



Enhancing Risk Management and Governance in the Region's Banking System to Implement Basel II and to Meet Contemporary Risks and Challenges Arising from the Global Banking System

Training Program ~ 8 - 12 December 2008
SHANGHAI, CHINA

Opening

Introduction to the Training Program

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It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to China and to this program.

This program, which focuses on the region's banking system, comes at a very timely and opportune moment. The issues that affect banking regulators are currently at the forefront of global and national responses to the global financial crisis.

Handling this systemic crisis that has affected the financial markets requires great judgement based on good policy analysis.

This course will discuss many of the issues that have been revealed by the crisis, and will assist each of you in formulating good judgements. It will look at risk, liquidity, governance and other highly relevant matters in the implementation of Basel II.

The crisis has impacted all economies, large or small. Everyone is affected, and therefore everyone has something to contribute, and I encourage your very active participation in the course.

We are particularly grateful to the APEC Secretariat for providing the funding for this program, and the collaboration that we as the AFDC have established with the MAFC in Australia.

In July 2007, the Melbourne APEC Finance Centre and AFDC hosted a successful China-Australia Governance Program, which focused on Risk Management and Governance in Chinese banking, and brought together experts from both Australia and China. As a result of that collaboration, the two Centres signed an understanding to continue to work together in the future, enhancing capacity across the region.

In April this year we worked together to organise a roundtable in Shanghai that again brought together senior officials and political leaders from Shanghai and Melbourne. In October, a program funded by the Australian government again brought together a number of Chinese officials and Australian experts to discuss the key issues in global banking and the current situation. The Chinese officials then went on to do placements in Australia at various banks and financial institutions.

These collaborative examples show how well our two Centres can work together, and thus we have again embarked on a joint program to put together this course.

I would particularly like to thank the MAFC and also the experts from Australian banks and financial institutions who are here to participate in the discussions and offer their expertise. I would also like to thank the Chinese participants and experts, as well as the other international guests.

I hope that this program can demonstrate the success that can be achieved when two organisations work together to achieve a common goal. Welcome and enjoy the opportunity.