

For Immediate Release

## **SINGAPORE LEARNS FROM JAPAN'S INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES**

1. Minister of State for Trade and Industry Dr Koh Poh Koon will represent Singapore at the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) Roadshow to Japan from 6 to 8 April 2017 where he will learn about technologies and innovative solutions from leading Japanese companies.
2. Dr Koh is visiting Hitachi Ltd, Panasonic Corporation and SHIMA SEIKA Manufacturing Ltd who will share their new technologies and ideas in urban solutions, internet of things (IoT) and garment manufacturing respectively. He will also visit the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application (CiRA), the world's first research laboratory on induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) and meet with the director of CiRA, Nobel Prize winning stem cell researcher Shinya Yamanaka.
3. The focus of this Roadshow is on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, strategies that the Committee on the Future Economy (CFE) has identified for Singapore's future economy. Jointly organised by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) and the AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Cooperation Committee (AMEICC), the Roadshow aims to promote deeper economic relations between Japan and ASEAN and showcase advanced Japanese technologies. The theme is "New Era of ASEAN-Japan Economic Cooperation – Create the future of ASEAN and Japan through supporting new industry and SMEs". This is the second Roadshow and the first was held in 2012.
4. Dr Koh and AEM representatives will witness the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) by ASEAN and Japanese businesses to establish an official business network to facilitate innovation and industry initiatives, including the promotion of business collaborations and policy proposals.
5. Dr Koh said, "Japan possesses world-renowned technological strengths. For Singapore, our enterprises can exchange experiences, learn and adapt the new technologies to deepen their capabilities. This will help businesses improve productivity, innovate, and scale up to expand overseas. This roadshow signals Japan's continued commitment to engage and collaborate with the ASEAN region which will bring about mutually beneficial growth opportunities for both ASEAN and Japan."
6. As part of the trip, Dr Koh will stop over at Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka and Wakayama City where he will meet Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Hiroshige Seko and Governor of Osaka Ichiro Matsui.

**Ministry of Trade and Industry  
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