

**VICE MINISTER OF COMMERCE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA GAO YAN CALLS ON MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY
CHAN CHUN SING**

1. Vice Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China (PRC) Gao Yan called on Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing this afternoon. During the call, they affirmed the strong and deep bilateral relations between Singapore and China, and discussed a wide range of economic collaboration between both countries. These included the ongoing negotiations for the upgrading of the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement and the China-Singapore (Chongqing) Connectivity Initiative (CCI). Mr Chan also underscored the importance of using the CCI to deepen financial cooperation between Singapore and Western China.

2. Vice Minister Gao is in Singapore to co-chair the 2nd CCI Joint Working Committee Senior Officials' Meeting (JWC SOM) with Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Trade and Industry Loh Khum Yean. At the 2nd CCI JWC SOM, they discussed policies to advance the CCI priority areas of cooperation, including financial services, aviation, transport and logistics, and ICT. The co-chairs also had good discussions on the next steps for the development of the CCI-Southern Transport Corridor (CCI-STC).

3. The CCI-STC has received strong support from the business community. Sino-Singapore Chongqing Connectivity Solutions (SSCCS), which is a joint venture between Singapore and Chongqing companies spearheading the development of the CCI-STC, has built up northbound cargo in order to balance trade flows along the CCI-STC. The products that they have facilitated include commodities and chemicals such as pulp and paper products, steel, plastic resins, polyol and stearic acid, as well as seafood and fruits. PSA International has also encouraged shipping lines to service the route between Singapore and Qin Zhou, and there are now four new shipping lines plying the route. These contribute to the CCI-STC's aim of building a strong network of transport nodes.

4. Mr Chan said, "The CCI-STC is a key project between Singapore and China as part of the Belt and Road Initiative. As a new trade route, it helps strengthen connectivity between ASEAN and Western China, and is a platform open to all companies with trading interests in the region and would like to play a part in its development."

Annex A: Photo of the courtesy call by PRC Vice Minister of Commerce Gao Yan on Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing

Ministry of Trade and Industry
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Annex A: Photo of the courtesy call by PRC Vice Minister of Commerce Gao Yan on Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing



Caption (from left to right): Vice Minister of Commerce of the People's Republic of China Gao Yan and Minister for Trade and Industry Chan Chun Sing.