

For Immediate Release

Asian Logistics Conference Attracts Global Participation *Event to Highlight Opportunities in Booming Asian Logistics Industry*

7 November 2011 – Some 500 senior government officials, logistics services providers and users and leading industry players from all over the world are expected to take part in the inaugural Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference, 25 November, at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Delegations from Beijing, Guangzhou, Fuzhou and Qingdao, on the Chinese mainland, and Canada, have confirmed their participation. Participants are also coming from the United States, Australia, Japan, Korea, India, the Philippines and Hong Kong. In all, more than 10 countries and regions will take part in the day-long event in Hong Kong. And for good reason, according to Crown Worldwide Holdings Chairman James E Thompson.

“Hong Kong is playing an increasingly important role as a regional distribution centre due to its advantageous location, skilled workforce, extensive shipping and flight connections and status as a duty-free port.” Mr Thompson, one of more than 20 confirmed conference speakers, will be among those leading the three afternoon breakout sessions: “What it Takes to be a Regional Distribution Centre,” “Logistics Evolution: Managing Your Business amid a Challenging Global Landscape,” and “Maritime Industry – Today and Tomorrow.”

Spotlight on China

Under China's 12th Five-Year Plan, the Chinese Government reiterates support for Hong Kong in the development of logistics and maritime services. Furthermore, for the very first time, the Government supports Hong Kong to develop into a “High-value Goods Inventory Management and Regional Distribution Centre,” carrying a special significance to this Asia's world city.

Pointing to the focus of the 12th Five-Year Plan on urbanisation and increasing domestic consumption, Raymond Yip, Assistant Executive Director of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, said, “these initiatives bring significant demand for professional logistics services in Asia and Hong Kong is in a perfect position to capitalise on these initiatives. Responding to this, the Conference will include a panel discussion on China's 12th Five-Year Plan, with a special focus on ASEAN and India.” Panel speakers are: Miriam Lau, Hong Kong Government Legislative Council member, representing transport; Tung Chee Chen, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Orient Overseas (International) Ltd; Dr Ruth Banomyong, Director, Centre for Logistics Research, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Thailand; and Arpita Mukherjee, Professor, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations.

A second panel will focus on “Global Trends and their Impact on Asia.” Speakers will include: Joseph Phi, President, LF Logistics, a member of the Li & Fung Group; Atsushi Kato, President, Toshiba International Procurement Hong Kong Ltd.; and Tim Smith, Chief Executive, North Asia Region, Maersk Line.

Hong Kong Government Secretary for Transport and Housing Eva Cheng and Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) Executive Director Fred Lam will open the conference. Zuyuan Xu, Vice Minister, Ministry of Transport of the People’s Republic of China, will deliver the keynote luncheon address.

Networking Opportunities

The conference also offers logistics and maritime professionals invaluable networking opportunities, including business matching. Optional side programmes are being organised in Hong Kong, 24 November, and the Chinese mainland, 26 November. The programmes will include visits to major logistics centres and terminals.

The Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference is organised by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the HKTDC, in association with the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council, Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council and Hong Kong Port Development Council.

Website: <http://www.asianlogisticsconference.com>

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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 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.

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