



MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL
TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MITI WEEKLY BULLETIN

VOLUME 336

28 APRIL 2015 | NO. ISSN: 2180-0448



MALAYSIA CHAIRMAN OF ASEAN 2015

OUR PEOPLE, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR VISION

OPENING CEREMONY of THE 26th ASEAN SUMMIT BY YAB DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB TUN ABDUL RAZAK PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA 27 APRIL 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to welcome all of you to Kuala Lumpur and the opening ceremony of the 26th ASEAN Summit. Ten years ago, Malaysia filled this hall for the same purpose as today. We are privileged to serve ASEAN once again in a decisive year for our organisation; a year filled with important developments in the areas of community-building, including through deeper economic integration.



2015 will be a milestone in the history of ASEAN. The vision of creating a single community will be realised by the end of December. And it is also our collective duty this year to formulate a successor document to the Roadmap to Establish the ASEAN Community. This will provide the basis for how we further strengthen our unity and deepen our integration over the next ten years, taking us up to 2025. These are two crucial undertakings for charting a bold, inclusive and forward-looking future for ASEAN and its peoples. So it is appropriate that the theme of Malaysia's chairmanship is "Our People, Our Community, Our Vision". We want to make ASEAN "People Centred". This means good governance, higher standards of living, sustainable development, empowerment of women, and greater opportunity for all people.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would also like to talk to you about ASEAN itself. ASEAN is a political and economic organisation, and one that is playing an increasingly important role both regionally and globally. But it is also an idea. It is an idea about who we are, as a group of ten nations in South East Asia. And it is an idea, and a vision, that has helped guide more and more of us, as new members joined over time, for 47 years now. It is particularly personal for me. My father, Tun Razak, was one of the five statesmen who signed the Bangkok Declaration in 1967. It was that document that brought ASEAN into being, and although I was only 15 at the time, I remember being well aware that it represented a momentous change in the way the countries in our region dealt with each other. The language in that declaration more than stands the test of time. It states, for instance, that:

"In an increasingly interdependent world, the cherished ideals of peace, freedom, social justice and economic well-being are best attained by fostering good understanding, good neighbourliness and meaningful cooperation among the countries of the region", which it says are "already bound together by ties of history and culture".

Those inspiring words are as true today as they were then. We must make sure, however, that those ties that bind – and the great idea that is ASEAN – are a tangible, personal reality for all of our citizens too. There are many, many instances when they already are. In the on-going turmoil in Yemen, for example, many Malaysians found themselves trapped on the ground. We had to undertake a dramatic evacuation, transporting our citizens from Aden to Djibouti, and subsequently to Jeddah on a Malaysian army aircraft.

"DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth."



We evacuated our people alongside ASEAN nationals from Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indonesia. I am happy to report that all are safe. But more than that, I am gratified that similar exercises were carried out by the other ASEAN Governments as well, each rendering assistance to the other's citizens, as one. That is the spirit of ASEAN. A People-Centred ASEAN is one in which our citizens feel that they are not just part of ASEAN. But that regardless of where they are – from rice farmers, to Forex dealers, halal business owners, fishermen and electronics engineers – our citizens actually feel that they are ASEAN, and its future is their future.

In order to achieve that, we must engage with and constantly listen to them. This is why the Leaders' programme later today will include a series of four interfaces with different segments of society - with youth, with civil society organisations, with business groups and with Parliamentarians. Throughout the year, Malaysia has put in place more people-centred programmes, including the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, the 1ASEAN Entrepreneurship Summit, the ASEAN SME Showcase and Conference and the ASEAN Young Leaders' Summit.

We are also thinking about our next generation of leaders, and have created a new MTCP-ASEAN Masters Scholarship programme to allow students from ASEAN countries to study in well-established Malaysian public universities and thereafter make significant contributions in their own countries on their return. And we also believe that ASEAN should publicly recognise and celebrate those outstanding organisations and individuals who have contributed significantly to the community-building process throughout the years. With this in mind, I am pleased to announce that later this year, at the 27th ASEAN Summit, we will host the inaugural "ASEAN Peoples' Awards" at which we will celebrate the exceptional achievements of those who are honoured.

Ladies and gentlemen,

A People-Centred ASEAN must work for the benefit of our citizens both at home and internationally. Here, the concept of ASEAN Centrality is key. A strong and united ASEAN - that is friendly and believes in cooperative engagement with all countries - provides the framework for the maintenance of regional peace and stability. There will always be differences – small differences, I hope – between us. That is inevitable in a ten nation group which rejoices in a multiplicity of ethnicities, cultures and religions. But we are used to living with diversity in Malaysia. And we believe the way to iron out any differences of opinion is amicably, with tolerance, mutual understanding and respect. That is the ASEAN way.

An ASEAN characterised by internal conflicts could never aspire to be a true community. To be a community, we must address internal conflicts within our region. This is why we are working with other countries to build peace. For example, the recent progress on the Bangsamoro peace process has been so important, and we must not pause in our efforts to bring a permanent resolution to a conflict which has led to so much loss of life and displaced hundreds of thousands over the years. While we continue our engagement and cooperative relationships with countries outside ASEAN, we need to peacefully manage differences closer to home, including overlapping maritime claims without tension increasing. Recent developments have raised concerns about the South China Sea – and given the importance of its sea lanes to international trade, it is natural that almost any occurrence there will attract attention. ASEAN must address these developments in a proactive, but also in a positive and constructive way.

Respect for international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982, must be the basis of the rules of engagement and activities in the South China Seas. As Chairman, Malaysia hopes that we will achieve progress in our efforts towards an early conclusion of the Code of Conduct.

Ladies and gentlemen,

One of the documents we hope to adopt at this summit is the Langkawi declaration on the global movement of moderates. It is imperative for us to adopt this declaration because even in our region we are not spared the threat posed by extremism. For example, from the advocates of the so-called "Islamic State". We know that, sadly, some of our citizens have joined forces with those in Syria and Iran to commit atrocities in the name of Islam. They are, of course, tragically misguided, and we wholeheartedly condemn their actions. But it is not enough to state our rejection of provocations and violence. We know from both our histories and our present times that the spark of extremism can too easily be fanned into flames. Irresponsible, rabble-rousing talk can swiftly lead to the persecution of minorities who have

been part of the tapestry of our region for centuries. This, too, we utterly condemn.

We must put forward a positive narrative of moderation, of hope and of peace. And here in South East Asia, we are not short of such narratives. In Malaysia, we number Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians amongst our citizens. We know that these differences need not cause enmity.

Indeed, when it comes to religion, Muslims – who make up around half of ASEAN’s population – are specifically enjoined by the Holy Quran, in Surah109:6, to respect other faiths. “To you, your religion, to me mine.” We are also enjoined to be “a community that is moderate, justly balanced” (2:143). This is one reason why we must ensure that growth, and the proceeds of growth, in ASEAN must be distributed equitably. Within our ten nations, we are at different stages of development; that is, perhaps, entirely to be expected. But a truly People-Centred ASEAN is one in which we constantly bear in mind the well-being of all our brothers and sisters and seek to reduce disparities between them. And this recognition of the gift of creation is also why we must be mindful that our development is sustainable and that we are dutiful khalifa, or custodians, of the Earth and the environment in our region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We need to find ways for ASEAN to become – and to be seen to become - more politically cohesive. Global investors have long been drawn to India and China. But ASEAN can and should position itself as the “third force” in the region, and more visible unity will help us to do so. One proposal that would be a good and practical symbol of that would be if we adopted a common time zone throughout ASEAN. Our potential, after all, is huge. We already have the third largest workforce in the world. We have a largely youthful, talented and increasingly skilled population of over 600 million people. Our burgeoning middle class makes us one of the most potent and dynamic of regions – leading one publication to ask last week if ASEAN was Asia’s “hottest investment”.

International trade has almost tripled in the last ten years, and we are now the fourth largest exporting bloc globally. Our current combined GDP is 2.5 trillion dollars – and that figure is expected to rise to 4 trillion in just five years. The OECD predicts overall annual growth of 5.6 per cent over the next four years, and if current trends continue, ASEAN is set to be the world's fourth largest economy by 2050. This is ASEAN's time. And that is why it is essential that we continue with the measures to establish the ASEAN Economic Community. Removing barriers to trade, which goes beyond reducing tariffs but must also include the elimination of non-tariff barriers, such as overly burdensome regulation that hampers free and fair trade.

The results of such reforms would be transformative. Because it has been estimated that if intra-ASEAN trade was boosted from 24 percent to 40 percent, the incremental impact on the ASEAN economy could be 2.5 trillion dollars annually. It would result in a further 7 trillion dollars spending on infrastructure. This potential growth would mean astonishing improvements both to our economies and to the standards of living of our citizens. And those prizes are within our grasp.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Bangkok Declaration envisioned that “the collective will of the nations of South-East Asia to bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation and, through joint efforts and sacrifices, secure for their peoples and for posterity the blessings of peace, freedom and prosperity.” Those blessings for all our peoples have never been closer. And it is our belief that a truly People-Centred ASEAN, dedicated to forging a Community in which all recognise our commonality and in which the fruits of success are shared by all, has the opportunity to attain them.

Let me repeat: this is ASEAN’s time. Let us work together to ensure that the Asian Century is also the ASEAN Century. With that, let me once again extend a warm welcome to all of you, and I look forward to our discussions throughout the next two days.

