

**MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY GAN KIM YONG AND UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AMBASSADOR KATHERINE TAI CO-CHAIR JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE UNITED STATES-SINGAPORE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

1. Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai co-chaired a Joint Committee Meeting of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA) on Tuesday, 30 April 2024, in Washington, DC.

2. Minister Gan and Ambassador Tai welcomed the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the USSFTA this year. They affirmed the USSFTA's strategic and commercial importance as a high-performing and mutually beneficial agreement. To ensure that companies from both countries, particularly Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) can continue to tap on the benefits of the USSFTA, Minister Gan and Ambassador Tai agreed to continue work on shared areas of interest including digital economy and trade facilitation issues such as paperless trading, and supply chain resiliency.

3. Minister Gan said, "Singapore is pleased to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA), which has been a cornerstone of our economic and commercial partnership with the US. Today's Joint Committee Meeting reinforced both countries' shared interest in further advancing mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation, including in facilitating trade through digital tools. This will help ensure that our companies, and particularly our MSMEs, can continue to benefit from the USSFTA. Singapore remains committed to enhancing our partnership with the US, and exploring new ways in which we work together even more closely to unlock opportunities for our businesses and people."

4. Minister Gan and Ambassador Tai also exchanged views on recent developments in international trade, as well as Singapore and the US' continued cooperation at regional and multilateral fora. Minister Gan and Ambassador Tai noted the outcomes achieved at the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference in Abu Dhabi and reaffirmed their commitment to improve the WTO to better position Members to meet the WTO's foundational objectives.

**Annex A: Background information on the US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA)**

**Annex B: Photo**

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
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**ANNEX A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE US-SINGAPORE  
FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (USSFTA)**

Overview

The USSFTA entered into force in 2004, and was among the first FTAs that Singapore signed with a major trading partner. It was the US’ first FTA with an Asia-Pacific country, and remains the US’ only FTA with an ASEAN partner. At the time of its conclusion, the USSFTA was a comprehensive, gold-standard agreement which served as a template for many of Singapore’s subsequent FTAs. It removed barriers in goods and services trade, and in investment. It also broke new ground in areas like e-commerce, and established high standards in Intellectual Property protection, transparency, and customs cooperation which remain relevant today. In addition to catalysing trade and investment between Singapore and the US, the USSFTA reinforced both countries’ strategic partnership, and signalled the US’ long-term commitment to engaging Southeast Asia and contributing to the region’s development.

Example of company who has benefitted from the USSFTA

Company	Quote & Spokesperson
Tat Hui Foods	<p>“The US-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA) was a big factor in helping us secure business partnerships with key customers in the US. From the 2000s when the FTA was first introduced until today, Tat Hui Foods’ sales in the market has increased by over 300%. This growth was enabled by the enactment of the USSFTA which allowed our US-based clients to enjoy preferential tariff rates and therefore facilitated expedited market entry for us.” – <b>Mr James Lim, Managing Director</b></p> <p><i>Established in 1986, Tat Hui is the largest instant noodle manufacturer in Singapore. It retails under the brands Koka, Sanwa and Yoodles. The company’s 2023 revenue stood at close to \$100mil. Majority Tat Hui’s revenues are generated from exports to over 50 countries including UK, USA, Indonesia and India. Tat Hui’s product differentiation is premised on health with offerings that are steamed and baked, lower in fat and sodium and MSG free. Tat Hui Foods recently participated in Natural Products Expo West (NPEW), the leading trade show for natural, organic, and healthy products held in United States.</i></p>

**ANNEX B: PHOTO**



**Caption:** Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong and United States Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai co-chaired a Joint Committee Meeting of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA) on 30 April 2024, in Washington, DC.