



### SIR JOHN BOND, HSBC HOLDINGS GROUP CHAIRMAN, TO ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE IN JAPAN

**Honolulu, February 14, 2001** - Sir John Bond, Group Chairman of HSBC Holdings, will be addressing delegates at the 34th International General Meeting (IGM) of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC), which will take place April 6th - 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.

Sir John Bond will be speaking in a plenary session entitled "Global Economic Issues and the Pursuit of Sustainable Growth and Regional Vitality." In this session business and government leaders will share their views on issues such as the prospects for a new round of multilateral trade negotiations, potential bilateral and regional trade initiatives, the role of APEC in the process of building regional free trade, prospects for the major trading currencies in the region, and the issue of how transitional economies can best navigate the journey to market economies. As the Chairman of one of the largest banking and financial services organization in the world comprised of more than 6,000 offices in 81 countries and territories, Sir John will undoubtedly be able to share valuable insights on the global economic issues. Other speakers confirmed for the IGM include: **Mr. Dean O'Hare**, Chairman and CEO, Chubb Corporation (USA), **His Excellency Gustavo Bell**, Vice President, Republic of Colombia, **Mr. Yoshitaka Kitao**, President and CEO, Softbank Finance Corporation, Ltd. (Japan), and **Mr. Keiji Tachikawa**, President and CEO, NTT Docomo, Inc. (Japan).

#### *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.

Sir John Bond, the former executive director of the HSBC banking group, became group chairman of HSBC in May 1998. He joined HSBC in 1961 at the age of 19. Bond worked for the bank, previously known as the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corporation, in Asia for 25 years. Later he worked in America for four years and was appointed executive director of the HSBC banking group in 1990. In 1993 he moved to London and became group chief executive.

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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