



CHIEF ECONOMIST OF NOMURA RESEARCH INSTITUTE TO ADDRESS PBEC CONFERENCE IN TOKYO

Honolulu, March 27, 2001 - Dr. Richard Koo, Senior Economist, Nomura Research Institute (Tokyo), 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. Dr. Koo will be speaking in a Keynote luncheon address, and will be sharing his views and analysis of the Japanese economy.

The opening message 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: **Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz**, International Trade and Industry Minister, Malaysia, **Sir John Bond**, Group Chairman, HSBC Holdings (United Kingdom), **Dr. 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), **His Excellency Fidel Ramos**, Former President and Special Envoy (Philippines), and **Mr. Keiji Tachikawa**, President and CEO, NTT Docomo, Inc. (Japan).

Dr. Richard Koo joined Nomura Research Institute, the research arm of Nomura Securities, in 1984. Prior to that, he was an economist with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for four years. In addition to conducting financial market research, he has been appointed by several Japanese prime ministers to a number of key committee positions to study the future designs for the Japanese economy. Dr. Koo is an author of several books on the Japanese economy, and he writes regularly for many publications including the Los Angeles Times. Since 1998, Dr. Koo has been a visiting professor at Waseda University in Tokyo. In financial circles, Dr. Koo was ranked 1st among over 100 economists covering Japan in the Nikkei Financial Ranking for 1995, '96 and '97, and by the Institutional Investor magazine for 1998. He was also ranked 1st by the Nikkei Newsletter on Bond and Money for 1998 and '99.

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.