

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SINGAPORE TO PARTICIPATE IN ASTANA EXPO 2017 IN KAZAKHSTAN**

1. Singapore and Kazakhstan are enhancing bilateral relations and economic cooperation with Singapore's participation in the Astana EXPO 2017, to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 10 June to 10 September 2017.
2. Second Director of the Emerging Markets Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Mr Wong Toon Joon, and Kazakhstan's Commissioner for EXPO 2017, Mr Rapol Zhoshybayev, signed a Participation Contract this morning at the Ministry of Trade and Industry to confirm Singapore's involvement in the EXPO. Mr Wong and Mr Zhoshybayev also had a brief meeting prior to the signing to discuss the scope of Singapore's participation.
3. Themed "Future Energy", the EXPO seeks to promote new energy solutions and innovation in conventional energy in the pursuit of sustainable energy development. Singapore will set up a national pavilion at the EXPO to showcase Singapore's experiences in the future energy sector and innovative approaches towards sustainable development, city planning and urban governance. This is the first time that an international exposition is hosted by a Central Asian nation and according to Kazakhstan, about 96 countries have officially confirmed their participation.
4. Economic relations between Singapore and Kazakhstan have increased steadily over the years since 2007. In 2015, total bilateral trade amounted to S\$89.5 million, making Kazakhstan Singapore's top trading partner in Central Asia. As of 2014, Singapore's stock of Direct Investment Abroad (DIA) in Kazakhstan amounted to S\$200 million while Kazakhstan's stock of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Singapore amounted to S\$1.2 billion.

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Mr Wong Toon Joon, Second Director of the Emerging Markets Division, Ministry of Trade and Industry (second from left) and Mr Rapol Zhoshybayev, Kazakhstan's Commissioner for EXPO 2017 (second from right) after signing the Participation Contract at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Mr Zulkifli Baharudin, Singapore's Non-resident Ambassador to Kazakhstan (far left) and Mr Usen A. Suleimen, Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Singapore (far right) witnessed the signing.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**  
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