

## LIM HNG KIANG TO ATTEND 22<sup>ND</sup> ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS RETREAT IN CHIANG MAI

Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade) Lim Hng Kiang will be attending the 22<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Retreat in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 2 to 3 March 2016.

2 At the retreat, the ASEAN Economic Ministers will discuss the remaining implementation matters on the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2015 and the work ahead on implementing the AEC Blueprint 2025. Ministers will also discuss the progress of the ongoing Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. This is a key initiative launched by the Leaders of ASEAN and its six Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners (Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand) in November 2012 to deepen ASEAN's engagement with its FTA partners.

3 Minister Lim will also participate in the 14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Ministers – European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Consultations to discuss areas of economic cooperation to enhance trade and investment between ASEAN and the EU.

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

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