



**MINISTRY OF
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

PRE-EVENT MEDIA RELEASE

**YB SENATOR DATUK LIM BAN HONG TO REPRESENT MALAYSIA AT THE
28TH APEC MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR TRADE (MRT) MEETING IN
BANGKOK**

Pursuant to the successful endorsement of the Aotearoa Plan of Action to implement the Putrajaya Vision 2040 during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) last year, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry, YB Senator Datuk Lim Ban Hong will join all APEC Trade Ministers at the 28th APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) Meeting from 21-22 May 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand.

His Excellency Jurin Laksanawisit, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand will chair the 28th MRT meeting, which will be the first ministerial meeting to be hosted by the Kingdom of Thailand in its capacity as APEC 2022 host. The meeting will congregate Trade Ministers; APEC's customary guest, the Director General of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and APEC official observers in a hybrid setting.

During the annual meeting, YB Senator Datuk Lim Ban Hong will highlight the importance of intensifying regional collaboration in reviving the economies as well as harmonising APEC's approach to implement seamless and safe travel due to the opening of borders and lifting of health protocol measures. He will also be deliberating Malaysia's view in advancing the progress of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) as well as the Multilateral Trading System (MTS).

Kingdom of Thailand as the host has chosen the theme "*Open. Connect. Balance*" to highlight the critical need for the region to continue its work in facilitating free and open trade and investment, promote seamless connectivity, and nurture balanced, inclusive, and sustainable growth, post-COVID-19. In navigating through the current challenges faced by APEC economies today, Thailand will be introducing the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy Model in response to the emerging trade and investment issues.

The MRT meeting in its entirety will deliberate on recovery efforts through amplified structural reforms, digital economy and cross-border travel connectivity that are inclusive and sustainable. With the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) weeks away, the Director General of WTO is expected to share WTO's ongoing work and progress leading up to the long-awaited Ministerial Conference.

At the end of the MRT meeting, APEC Ministers are set to endorse the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Meeting Joint Statement 2022, pledging regional commitment in the spirit of equal partnership, shared responsibility and mutual respect to organise meaningful actions driven by the shared vision to be "*open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations*".

As part of APEC's continuous engagement with the private sector, YB Senator Datuk Lim Ban Hong will also be participating in the MRT-ABAC Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) centred on the FTAAP in the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond on 21 May 2022. APEC Ministers, together with the ABAC Representatives will be exchanging views on FTAAP and other related areas in preparation to ensure a resilient and sustainable Asia-Pacific region. The engagement also signifies active collaboration between APEC Ministers with the private sector.

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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