Thank you.

Labour Day Message from the Minister of International Trade and Industry



Every year, the first day of the month of May marks an important day for workers across the globe. On this day, Malaysia celebrates the contribution of our workers. Workers not only contribute physically but more importantly, supply the human capital talent towards achieving our aspiration of becoming a developed nation by 2020.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has long recognised the imperative to nurture creative, innovative and highly-skilled human capital to further strengthen Malaysia's competitiveness in the international arena. MITI focuses on attracting high quality investments into the country. In 2014, a total of 5,942 investment projects were approved. These are expected to generate 178,360 job opportunities, most of which will be in the high technology and high value-added industries. Creating quality jobs is key for resilience and inclusiveness, while investing in skills and knowledge is essential for progress.

In addition, MITI continues to nurture the entrepreneurial talent of small and medium enterprises through various capacity building programmes. As at December 2014, a total of 775 companies have received approvals under the Business Accelerator Programme, and the Enrichment and Enhancement Programme which support micro, small and medium entrepreneurs to develop and accelerate their businesses.

Even as we recognize the contribution of workers to nation building, it is ultimately the productivity of our workforce which will set us apart as a globally competitive nation. As workers, we should all aspire to achieve higher productivity in our quest to become a developed nation. We are already heading towards the right direction. Malaysia's labour productivity expanded by 3.2% in 2014 to RM61,507 per person compared with RM59,622 recorded in 2013.













Expanding global value chains and new production techniques demand ever changing skills-sets. The impact of jobs and skills goes beyond economics, affecting health, social cohesion and trust. For our workers, continuous learning and self-improvement are vital to enhance competitiveness. It is therefore important that employers provide training and skills development programmes to their employees. This will ensure we have a pool of readily available and industry-relevant talent, able to transform our nation into a more knowledge-based economy.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm wishes to all workers in Malaysia. Enjoy the Labour Day with your friends and family.

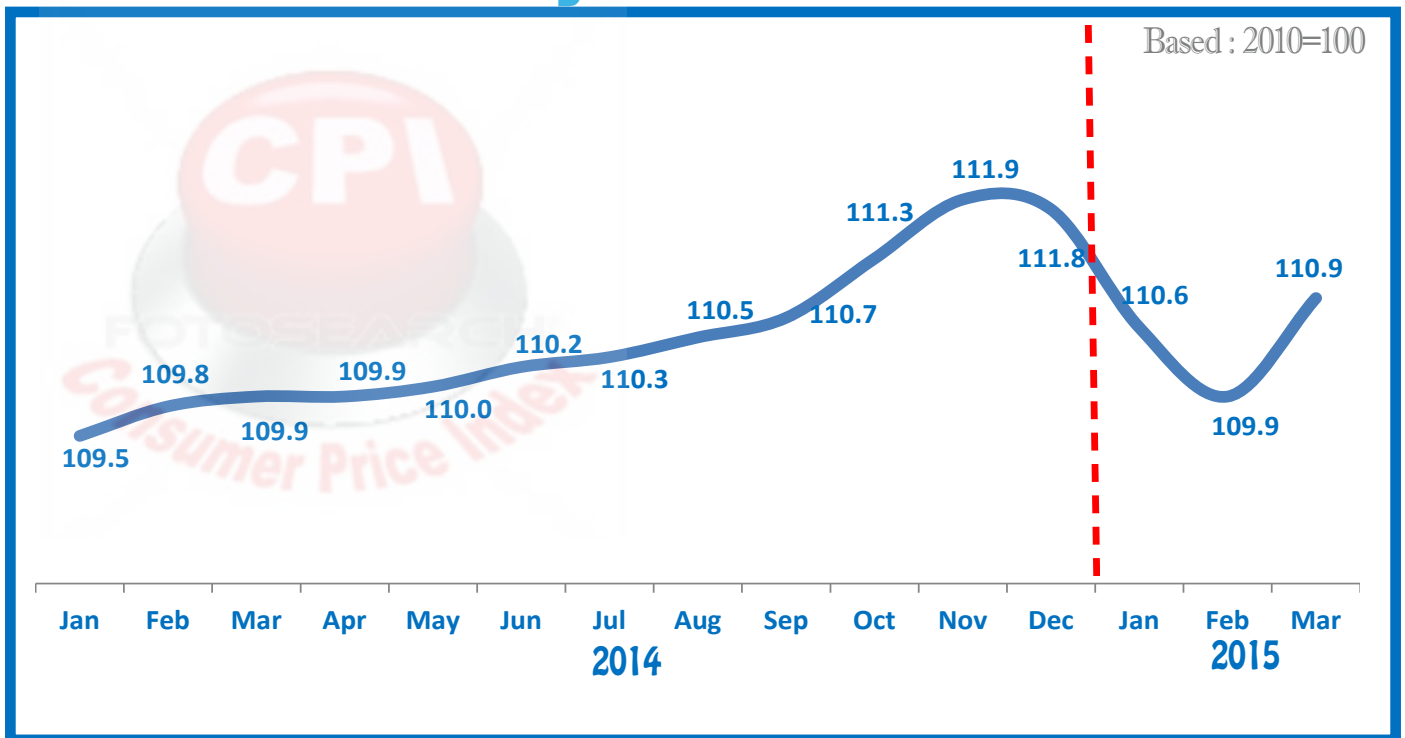
Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed

MALAYSIA






Consumer Price Index (CPI), March 2015

CPI by Major Category		% change Year-on-Year
	Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages	↑ 2.5%
	Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco	↑ 10.6%
	Clothing and Footwear	↓ 0.3%
	Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas & Other Fuels	↑ 2.1%
	Furnishings, Household Equip. & Routine Household Maintenance	↑ 0.3%
	Health	↑ 3.4%
	Transport	↓ 7.6%
	Communication	↓ 0.9%
	Recreation Services & Culture	↑ 0.6%
	Education	↑ 2.1%
	Restaurants and Hotels	↑ 3.1%
	Miscellaneous Goods & Services	↑ 1.6%

Consumer Price Index (CPI) January 2014 - March 2015



CPI for Selected Main Groups, March 2015

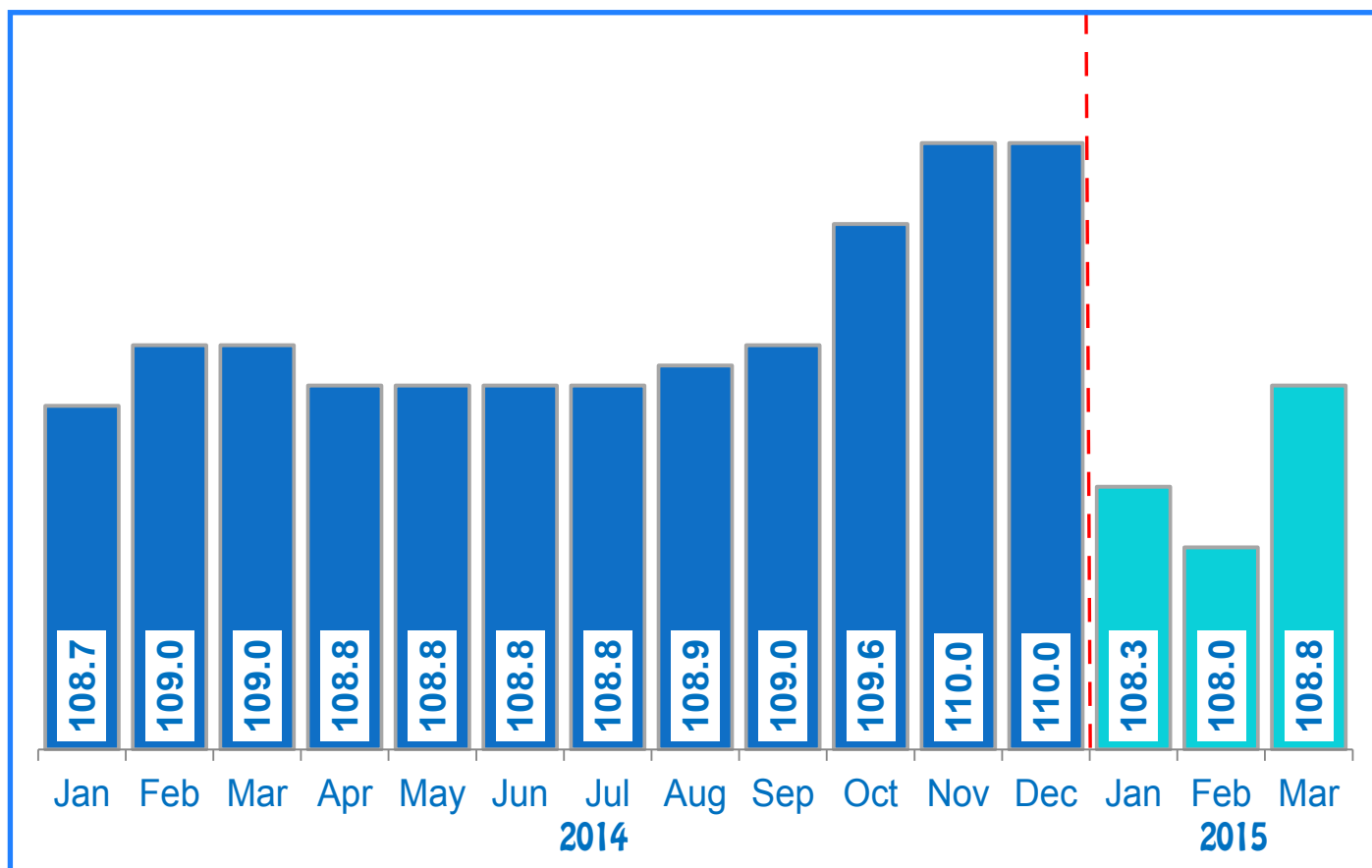
Group	Malaysia	Urban	Rural
	Based : 2010=100		
 Food And Non-Alcoholic Beverages	117.1	118.1	114.7
 Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas And Other Fuels	110.2	110.6	108.2
 Transport	105.8	105.8	105.8
 Education	111.8	112.1	109.8
 Communication	97.2	97.1	97.6

Note: Urban* are defined as gazetted areas and built-up areas which borders to it, and the combination of these two areas have a population of 10,000 or more. Built-up area is defined as the area located next gazetted areas and have at least 60 percent of the population (aged 15 years and over) who are involved in non agricultural activities.

