

For Immediate Release

Asian Financial Forum Opens with New Participation Record ***“Asia: Reshaping the Global Agenda” Theme of AFF 2011***

17 January 2011 – More than 1,600 participants from around the world are in Hong Kong for the fourth Asian Financial Forum (AFF), which opened today and continues through tomorrow at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC). The delegate total marks a new AFF attendance record, with more than half of the senior business and government leaders from the Chinese mainland and overseas.

The two-day financial summit opened with addresses from Jack So, Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), and Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

“As the economic gravity has shifted from West to East, so too has the financial gravity,” said Mr Tsang. “Hong Kong, with its open markets and free flow of capital, is taking this opportunity to bridge China and the rest of the world.” The Asian Financial Forum, he added, is “an ideal platform to learn more about our region’s economic strengths and weaknesses, to discuss financial strategies and tactics and to identify opportunities as they emerge and multiply.”

Asia’s Most Influential Event

“In four short years, the AFF has become the most influential event of its kind in Asia,” said Mr So. The forum, which has attracted bankers, institutional investors, fund managers, regulators and senior executives from all over the world, is organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the HKTDC. “Our speakers include government ministers, renowned economists, business leaders and financial experts,” said Mr So. “They are, in short, the people who shape and re-shape the economic agenda for Asia and for the world.”

This morning’s “Opening Remarks” focused on the forum’s main theme, “Asia: Reshaping the Global Agenda.” Keynote speakers were the mainland’s Cheng Siwei, Former Vice Chairman, Standing Committee, National People’s Congress, and Chairman, International Finance Forum (Beijing); William Hague, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the United Kingdom; Shang Fulin, Chairman, China Securities Regulatory Commission; and Wu Dingfu, Chairman, China Insurance Regulatory Commission. Other prominent mainland speakers taking part in the two-day forum include Chen Yuan, Chairman, Board of Directors, China Development Bank, and Xiao Gang, Chairman, Bank of China Ltd.

Major overseas speakers include Cesar V Purisima, Secretary of Finance, The Philippines; Rintaro Tamaki, Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Japan; Bill Shorten, Assistant

Treasurer and Minister, Financial Services and Superannuation, Australia; John Peace, Chairman, Standard Chartered PLC; Anthony Bolton, President, FIL Investment Management (HK) Ltd; and Oleg Mukhamedshin, Deputy CEO and member, Executive Committee UC RUSAL.

Spotlight on China

Asia, particularly the Chinese mainland, is the main focus of this year's AFF. Panel discussions range from global investment opportunities and challenges to Asia in a global environment of low interest rates and excess liquidity, to China opportunities and mainland enterprises in the global scene.

AFF 2011 presents nine thematic workshops tomorrow. Highlights include a workshop on "Hong Kong as China's Global Financial Centre – the RMB Dimension," organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government's Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and the HKTDC. Tomorrow afternoon's AFF Deal Flow session features more than 300 pre-arranged business-matching meetings between companies and potential investors.

Keynote Luncheons

Forum highlights also include two luncheon addresses. Today, Chongqing Mayor Huang Qifan speaks about the emergence of his city on the world stage. At tomorrow's luncheon, Columbia University Professor Robert Mundell, Nobel Prize Laureate in Economics, will address the forum. His topic is "Realigning Currencies in a Non-Aligned World."

Website: www.asianfinancialforum.com

AFF Webcasts: <http://www.youtube.com/user/HKTDC#grid/user/24B930828AC3811B>

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About the HKTDC

A statutory body established in 1966, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) is the international marketing arm for Hong Kong-based traders, manufacturers and service providers. With more than 40 global offices, including 11 on the Chinese mainland, the HKTDC promotes Hong Kong as a platform for doing business with the Chinese mainland and throughout Asia. The HKTDC also organises trade fairs and business missions to connect companies with opportunities in Hong Kong and on the mainland, while providing information via trade publications, research reports and online. Please visit www.hktdc.com.