

**16TH ROUND OF TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP) IN SINGAPORE, 4 – 13
MARCH 2013**

1 Singapore will host Round 16 of the TPP negotiations from 4 to 13 March 2013 at the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. The meeting will be attended by over 600 delegates from the 11 TPP countries – Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, the United States, Vietnam and Singapore.

2 About 300 stakeholders comprising business representatives, academics and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from around the world have registered to attend the Stakeholders' Forum on 6 March 2013, and participate in the various seminars and panel discussion sessions throughout the round.

3 The TPP is a comprehensive agreement which will advance regional economic integration and reduce barriers to trade and investment. It will cover areas such as market access for goods, cross border trade in services, investment, government procurement, customs and trade facilitation, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, intellectual property rights, labour, and environment. In addition, it will address emerging trade issues such as non-tariff measures and cross-cutting issues such as the enhancement of regulatory coherence across TPP countries. The TPP will also facilitate the utilisation of the agreement by Small-and-Medium Enterprises.

4 All eleven TPP parties are members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The TPP is envisioned to expand in stages towards wider economic integration amongst APEC economies and be a pathway towards the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific. Presently, the 11 TPP countries have a combined GDP of about US\$21 trillion, which is over 50% of the total GDP of APEC's 21 members.

5 Singapore had previously hosted Round 6 of the TPP negotiations in March 2011, where solid progress was made with substantive discussion in all areas, including goods, services, investment and government procurement.

**MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
1 MARCH 2013**