Sabah & Labuan

Consumer Price Index (CPI), Jan 2014 - Mar 2015

Based: 2010=100



"DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth"

CPI by Major Category, March 2015

113.7
Food And
Non-Alcoholic
Beverages

105.1
Housing, Water,
Electricity and
Other Fuels



105.2
Transport

108.1
Education

98.7
Communication















'ASEAN and You'



Trade Value, 2014

Country	Total Global Trade (US\$ billion)
 Singapore	776.0
 Thailand	455.5
 Malaysia	443.0
 Indonesia	354.5
 Viet Nam	299.7
 Philippines	128.9
 Myanmar	32.8
 Cambodia	24.3
 Brunei	13.9
 Laos	6.0

“DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth”

MITI's ASEAN Portal can be accessed via <http://www.miti.gov.my/>



International Report



World Merchandise Trade

2014

Leading Merchandise Exporters and Importers

US\$ bil

US\$ bil

Rank	Exporters	Value	Share (%*)
1	PRC	2,343	12.4
2	USA	1,623	8.6
3	Germany	1,511	8.0
4	Japan	684	3.6
5	Netherlands	672	3.6
6	France	583	3.1
7	ROK	573	3.0
8	Italy	529	2.8
9	Hong Kong, SAR	524	2.8
10	United Kingdom	507	2.7
14	Singapore	410	2.2
23	Malaysia	234	1.2
24	Thailand	228	1.2
25	Brazil	225	1.2

Rank	Importers	Value	Share (%*)
1	USA	2,409	12.7
2	PRC	1,960	10.3
3	Germany	1,217	6.4
4	Japan	822	4.3
5	United Kingdom	683	3.6
6	France	679	3.6
7	Hong Kong, SAR	601	3.2
8	Netherlands	587	3.1
9	ROK	526	2.8
10	Canada	475	2.5
15	Singapore	366	1.9
23	Thailand	228	1.2
25	Malaysia	209	1.1
28	Indonesia	178	0.9

World Trade : 2014

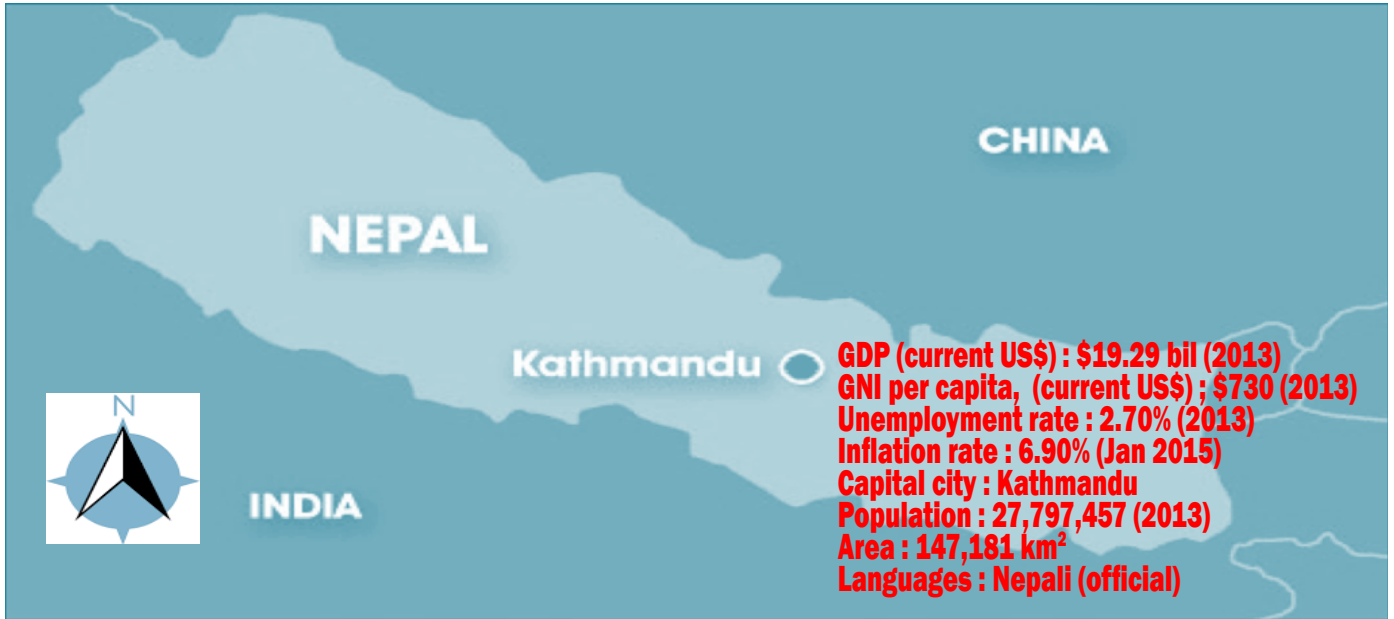
Exports: US\$18,935 bil

Imports: US\$19,024 bil.

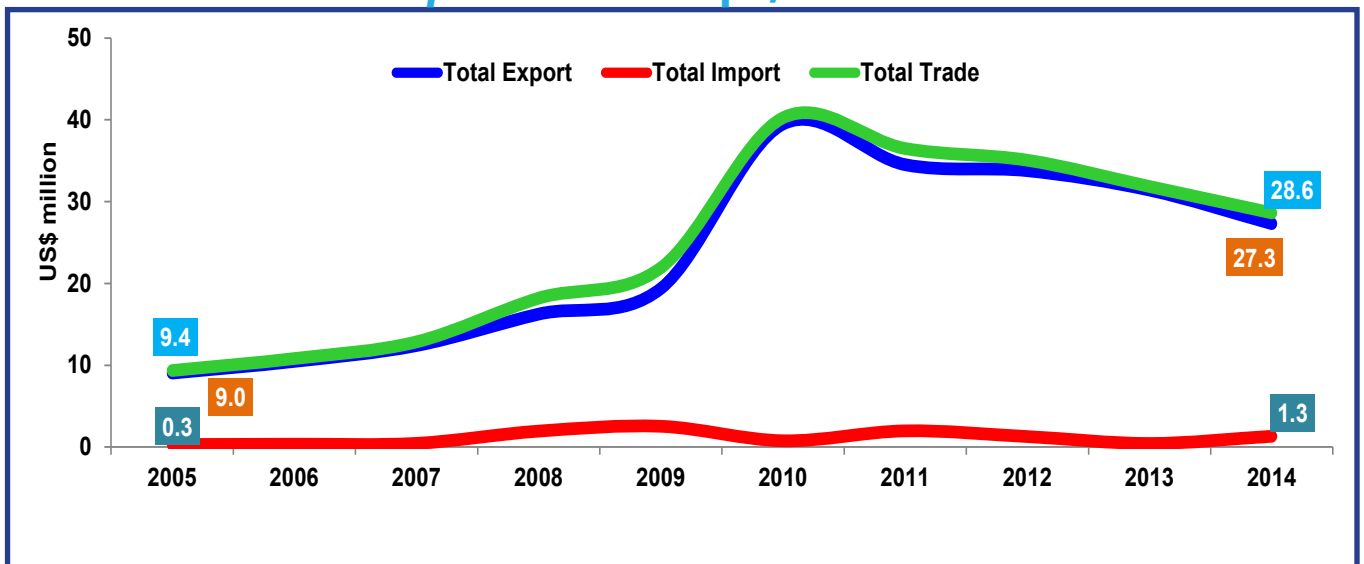
“DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth”



