

For immediate release

**MINISTER OF STATE KOH POH KOON AT HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
INTEGRATION INITIATIVES IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**

1. Dr Koh Poh Koon, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry, represented Singapore in a High-Level Dialogue on Integration Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region in Viña Del Mar, Chile, on 14 and 15 March 2017. He also met with the remaining Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Parties on the margins of the High-Level Dialogue.

2. Dr Koh said, “Singapore had fruitful discussions with the participants of this High-Level Dialogue in Viña Del Mar. In a time of increasing global economic uncertainty, the Asia-Pacific remains a dynamic region of growth and opportunity. I am happy that there was collective will to advancing an open and inclusive trade agenda that will spread the benefits to our citizens and our businesses. Singapore remains a steadfast proponent of free trade and regional economic integration.

3. On the TPP, this was the first opportunity since the US’ withdrawal for Parties to meet and exchange views. Singapore is heartened that Parties were committed to sustaining momentum on the TPP, and exploring all available options to preserve the benefits of the TPP, to ultimately harvest the gains in a timely manner.”

Annex A: Photograph of Minister of State Koh Poh Koon at the High-Level Dialogue on Integration Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region

Annex B: Joint Statement by TPP Partners on 15 March 2017 (issued by Chile)

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
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Annex A



Minister of State Koh Poh Koon (top row, far left) at the High-Level Dialogue on Integration Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region. *(Photo by Ministry of Trade and Industry)*

Annex B

**Joint Statement by TPP Partners
15 March 2017, Viña del Mar, Chile**

High Level Representatives from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Malaysia, Peru, and Singapore and Vietnam met here today to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) on the margins of the High Level Dialogue on Integration Initiatives for the Asia Pacific.

The participating partners reiterated their commitment to collaborate in keeping markets open and to the free flow of goods, services and investment, advancing regional economic integration, and strengthening the rules-based international trading system, noting our concern with protectionism in many parts of the world.

They recalled the balanced outcome and the strategic and economic significance of the TPP, highlighting its principles and high standards as a key driver for regional economic integration and promoter of economic growth, competition, innovation and productivity, with the potential of generating jobs and lowering costs for consumers.

The High Level Representatives exchanged views on their respective domestic processes regarding TPP and canvassed views on a way forward that would advance economic integration in the Asia Pacific. Senior Trade Officials will meet and consult in preparation for the Ministers to meet again in the margins of the APEC meeting of Ministers Responsible for Trade, on 20-21 May 2017.