

New Attendance Record Buoy Asian Financial Forum ***Global Community “Expects Asia to Rise to Challenge” – Donald Tsang***

20 January 2010 – More than 1,500 high-powered delegates from 31 countries and regions are in Hong Kong for the third 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 here from outside Hong Kong. The first AFF took place in 2007; the second AFF was held last year.

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.

Rising to the Challenge

“Today, the international community expects Asia to rise to the challenge and play a more prominent role in the changing economic landscape,” said Mr Tsang. The Chief Executive added that the Asian economies, by working together, “can lay a solid foundation for sustainable economic development. This way Asia can play a more constructive role in re-engineering and reshaping the global financial architecture.”

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 Government and the HKTDC.

Global Line-up

Addressing forum delegates at the morning plenary session on the global post-crisis landscape and Asia’s place in the new economic order were Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund and Liu Mingkang, Chairman, China Banking Regulatory Commission. Other major business, finance and regulatory players speaking at the AFF include Lou Jiwei, Chairman and CEO, China Investment Corporation; Nouriel Roubini, Professor of Economics at the Stern School of Business, New York University; and E Gerald Corrigan, Managing Director, Goldman Sachs.

The AFF also features a number of prominent regional policymakers, including leading government officials from the Mainland, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and Hong Kong.

New Economic Order

Asia is the central focus of forum discussions, in keeping with the theme of this year's AFF: "Asia in the New Economic Order." Discussions will spotlight the Mainland's domestic market and its implications for the global economy, the internationalisation of the renminbi and what it means for the new financial order, and business opportunities arising from the mainland's massive infrastructure programme.

AFF panels will also target global investment opportunities, dwindling natural resources and its impact on global investors, and the latest trends in carbon financing. The carbon financing session, part of a larger look at the environment and natural resources, takes place tomorrow morning. Panel speakers will include Chicago Climate Exchange Chairman Richard Sandor, generally considered the "father of carbon trading."

Keynote Luncheons

AFF highlights include two special luncheon addresses. Today, Huang Huahua, Governor of Guangdong Province, was the forum's keynote luncheon speaker, with Professor Roubini the featured speaker at tomorrow's luncheon. Tomorrow's agenda also offers a series of afternoon workshops, examining specific themes, including: Greater China financial cooperation; investment opportunities in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States; developments in bank capital instruments; Islamic finance in Hong Kong; and European financial institutions in Asia.

Deal Making

Another AFF highlight is tomorrow afternoon's DealSource, a matchmaking session designed to introduce prospective investors to a variety of projects in such areas as mergers and acquisitions, infrastructure, resources exploration and the environment. DealSource is organised by the US-based Association for Corporate Growth (ACG), the Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association and the HKTDC.

Financial reports, journals, newsletters and other publications, with a special focus on Asia, are available at the AFF's Research Centre.

AFF Website

www.asianfinancialforum.com

Video Interviews

Interviews of a variety of AFF 2010 speakers are available on the HKTDC webcast service, at www.youtube.com/HKTDC.



Media Enquiries

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About the HKTDC

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 40 offices worldwide, including 11 on the Chinese mainland, the HKTDC promotes Hong Kong as a platform for doing business with China and Asia. The HKTDC also organises trade fairs and business missions to connect companies with opportunities in Hong Kong and the mainland, while providing information via publications, research reports and online. For more details, visit www.hktdc.com