

China Focus at this Month's Asian Financial Forum Press Conference Spotlights Highlights of Upcoming Forum

6 January 2010 – With global economic development gradually shifting from west to east, Hong Kong is ideally suited to host the 2010 Asian Financial Forum (AFF), 20-21 January, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC), according to Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) Deputy Executive Director Benjamin Chau.

"Hong Kong is not only recognised as an international financial centre but also the gateway to the Chinese Mainland, the fastest-growing major economy in the world," said Mr Chau, speaking this morning at a press conference to preview the upcoming Forum.

Organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the HKTDC, the AFF is expected to attract more than 1,100 bankers, institutional investors, fund managers, regulators and senior executives from all over the world.

Financial Stars

Some of the world's leading business, finance and regulatory players will speak at the AFF, including: Dominique Strauss-Kahn, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund; Liu Mingkang, Chairman, China Banking Regulatory Commission; Lou Jiwei, Chairman and CEO, China Investment Corporation; Nouriel Roubini, Professor of Economics at the Stern School of Business, New York University; and E Gerald Corrigan, Managing Director, Goldman Sachs, and former President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Goldman Sachs (Asia) Vice Chairman Tim Freshwater, who also spoke at the press conference, said that, while last year's AFF "was held in the depths of the downturn, the 2010 Forum is taking place in a far more promising global economic environment – and nowhere more so than in the Asian region."

Greater China

Asia will dominate Forum discussions, in keeping with the theme of this year's AFF: "Asia in the New Economic Order." As the world's fastest-growing major economy, the Mainland will attract much of the attention at the AFF. Discussions will spotlight the Mainland's domestic market and its implications for the global economy, the internationalisation of the renminbi and what it means for the new financial order, and business opportunities arising from the Mainland's massive infrastructure programme.

In addition, the AFF will feature a series of workshops, targeting specific themes, including: investment opportunities in Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States; developments in bank capital instruments; and Islamic finance in Hong Kong. The AFF's Diamond Sponsor, Deloitte China, is also

sponsoring the workshop on Greater China financial cooperation. "During the workshop, renowned industry representatives will discuss how the trend of increasing integration of the banking and financial sectors in Greater China will redefine the roles of its three economies and the role of the Asia region in the new global economic order," said Eric Tong, Leader of Deloitte's Global Financial Service Industry of the Southern Region.

Carbon Trading

AFF panels will also spotlight global investment opportunities, dwindling natural resources and its impact on global investors, and the latest trends in carbon financing. "We believe that carbon trading will evolve among sovereign nations around the world, and that we will have what I would like to call a 'pluralateral' trading regime," said Chicago Climate Exchange Chairman Richard Sandor, who will also speak at the AFF. (See www.youtube.com/HKTDC, for an HKTDC interview with Mr Sandor.)

Another AFF highlight is DealSource, a matchmaking session designed to introduce prospective investors to a variety of projects in such areas as mergers and acquisitions, infrastructure, resources exploration and the environment. DealSource is organised by the US-based Association for Corporate Growth (ACG), the Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association and the HKTDC.

The 2009 AFF attracted more than 1,100 international financial and business leaders, along with nearly 300 journalists. About one-third of the attendees were corporate executives, one-third from financial institutions and the rest largely government officials, regulators and association representatives.

Forum Website: www.asianfinancialforum.com



At the press conference today for the Asian Financial Forum (AFF), 20-21 January, senior business and financial players discuss the global economy and the upcoming AFF, including (left to right): Eric Tong, Global Financial Services Industry Leader of the Southern Region, Deloitte China; Peter Wong, Founding Chairman and President, International Association of CFOs and Corporate Treasurers (China); Tim Freshwater, Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs (Asia) LLC; Benjamin Chau, Deputy Executive Director, HKTDC; Johnny Chan, Chairman, Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association and Chairman & CEO, Crosby Asset Management (Hong Kong) Ltd; and King Au, CEO, FRM Hong Kong Ltd

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AFF Media Accreditation and Interview Requests

AFF media accreditation will be done on-site at the Forum, 20-21 January. Members of the press need only bring along their business card to the press registration counter, located at the entrance to Hall 5F and 5G of the HKCEC. For AFF interview requests, please send your requests and questions, by 11 January, to the HKTDC's Corporate Communication Department:

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About the HKTDC

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