

For Immediate Release

Asian Financial Forum Opens with 2,000 Participants ***“Asia: Driving Sustainable Growth” is Theme of AFF 2012***

16 January 2012 – Some 2,000 finance, business and government leaders from around the world are taking part in the Asian Financial Forum, which opened today at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and continues through tomorrow.

The forum’s fifth edition is taking place under the theme “Asia: Driving Sustainable Growth,” focusing on opportunities in Asia, particularly the Chinese mainland. More than 70 prominent speakers are taking part in the forum, which is co-organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC).

The two-day financial summit opened this morning with addresses from Hong Kong SAR Government Chief Executive Donald Tsang and HKTDC Chairman Jack So.

Sound Fundamentals

“Here in Asia, inflationary pressure is relatively light, governments have achieved generally balanced budgets, banking systems are stable and borrowing is inexpensive,” said Mr Tsang, addressing the forum’s main theme. “These sound fundamentals,” he noted, “provide a solid platform for growth and stability.”

Mr So said that this year’s theme was particularly timely, “because we all realise that Asia, especially China, is reshaping the world economic landscape. And Hong Kong is China’s international financial capital.” Mr So added that the AFF “serves as an annual reminder of the vital role played by Hong Kong in serving the region and the world.”

High-Profile Lineup

This morning’s plenary session looked at the global economy and Asia’s role in contributing to sustainable growth. Keynote speakers were: Li Wei, President, Development Research Centre of the State Council, PRC; George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, United Kingdom; Michel Barnier, European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services; and Haruhiko Kuroda, President, Asian Development Bank.

Other government and institutional leaders scheduled to speak during the forum include: Yao 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; Sangche Lee, Commissioner, Financial Services Commission, Republic of Korea; and Tu Guangshao, Vice Mayor of Shanghai.

Corporate leaders participating at this year’s AFF 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; K.K. Modi, Chairman, K.K. Modi Group; Levin Zhu, President and CEO, China

International Capital Corporation Ltd; and Tomson Li, Chairman & CEO, TCL Corporation.

David Lipton, First Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, will deliver today's keynote luncheon. This afternoon's programme features panel discussions on global investment opportunities and China opportunities.

Reconstructing Japan

Highlights tomorrow include a breakfast panel on Japan's reconstruction. Featured speakers are: Japan's Kazuko Koori, Parliamentary Secretary of the Cabinet Office; Akimitsu Ashida, Representative Director and Chairman of Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd; and Yusuke Kawamura, Senior Managing Director of the Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd.

Seven workshops are also scheduled tomorrow, including the "Use of RMB in Trade and Investment", and the "Rise of the RMB Zone – Trade, Investment and Asset Management in the Coming Decade." Other forum workshops 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 the keynote luncheon address tomorrow.

Looking for Business

This year's AFF will once again present Deal Flow, a half-day, deal-making session jointly organised by the HKTDC and the Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association. Deal Flow features one-on-one meetings between companies with investment projects and potential collaborators.

AFF Website: www.asianfinancialforum.com


AFF Webcasts: <http://goo.gl/r2654>

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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