



MEDIA RELEASE

APEC MINISTERS STRONGLY AFFIRM TO JOIN, WORK AND GROW TOGETHER IN EXPEDITING SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL RECOVERY EFFORTS AT THE 32ND APEC MINISTERIAL MEETING (AMM)

Another milestone for APEC was made with the adoption of the Joint Ministerial Statement by all 21 APEC Ministers at the 32nd APEC Ministerial Meeting (AMM) held on 8th and 9th November 2021. The issuance of the Joint Ministerial Statement is aligned with the central theme and priorities of APEC 2021 - “*Join, Work, Grow. Together.*” introduced by New Zealand, chair of APEC 2021.

The virtual AMM was co-chaired by The Honourable Damien O’Connor, Minister for Trade and Export Growth and The Honourable Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Foreign Affairs of New Zealand. YB Dato’ Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Senior Minister & Minister of International Trade and Industry and YB Dato’ Kamarudin Jaffar, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs led the Malaysian delegation.

In his intervention, YB Dato’ Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali reiterated the paramount importance of vaccine multilateralism as being the springboard for expeditious recovery and sustained rebuilding of the economy. He stressed that free, fair and open trade is critical in enabling equitable, affordable and timely access to vaccines, especially for developing economies.

The Senior Minister also highlighted the breakthrough in preferential travel arrangement achieved between Malaysia and Singapore known as the Vaccinated Travel Lane that will be effective from 29 November 2021.

With the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference convening in Geneva at the end of the month, the Senior Minister emphasised the imperative to find middle ground for long-standing issues to restore global confidence in the WTO. Nevertheless, Malaysia also

expressed the view that the fight against the pandemic requires “creative approaches beyond the norm” and warrants decisive interventions by the WTO, including possible waiver of certain provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

Meanwhile, in his intervention, YB Dato' Kamarudin Jaffar underscored the importance of greater access of greener technologies to developing economies, both financially and technologically. Malaysia shared her aspiration to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions target by 2050 which will create a higher quality of life for the people, and commended the powerful call for decisive and immediate actions by economies to address the climate crisis, especially with the COP26 currently taking place in Glasgow.

Through the Joint Ministerial Statement, APEC Ministers also pledged to redouble efforts for trade-supported recovery of the region. Acknowledging the importance of economic and trade policies that strengthen recovery through macroeconomic policies and structural reforms, APEC Ministers reaffirmed their support for the rules-based multilateral trading system for seamless trade and investment.

All member economies reaffirmed their commitment to materialise the Putrajaya Vision 2040 in “building back better” the region from the crisis by embracing continuous improvement of APEC as an institution to ensure that its structure and governance are future-oriented and fit for the purpose of implementing this Vision.

The prestigious 2021 APEC Digital Prosperity Award was won by the Malaysian team comprising Faisal Ariff, Nik Emir Rizan Sulaiman, Amjad Alhaneesh and Sherman Peter. The winning app known as the “APEC Traveller App” was conceptualised to allow for seamless cross-border travel in the region. This award reflects the talent of the youth of APEC economies and how they are shaping the recovery, promoting the vaccination campaign, and helping to digitalise the region.

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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