MINISTRY OF
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY

# MEDIA RELEASE

## MALAYSIA CALLS FOR STRONGER REGIONAL COOPERATION, RESILIENCE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH AT THE 37TH APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING

The 37th APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM), held virtually on 3 November 2026, provided a platform for Malaysia to reaffirm its commitment to strengthening regional economic cooperation, addressing emerging challenges and advancing a more resilient and inclusive Asia-Pacific region. Malaysia was represented at the meeting by YB Sim Tze Tzin, Deputy Minister of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), and YB Dato Lukanisman Awang Sauni, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

The AMM was co-chaired by H.E. Wang Wentao, Minister of Commerce, and H.E. Wang Yi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Held under the theme "Building an Asia-Pacific Community to Prosper Together", the meeting took place amid heightened economic uncertainty, global trade disruptions and geopolitical fragmentation affecting the Asia-Pacific region.

Guided by this theme, China's APEC 2026 host year prioritised openness, innovation, and cooperation with an emphasis on deepening regional economic integration, harnessing digital transformation and emerging technologies, and driving sustainable, inclusive growth across the Asia-Pacific region.

Against this backdrop, Malaysia emphasised that the Asia-Pacific is navigating a challenging juncture shaped by geopolitical developments and global trade shifts. These intersecting pressures have strained global stability and energy markets, while anticipated environmental challenges, such as the upcoming El Niño phenomenon, pose further risks to agricultural yields and regional food security.

Recognising that these compounding pressures ultimately translate into cost-of-living challenges for ordinary families and small enterprises, Malaysia called for collaborative, proactive measures to safeguard the region's essential energy and food systems.

To achieve this, Malaysia urged the APEC community to resolve existing geopolitical frictions through constructive dialogue and diplomacy, noting that easing tensions can help heal economic divides that disproportionately affect vulnerable communities.

Alongside this, Malaysia advocated for steady global energy supplies to support macroeconomic stability, inviting energy-producing economies to help manage market fluctuations while the region continues its long-term clean energy transition. In addition, Malaysia emphasised the importance of technological progress, as well as recognising care infrastructure as an investment in humanity.

Furthermore, to ensure uninterrupted food supply chains, Malaysia emphasised the need for cooperative, frictionless trade corridors for essential items like grains, cooking oils, and fertilisers, advising against restrictive agricultural trade.

Reflecting this spirit of shared responsibility, YB Sim shared in his intervention:

"*APEC was built on the premise that collective economic cooperation delivers tangible shared prosperity. Let us demonstrate our shared commitment to strengthening regional resilience, safeguarding food and energy security, and ensuring that cooperation remains the cornerstone of its stability. I'm confident and optimistic that collectively APEC economies can work together in the spirit of openness, innovation and cooperation to improve the living standards of our 3 billion people."*

The AMM discussions are expected to contribute to APEC's broader regional economic agenda ahead of the 33rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM), scheduled for 18 to 19 November 2026 in Shenzhen, China. YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia, is expected to attend the AELM, accompanied by YB Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani, Minister of MITI.

**MINISTRY OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY (MITI)**
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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.

**For media inquiries:**

Strategic Communications Unit, MITI
Tel: +6013-274 3643
Email: sheila.shaik@miti.gov.my

