

For Immediate Release:

Asian Financial Forum to Open This Month ***Ben Bernanke & China's Leading Bankers among nearly 90 Elite Speakers***

7 January 2016 – The prestigious annual Asian Financial Forum (AFF), co-organised by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), will be held on 18 and 19 January at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. The forum is expected to attract more than 2,600 participants including financial services professionals, business leaders, investors and high net-worth individuals from around the world.

“The Asian Financial Forum will again be the focus of attention for the global financial services industry at the beginning of the year, providing new insights into development of the industry from an Asian perspective, but with a global outlook,” said **Helen Wong**, Chairperson of the AFF Steering Committee and Chief Executive, Greater China, HSBC. “The Forum will explore recurrent topics of interest such as global economic prospects, policy trends, opportunities in the Chinese mainland market and the prospects for ASEAN as well as new opportunities in areas like Fintech and China's Belt and Road Initiative.”

Speaking at today's press conference, HKTDC Service Promotion Director **Jenny Koo** introduced the theme of this year's AFF as “Asia: Shaping the New Paradigm for Growth”. She said: “The forum will feature nearly 90 influential senior government officials, financial and business leaders, regulators and economists. They will analyse the current economic and investment environment, discuss key industry topics and explore new investment opportunities in Asia and beyond.”

Ben Bernanke to discuss implications US interest rate adjustment

AFF Keynote Luncheons are an annual highlight of the forum with a proud tradition of introducing world-renowned speakers. On 19 January, the Keynote Luncheon speaker will be **Dr Ben S. Bernanke**, Chairman of the United States Federal Reserve System from 2006 to 2014. Dr Bernanke will discuss the normalisation of US interest rates and its effect on the global economy. He will also analyse the effects of divergent exchange rate and currency policies on the global market and capital flows. Following the luncheon, Dr Bernanke will also take part in an in-depth dialogue session with AFF participants.

Political and business leaders to analyse global trends

The AFF is a unique opportunity to hear from senior government officials and regulators from different countries, such as **Arkady Dvorkovich**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation and **Liu Zhenmin** Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. **Prof KC Chan**, Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSAR Government, will moderate a Plenary Session featuring **Pierre Gramegna**, Minister of Finance, Luxembourg, **Per Bolund**, Minister for Financial Markets and Consumer Affairs and Deputy Minister for Finance, Sweden, **Kiatchai Sophastienphong**, Vice Minister for Finance, Thailand, and **Dr Nathan Sheets**, Under Secretary for International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Policy Dialogue, moderated by Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority **Norman Chan**, will invite thought leaders to discuss ways that policies in different regions can foster economic growth while minimising risks. Speakers will include **Steven Maijoor**, Chair of the European Securities and Markets Authority, **Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz**, Governor, Bank Negara Malaysia, **Dr György Matolcsy**, Governor, Magyar Nemzeti Bank, **Olivier Guersent**, Director General of the Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union of European Commission and **Saeb Eigner**, Chairman, Dubai Financial Services Authority.

Panel discussions tailored to the evolving interests of financial players and corporate investors will also be arranged. **Peter Brabeck-Letmathe**, Chairman of the Board, Nestlé S.A., **Stuart Gulliver**, Group Chief Executive, HSBC Holdings plc, **Jiang Jianqing**, Chairman, ICBC, and **Jean Lemierre**, Chairman, BNP Paribas will exchange insights during the Panel Discussion on Global Economy.

A Panel Discussion on the Prospects for ASEAN will cover the region's evolving economic landscape with **Piyush Gupta**, Chief Executive Officer, DBS Group, **Chairul Tanjung**, Founder and Chairman, CT Corp, **Wishnu Wardhana**, President Director and Group CEO, PT. Indika Energy Tbk, and **Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Ayala Corporation.

New vision for China

In the Panel Discussion on China Opportunities, leading mainland bankers, investors and officials including **Tu Guangshao**, Executive Vice Mayor of Shanghai, **Niu Ximing**, Chairman, Bank of Communications Co., Ltd., **Wang Hongzhang**, Chairman and Executive Director, China Construction Bank Corporation, and **Wang Jianlin**, Chairman, Dalian Wanda Group will examine emerging development and investment opportunities on the Chinese mainland against the backdrop of the upcoming 13th Five-Year Plan.

The Breakfast Panel on the second day of the forum, sponsored by Hong Kong's Financial Services Development Council, will be titled "Hong Kong: Your Super-Connector to the Belt and Road Initiative". **Laura Cha**, Non-official Member of the Executive Council and Chairman of the Financial Services Department Council, will deliver welcome remarks, which will be followed by a panel of financial experts examining how Hong Kong can leverage its financial services expertise to play a leading role in connecting the various Belt and Road countries and regions and enhance its position as an international financial centre.

