



**THE SECOND AEM-HONG KONG, CHINA CONSULTATIONS  
9 September 2017, Pasay City, Philippines**

**JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT**

1. Economic Ministers from the ten ASEAN Member States and the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of Hong Kong, China (HKC) (“the Ministers”) met on 9 September 2017 in Pasay City, Philippines, for the Second ASEAN Economic Ministers-HKC Consultations (AEM-HKC Consultations). The Consultations were co-chaired by H.E. Ramon M. Lopez, Secretary of Trade and Industry of the Philippines, and Mr Edward Yau Tang-wah, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of HKC.
2. Secretary Edward Yau congratulated ASEAN Ministers on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ASEAN, which marked a historic milestone in ASEAN’s regional integration. The Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen economic cooperation between ASEAN and HKC towards shared prosperity and inclusive growth.
3. The Ministers noted that, based on ASEAN statistics, HKC was the sixth largest trading partner of ASEAN in 2016, with the total bilateral merchandise trade of USD 93.3 billion or 4.2 per cent of ASEAN total trade. Total foreign direct investment (FDI) flows from HKC to ASEAN amounted to USD 9.6 billion or 9.9 per cent of ASEAN total FDI in the same year.
4. The Ministers were pleased to note that the negotiations for the ASEAN-HKC Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA) and the ASEAN-HKC Investment Agreement (AHKIA) had been concluded. The Ministers further noted that the AHKFTA included a Chapter on Economic and Technical Co-operation (ECOTECH), which would be implemented through an ECOTECH Work Programme. The ECOTECH Work Programme would be adopted when the two Agreements are signed at the margins of the 31<sup>st</sup> ASEAN Summit to be held in Pampanga, Philippines, in November 2017. ASEAN Economic Ministers expressed appreciation for HKC’s commitment for a total contribution of HKD 25 million over five years to implement the ECOTECH Work Programme upon the entry into force of the AHKFTA. The Ministers underscored the importance of the AHKFTA and AHKIA in strengthening economic integration and stimulating development in the region as they seek to leverage on ASEAN’s integrated market as well as HKC’s position as one of the world’s leading trade powerhouses.

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## **LIST OF MINISTERS**

1. **H.E. Dato Paduka Lim Jock Hoi**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam (representing the Hon. Pehin Dato Lim Jock Seng, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Brunei Darussalam);
2. **H.E. Pan Sorasak**, Minister of Commerce, Cambodia;
3. **Mr Edward Yau Tang-wah**, Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development, Hong Kong, China;
4. **H.E. Enggartiasto Lukita**, Minister of Trade, Indonesia;
5. **H.E. Mrs. Khemmani Pholsena**, Minister of Industry and Commerce, Lao PDR;
6. **Datuk Seri J. Jayasiri**, Secretary General of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia (representing H.E. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia);
7. **Mr Tun Tun Naing**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Myanmar (representing H.E. Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Myanmar);
8. **H.E. Ramon M. Lopez**, Secretary of Trade and Industry, the Philippines;
9. **H.E. Lim Hng Kiang**, Minister for Trade and Industry (Trade), Singapore;
10. **H.E. Mrs. Apiradi Tantraporn**, Minister of Commerce, Thailand;
11. **H.E. Tran Quoc Khanh**, Vice Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam (representing H.E. Tran Tuan Anh, Minister of Industry and Trade, Viet Nam);
12. **H.E. Le Luong Minh**, Secretary-General of ASEAN.