



Media Release

Malaysian PM Applauds World Chinese Economic Forum as Registrations & Momentum Builds

Monday October 29, 2012. 4th World Chinese Economic Forum (WCEF) Chairman Tan Sri Dato Dr Michael Yeoh welcomed and expressed his appreciation to **Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak** for his recent statement acknowledging the Forum as a private sector-driven and business-led initiative.

Prime Minister Najib was confident the Forum would enhance regional economic integration and cooperation that will forge strong commercial strategic alliances in region.

Reflecting the importance of the WCEF and Malaysia's support for stronger economic ties with China, Prime Minister Najib drew attention to **Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin** and the **First Vice-Chairman China Council for the Promotion of International Trade Dr Zhang Wei** will be keynote speakers on the first day of Forum

The Malaysian PM also appreciated Australia's hosting of the Forum as it reinforced the emerging new Economic Corridor that is connecting China through South East Asia and India to the Middle East.

With the Forum on the horizon, Tan Sri Michael Yeoh commented on yesterday's release of the White Paper on *Australia in the Asian Century* and supported the vision outlined by **Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard MP** and the **Hon Dr Craig Emerson MP, Minister for Trade and Competitiveness**. The White Paper outlines Australia's vision to assist the nation's businesses to tap into the once-in-lifetime opportunities of the immense new markets in Asia and China.

The Australian Federal Government is rising to the Asian Century Challenge by devoting more of its diplomatic and commercial resources to the region and Forum attendees will benefit from Dr Emerson's personal presentation on the nation's future aspirations in the region.

Dr Emerson will be joined by Special Adviser to the PM, Australia and Chairman, Special Task Force – "Australia in the Asian Century **Dr Ken Henry AC**; and Vice Chancellor & President Monash University, **Prof Edward Byrne** will address "**China and the World: Realizing Opportunities from Partnerships with the Rising Dragon.**"

"Earlier this year, the HSBC Bank's 'The World in 2050' report predicted that 10 of the world's largest economies would be in the Asian Pacific region and comprise China, India, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand and Pakistan," continued Tan Sri Michael Yeoh.

“Hence the major objective of the 4th World Chinese Economic Forum is to facilitate the tremendous opportunities within the New Silk Road for both regional and business collaboration.”

During his visit to Melbourne last week to oversee final preparations for the Forum, Tan Sri Yeoh confirmed that over 250 registrations have been received to date for the major business event to be held in Melbourne November 12 & 13.

The Asian Strategic & Leadership Institute (ASLI), organizers of the Forum, is confident that the projected target of 500 attendees from Australia, China, countries of Asia Pacific and beyond will be achieved.

Tan Sri Michael Yeoh also confirmed that 100 senior Government and business leaders from China and Southeast Asia will be attending the Forum. He also encouraged Australian businesspeople to network and establish pivotal relationships with these key Forum attendees as the Asian region will become the world’s largest consumption zone within the coming years.

Over 50 high profile speakers representing government, business and academia will provide a compelling platform of in depth presentations and insights on China’s growing importance to Asia, the region and global economy in general.

Furthermore, the Forum will be the conduit for collective discussion, engagement, networking and B2B connections.

Key WCEF speakers and presenters from China **H.E. Chen Yuming**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People’s Republic of China to Australia, **Mr. Zhang Wei**, First Vice Chairman, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, **Ambassador Zou Mingrong**, Executive Vice Chairman, China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation, **Mr. Chen Xin**, Deputy Secretary General, China Association of Mayors will be joined by –

The Hon Mark Dreyfus, QC MP, Cabinet Secretary/Parliamentary Secretary for Climate Change & Energy Efficiency

Ambassador Delia D Albert, Former Foreign Secretary of the Philippines/Senior Adviser SGV & Co

Ambassador Zou Mingrong, Executive Vice Chairman, China National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation

Mr John So, Former Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Australia

Dato’ Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek, President of the Malaysian Chinese Assoc, Adviser of World Chinese Economic Forum

Mr Edmund Yeo, Councillor, London Council & Chairman, Chinese Advice & Information Centre, London

Prof Dr Kriengsak Chareonwongsak Member of Parliament, Democrat Party, Thailand/ Senior Fellow Harvard University

Mr Chen Xin Deputy Secretary General of China Association of Mayors, Beijing

Tan Sri Lee Kim Yew Patron & Co-founder World Chinese Economic Forum

Mr Rajiv Biswas Chief Economist at IHS Group, Singapore

Ms Penny Low, Member of Parliament Singapore and President Social Innovation Park

Mr George Pappas, Chairman Committee for Melbourne

Mr Clyde Prestowitz, President, Economic Strategy Institute, USA

The Rt Hon Lim Guan Eng, Chief Minister of Penang, Malaysia

Mr Ian Buchanan, Senior Executive Adviser, Booz & Co / Chairman Crawford School of Government Australia

Mr Jusuf Wanadi, Founder & Vice Chairman, Centre for Strategic & International Studies, Indonesia

Mr Alan Oxley, Chairman Australia APEC Study Centre, RMIT University

Tan Sri Michael Yeoh confirmed that the next WCEF would return to Malaysia but plans were well underway to engage with Hong Kong and London as future venues for the Forum beyond 2013.

ENDS