Nepal



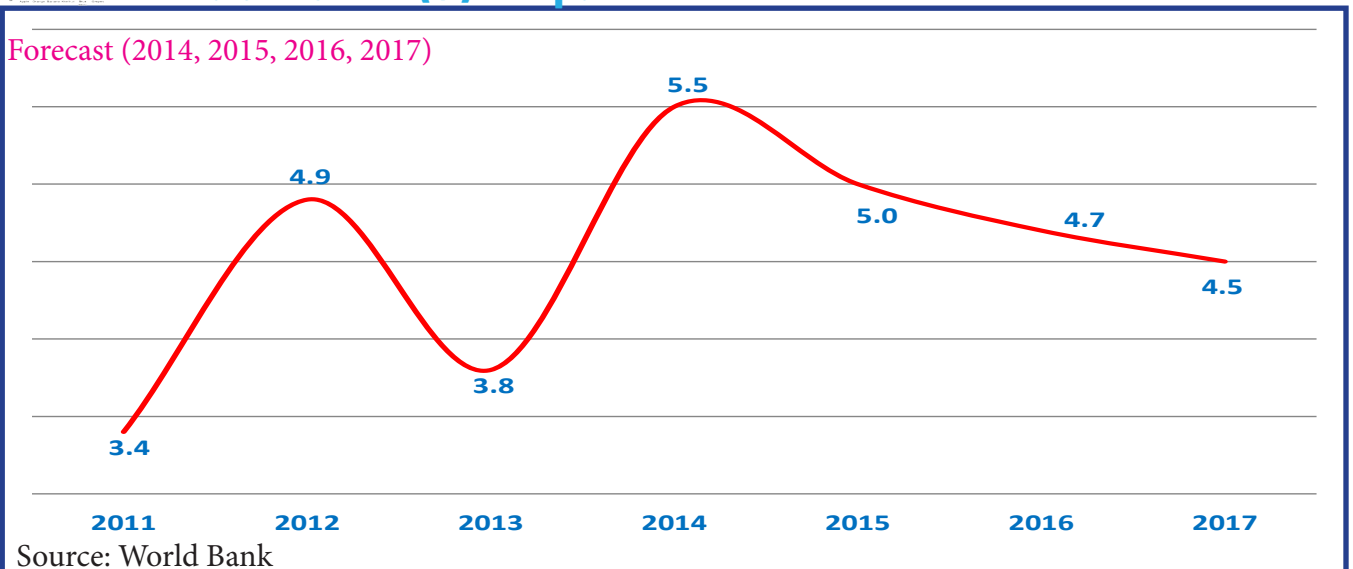
Malaysia's Trade with Nepal, 2005-2014



"DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth"

Annual GDP Growth (%) of Nepal

Forecast (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017)



Source: World Bank



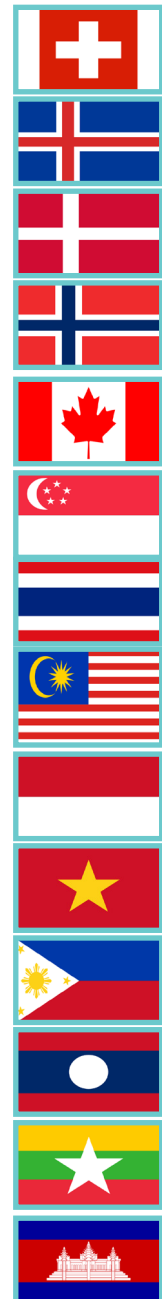
DID YOU KNOW?

Ranking of Happiness 2012-2014



Rank Country

1	Switzerland
2	Iceland
3	Denmark
4	Norway
5	Canada
24	Singapore
34	Thailand
61	Malaysia
74	Indonesia
75	Viet Nam
90	Philippines
99	Laos
129	Myanmar
145	Cambodia

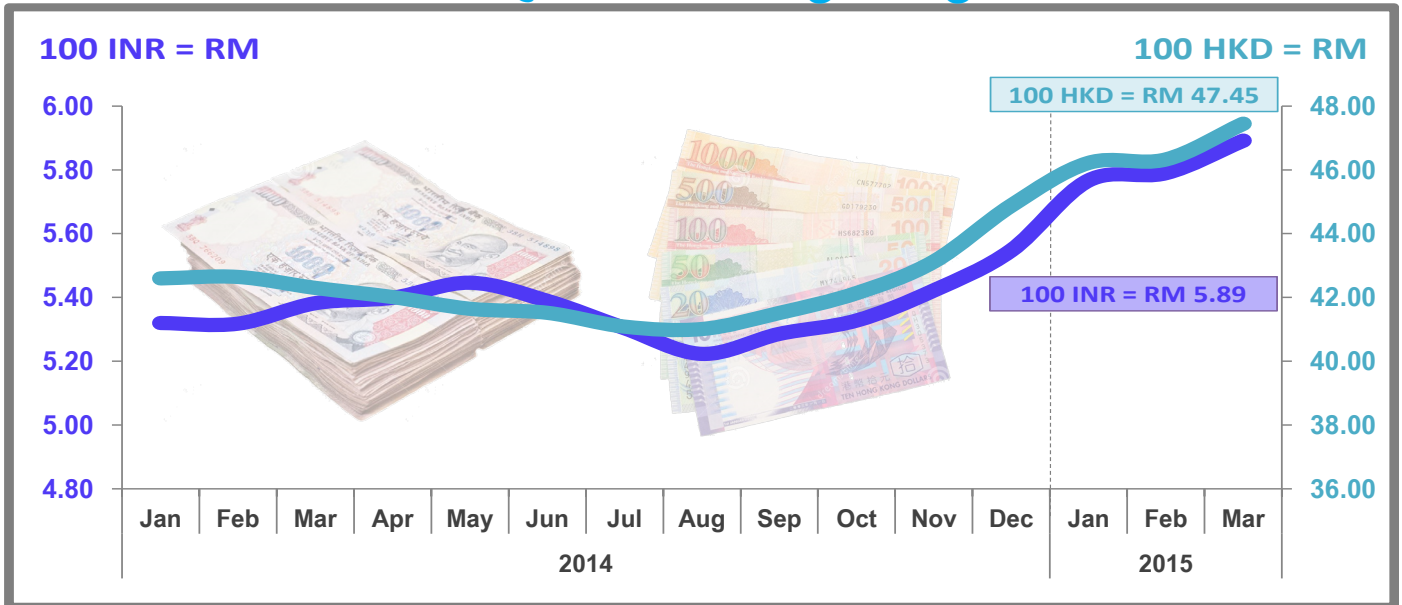


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The World Happiness Report is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness. The first report was published in 2012, the second in 2013, and the third on April 23, 2015. Leading experts across fields – economics, psychology, survey analysis, national statistics, health, public policy and more – describe how measurements of well-being can be used effectively to assess the progress of nations. The reports review the state of happiness in the world today and show how the new science of happiness explains personal and national variations in happiness. They reflect a new worldwide demand for more attention to happiness as a criteria for government policy.

