

Minister John Deng's intervention at 2022 APEC AMM

Working Lunch – Session II: Reconnecting the Region

- 1 、 I want to start off by offering special thanks to Thailand for hosting this year's APEC. Thanks to Thailand's hospitable arrangement and effective leadership, we are able to gather here once again for APEC's most important annual event.
- 2 、 While most economies were negatively affected by the pandemic, we managed to produce a growing trajectory with a growth rate of 3.36% in 2020 and 6.57% in 2021.
- 3 、 In 2021, our exports increased by 29.34% from the previous year, amounting to US\$446.4 billion, while our imports also increased by 33.48% amounting to US\$382.0 billion.
- 4 、 We moved up one spot to 7th place in the latest world competitiveness rankings, according to the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in 2022.
- 5 、 I would like to offer our views and experiences on how to capitalize digital technology to promote regional inter-connectivity, focusing on the following three aspects: infrastructure, safeguard, and connectivity.
- 6 、 First, infrastructure. Digital transformation requires an economy to improve its digital infrastructure, build an appropriate legal framework, raise digital awareness and

capacity of its people to eliminate the digital gap and encourage innovation, development and application of digital technologies.

- 7、 In this era of rapid development of digital technologies, we have made digital transformation one of our top policies, during which we have realized successful digital transformation policies require a comprehensive, multi-faceted, and coordinated approach.
- 8、 To this end, we established a new ministry – the Ministry of Digital Affairs in August of this year to oversee the development of the digital sector, steer the overall planning of digital governance and digital infrastructure with an aim to achieve comprehensive and inclusive digital transformation.
- 9、 Second, safeguards. Any sound policy relating to the development of digital technologies must incorporate cybersecurity safeguards against data breach and misappropriation. A successful cybersecurity approach can build up people’s confidence in digital technologies, which is essential to promote effective digital transformation and accelerated development of digital economy.
- 10、 Cybersecurity is a cross-cutting issue that deserves more attention within the APEC Framework. Currently, APEC members have undertaken work on cybersecurity under relevant APEC sub-groups, including those under the

Digital Economy Steering Group and Telecommunications and Information Working Group. Considering the growing importance of cybersecurity in today's world, we believe that APEC economies should engage in more discussion and cooperation in this regard.

- 11 、 Finally, connectivity. To fully realize the potential of digital technologies in enhancing inter-connectivity and economic growth in the region, we need more cooperation between governments in eliminating digital barriers and encouraging cross-border trade, the flow of data and movement of personnel.
- 12 、 In an effort to explore ways to advance cooperation in the digital sector, we are ready to engage in greater discussion with like-minded partners towards the signing of digital economy agreements, thereby achieving stronger regional inter-connectivity while promoting our mutual interests. We look forward to engaging in further discussion. Thank you.

Session III: Open and Sustainable Trade and Investment

Mr. Chair:

- First of all, I want to congratulate Thailand for your leadership to make excellent progress in this year's work, in particular on the priority area, such as the Bio-Circular-Green (BCG) Economy.
- We commend these achievements and the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 to realise an open, dynamic, resilient and peaceful Asia-Pacific community by 2040, for the prosperity of all our people and future generations.

■ PRIORITY 1: OPEN TO ALL OPPORTUNITIES

- First, as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting trade and investment continues to be critical to accelerating global economic recovery. We commit to adopting open, and fair trade and investment policies and good regulatory practices to provide a level playing field for our businesses, and enhance cooperation and trade facilitation with our partners to promote greater transparency, and predictability in the region.
- While small in size, our economy has an indispensable role in the global supply chain. This is especially true of our semiconductor industry, which alone makes up one fourth of the global market share. Our vital economy is a testament to our People's hard work for the past 50 years

and the trust and friendship of our trading partners and the free trading system.

- In the face of global supply chain restructuring challenges, trust among like-minded economies has become the foundation and path to supply chain resilience. Economies must operate on mutual trust rather than other tactics to collectively address the needs of the global economy.
- We also strongly commit to upholding and furthering the rules-based multilateral trading system (MTS), with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core. We welcome the successful outcomes of the Twelfth WTO Ministerial Conference (MC12) and has completed domestic approval procedures to implement the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) on Services Domestic Regulation. Other outcomes also are in need of prompt implementation, such as the fishery agreement and JSI on e-commerce. Members must prioritize these commitments and the path to reform as agreed at MC12 to pave the way for a successful MC13.

■ **PRIORITY 2: CONNECT IN ALL DIMENSIONS**

- Second, after years of COVID-19, we need to start reconnecting the region in all dimensions. The rapid rise of the digital economy holds massive economic opportunities and the potential to revolutionize our

current approaches towards sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity.

- Currently ranked second in the “use of big data and analytics” according to 2022 IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking, we will continue to be a strong advocate for strengthening digital connectivity, rules to combat cyber security, and advancing digital transformation to further facilitate trade.

■ **PRIORITY 3: BALANCE IN ALL ASPECTS**

- Finally, we support the commitments made by our Leaders in the Putrajaya Vision 2040 to pursue strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth in the Asia-Pacific.
- We will ensure that no one is left behind. We adhere to our Leaders’ Vision of fostering quality growth that can achieve tangible benefits and greater health and well-being to all, including MSMEs, women, indigenous peoples, youth and others with untapped economic potential.
- We attach great importance to the urgent need to remove all existing barriers to women’s full and equal participation and leadership in all economic activities. In 2020, 41.6% of MPs in Taiwan were women, the highest percentage in Asia.

- We also prioritize the importance of efficient and sustainable management of natural resources. In the past five years, our use of solar power increased by more than 500%, while our cumulative installed capacity of renewable energy increased by 250%. We added 2 off-shore wind farms, forest coverage increased to 60.71% (compared to the global average of 30%), and our reuse rate of industrial waste reached 81.1%.

■ Conclusion

- In conclusion, we thank Thailand again for hosting a fantastic 2022 APEC conference. We look forward to APEC 2023 and working closely with the United States and fellow APEC members to also make APEC 2023 a great success.