



MALAYSIAN TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TO SPEAK AT PBEC CONFERENCE IN TOKYO

Honolulu, March 8, 2001 - Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia, will be addressing delegates at the 34th International General Meeting (IGM) of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC), which will take place April 8th - 10th in Tokyo, Japan. The annual conference brings together leading business executives, heads of government, and government ministers from throughout Asia, the Pacific, and the Americas. Rafidah Aziz will be speaking in a plenary session entitled "Strategic Regional Issues in the 21st Century."

The opening Keynote address of this year's IGM is expected to be delivered by Japanese Prime Minister, **His Excellency Yoshiro Mori**. Other speakers confirmed for the IGM include: **His Excellency Gustavo Bell**, Vice President, Republic of Colombia, **Sir John Bond**, Group Chairman, HSBC Holdings (United Kingdom), **Mr. Kenneth Courtis**, Vice Chairman, Goldman Sachs Asia (Japan), **Mr. Yoshitaka Kitao**, President and CEO, Softbank Finance Corporation, Ltd. (Japan), **Mr. Dean O'Hare**, Chairman and CEO, Chubb Corporation (USA), **Fidel Ramos**, Former President and Special Envoy (Philippines), **Mr. Eisuke Sakakibara**, Former Vice Minister of Finance (Japan), **Mr. Keiji Tachikawa**, President and CEO, NTT Docomo, Inc. (Japan), and **Mr. C. D. Tam**, Executive Vice President & President, Asia Pacific, Motorola Electronics Pte. Ltd. (Singapore).

Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz assumed the post of Minister of International Trade and Industry in 1990. Her previous positions in Malaysian government include: Minister of Trade and Industry, Minister of Public Enterprises, Deputy Minister of Finance, Parliamentary Secretary for Ministry of Public Enterprises (Malaysia's first woman parliamentary secretary), and Economic lecturer at University Malaya. She has received various awards including the Knight Grand Cross of the Most Exalted Order of the White Elephant by Thailand government, the Grand Cross of the Order of Mayo by the government of Argentina, and the Legion of Honor Awards of 1997 by the World Assembly of Small and Medium Enterprises. Minister Aziz's extended experience will allow her to share many important insights on strategic regional issues.

PBEC's IGM is an opportunity for the region's foremost corporate executives to gather with other international leaders to discuss, in a frank and intimate setting, the key issues in the regional economy, and to publicly issue policy recommendations and statements. The IGM typically includes major addresses given by heads of government, governmental ministers, leaders of prominent international organizations, and senior executives of some of the largest corporations in the region.

The theme of this year's conference is "Regional Vitality in the 21st Century." A full listing of confirmed speakers, agenda, and registration materials may be obtained through the web site or contact information listed below.

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About PBEC:

- PBEC is an international association of senior business leaders representing more than 1,100 major corporations in 20 economies around the Pacific, which account for more than US \$4 trillion in global sales and employ more than 10 million people.
- PBEC is a forum through which business leaders create new business relationships, exchange views with government officials, and produce recommendations on key business issues.
- The unprecedented scope of PBEC's membership constitutes a broad and balanced reservoir of international business knowledge, unmatched in credibility and expertise. PBEC is the independent voice of business in the Pacific.