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## **Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference Opens *Hong Kong's Role as a Regional Shipping Hub Highlighted***

**18 November 2014** – The fourth Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference (ALMC) opened today at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre with more than 1,600 business leaders from over 30 countries and regions taking part. The two-day ALMC will hear from more than 50 distinguished speakers about the challenges and opportunities facing the logistics and maritime sectors.

Jointly organised by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC) and the Hong Kong SAR Government, ALMC is the largest event of its kind in Asia, highlighting Hong Kong's position as a logistics and shipping hub in the region.

During this morning's Opening Ceremony, Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive CY Leung spoke about the important role that Hong Kong's shipping industry plays in China's overall development.

"China's 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan expressly supports Hong Kong position as an international maritime centre," Mr Leung said. "Hong Kong's port remains one of the world's busiest, and the Hong Kong Shipping Register is the world's fourth-largest, its gross tonnage at 91 million. Hong Kong companies own or manage 9 per cent of the world's merchant fleet in deadweight tonnage. And this city's 700 shipping-related companies offer a flotilla of maritime services, including ship agency and management, broking and chartering, finance, marine insurance, and maritime legal and arbitration services."

Margaret Fong, Executive Director of the HKTDC, said Hong Kong's efficient and reliable air and sea ports, combined with a strategic location in the heart of East Asia, made the city a key player in regional trade and logistics.

"Supply chains are the lifeblood of Hong Kong; a city that connects East and West, North and South; a city that links global businesses with the vast Chinese mainland market and economies throughout Asia," Ms Fong said.

### **Conference Call**

Dr Patrick Low, Vice President of Research, Fung Global Institute, chaired the opening Plenary Session today entitled "Drivers of Change: Navigating the New Competitive Landscape". The session discussed issues affecting the global logistics, supply-chain management and maritime industries. It featured such distinguished speakers as Dr Hubert Escaith, Chief Statistician of the World Trade Organization, Dr Henry Tan, Chief Executive Officer of Luen Thai Holdings Limited and Dr Karen Reddington, Regional Vice President, FedEx Express, South Pacific.

The first day of ALMC also included; a logistics forum entitled "Close-up on China: Unlocking the Secrets of a Winning Distribution and Logistics Strategy", two maritime forums under the themes of "Outlook for Tanker and Gas Trades" and "Outlook for Liner and Dry Bulk Shipping", and two

supply-chain management forums, “Staying Ahead of Consumer Trends in Retail and FMCG” and “Switching on a Vibrant Electronics Supply Chain”.

Tomorrow’s events include a supply-chain management forum on “Redesigning the Fashion Supply Chain”, two sessions discussing the strategic importance of the “New Silk Road” linking China, India and other Asian countries, and two maritime forums that focus on the latest developments in Asia for maritime arbitration, including the inauguration of the China Maritime Arbitration Commission Hong Kong Office.

## Industry Showcase

For the second year in a row, ALMC features an exhibition with some 80 exhibitors from about a dozen countries and regions showcasing their logistics, shipping and related services as well as e-logistics solutions. The exhibitors include shipping companies, container terminals, logistics firms, e-logistics enterprises and port authorities as well as legal consultancies. Among the global brands represented at the ALMC are eBay, Huawei, Lenovo, Procter & Gamble and Under Armour.

Close to 100 one-on-one business-matching sessions are arranged during ALMC to give participants the chance to network and develop new business opportunities.

The conference is held in association with the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council, the Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council and the Hong Kong Port Development Council, and supported by 25 industry leaders as honorary advisors.

Beyond ALMC, the *Logistics and Maritime Weeks*, enables industry players from around the world to converge and participate in an expansive range of meetings, exhibitions and networking activities in Hong Kong throughout November.

ALMC official website: [www.almc.hk/tc](http://www.almc.hk/tc)

Photo Download: [http://filesharing.tdc.org.hk/hktdc/download.php?fid=\\_phpUZ7DYN](http://filesharing.tdc.org.hk/hktdc/download.php?fid=_phpUZ7DYN)



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Margaret Fong, Executive Director of the HKTDC, speaks at the opening ceremony of the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference. Ms Fong said that Hong Kong’s prime location in

<p>countries and regions taking part in the two-day event</p>	<p>Asia together with its efficient and reliable air and sea ports made the city a key player in regional trade and logistics</p>
	
<p>CY Leung, Chief Executive of the HKSAR, speaks at the opening ceremony of the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference. Mr Leung said: "China's 12<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan expressly supports Hong Kong position as an international maritime centre."</p>	<p>The 2014 Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference features more than 50 expert speakers as well as over 80 exhibitors at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre</p>
	
<p>Dr Patrick Low, Vice President of Research at the Fung Global Institute, Hong Kong, chairs the opening Plenary Session entitled "Drivers of Change: Navigating the New Competitive Landscape" which discussed the impact of free trade agreements on supply chain dynamics</p>	<p>Dr Hubert Escaith, Chief Statistician of the World Trade Organization, was among three high-profile panelists at the opening Plenary Session of the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference</p>
	
<p>Dr Henry Tan, CEO of Luen Thai Holdings</p>	<p>Dr Karen Reddington, Regional Vice President</p>

Limited, addresses the audience during the opening Plenary Session of the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference

of FedEx Express, South Pacific, shares her insights during the opening Plenary Session of the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference

## Media Enquiries

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## About 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 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 [trade fairs](#) 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 [online](#). For more information, please visit: [www.hktdc.com](http://www.hktdc.com). Follow us on  Google+  Twitter @hktdc  LinkedIn