

Immediate Release

SINGAPORE WELCOMES CANADA AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS

Singapore warmly welcomes Canada's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations. Canada will be a valuable partner in the development of a high quality agreement to spur economic growth across the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Singapore has consistently expressed support for Canada's participation. Canada is one of the world's largest economies and a leading industrial nation. Singapore enjoys warm relations with Canada, and the TPP will bring both countries closer.

3. Having welcomed Mexico yesterday to join the TPP negotiations, Canada's inclusion will now grow the membership to 11. In addition, Singapore looks forward to Japan's early participation in the TPP, given its importance as the world's third largest economy. The TPP is envisioned to be an inclusive agreement that will lead to an eventual Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific. Singapore welcomes all countries in the region that will contribute to the TPP's objective of advancing regional economic integration.

Please refer to Annex for the full joint statement by Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States of America and Vietnam.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
20 JUNE 2012**

ANNEX***JOINT STATEMENT BY AUSTRALIA, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CHILE,
MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, PERU, SINGAPORE,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND VIETNAM*****TPP members welcome Canada as a new member in Trans-Pacific
Partnership negotiations**

New Zealand Minister of Trade Tim Groser is pleased to make the following statement on behalf of the nine members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

“Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States of America and Viet Nam today welcomed Canada as a new participant in negotiations to conclude a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement.

“We believe that Canada’s participation in the negotiations will contribute to the objective of creating a 21st-Century agreement that will spur economic growth and development, promote innovation, benefit our consumers, and support the creation and retention of jobs, higher living standards and the reduction of poverty in our countries and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

“The current TPP members particularly welcomed Canada’s commitment to achieving the shared goal of a comprehensive, high-ambition, next-generation agreement as rapidly as possible, consistent with the statements made by TPP Leaders and Trade Ministers on 12 November 2011 in Honolulu. We look forward to working with Canada as we seek to conclude a comprehensive and balanced package, taking into account the diversity of our levels of development.

“The current TPP participants will now complete their domestic legal procedures, where applicable, after which Canada will formally join and participate in the negotiations.”