



PRESS RELEASE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY

**THIRD MEETING OF THE ASEAN SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICIALS
FOR THE FIFTY SECOND ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS' MEETING
(SEOM 3/52) AND RELATED MEETINGS
2 - 4 AUGUST 2021, VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING**

1. The Third Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Economic Officials for The Fifty Second ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting (SEOM 3/52) officially began today, 2 August 2021, via video conferencing. The meeting is chaired by Yang Mulia Dr Hajah May Fa'ezah binti Haji Ahmad Ariffin, Permanent Secretary (Economy) at the Ministry of Finance and Economy, Brunei Darussalam.
2. Attending the Meeting are senior economic officials from the ten ASEAN Member States (AMS), Deputy Secretary General for ASEAN Economic Community and senior officials from the ASEAN Secretariat.
3. The three-day meeting which will be in session until Wednesday, 4 August 2021, is a follow-up to outcomes of the SEOM 2/52 meeting and preparations for the upcoming 53rd ASEAN Economic Ministers' (53rd AEM) Meeting and its related meetings which is scheduled to be held in September 2021.
4. The Meeting among others welcomed the steady progress of the Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs) under Brunei Darussalam's ASEAN Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2021. The Meeting also provided updates on the implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF), exchanged views on implementing the findings and recommendations in the MTR of the AEC Blueprint 2025 and also discussed the reports of Sectoral Bodies that are under the purview of SEOM.



5. The Meeting also finalized the expanded list of essential goods under the *'Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs) on Essential Goods under the Hanoi Plan of Action on Strengthening ASEAN Economic Cooperation and Supply Chain Connectivity in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic'*. The expanded list among others include food and agricultural products which will be submitted for Ministers' endorsement at the 53rd AEM Meeting.
6. The Meeting will also exchange views on the way forward towards enhancing ASEAN's economic relations with its dialogue partners including preparations for the consultations with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners including Australia and New Zealand, Canada, People's Republic of China, East Asia Summit (EAS), European Union (EU), India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. The SEOM – Dialogue Partners' Consultations will take place via video conferencing on the 5th, 11th and 16th August 2021.