



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY**

**ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
TRADE MEETING (APEC MRT) AND  
COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS PACIFIC  
PARTNERSHIP (CPTPP) MINISTERIAL MEETING  
15 – 16 May 2025  
Jeju, Republic of Korea**

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*Photo: APEC Korea*

1. Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Dr. Awang Haji Mohd Amin Liew bin Abdullah, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II of Brunei Darussalam attended the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade (MRT) Meeting which was held on 15 to 16 May 2025 in Jeju, Republic of Korea.
2. The APEC MRT Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Inkyo Cheong, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea and attended by other Trade and Economic Ministers as well as representatives from APEC Economies.

3. In line with the 2025 APEC theme of “**Building a Sustainable Tomorrow: Connect, Innovate, Prosper,**” Ministers addressed wide-ranging measures for cooperation to catalyze the utilisation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in trade areas such as AI application and standard information-sharing in the field of tariffs and customs, World Trade Organisation (WTO) reform and APEC’s role in the multilateral trading system as well as measures for joint efforts in establishing a sustainable supply chain, including the climate crisis response.
4. During the sessions, Yang Berhormat Dato Dr. Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II shared Brunei’s perspectives as follows:
  - 4.1 Shared Brunei’s efforts to develop a national AI strategy and to integrate AI into sectors such as healthcare. Brunei further emphasized the need to be mindful of regulatory gaps, data privacy safeguards, and inclusive adoption of digital technologies to ensure equitable growth across the APEC region;
  - 4.2 Underscored the importance of upholding the multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core and for APEC to support its work in delivering crucial outcomes at the 14<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference next year, including restoring a fully functioning dispute settlement system. Brunei also urged APEC to complement the WTO's work by fostering dialogue and innovative solutions; and
  - 4.3 Highlighted the importance of strengthening regional cooperation to enhance supply chain resilience in light of growing global uncertainties and expressed support for APEC’s initiatives to modernise supply chain systems, facilitate trade and ensure that supply chains remain agile, inclusive and responsive to current and future challenges.
5. Ministers endorsed the 2025 APEC MRT Joint Statement which can be accessed at [2025 APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade Joint Statement | APEC](#)



6. At the sidelines of the Meeting, Yang Berhormat Dato Dr. Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II met with Her Excellency Grace Fu Hai Yien, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment and Minister-in-Charge of Trade Relations of the Republic of Singapore. Both Ministers reaffirmed the close and long-standing partnership between the two countries, expressed shared concerns over rising protectionism and underscored the importance of upholding a rules-based multilateral trading system. Discussions also focused on deepening regional cooperation through platforms such as ASEAN and APEC and exploring new avenues for partnership, particularly in the areas of energy and sustainability.
7. Yang Berhormat Dato Dr. Minister at the Prime Minister's Office and Minister of Finance and Economy II also met with Mrs Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the WTO Director-General, at the sidelines of the Meeting.
8. The APEC MRT Meeting is held annually and brings together Trade and Economic Ministers from APEC Economies to discuss ways to strengthen regional trade and economic cooperation.

#### **CPTPP Ministerial Meeting**

9. CPTPP Ministers and representatives met on 16 May 2025 in Jeju on the sidelines of the APEC MRT Meeting. Ministers underscored the importance of progressing work on the General Review to update and enhance the CPTPP

efforts and welcomed the progress made on Costa Rica's accession process. Ministers also decided to work towards dialogues as soon as possible in 2025 with the European Union and ASEAN. Ministers issued a Joint Ministerial Statement which is accessible through [Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership \(CPTPP\) Joint Ministerial Statement, 16 May 2025 | Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)



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10. Also present at the Meetings were Yang Mulia Dayang Dr. Hajah May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy, Trade and Industry) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy and other officials from the Ministry of Finance and Economy.

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