



FORMER PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT FIDEL RAMOS TO ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONFERENCE IN JAPAN

Honolulu, February 28, 2001 - His Excellency Fidel Valdez Ramos, Special Envoy and the Former President of the Republic of the Philippines 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. Fidel Ramos 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), and **Mr. Keiji Tachikawa**, President and CEO, NTT Docomo, Inc. (Japan).

Fidel Ramos, the 12th President of the Republic of the Philippines is considered the architect of the Philippine economy. He used his knowledge, expertise and vision to steer the country to economic growth by opening the Philippine economy to global competition, welcoming foreign investments, deregulating key industries, dismantling monopolies, privatizing public entities, including modernization of public infrastructure, and strengthening international diplomacy. He is well respected for his leadership skills, as well as his willingness to listen to the people whom he served. Prior to becoming the president, Fidel Ramos also served as chief of staff of the armed forces and secretary of defense. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his leadership in the Pacific and for his efforts at building closer ties within the region from nations including Thailand, Malaysia, Korea, Indonesia and Pakistan. In January 2001 Philippine President Gloria Arroyo named Fidel Ramos her special international envoy.

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.