

For Immediate Release

Asian Financial Forum to Feature High-Profile Speakers

14 December 2011 – Some 60 prominent international speakers are expected to take part in next month's Asian Financial Forum (AFF).

The latest speakers to confirm their participation in the two-day financial summit are: **David Lipton**, First Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund; **Haruhiko Kuroda**, President, Asian Development Bank; **Fu Yuning**, Chairman, China Merchants Group; and **Victor Fung**, Chairman, Li & Fung Group.

Other speaker highlights will include the first-time participation of **Michel Barnier**, European Commissioner for Internal Markets and Services, and **U.K. Sinha**, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Driving Sustainable Growth

Some 2,000 business and government leaders from around the world are expected to take part in AFF 2012, 16-17 January, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Under the theme "Asia: Driving Sustainable Growth," the Forum's fifth edition will spotlight opportunities and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly on the Chinese mainland. The main programme will address such topical issues as global investment prospects, China opportunities and promising eco-friendly growth initiatives.

This year's AFF is particularly timely, according to AFF Steering Committee Chairman Benjamin Hung: "Due to the slow recovery of the US market and the deepening sovereign-debt crisis in the Eurozone, the outlook for the global economy is uncertain," said Mr Hung. "Because of this, more attention is being drawn to Asia's solid growth, in particular the rising economic power of the Chinese mainland," he added.

Government Leaders

Hong Kong SAR Government Chief Executive **Donald Tsang** will open the Forum. Other senior government officials taking part include: **Hitoshi Goto**, Senior Vice Minister, Cabinet Office, Japan; **Takehiko Nakao**, Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Japan; and **Jong-Ku Choi**, Deputy Minister, International Affairs, Ministry of Strategy and Finance, Korea.

Corporate Spotlight

Corporate leaders participating, or expected to participate, include: **Cho Tak Wong**, Chairman, Fuyao Glass Industry Group Co Ltd; **Richard Samuel Elman**, Founder and Chairman, Noble Group Ltd; **Douglas Flint**, Group Chairman, HSBC Holdings plc; **Yusuke Kawamura**, Senior Managing Director, Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd; **Tshepo Kgadima**, President and CEO, LontohCoal Ltd; **Richard Lavin**, Group President, Caterpillar Inc; **Li Dongsheng**, Chairman and CEO, TCL Corporation; **KK Modi**, Chairman, Modi Enterprises; **Chandran Nair**, Founder and CEO, Global Institute for Tomorrow; **Michele Norsa**, CEO and Group Managing Director, Salvatore Ferragamo Italia SpA (*invited*); **John Rice**, Vice Chairman, General Electric Company; **Joseph Stiglitz**, Professor of Economics and Finance, Columbia University; **Rona Yircali**, Chairman, Executive Board, Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey and **John Zhao**, Founder and CEO, Hony Capital, and Senior Vice President, Legend Holdings.

Reconstructing Japan

A breakfast panel will offer an inside look at the progress of Japan's biggest post-war reconstruction project. Whether the massive rebuilding of the devastated northeastern regions will help create an economic revival will be among the topics discussed. Panel speakers will include Japan's Hitoshi Goto and Yusuke Kawamura.

Networking Highlights

Global networking opportunities are central to the AFF. Hong Kong SAR Government Financial Secretary John Tsang will host a reception. Nobel Prize Laureate Joseph Stiglitz will deliver a keynote luncheon address. (For an exclusive HKTDC interview with Professor Stiglitz, please visit: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vrnadEYpER4>). The Networking Lounge will feature a resources centre, hospitality booths, Bloomberg terminals, a café and a book shop.

Thematic Workshops & Deal Flow

Thematic workshops at AFF 2012 will range from the renminbi's role in global trade, to the China-ASEAN business partnership, South Korea's new investment environment, and investment opportunities in Russia and the CIS countries.

AFF 2012 will also see the return of Deal Flow, a half-day deal-making session featuring one-on-one meetings between companies with investment projects and potential collaborators. At AFF 2011, more than 400 Deal Flow meetings, involving 120 companies from 16 countries and regions, took place.

Overseas delegations will include first-time participant the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, as well as Australia's Think Global Consulting Mission, returning for the third year, and the Investment Industry Association of Canada, back for the fourth time. The Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association – Asia Private Equity Forum, featuring leading investment professionals from across Asia's dynamic private equity industry, will be held on 18 January, following the AFF.

About AFF

The AFF is organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. AFF 2011 attracted close to 1,800 participants from 32 countries and regions, including more than 70 speakers. Half the participants came from the mainland and overseas. To view video interviews with AFF 2012 speakers, visit: <http://bit.ly/uWYtBl>.

Forum Website: www.asianfinancialforum.com

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

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