



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **APEC SENIOR OFFICIALS CONCLUDED MEETINGS IN FULL GEAR, AHEAD OF APEC ECONOMIC LEADERS' MEETING (AELM) AND APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING (AMM)**

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The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Senior Officials concluded their series of meetings and programmes this year with the convening of the virtual Concluding Senior Officials' Meeting (CSOM) yesterday, chaired by APEC 2020 SOM Chair Mr. Hairil Yahri Yaacob, marking the final meeting of APEC at officials' level, for the year.

Senior Officials commended the key achievements of APEC, including Malaysia's central role in providing leadership and ensuring a successful APEC 2020, despite the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. They noted that, going into the final lap of APEC 2020, Malaysia has done remarkably well in managing the impact of COVID-19 on APEC Meetings and expressed hope for this positive streak to continue until the pinnacle event next week, the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM).

Senior Officials also recognised Malaysia's able stewardship in delivering a number of joint statements at the Ministerial-level, including for Trade, Health Finance, Women and Food Security. They underscored their commitment to continue to work collaboratively with Malaysia, with a view to deliver the remaining three high-level documents for the year, namely the Post-2020 Vision, APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) Statement and Leaders' Declaration.

This year, APEC 2020 progressed their work under the theme of ***Optimising Human Potential towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity***, which was enabled through the following three priority areas:



- i. Improving the Narrative of Trade and Investment;
- ii. Inclusive Economic Participation through Digital Economy and Technology; and
- iii. Driving Innovative Sustainability.

Senior Officials also noted a number of key reports related to the above priority areas, including:

- i. The Annual Report by the Committee on Trade and Investment (CTI) to Ministers;
- ii. Senior Officials' Report on Economic and Technical Cooperation; and
- iii. Work Programme for the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER).

Last but not least, Senior Officials highlighted their enthusiasm in looking forward to the AMM on 16 November 2020, as well as AELM on 20 November 2020. They reaffirmed their support for further enhancement of regional economic engagements and wished Malaysia much success in the preparations leading up to the final week of Malaysia's hosting year.

At the end of the meeting, Hairil expressed his gratitude to all Senior Officials for their undivided support to Malaysia in navigating APEC work through this challenging time. He further added that the transition from physical meetings to a fully virtual format has been a challenging journey for all, what more with 8 different time zones. However he remained optimistic that the same camaraderie, friendship and solidarity will be extended to New Zealand as the incoming host of APEC Meetings.

**Ministry of International Trade & Industry (MITI)**  
**14 November 2020**



## **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.

## **About APEC 2020 National Secretariat**

The APEC 2020 National Secretariat was established since February 2018 in the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to carry out the planning and implementation of APEC 2020. Consisting of Substantive, Logistics and Communications Unit, the APEC 2020 National Secretariat is responsible for all arrangements for APEC 2020 hosting year.

## **Media enquiries:**

### **Ministry of International Trade & Industry**

#### **Strategic Communications Unit**

Tel +603 6200 0083

Fax +603 6206 4293

E-mail [alluks@miti.gov.my](mailto:alluks@miti.gov.my)