



MEDIA RELEASE

**WORKING VISIT TO MANILA
&
23rd ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS' RETREAT
AND RELATED MEETINGS
8 – 10 MARCH 2017, MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES**

The 23rd ASEAN Economic Ministers' Retreat and Related Meetings will be convened in Manila, the Philippines from 8 to 10 March 2017. Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister of International Trade and Industry will also undertake a working visit to Manila as part of MITI's continuous efforts to further intensify trade and investment relations between the two countries. Dato' Sri Mustapa will be meeting with the Philippine-Malaysia Business Council (PMBC) and Malaysia-Philippines Business Council (MPBC) as well as a session with business community in the Philippines. These meetings are aimed at further enhancing Malaysia-Philippines economic ties, strengthening business to business collaborations and potential opportunities for collaboration in halal industry. Dato' Sri Mustapa will also inaugurate an infrastructure project by AlloyMtd Group in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

At the 23rd AEM Retreat, the Economic Ministers will exchange views and deliberate on commemorative activities for the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN, Priority Deliverables for 2017, the implementation of the ASEAN Economic Blueprint 2025, addressing challenges on trade facilitation measures, Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs)/Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) and progress in integration of other economic sectors. The Economic Ministers are also expected to deliberate on accelerating the pace of negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The 15th AEM-EU Consultations will also be held at the side line of the AEM Retreat to further discuss among others the way forward for the formal region-to-region talks towards the possible resumption of ASEAN-EU Free Trade Area (AEUFTA).

Apart from these meetings, the Economic Ministers will also be meeting representatives from ASEAN Business Advisory Council and ASEAN-EU Business Council.

-END-

**Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed
Minister of International Trade and Industry
7 March 2017**



MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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 .

Media enquiries

Ministry of International Trade & Industry

Strategic Communications Unit

Tel +603 6200 0082

Fax +603 6206 4293

E-mail allpegkomunikasikorporat@miti.gov.my