



MEDIA RELEASE

DR CRAIG EMERSON

Minister for Trade

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Trade Minister visits Indonesia for ASEAN Business Summit

Trade Minister Craig Emerson travels to Bali today to strengthen Australia's economic integration with Indonesia and other ASEAN economies ahead of the East Asia Summit.

ASEAN is one of Australia's most important - and fastest-growing - partners, with more than \$80 billion in total two-way trade in 2010.

Dr Emerson will attend the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit, where he will take part in a panel discussion on ASEAN-Australia relations, together with business leaders.

The panel discussion will precede a keynote speech to the Summit by Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

"The Summit will be a great opportunity to engage directly with business leaders from Indonesia and around the region," Dr Emerson said.

"Regional trade was the defining issue at the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Honolulu," he added.

"The Bali Summit provides another arena to consolidate Australia's place in the Asian region in this, the Asian Century."

On the sidelines of the Bali Summit, Dr Emerson will hold bilateral discussions with Indonesia's Trade Minister Gita Wirjawan, China's Commerce Minister Chen Deming, Japan's Trade Minister Yukio Edano, Malaysia's Trade Minister Dato' Sri Mustapa and Cambodia's Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh.

Dr Emerson will also meet senior Indonesian Ministers and business people during his two-day stay.

Among the topics for discussion is progress on the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA), a broad framework for projects which will improve the lives of ordinary Indonesians.

Dr Emerson will also deliver the keynote address to the Indonesia-Australia Business Conference on 19 November.

The speech will focus on the IA-CEPA and the importance of trade liberalisation in improving food security.

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