



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Y.B. MINISTER II PARTICIPATION IN COMMONWEALTH TRADE MINISTERS MEETING (CTMM) 9 - 10 MARCH 2017, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM**

Y.B Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan, the Second Minister of International Trade and Industry will be participating in the upcoming Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting (CTMM) that will take place in London on 9-10 March 2017, ahead of the 25<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2018.

The decision to convene this Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting was made during the Commonwealth Business Forum held in Malta in November 2015. With its theme “An Agenda for Growth”, the Ministers will discuss how to reinvigorate the trade and investment flows within the Commonwealth, including areas for cooperation.

The Commonwealth consists of fifty two member countries with diverse economic profiles ranging from the largest to the smallest, richest to the economically challenged countries. With a total population of 2.3 billion people, a combined economy of more than US\$10 trillion and annual GDP growth in excess of 4%, the Commonwealth offers a very attractive platform and alternative for members to forge new trade relationship and strengthen existing trade and investment links between member countries.

Y.B Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan will be meeting a group of UK business community at Asia House London on 8 March 2017 to share trade and investment opportunities in Malaysia and to showcase Malaysia as a highly favoured destination for foreign investors. This will be followed by a meeting with prospective investors and a site visit to one of the projects being undertaken by a Malaysian company at the Royal Mint Gardens.

On 9-10 March 2017, Y.B Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan will participate in the Opening Session, Ministerial Roundtable Sessions and the Concluding Session of the Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting. During these Sessions, the Ministers will discuss topics on revitalising intra-Commonwealth trade, technology and innovation, creating an export economy, future of Commonwealth trade and proposals for the consideration of CHOGM 2018.

Y.B Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan is also scheduled to meet his counterpart from Canada, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, on 9 March 2017. On 10 March 2017, Y.B Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan will join ministers from Australia, Canada, Brunei, New Zealand and Singapore for an informal meeting to assess work programme leading to the 11<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference which Argentina is hosting December this year.



MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The Commonwealth Trade Ministers meeting will be attended by 36 Trade Ministers from member states and also the major corporate leaders in the Commonwealth. Given the backdrop of the lackluster growth in the international economy and the challenging business landscape in several advanced economies, it is important for Malaysia to deepen her economic engagement with other Commonwealth economies moving forward.

**-END-**

**Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)  
8 March 2017**

***EMBARGOED until 0000 hrs, 8 March 2017 (Wednesday), Malaysian time.***

**About MITI:**

MITI is the key driver in making Malaysia the preferred destination for quality investments and enhancing the nation's rising status as a globally competitive trading nation. Its objectives and roles are oriented towards ensuring Malaysia's rapid economic development and help achieve the country's stated goal of becoming a developed nation by 2020 .

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