

Welcome Remarks by Dr Tan Khee Giap, Chairman, Singapore National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (SINCPEC)

Mr Lim Hng Kiang, Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr Bui Thanh Son, Vietnam's Standing Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Your Excellency, Distinguished Speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning!

May I first welcome you to the 2017 PECC Conference on shaping "APEC's Post 2020 Agenda: Rising Protectionism, Economic Rebalancing and Diversified Growth". As you know Vietnam is the host for the 2017 APEC Meeting, hence Singapore National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (SINCPEC) is most happy to partner Vietnam National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (VNCPEC) with strong support from the PECC Secretariat which made the conference today possible.

In fact almost every year since 2009, SINCPEC has co-organized the Annual PECC Singapore Conference with the respective host of the APEC Meetings. The purpose of such collaborations is to gather thought leaders to discuss and debate on policy issues pertaining to trade, investment and economic integration amongst APEC economies. In the process, such valuable effort would help to shape agenda, provide road maps with actionable plans for the annual APEC Meetings. Such an important and significant initiative would not have been made possible without the total financial support from my Singapore's government, especially by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Indeed we have a fully packed, and I have no doubt, an exciting program today with five main sessions consisting of distinguished panels from the private sector industry captains, senior government officials, and the academia, who are experts in their respective fields to share with us today their assessment of the latest global development and trends including both opportunities and challenges ahead.

In consultation with Vietnam APEC Secretariat 2017 and member economies of PECC, we have therefore identified five main themes including first and foremost the potentially disruptive and rapid changes at the global context and its discontents; secondly we deal on micro competitiveness, inclusive and quality growth through small and medium enterprises;

the third session is on infrastructure connectivity and equitable economic development at sub-national level with responsive regulatory regimes; the fourth session is on enhancing people-to-people connectivity via common industry standards, greater social interactions and promoting further ease-of-doing-business to ensure level playing field, not just for multinational corporations but more importantly for SMEs. The final session deals with re-evaluating and reshaping common resolve to Bogor Goals.

We also have an exciting luncheon session with Mr Philip Yeo, one of Singapore's major economic architects as the Distinguished Luncheon Speaker. He would speak on Singapore's effort in the massive building of the Vietnamese Industrial Parks since 1996 worth nearly US\$10 billion in providing nearly 200,000 jobs including manpower empowerment through A*Star Scholarship Program for Vietnamese!

We would also have an exciting Distinguished Dinner Speaker to speak on "Globalization, Inclusivity and Implications to ASEAN" by Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and he is amongst the World's 100 most influential speakers.

Last but not least, we shall end the conference with a highlight of the evening: which is concert performance by China National Orchestra from the Jiangsu Province, courtesy of Mr Ji Changqun, Chairman of the Hong Kong-listed Fullshare Group, made possible by Mr Liew Mun Leong, Chairman of Surbana-Jurong and Changi Airport Group, and Mr Sam Goi, Chairman of Tee Yih Jia. Thank you!