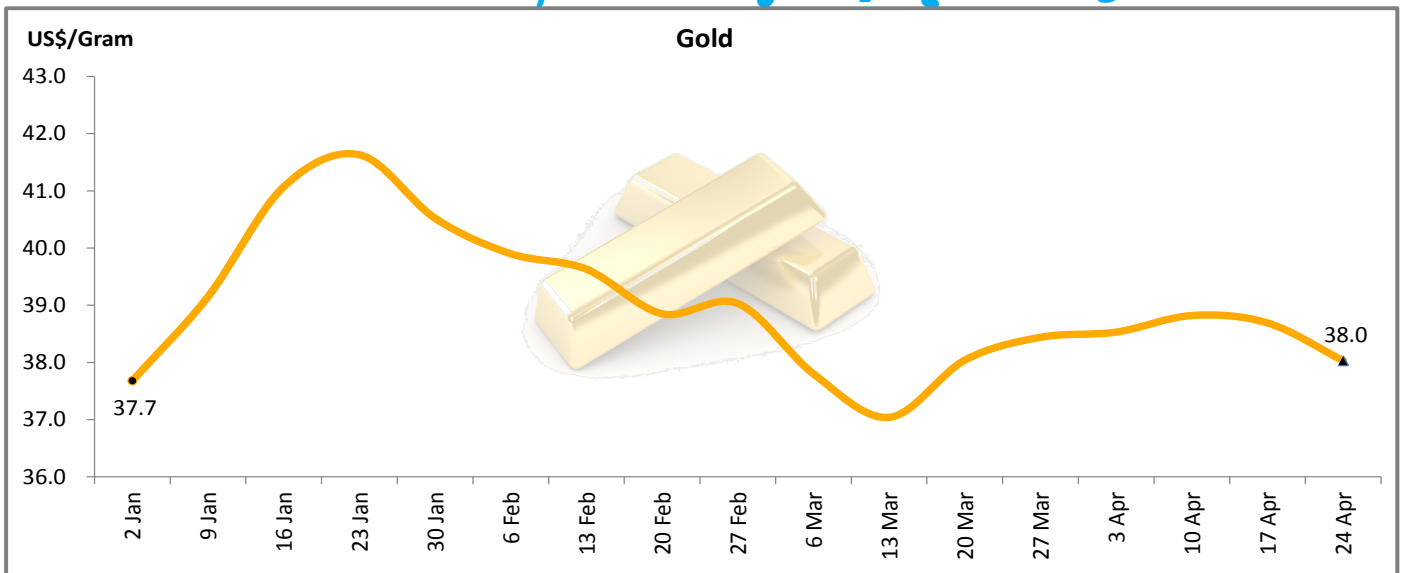


Malaysian Ringgit Exchange Rate with Indian Rupee and Hong Kong Dollar



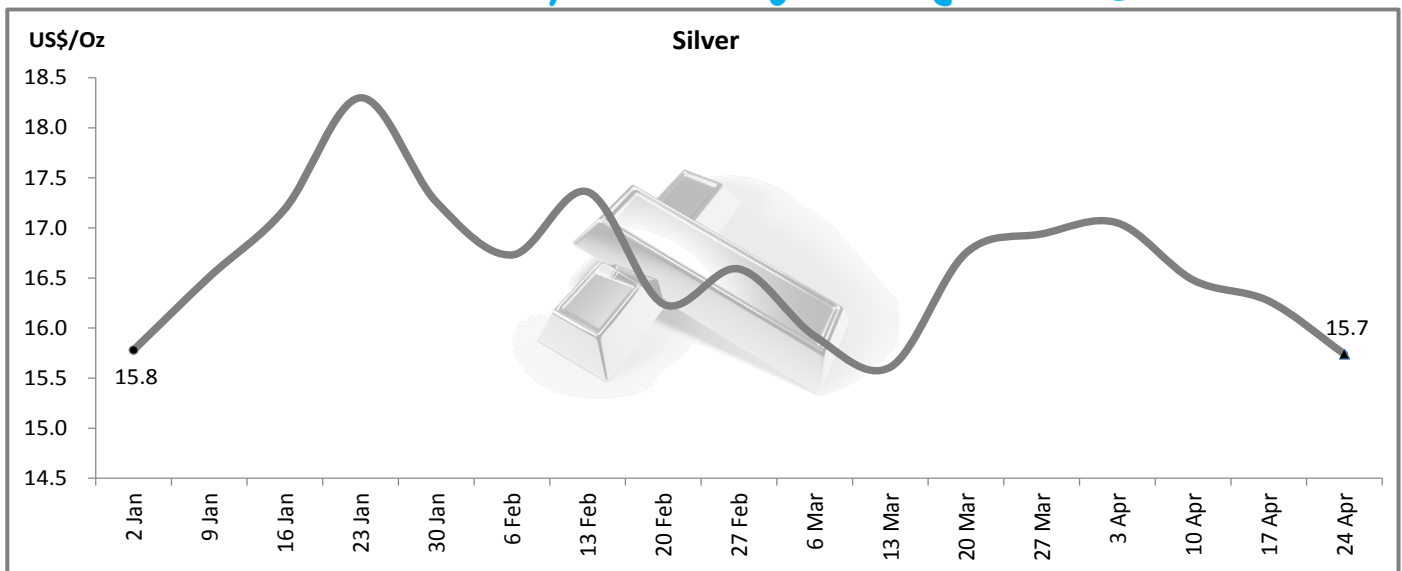
Source : Bank Negara, Malaysia

Gold Prices, 2 January - 24 April 2015



Source : http://www.gold.org/investments/statistics/gold_price_chart/

Silver Prices, 2 January - 24 April 2015



Source : <http://www.hardassetsalliance.com/charts/silver-price/usd/oz>
 MITI Weekly Bulletin / www.miti.gov.my



Number and Value of Preferential Certificates of Origin (PCOs)

Number of Certificates (Provisional Data)

	1 Mar 2015	8 Mar 2015	15 Mar 2015	22 Mar 2015	29 Mar 2015	5 Apr 2015	12 Apr 2015	19 Apr 2015
AANZFTA	835	658	805	776	910	869	770	903
AIFTA	467	561	478	651	529	708	462	616
AJCEP	172	154	241	250	177	209	163	181
ATIGA	3,695	4,107	4,433	4,562	4,322	4,496	3,719	4,001
ACFTA	1,659	1,454	1,354	1,566	1,569	1,464	1,484	1,763
AKFTA	643	765	844	889	782	767	661	759
MICECA	278	297	360	355	289	385	322	335
MNZFTA	5	1	7	4	14	3	6	6
MCFTA	56	42	75	57	52	52	54	80
MAFTA	360	259	481	409	336	402	290	466
MJEPA	775	823	812	775	838	836	819	632
MPCEPA	150	173	172	118	165	160	125	250
GSP	170	104	114	139	112	164	68	102

Notes: The preference giving countries under the GSP scheme are Japan, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, Norway, Cambodia and Liechtenstein.



AANZFTA: ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (Implemented since 1 January 2010)



ATIGA: ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (Implemented since 1 May 2010)



AJCEP: ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership (Implemented since 1 February 2009)



ACFTA: ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (Implemented since 1 July 2003)



AKFTA: ASEAN-Korea Free Trade Agreement (Implemented since 1 July 2006)



AIFTA: ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement (Implemented since 1 January 2010)



MPCEPA: Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (Implemented since 1 January 2008)



MJEPA: Malaysia-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (Implemented since 13 July 2006)



MICECA: Malaysia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (Implemented since 1 July 2011)



MNZFTA: Malaysia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (Implemented since 1 August 2010)

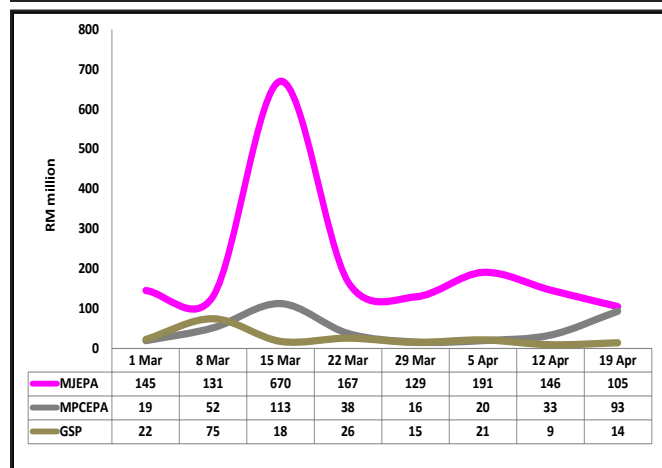
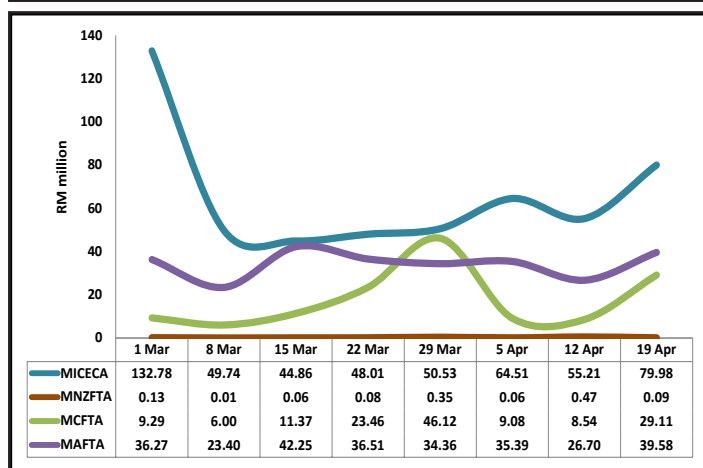
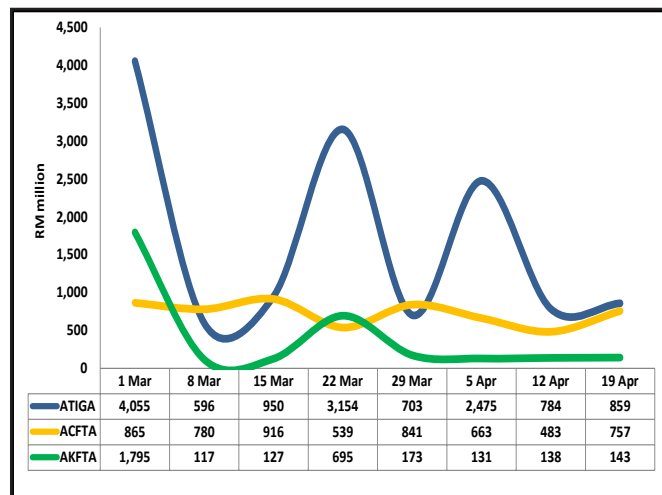
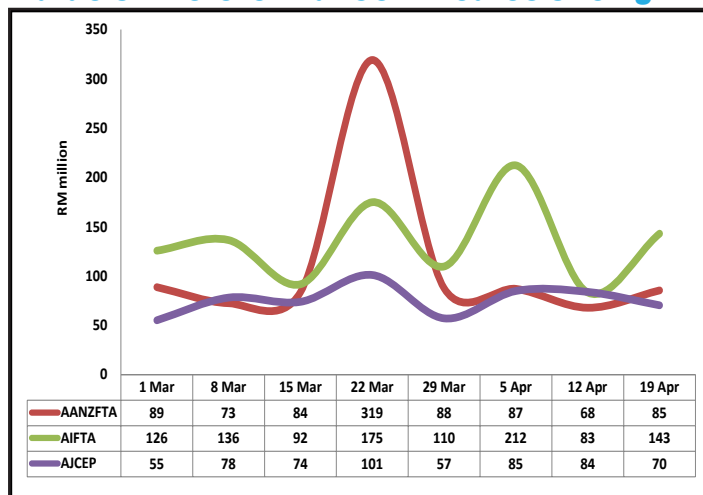


MCFTA: Malaysia-Chile Free Trade Agreement (Implemented since 25 February 2012)



MAFTA: Malaysia-Australia Free Trade Agreement (Implemented since 1 January 2013)

