

ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS COMMIT TO STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COORDINATION AND SAFEGUARDING TRADE AND SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AMID GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES

Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong attended the Special ASEAN Economic Community Council (AECC) Meeting on 30 April 2026, convened virtually by the Philippines for ASEAN Member States (AMS) to discuss recent developments in the Middle East and their implications for the region's trade, economic outlook, and supply chain resilience. The Special AECC is part of a coordinated series of Special ASEAN ministerial meetings convened by the Philippines over recent weeks, providing platforms for AMS to collectively exchange views on the Middle East situation and its potential impact on the region.

2. During the Meeting, Ministers recognised the far-reaching economic implications of the situation on global energy markets, supply chains, food security, logistics networks, and our peoples and businesses, especially micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Against this backdrop, they discussed collective efforts and responses to strengthen ASEAN's resilience.

3. Ministers reaffirmed our commitment to keeping trade and supply chains open, including upholding navigational rights and freedoms as well as refraining from unjustified trade restrictions to ensure unimpeded flows of essential goods such as food, energy, and critical inputs during crises. In this regard, they called for the swift ratification and early entry into force of the Upgraded ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA) within the year where possible. This will allow AMS to implement the Agreement early, which contains relevant cooperation and crisis-related commitments to facilitate ASEAN working together as we navigate the ongoing crisis.

4. Ministers agreed to strengthen energy security through measures such as diversifying energy sources and accelerating renewable energy development. They emphasised the need to expedite the ratification and operationalisation of existing frameworks such as the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Petroleum Security (APSA), which will include emergency response mechanisms to facilitate coordination and communication lines on energy preparedness during sudden supply disruptions.

5. Ministers exchanged views on other immediate response measures and longer-term resilience efforts to support food security, financial stability, and tourism. They also underscored the importance of cross-sectoral coordination to address interconnected

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challenges, which will be critical to enhancing ASEAN’s capacity to tackle external shocks and achieve sustainable growth.

6. DPM Gan said, “Amidst ongoing developments in the Middle East, ASEAN stands firm in our commitment to maintaining open trade and resilient supply chains to ensure unimpeded flows of essential goods. Moving forward, ASEAN must act with urgency and turn these commitments into concrete actions. Singapore will continue working closely with ASEAN Member States to implement relevant agreements and mechanisms to strengthen energy and food security, as well as mitigate the impact of disruptions for our people and businesses.”

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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