

For Immediate Release

Fifth Asian Financial Forum to Take Place this Month ***Renminbi Promise, Mainland Opportunities Among Forum Workshops***

4 January 2012 – Some 1,800 business and government leaders from around the world are expected to take part in the Asian Financial Forum, 16-17 January, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Under the theme “Asia: Driving Sustainable Growth,” the forum’s fifth edition will focus on opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region. Hong Kong SAR Government Chief Executive Donald Tsang will open the forum.

The two-day financial summit will tackle such key issues as global investment prospects, China opportunities and sustainable growth initiatives.

Forum details were presented today at a press conference led by AFF 2012 Steering Committee Chairman Benjamin Hung, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Ltd, and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) Assistant Executive Director Raymond Yip.

This year’s AFF theme is particularly timely, according to Mr Hung: “It is expected that economic growth will slow this year, and Asian countries will also be affected by the overall downturn,” he said. “But the region is widely expected to outperform major advanced economies. The Chinese mainland looks especially promising, given its rising economic power and the country’s new Five-Year Programme, with its emphasis on domestic consumption and urbanisation.”

Also speaking at the press conference, Eric Tong, Global Financial Services Industry Leader of the Southern Region, Deloitte China, said his firm will sponsor the keynote luncheon on the first day. In addition, it will host a workshop: the “Rise of the RMB Zone – Trade, Investment and Asset Management in the Coming Decade” on the second day, to discuss the driving forces behind the investment uses of the RMB and their major trends.

Other forum workshops will spotlight China and the rest of Asia: partnering with the world, South Korea’s new investment environment, and opportunities in Russia and the CIS countries. In addition, Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Laureate in Economics and Columbia University professor, will deliver a keynote luncheon address.

Johnny Chan also addressed the press conference. Mr Chan, Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association (HKVCA) President, and Chairman and CEO of Crosby Asset Management (HK) Ltd, said AFF participants could also look forward to networking at the AFF Deal Flow, a half-day deal-making session jointly organised by the HKTDC and HKVCA, featuring one-on-one meetings between companies with investment projects and potential collaborators.

High-Profile Speakers

A wide variety of prominent speakers will take part in AFF 2012. Government and regulators include **Li Wei**, President, Senior Research Fellow, Development Research Centre of State Council, PRC; **George Osborne**, Chancellor of the Exchequer, United Kingdom; **Haruhiko Kuroda**, President, Asian Development Bank; **Michel Barnier**, European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services; **Dr Vuong Dinh Hue**, Minister of Finance, Vietnam; **Yao**

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Gang, Vice Chairman, China Securities Regulatory Commission; **Takehiko Nakao**, Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Japan; **U.K. Sinha**, Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India; and **Tu Guangshao**, Vice Mayor of Shanghai. **David Lipton**, First Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, will deliver a keynote luncheon on the first day of the forum.

Corporate leaders participating include: **Douglas Flint**, Group Chairman, HSBC Holdings plc; **Richard Elman**, Chairman, Noble Group Ltd; **Richard Lavin**, Group President, Caterpillar Inc; **John Rice**, Vice Chairman, General Electric Company; **KK Modi**, Chairman, KK Modi Group; **Levin Zhu**, President, CEO and Chairman, Management Committee, China International Capital Corporation Ltd; and **Tomson Li**, Chairman & CEO, TCL Group.

Reconstructing Japan

At the press conference, Consul-General of Japan in Hong Kong Yuji Kumamaru noted that AFF 2012 will feature a panel on Japan's reconstruction. The 17 January breakfast gathering will examine the progress of Japan's biggest post-war reconstruction project and whether it might help spark an economic revival. Panel speakers will include Japan's **Kazuko Koori**, Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet Office; Parliamentary Secretary for Reconstruction in response to the Great East Japan Earthquake; and **Yusuke Kawamura**, Senior Managing Director of the Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd.

The AFF is jointly organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the HKTDC. AFF 2011 attracted close to 1,800 participants from 32 countries and regions.

Organised by the HKVCA, the second Asia Private Equity Forum will be held on 18 January, focusing on Asian private equity prospects. For details, please visit: www.hkvca.com.hk.

Media Accreditation and Interview Requests

Media accreditation will be done on-site at AFF 2012. Media representatives need only bring along their business card to the press registration counter, located at the entrance to Hall 5F-G of the HKCEC. AFF interview requests should be sent, along with proposed questions, by 9 January, to the HKTDC's Corporate Communication Department.

Website

AFF website: www.asianfinancialforum.com

Media Enquiries

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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. For more information, please visit www.hktdc.com.  Follow us on Twitter @AFF_HK

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