the 50th founding anniversary of ASEAN under the Chairmanship of the Philippines. The Ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen economic and industrial cooperation in line with the implementation of the renewed ASEAN-Japan 10 year Strategic Economic Cooperation Roadmap.
2. Through the Roadshow, the Ministers recognised huge untapped potentials for Japan and ASEAN to further deepen collaboration in promoting innovation, fostering entrepreneurship and creating new industries and solve common social agenda in East Asia including mobility, energy and healthcare through the use of using cutting-edge technologies. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the successful launch of ASEAN-Japan Innovation Network and noted with satisfaction that business collaborations have already started under the Network.
3. The Ministers agreed on the role of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as a key driver of economic growth and recognised the importance of increased access to finance through possible cooperation in accordance with the domestic laws and regulations on MSMEs. They welcomed Japan's contribution in voluntarily hosting the SME Finance Roadshow last March 2017. The Ministers also welcomed the proposal of the Philippines to

organize a regular ASEAN-Japan fair that would provide an opportunity to promote brand awareness of their products and services, among others, for a more meaningful ASEAN-Japan partnership.

4. The Ministers also discussed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and reiterated their strong commitment to meet the mandate given by the Leaders at their Summit meeting in September 2016 to work towards the swift conclusion of the RCEP negotiations. The Ministers shared the view that, in the headwinds against globalisation, it is imperative for a modern, comprehensive, high quality, and mutually beneficial RCEP to be a model for inclusive and innovation-oriented growth – an Agreement that would not only facilitate the participation of MSMEs and local enterprises into the regional value chains but also promote innovation and encourage entrepreneurship. In this regard, while being mindful of RPCs’ sensitivities, the Ministers reiterated the importance of RCEP to deliver high quality and commercially meaningful outcomes, not only on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, and Investment, but also in trade facilitating rules (e.g. customs procedures, e-commerce, and intellectual property). Japan reiterated the importance of Government Procurement and State-owned enterprises in the RCEP negotiations.
5. The Ministers recognised Ecotech as an important pillar of RCEP. In this context, they agreed to consider a Japan-ASEAN Initiative to realise RCEP by jointly developing human resources, enhancing institutional capacities, building infrastructure for strengthening connectivity in the region and deepening industrial cooperation, while addressing the divergence of economic development in this region. They were committed to work towards elaborating the details of the Japan-ASEAN Initiative to realise RCEP. They also agreed to the importance of accelerating structural reform and reducing NTB for promoting innovation and fostering new industries.
6. The Ministers looked forward to meeting again to further exchange views at the 23rd AEM – METI Consultations in Manila, the Philippines in this September 2017.



LIST OF MINISTERS

1. **The Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng**, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam (Brunei Darussalam's AEM);

The Hon. Pehin Dato (Dr.) Mohammad Yasmin Umar, Minister of Energy and Industry at the Prime Minister's Office, Brunei Darussalam;
2. **H.E. Pan Sorasak**, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
3. **H.E. Enggartiasto Lukita**, Minister of Trade, Indonesia;
4. **H.E. Hiroshige Seko**, Minister for Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan;
5. **H.E. Mrs Khemmani Pholsena**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR;
6. **H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed**, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia;
7. **H.E. Kyaw Win**, Union Minister of Planning and Finance, Myanmar;
8. **H.E. Ramon M. Lopez**, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines;
9. **H.E. Koh Poh Koon**, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Singapore (representing H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade), Singapore);
10. **H.E. Apiradi Tantraporn**, Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
11. **H.E. Tran Tuan Anh**, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam;
12. **H.E. Le Luong Minh**, Secretary-General of ASEAN.