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TITLE: Singapore can be trusted home base for firms amid regional integration: Heng

By [Nicole Tan](#)

POSTED: 26 Nov 2015 11:43

URL: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/business/singapore/singapore-can-be-trusted/2294756.html>

For companies looking to gain access to the rest of the region, the city-state can help in connecting and developing businesses in particular industries and niches, says Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat.

SINGAPORE: The Republic can play the role of a trusted home base for companies looking to expand regionally, amid increased regional integration efforts, according to Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat.

Speaking at the 2015 Asia Competitiveness Institute Conference on Thursday (Nov 26), Mr Heng said partnerships in the region can create more opportunities for trade and investment.

Singapore can also be a platform with strong connections within Asia and between Asia and the rest of the world. This way, the city-state can help businesses capitalise developments in particular industries and niches, he added.

Apart from being a base for businesses, the Finance Minister said Singapore can also be a trusted port of call for Asian research and exchange of knowledge as business leaders and academics seek to gain a better understanding of the region.

"I hope that Singapore can play our modest role in creating an environment of mutual trust and cooperation amid this dynamic competitiveness of economies," Mr Heng said.

"And with this trust, we can weave stronger long-term bonds with our stakeholders to enable closer dialogue between our partners and reinforce the image of Asia as a trusted and sustainable economic entity. And thereby, attracting investments, creating jobs and playing our part in contributing to global growth."

The Finance Minister on Thursday also witnessed the signing of six memoranda of understanding between the Asia Competitiveness Institute at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore and various research institutes in the region.

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