

For Immediate Release

Sixth Asian Financial Forum Opens

More than 90 High-Profile Speakers Participating in Two-Day Forum

14 January 2013 – Some 2,000 business and government leaders from around the world are in Hong Kong for the Asian Financial Forum, which opened today and continues through tomorrow at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Under the theme “Asia: Shaping the Next Global Landscape, the forum’s sixth edition spotlights Asia’s fast-expanding role in the global economy. The two-day financial summit tackles such key issues as China opportunities, the future of the Eurozone and the world’s food and agriculture sector.

Hong Kong SAR Government Chief Executive CY Leung and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) Chairman Jack So spoke at this morning’s forum opening. The HKTDC and the Hong Kong SAR Government jointly organise the annual forum.

China Connection

In his address, the Chief Executive promised that his government would “do everything it can to unlock the vast opportunities in the mainland of China, not just for local businesses but also for businesses from outside Hong Kong.” He added that he would launch a Financial Services Development Council immediately following his 16 January Policy Address, “to enhance, elevate and champion the competitive position of Hong Kong as an international financial centre and promote the development of our financial services industry, making the best use of the many opportunities provided by the mainland of China.”

Mr So noted that, over the two days of the forum, “more than 90 prominent speakers from all over the world, including finance ministers and CEOs of top multinational corporations, will offer their expertise and insight – on Hong Kong, on the Chinese mainland, on Asia in general and the world beyond. All in an effort to understand the challenges, and take advantage of the opportunities, this New Year will bring.”

The forum opened with a plenary session – “Asia: Shaping the Next Global Landscape.” The session featured speakers Guo Shuqing, Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, Wayne Swan, Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer of Australia, and Charles L Evans, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Mainland China will feature prominently in AFF discussions over the next two days. Along with a panel discussion on China opportunities, the forum will offer workshops on China’s agenda for reforming its financial system, trends and opportunities in the global use of the renminbi, and the China-ASEAN business partnership.

Spotlight on Food

Beyond China, the forum is focusing on Asia in general and the world beyond, with a panel discussion on global investment opportunities this afternoon and another on food and agriculture tomorrow morning. Workshops range from Asian financial integration to a spotlight on Myanmar investment and a look at private wealth management.

Keynote Speakers

Professor Lawrence H Summers, the Charles W Eliot University Professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, is the keynote speaker at today's luncheon. He was Director of the National Economic Council under the administration of United States President Barack Obama and Secretary of the Treasury under US President Bill Clinton. International Monetary Fund Deputy Managing Director Dr Zhu Min will be the keynote speaker at tomorrow's forum luncheon.

Global Participation

A wide variety of other high-profile speakers are participating in AFF 2013, including: Italy's Minister of Economy and Finance Vittorio Grilli; Korea's Minister of Strategy and Finance Bahk Jaewan; and Luxembourg's Minister of Finance Luc Frieden. Prominent speakers from the mainland include: China Investment Corporation Chairman and CEO Lou Jiwei; President and CEO of China International Capital Corporation Ltd Levin Zhu; COFCO Corporation Chairman Frank Gaoning Ning; SOHO China Chairman Pan Shiyi; and Vice Chairman and CEO of Fosun Group Liang Xinjun. Other corporate leaders taking part include: Prudential plc Chairman Paul Manduca; Far Eastern Group Chairman Douglas Hsu; and CT Corp CEO Frits Seegers.

Deal Makers



AFF 2013 highlights include tomorrow's Deal Flow Matchmaking Session, featuring one-to-one meetings between investment project owners and potential collaborators. Riding on the trend of the Chinese mainland's outbound investment, the session will also offer meetings between Chinese investors seeking investment opportunities abroad and overseas project owners looking for Asian capital.







Networking and the Media

The forum's Networking Lounge serves as a resources and hospitality centre and gathering place throughout the event's two days. This year, Bloomberg, CNBC and China Business News are featuring live interviews in the lounge. In addition, AFF participants can take part in a variety of activities on 16 January, including visits to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. A day-long excursion to Shenzhen is also offered.

The third Asia Private Equity Forum, organised by the HKVCA, will be held on 16 January, focusing on Asian private equity prospects. For details, please visit: <http://apef.hkvca.com.hk>

Photo Download : http://filesharing.tdc.org.hk/hktdc/download.php?fid=_phpWu9rul

	<p>The sixth Asian Financial Forum opened today and continues through tomorrow at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre</p>
	<p>Some 2,000 finance, business and government leaders from all over the world are taking part in this year's AFF</p>

		
<p>HKTDC Chairman Jack So</p>	<p>HKSAR Chief Executive CY Leung</p>	<p>China Securities Regulatory Commission Chairman Guo Shuqing</p>
		
<p>Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer of Australia Wayne Swan</p>	<p>President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago Charles L Evans</p>	<p>The Charles W Eliot University Professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Professor Lawrence H Summers</p>

Website: www.asianfinancialforum.com

Videos: http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL437A46808DDF0FF5&feature=view_all

Media Enquiries

Please contact the HKTDC's Corporate Communication Department:

Joe Kainz

Tel: (852) 2584 4216

Email: joe.kainz@hktdc.org

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 China 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  Google+  Twitter @hktdc  LinkedIn