

*For Immediate Release*

**SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE CHEE HONG TAT VISITS SARAWAK TO REAFFIRM BILATERAL TIES**

1. Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education Chee Hong Tat visited Kuching and Sibu in Sarawak, Malaysia from 25 to 26 October 2019.
2. In Kuching, Mr Chee called on Sarawak Chief Minister YAB Datuk Patinggi Dr Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg. Both sides affirmed the close and positive ties between Singapore and Sarawak in areas like agri-food and tourism.
3. Mr Chee also attended the Sarawak Business Federation's 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner where he met with Sarawak business leaders. At the dinner, Mr Chee and Sarawak Chief Minister Abang Johari witnessed the exchange of an MOU between the Sarawak Business Federation and the Singapore Business Federation (SBF). The MOU aims to build stronger business collaboration between Singapore and Sarawak, through promoting trade and investment opportunities amongst each other's business communities. SBF led a Singapore business delegation to Sarawak from 23-26 October 2019 to help them explore business opportunities and investments in both trade and tourism.
4. In Sibu, Mr Chee met with Sibu Resident Charles Siaw, Sibu Municipal Council Chairman Clarence Ting and the business community to discuss potential collaborations in agri-food and tourism.
5. Mr Chee said, "Singapore and Sarawak enjoy close and longstanding relations. We will continue to strengthen our business and trade linkages, including deepening partnerships in areas such as agri-food and tourism."
6. Mr Lim Hock Leng, Managing Director of Sheng Siong Group, who is with SBF on the business mission to Kuching, said, "Sarawak is a resource-rich region that lies in close proximity to Singapore. During this trip, we came across various products with the potential to appeal to consumers in Singapore. If stronger logistics connections could be bridged with the support from both governments, Sarawak could become another source of food products for Singapore."
7. Singapore has close trade and investment linkages with Malaysia. Singapore continues to be Malaysia's second largest trading partner. Trade between Singapore and Malaysia increased by approximately 9% from 2017 to S\$118.3 billion in 2018. Singapore was also Malaysia's largest investor as of August 2019, with S\$45.9 billion of investments spread across a wide range of sectors such as property, hospitality, logistics, retail, manufacturing, aerospace, electrical and electronics, and food.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
26 OCTOBER 2019**

**Annex: Photo of Mr Chee and Sarawak Chief Minister Abang Johari  
witnessing the MOU exchange between the Sarawak Business Federation  
and the Singapore Business Federation**

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**Annex: Photo of Mr Chee and Sarawak Chief Minister Abang Johari witnessing the MOU exchange between the Sarawak Business Federation and the Singapore Business Federation**



**Caption:** Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education Chee Hong Tat and Sarawak Chief Minister YAB Datuk Patinggi Dr Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg witnessed the exchange of a MOU between the Sarawak Business Federation and the Singapore Business Federation at the Sarawak Business Federation's 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner.