



# MEDIA RELEASE

## DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Trade

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### **Dr Emerson to visit Indonesia for regional economic summit**

Trade Minister Craig Emerson will visit Indonesia from today to take part in the annual meeting of East Asia Summit (EAS) Economic Ministers in the eastern Indonesian city of Manado.

The focus of this year's summit will be regional economic integration.

"This summit will be an opportunity to stress the vital role of domestic reform in improving regional integration," Dr Emerson said.

"More broadly, I will be sending the message that freeing up trade and investment flows is essential as global economic stability comes under pressure."

Nine of Australia's biggest 10 trading partners are in the EAS.

Two-way trade with EAS members, including new members the United States and Russia, was worth \$377 billion, 68 per cent of Australia's total trade, in 2010.

Dr Emerson will hold a series of meetings in Manado with Ministers from around the region, many of whom represent Australia's biggest trading partners. In these he will seek support for the latest plan to drive forward the Doha Round negotiations on global trade liberalisation.

"EAS Economic Ministers will discuss the next steps in creating regional economic architecture to promote sustained economic growth and spread the benefits of trade more quickly throughout the community."

The EAS summit coincides with a meeting of the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

The meetings between Australian, New Zealand and ASEAN Economic Ministers will address Australia's trade and economic interests, focusing on the strong framework provided by the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA).

Dr Emerson said Australia and its trading partners would explore how to get more out of AANZFTA.

ASEAN as a group accounted for over \$80 billion in two-way trade with Australia in 2010.

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