Value of Preferential Certificates of Origin



Commodity Prices



Commodity	Crude Petroleum (per bbl)	Crude Palm Oil (per MT)	Raw Sugar (per MT)	Rubber SMR 20 (per MT)	Cocoa SMC 2 (per MT)	Coal (per MT)	Scrap Iron HMS (per MT)
24 Apr 2015 (US\$)	57.2	659.5	291.8	1,405.0	2,045.4	54.4	270 (high) 250 (low)
% change*	↑ 2.5	↑ 1.2	↑ 2.9	↑ 1.1	↓ 1.1	↓ 1.4	unchanged unchanged
2014 ⁱ	54.6 - 107.6	823.3	352.3	1,718.3	2,615.8	59.8	370.0
2013 ⁱ	88.1 - 108.6	805.5	361.6	2,390.8	1,933.1	..	485.6

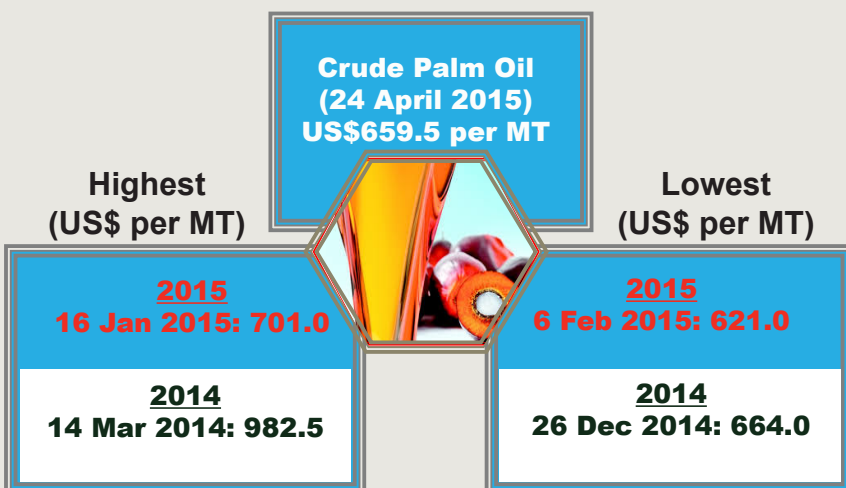
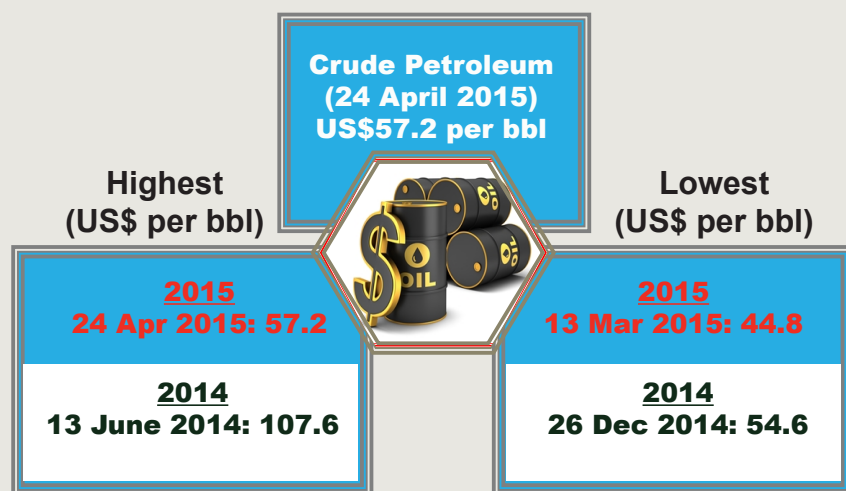
Notes: All figures have been rounded to the nearest decimal point

* Refer to % change from the previous week's price

ⁱ Average price in the year except otherwise indicated

n.a Not available

Highest and Lowest Prices, 2014/2015



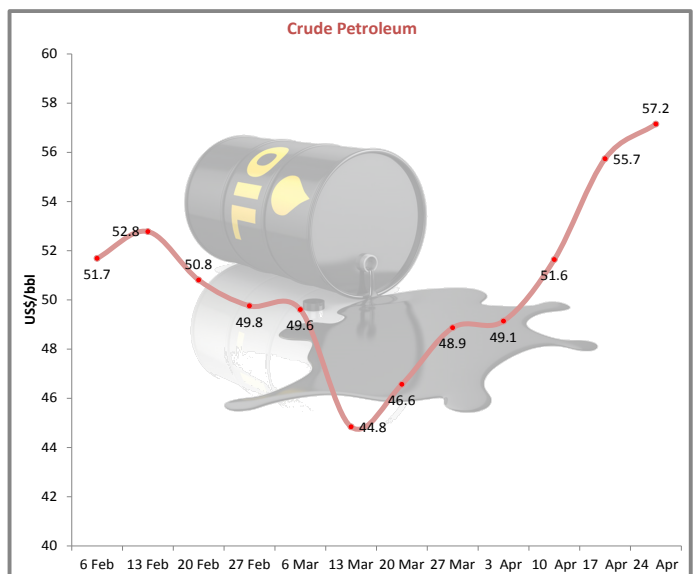
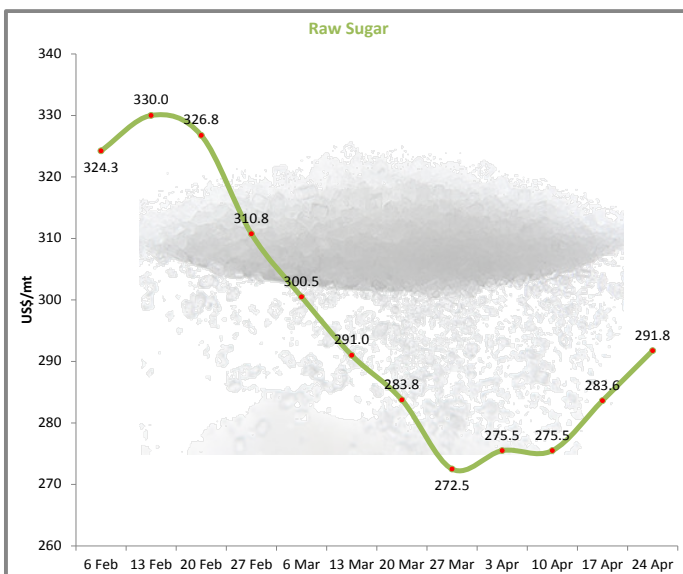
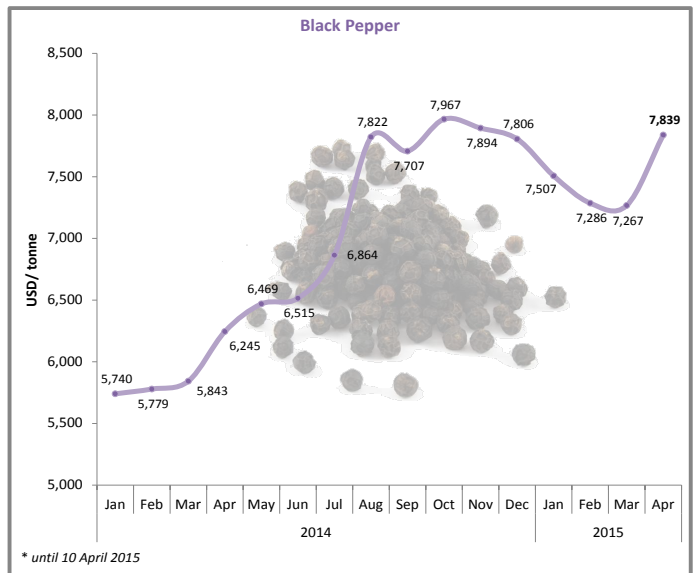
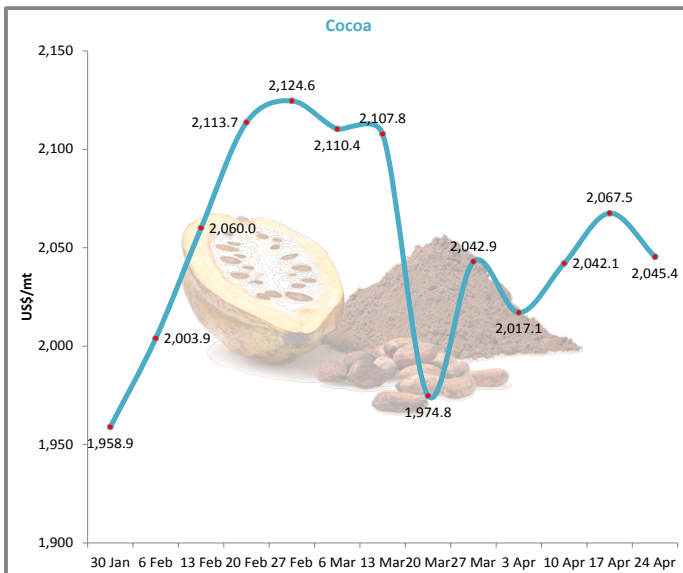
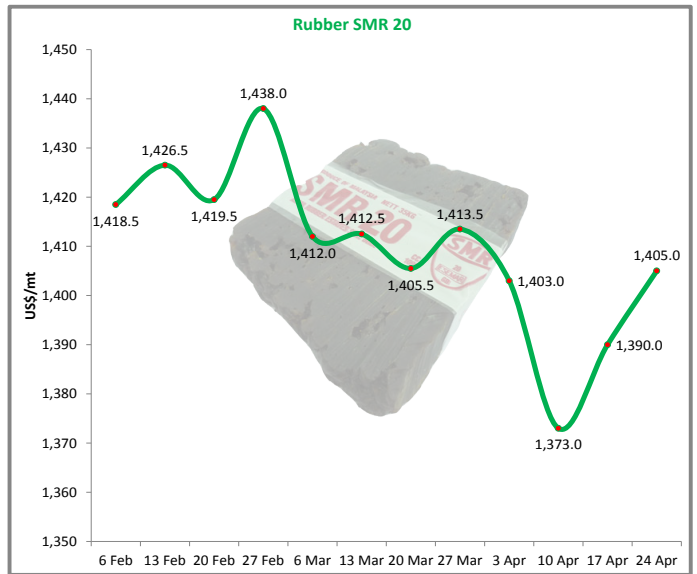
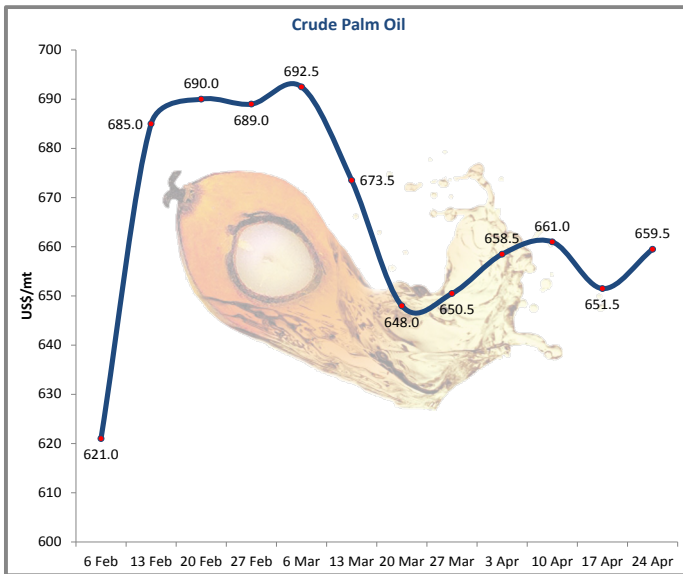
Average Domestic Prices, 24 Apr 2015



"DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth"



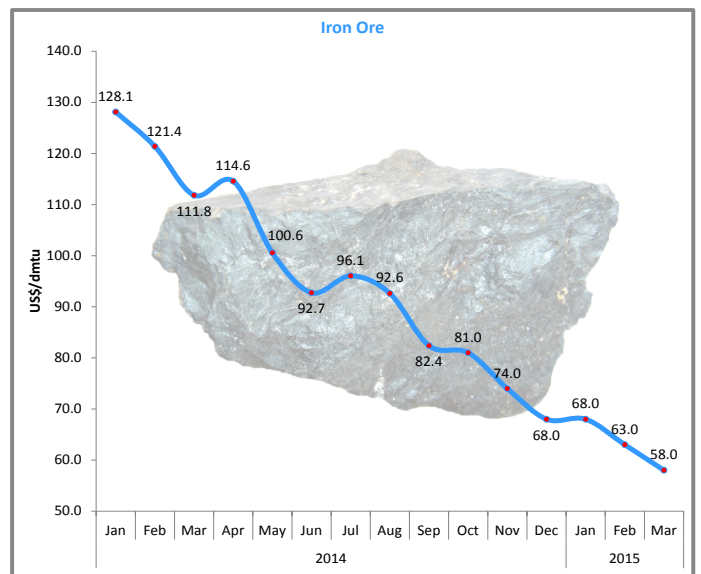
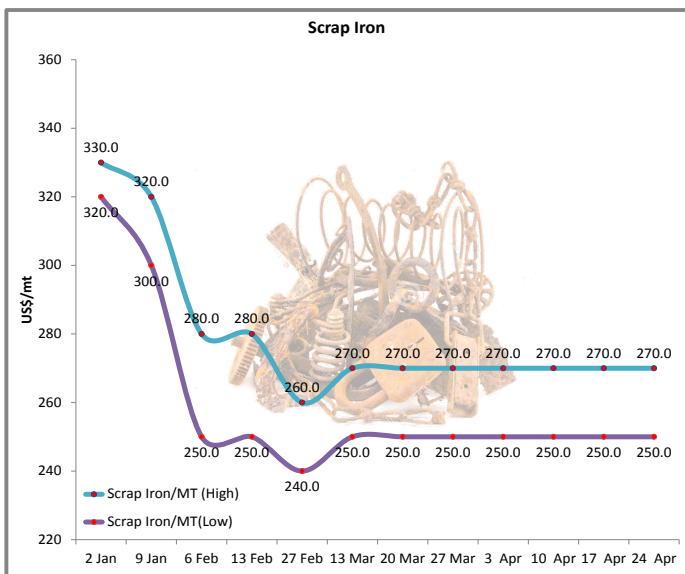
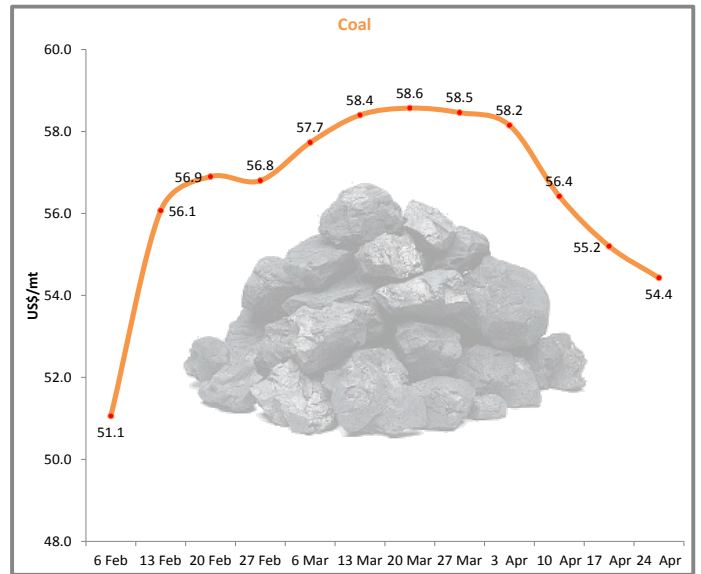
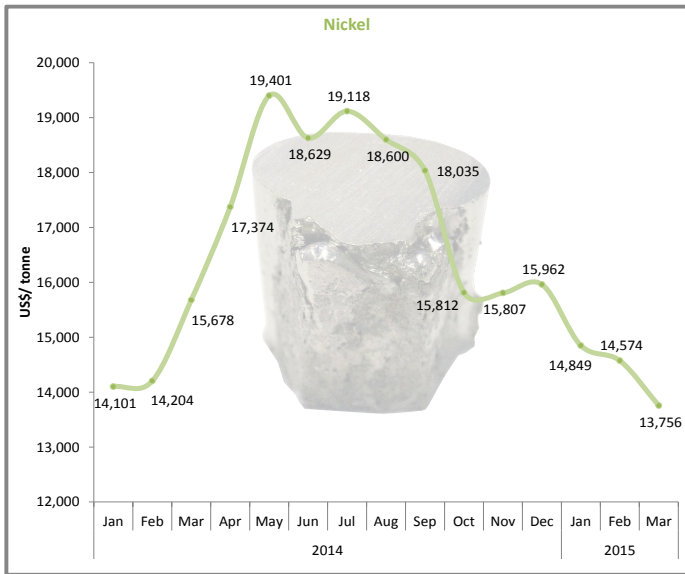
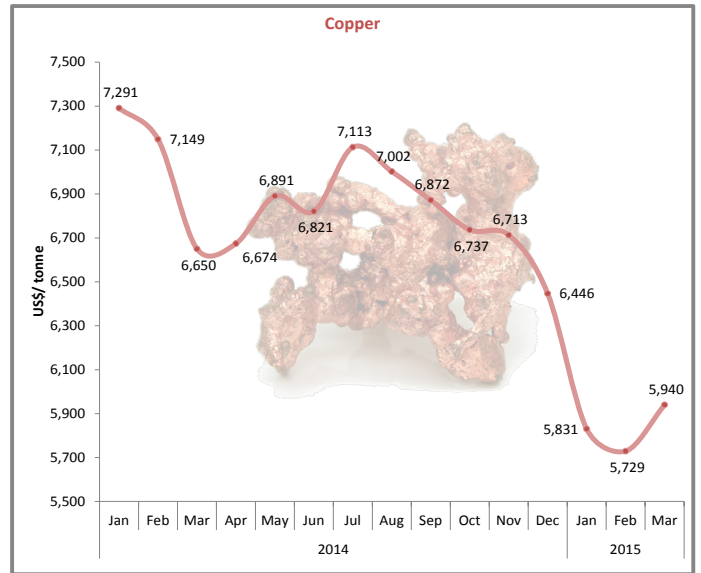
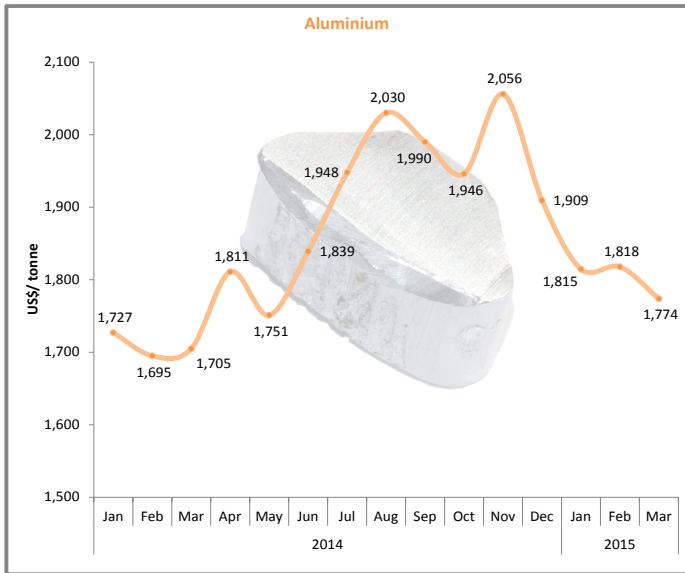
Commodity Price Trends



“DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth”

Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Pepper Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group, World Bank.

