

PRESS RELEASE

TOP GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS LEADERS EXPLORE JAPAN'S RESURGENCE AND ASIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH

PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE TO OPEN ASIA SOCIETY'S 17TH ASIAN CORPORATE CONFERENCE IN TOKYO, MAY 16-18, 2007

Senior government and business leaders from all over Asia and the world have gathered in Tokyo to explore Japan's economic resurgence and Asia's rise in the global economy at Asia Society's 17th Asian Corporate Conference to be held May 16-18, 2007, at The Prince Park Tower Tokyo. Co-organized with *The Wall Street Journal Asia* and Nippon Keidanren, "Coming Together, Moving Ahead: Asian Economies Lead through Integration and Innovation," will examine the trends driving the world's second largest economy and the forces shaping Asian economic integration.

Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** will inaugurate the conference at the opening dinner on Wednesday, May 16. The conference will draw major business delegations from Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and the United States.

"The Asia Society is extremely excited to be holding our Asian Corporate Conference in Tokyo for the first time in 14 years and very grateful for the Japanese government's full engagement and support," notes Asia Society President **Vishakha N. Desai**. "Japan's economic expansion and commitment to foster regional ties and growth are key factors in Asia's economic future."

In addition to the Prime Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister **Taro Aso**, Finance Minister **Koji Omi** and Chief Cabinet Secretary **Yasuhisa Shiozaki**, key speakers include: **Heang Chhor**, Director, McKinsey and Company, Japan; **Juan José Daboub**, Managing Director, The World Bank; **Hoang Trung Hai**, Minister of Industry, Vietnam; **Masahiro Kawai**, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute; **Chen Liming**, Deputy Director, Tianjin Commission of Commerce, China; **Yoonwoo Lee**, Vice Chairman and CEO, Global Collaboration Officer, Samsung Electronics; **Oki Matsumoto**, CEO, Monex, Inc.; **Mari E. Pangestu**, Minister of Trade, Indonesia; **Aftab Seth**, Professor and Director, Global Security Research Institute, Keio University; and **Wang Yufu**, Secretary General, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Zhejiang Sub-Council, China.

Conference sessions will explore topics such as how Japanese and Asian corporate giants are innovating to compete globally; how Asia will meet its growing energy demands; aging and demographics issues and their affects on Asian economies; the potential of

corporate responsibility and technology in Japan and Asia to address the environmental crisis; and the role of China, India and Japan as engines of regional economic growth. The complete list of confirmed speakers and conference agenda is available at www.asiasociety.org/conference07/agenda.html.

The conference is held with generous support from numerous corporations. American International Group, Inc., The Carlyle Group, Nomura and Philip Morris International are Lead Corporate Benefactors; BNP Paribas, Chevron and Shinsei Bank are Corporate Benefactors; Morgan Stanley and Toyota are Corporate Contributors; and Mitsubishi and United Airlines are Corporate Supporters. The conference is held with additional support from Mori Building Co., Ogilvy Public Relations Worldwide and The World Bank. Collaborating organizations include the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, JETRO Japan External Trade Organization and The Japan Institute of International Affairs. Yomiuri Shimbun is the local media partner.

Asia Society's Business Programs provide a leading forum for executives to meet the policy makers and business leaders who shape the Asia Pacific business environment. The Society annually presents a high-profile Corporate Conference in a selected city in Asia to examine the implications of macroeconomic trends and geopolitical developments for the region and the world. Through keynote addresses by heads of Asian governments and other key decision-makers, as well as roundtable discussions with business and policy leaders from around the world, this unique series highlights developments in the conference site country, while examining the cutting-edge issues shaping important trends in Asia's dynamic markets and in the global economy. Since 1989, the Asian Corporate Conference has attracted a combined audience of more than 14,000 participants from around the world. The 16th Asian Corporate Conference held in Mumbai, India in March 2006 drew more than 1,400 delegates from 25 countries.

About Asia Society

Asia Society is the leading global organization working to strengthen relationships and promote understanding among the people, leaders, and institutions of Asia and the United States. We seek to enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of policy, business, education, arts, and culture. Founded in 1956, Asia Society is a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational institution with offices in Hong Kong, Houston, Los Angeles, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai, New York, San Francisco, Shanghai, and Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.AsiaSociety.org.

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