

Welcome Remarks

Minister Pak Luky, Pak Jusuf Wanandi, Co-Chair PECC, Ambassador Campbell, Co-Chair PECC, Chairs of PECC Economies, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Selamat Pagi, Good Morning!

Since 2009, Singapore National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (SINCPEC) has been sponsoring and organizing the annual Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) conference to help shape the APEC agenda. Under the dynamic leadership of the Co-Chair system introduced in 2008, PECC members have also become much more active in our effort to stay relevant in looking after the wider interests of PECC economies.

Since 2009, not only have we seen more intense interests of participation from senior government officials, senior private sector business individuals and the academics, we are also seeing much closer linkages between PECC and APEC in agenda shaping. Today's conference is a classic example of close consultation between PECC members and APEC host country for 2013 which is Indonesia.

In order to ensure effectiveness, members have agreed that PECC must continue to serve as a track II platform for APEC, and possibly also beyond APEC, to discuss and explore pertinent policy themes affecting APEC economies with sustained policy actions, at least over the horizon of three years. It is in this context, we are looking forward to closer collaboration especially amongst the next three APEC hosts including Indonesia, China and the Philippines for 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively.

SINCPEC would therefore appeal to my government to continue to fund the PECC-SINCPEC Conference so long as members find it useful in furthering the wider interests of APEC economies.

As you can see from the conference program, we have very six exciting policy sessions lined up for the next two days plus luncheon and dinner speeches with very distinguished speakers and panelists including Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Mr. Lim Heng Kiang.

You know, usually at the end of the conference, we ask you to acknowledge and thank those important people who have worked very hard and very late

both behind the scene and at the frontline to make this conference successful, but I would ask you to do so now this time regardless of whether if they would make mistakes or have not been quick enough to serve or attend to your needs. They are the SINCPEC team led by my ablest Deputy Chair Chang Li Lin and great support we received from PECC Secretariat!

May I warmly welcome you to this conference and wishing you a happy stay in Singapore which I think is getting even more interesting!

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&
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