Commodity Price Trends



"DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth"

Sources: Ministry of International Trade and Industry Malaysia, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Malaysian Rubber Board, Malaysian Cocoa Board, Malaysian Pepper Board, Malaysian Iron and Steel Industry Federation, Bloomberg and Czarnikow Group, World Bank.



SUCCESS STORY



Palm Oil Industrial Cluster

POIC is located near the township of Lahad Datu in southeastern Sabah, Malaysia. To-date a total of 1,150 acres have been fully completed with infrastructure and utilities, including a liquid bulk and dry bulk terminal which can cater to vessels of up to 100,000 dwt.

We offer opportunities for investment in downstream palm oil industries such as oleochemicals, nutraceuticals, phytonutrients, transfat free food products, biomass (palm pellets, fibre, biofuels, bioethanol, biobased chemical, wood composite...), ship repairs, logistics, oil & gas, petrochemicals, furniture, machinery, halal products, food and SMEs.

We provide an attractive setting for investment opportunities due to our strategic location, investment incentives, available infrastructure and favourable living environment.

Advantages of POIC Lahad Datu

POIC is located near the township of Lahad Datu in south eastern Sabah. It is at the centre of the state's 1.4 million hectares of oil palm plantations. The first two phases covering 1,150 acres focuses on major palm oil industries such as refineries, biofuel plants, oleochemicals, biomass, fertilizer plants and critical support industries such as a central steam provider, bulking installations and 2 dedicated jetties - Dry Bulk Terminal and Liquid Bulk Terminal. In the next phase covering approximately 4,000 acres, POIC Lahad Datu will diversify into a broader-based cluster encompassing energy intensive sectors, cocoa, ship repairs and construction, food, marine, furniture and machinery sectors. POIC Lahad Datu provides an attractive setting for investment opportunities for the following reasons:

1. Strategic Location

- Sheltered, natural harbour with 20-metre draft
- Abundant raw materials within Sabah and neighbouring resource-rich regions.
- Convenient shipping routes to supplies and markets.
- Proximity to palm oil industry players
- Within 2KM access to a wide range of physical and social infrastructure.

2. Investment Incentives

- Pioneer status
- Investment tax allowance

3. Available Infrastructure

- Water & electricity supply
- Telecommunications / IT network
- Road networks with links statewide
- Environmentally friendly energy and steam supplies
- Bulking installations
- Jetties

4. Favourable Living Environment

- Near airport and commercial centres
- Close to parks and nature reserves
- Access to social amenities
- Politically stable



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Malaysia Investment Performance 2014



Oleon Solutions Sdn Bhd

Oleon Solutions Sdn Bhd, a proposed subsidiary of Oleon NV from Belgium, conducts R&D activities on fatty ester which is used to manufacture oleochemical products such as soaps, shampoo, cosmetics, plastics, paints, emulsifiers, biodegradable lubricants and hydraulic oils. It will be the first company in Malaysia that has its own Research Centre focusing specifically on oleochemical products developed from Malaysia's palm oil resources. This project creates a nationwide oleochemical industry ecosystem through partnerships with government agencies such as MPOB, local universities and design companies. It will register intellectual property (IP) in Malaysia, further contributing to the nation's economy. This project also involves technology transfer from Oleon Innovation Centre, France in terms of developing new scientific analysis protocols, involving the production of fatty ester-based products. The company also offers internship programmes to undergraduates and post graduates students, involving hands-on and practical experience in product development and analytical instruments.

Employment: 20 people

90% researchers

Project Cost

RM34.7 mil.

“DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth”



MITI Programme

Third Malaysia-Vietnam Joint Trade Committee Meeting 25 April 2015



“DRIVING Transformation, POWERING Growth”



JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

1. The ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and the EU Trade Commissioner held their Thirteenth Consultations on 26 April 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia and H.E. Cecilia Malmström, the EU Trade Commissioner.

2. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner noted that trade between ASEAN and EU expanded from US\$ 242.6 billion in 2012 to US\$ 246.2 billion in 2013, representing 9.8% of ASEAN's total trade and placing the EU as ASEAN's second largest trading partner. ASEAN's preliminary data of 2014 shows that the total trade between ASEAN and EU amounting to US\$248.2 billion, showing an increase of 0.8% compared to total bilateral trade recorded in 2013. The EU remains the largest source of foreign direct investment inflows to ASEAN in 2014 at US\$ 29.1 billion or 21.3% of total FDI inflows to ASEAN, an increase of 30.5% year-on-year.

Progress of ASEAN-EU Cooperation

3. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner were pleased with the growing momentum in economic cooperation, which contributed to the deepening of economic relations between the two regions. Despite the economic crisis in Europe in the recent past, trade and investment between ASEAN and the EU remained strong. The ASEAN Economic Ministers commended the EU for its commitment in strengthening bilateral relations with individual ASEAN Member States and regional ties.

4. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner were pleased with the progress in the implementation of the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2013-2014, including the 12th AEM-EU Trade Commissioner Consultations, the 20th and 21st SEOM- European Union Consultations, the 3rd ASEAN-EU Business Summit, exchange of business missions, and various projects on services, investment, energy, and air transportation.

5. The ASEAN Ministers expressed their gratitude and appreciation for EU's continuous and strong support and technical assistance rendered to ASEAN economic integration through the ASEAN Regional Integration Support by the EU (ARISE), the EU-ASEAN Project on IPR (ECAP III) and the EU-ASEAN Capacity Building Programme for Monitoring Integration Progress and Statistics (EU-COMPASS). These programmes have helped realise significant progress in key AEC initiatives such as the ASEAN Customs Transit System (ACTS), the ASEAN Trade Repository (ATR), the ASEAN Food Safety Policy Framework and the Common Guidelines for the Substantive Examination of Trademarks and the ASEAN TMView database. Ministers welcomed the announcement by EU Trade Commissioner that EU assistance to ASEAN would increase from €70 million to €170 million over the next 7 years, including a €86 million envelope for Connectivity through Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Integration and Trade.

6. To further deepen economic ties and enhance the trade and investment relationship between ASEAN and the EU, the Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner endorsed the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2015-2016 which has been built upon the successful initiatives under the ASEAN-EU Trade and Investment Work Programme for 2013-2014, in accordance with the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership (2013-2017). They welcomed the inputs from private sector. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner also welcomed the new emphasis given to the organisation of experts' meetings on areas of mutual interest.

7. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner exchanged views on EU-ASEAN trade and investment relations issues, including progress of bilateral free trade agreement negotiations between individual ASEAN Member State and the EU. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation between the two regions, including exploring the possibility of resuming negotiations of an ASEAN-EU Free Trade Agreement in the near future. Senior Officials of ASEAN and EU will meet towards the end of the year to take stock and explore the way forward and report back to the Ministers.

8. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner underscored their continued support and commitment to a strong multilateral trading system. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner agreed on the importance of the implementation of the Post-Bali Work Programme, specifically the implementation and entry into force of the World Trade Organisation's (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement. They also agreed on the mutual interest in achieving a rapid conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda.

9. The EU Trade Commissioner informed the Meeting of progress in the plurilateral negotiations to liberalise trade in environmental goods and encouraged ASEAN Member States to join this initiative. The EU Trade Commissioner also updated the Ministers on the state of play of the plurilateral Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) negotiations, underlining the interest by ASEAN Member States to participate in TiSA would be very welcomed.

10. The EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) reported its activities to the Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner. The Ministers and the EU Trade Commissioner underscored the role of businesses as drivers of economic growth in the two regions and commended the initiatives undertaken by the Council, in particular the engagement with ASEAN sectoral bodies at the working level.

LIST OF MINISTERS AND THE EU TRADE COMMISSIONER

1. H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam
2. H.E. Sun Chanthol, Senior Minister and Minister of Commerce, Cambodia
3. H.E. Cecilia Malmström, European Commissioner for Trade
4. H.E. Rachmat Gobel, Minister of Trade, Indonesia
5. H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR
6. H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia
7. H.E. Dr. Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, Myanmar
8. H.E. Gregory L. Domingo, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines
9. H.E. Lim Hng Kiang, Minister for Trade and Industry, Singapore
10. H.E. Mrs. Apiradi Tantraporn, Deputy Minister of Commerce, Thailand
11. H.E. Dr. Vu Huy Hoang, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam
12. H.E. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN



Announcement

**Seychelles became the 161st
World Trade Organisation (WTO) member
on 26th April 2015**



Earthquake in Nepal



**MITI Weekly Bulletin
Conveys its Deepest Condolences
to the people of Nepal**

25th April 2015



@Your Service



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