



MEDIA RELEASE

MALAYSIA AND ASEAN MEMBER STATES TO STRENGTHEN UNITY AND SOLIDARITY IN ADVANCING REGIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE AGENDA

The Economic Ministers of ASEAN will convene their first ministerial meeting this year through the virtual 27th ASEAN Economic Ministers' (AEM) Retreat from 2 to 3 March 2021. Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade and Industry, Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali will lead the Malaysian delegation at this occasion.

This year, Brunei Darussalam as Chair of ASEAN 2021, presents its theme "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper", which underscores the importance of fostering the well-being of people, preparing for future opportunities and uncertainties, as well as prospering together as a unified region.

Malaysia extends strong support to Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship and looks forward to forging closer coordination and cooperation with all ASEAN Member States in implementing steps for economic recovery, as well as pursuing the regional economic integration agenda as embedded in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint 2025, whilst charting the future of AEC post-2025.

The AEM Retreat, being the first scheduled meeting for the ASEAN Economic Ministers, will deliberate the Priority Economic Deliverables under Brunei Darussalam's Chairmanship of ASEAN, operationalisation of the AEC Blueprint 2025 and progress updates on ASEAN external economic relations. It will also discuss the recommendations made by the High-Level Task Force on Economic Integration (HLTF-EI) to the AEM, as well as decisions made by Leaders at the ASEAN Summit last November.



The Economic Ministers will also undertake earnest discussions on the development of post-COVID-19 recovery efforts at both national and regional levels, follow-ups on ASEAN's various recovery efforts, especially on the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, and other related strategies in stimulating regional economic recovery and resilience.

The annual consultation with ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC) will be held back-to-back with the AEM Retreat. As ASEAN esteems the support and contribution from stakeholders such as the private sector in steering the AEC agenda, this platform also provides constructive exchange of ideas towards jointly materialising regional recovery efforts through timely and meaningful implementation of the ACRF that would benefit ASEAN community as a whole.

**MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL 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.

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