



FORMER FINANCE OFFICIAL SAKAKIBARA, "MR. YEN", TO ADDRESS PBEC CONFERENCE IN TOKYO

Honolulu, March 6, 2001 - Former Japanese Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Eisuke Sakakibara, also known as "Mr. Yen", 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. Mr. Sakakibara will be speaking in the Closing Plenary Session.

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: **Dato' Seri Rafidah Aziz**, International Trade and Industry Minister, Malaysia, **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), **His Excellency Fidel Ramos**, Former President and Special Envoy (Philippines), 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.

Eisuke Sakakibara, former Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, has worked for the Ministry of Finance for more than 20 years. He has a broad and valuable experience in Government, especially in the area of international finance. He has shown superior ability in policy making and in consensus building among the international community. Mr. Sakakibara has made a great contribution toward improving the transparency and accountability of the Japanese government. His success in gaining support of the Japanese people for these and other reforms is evidence of his outstanding communication skills. He also has demonstrated ability to tackle global issues and understand the specific difficulties of developing and emerging market countries. During the Asian financial crisis in 1997, Mr. Sakakibara played a significant role in supporting the crisis-affected economies and in resolving the crisis.

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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