Various thematic workshops will be also organised during the forum to explore a range of hot topics from Fintech adoption and renminbi internationalisation to the realignment of Asian supply chains and private wealth management.

Abundant investment opportunities at AFF

To help companies seize opportunities, a new Global Investment Summit will be launched at AFF 2016. Here, industry leaders and investment experts will evaluate the global market and explore asset allocation strategies. There will also be a special focus on priorities and challenges related to the Belt and Road Initiative as well as Chinese outbound investment.

Following last year's successful arrangement of more than 500 meetings involving 185 investment projects from 22 countries and regions, this year's AFF Deal Flow Matchmaking Session, co-organised by the HKTDC and the Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association, will again pre-arrange deal sourcing and matchmaking meetings for investment project owners, private equity firms, investors, high net-worth individuals and professionals from intermediaries and professional services providers. Dedicated project presentation showcases and roundtable discussions with industry leaders will also be arranged, spotlighting such priority sectors as food and agriculture, fintech, manufacturing technology and clean technology.

AFF participants can also visit the Global Investment Zone to explore investment and partnership opportunities from 12 countries, namely Australia, Brunei, Canada, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Laos, Russia, Spain, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and the US. Hong Kong financial advisory services providers will also be on-hand to offer consultation to mainland and overseas companies looking for fund raising opportunities in Hong Kong.

Promoting Hong Kong's financial services

AFF 2016 is the flagship event of the International Financial Week, a comprehensive programme of activities designed to facilitate greater exchange of ideas and business opportunities among global finance and business professionals. Starting from 14 January, 17 events will be held to showcase Hong Kong's competitive edge in financial services, covering such topical themes as Asian private equity, alternative investments, business management, fund raising and monetary issues.

Websites: Asian Financial Forum Website: <http://www.asianfinancialforum.com/tc>

International Financial Week Website: <http://www.internationalfinancialweek.com/tc>

<https://hktdc.sharepoint.com/sites/public/CPA/layouts/15/guestaccess.aspx?guestaccesstoken=fTRG3lFa4WkmOt9Hx0SSPzuCa%2fyBqBHppj%2botGGw6k8%3d&docid=0b46469e2de6c4514873718b5b2c57078>



Speaking at today's press conference, **Helen Wong**, Chairperson of the AFF Steering Committee and Chief Executive, Greater China, HSBC, says this year's Asian Financial Forum will focus on such topics as global economic prospects, policy trends, opportunities in the Chinese mainland market and the prospects for ASEAN as well as new opportunities in areas like Fintech and China's Belt and Road Initiative



HKTDC Service Promotion Director **Jenny Koo** says the AFF 2016, under the theme of "Asia: Shaping the New Paradigm for Growth", will gather nearly 90 influential senior government officials, financial and business leaders, regulators and economists to analyse the current economic and investment environment, discuss key industry topics and explore new investment opportunities in Asia and beyond

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From left: **Herman Lam**, CEO, Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited; **Jenny Koo**, Service Promotion Director, HKTDC; **Helen Wong**, Chairperson of the AFF Steering Committee and Chief Executive, Greater China, HSBC; **Amy Lo**, Chairman, Private Wealth Management Association and Head of UBS Wealth Management Greater China, Country Head of UBS Hong Kong; and **David Pierce**, Executive Director, The Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association and Managing Director & Head of Asia, HQ Capital attend today's press conference. They introduced the panel discussions, workshops and the AFF Deal Flow Matchmaking Session of this year's forum



Last year's Asian Financial Forum attracted more than 2,600 financial and business leaders from 39 countries and regions. AFF 2016 will be held on 18 and 19 January

Media Enquiries

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Media Registration: Media representatives wishing to cover the event may register on-site with their business cards and/or media identification.

To view press releases in Chinese, please visit <http://mediaroom.hktdc.com/tc>

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 [services providers](#). With more than 40 offices globally, including 13 on the Chinese mainland, the HKTDC promotes Hong Kong as a platform for doing business with China and throughout Asia. The HKTDC also organises [international exhibitions, conferences](#) and business missions to provide companies, particularly SMEs, with business opportunities on the mainland and in overseas markets, while providing information via [trade publications, research reports](#) and [digital channels](#) including the [media room](#). For more information, please visit: www.hktdc.com/aboutus. Follow us on  Google+  Twitter @hktdc  LinkedIn