



PRESS RELEASE

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC) VIRTUAL MINISTERIAL POLICY DIALOGUE ON FOOD SECURITY

Bandar Seri Begawan

Tuesday, 10 Rabiulawal 1442H/ 27 October 2020M

Yang Berhormat Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Ali bin Apong, Minister of Primary Resources and Tourism, Brunei Darussalam attended the **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Virtual Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Food Security** via video conference on Wednesday, 27th October 2020. The dialogue was chaired the Honourable Datuk Seri Dr. Ronald Kiandee, Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries of Malaysia.

During the **Ministerial Policy Dialogue on Food Security**, the APEC Ministers, and high-level representatives responsible for food security expressed their deepest condolences and sympathies in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on lives, livelihoods, food security, agriculture and fisheries, including the food supply chains in the region, and also acknowledged the on-going efforts by economies in combating the spread of COVID-19, as well as its impact on food and agriculture.

Given the disruption to trade and supply chains as well as a sudden change in consumer demand, APEC Ministers urged economies to strengthen solidarity and cooperation, and continue efforts to help ensure global food systems remain open, innovative, reliable, resilient, accessible and sustainable. They further urged economies to focus efforts on meeting the needs of vulnerable groups and building resilience to be better prepared to respond to future pandemics and also highlighted the importance of addressing disruptions to employment and income sources, particularly of vulnerable groups, whose food security is severely affected by the pandemic.

In this regard, APEC Ministers reiterated their commitment to continue supporting a swift economic recovery in line with the APEC 2020 theme, as well as achieving a sustainable food system in the region. APEC Ministers took note of the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020, the APEC Action Plan for Reducing Food Loss and Waste, the APEC Food Security Business Plan, and the Action Plan to Enhance Connectivity of APEC Food Standards and Safety Assurance.

Member economies took note on the review of the APEC Food Security Roadmap Towards 2020 and look forward to progressing the development of a new roadmap post-2020 next year. The next APEC Ministerial Meeting on Food Security will be hosted by New Zealand in 2021.

Also present during the dialogue were the Permanent Secretary and Senior Officers from the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, and Department of Fisheries.

Prepared by:
Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism