



**Joint Media Statement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> RCEP Ministers' Meeting  
22 September 2024, Vientiane, Lao PDR**

1. ASEAN alongside Australia, China, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand gathered in Vientiane on 22 September 2024 for the Third RCEP Ministers' Meeting. The Meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Djatmiko Bris Witjaksono, Director General of International Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia and H.E. Li Fei, Vice Minister of Commerce of China.
2. The Meeting reaffirmed their commitment to actively promote the RCEP Agreement so it can be effectively utilised by businesses in the region and contribute to further deepening regional economic integration.
3. The Meeting noted the progress of the establishment of the RCEP Support Unit (RSU) and welcomed the newly recruited Executive Director of the RSU, Mr. Taufiq Arfi Wargadalam. The Meeting looked forward to the full operationalisation of the RSU within this year to enable it to provide support to the RCEP Joint Committee (RJC) and its subsidiary bodies.
4. The Meeting noted the progress of the work of the RJC and its subsidiary bodies in the implementation of the RCEP Agreement. The Meeting encouraged the officials to continue their work to ensure the transparent, smooth and effective implementation of the RCEP Agreement. The Meeting commended the Committee on Business Environment and the Committee on Services and Investment for convening their first meeting. The Meeting requested subsidiary bodies to regularly monitor the implementation of the RCEP Agreement. The Meeting reiterated the importance of the economic and technical (ECOTECH) cooperation under the RCEP Agreement and encouraged Parties to engage in more ECOTECH cooperation activities to narrow the gap in the implementation of the RCEP Agreement. The meeting noted the importance of engagement with stakeholders, particularly the private sector as the main user of the RCEP Agreement.
5. The Meeting reaffirmed that RCEP is an open and inclusive regional agreement and welcomed the adoption of the Procedures for Accession to the RCEP Agreement by the RJC.
6. The Meeting reiterated the commitment of RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) to refrain from taking any measures inconsistent with the obligations under the RCEP Agreement, as well as to keep markets open, free, and rules-based, to remove unnecessary barriers to trade and strengthen trade and investment facilitation for all.