

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Bangkok 10200, Thailand

TID/BDS/APBF 2013

10 September 2013

Sir,

**Asia-Pacific Business Forum: *Connecting the Pacific with Asia*  
Ten Year Anniversary Session  
Sydney, Australia, 24-26 November 2013**

I am pleased to inform you that the tenth Asia-Pacific Business Forum (APBF) will be held at the Intercontinental Hotel in Sydney, Australia from 24 to 26 November 2013. As in the past, this year's Forum will discuss the current challenges facing the business community in the region, this year under the theme: *Connecting the Pacific with Asia*. We cordially invite representative from your country to attend this year's APBF event.

APBF has been held annually in various cities (e.g. Kuala Lumpur, Almaty, Bangkok, Jakarta, Kunming and Shanghai) in the past years. It has always attracted a large number of business leaders from diverse sectors and prominent government leaders from around the region and has evolved as the only region-wide government-private sector dialogue platform. APBF 2013 will bring together various stakeholders to strengthen regional business and trade linkages and discuss innovative solutions to issues faced by businesses from all over Asia and the Pacific which need to be facilitated by government policy. Key topics of substantive discussion include: building a sustainable Pacific private sector; linking the Pacific with Asia and determining what these linkages mean for business; and trade facilitation and trade finance for inclusive business development. Overall, the Forum focuses broadly on required business actions and government policy to reinforce inclusive and sustainable business and interregional linkages which promote the inclusion of Pacific Island economies and link Pacific with Asian businesses. Government leaders, including heads of state, and several top business executives including Narayana Murthy, Jack Ma, and Mark Zuckerberg are expected to participate in this year's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Also, over 400 senior government officials and business executives throughout Asia and the Pacific are expected to participate in this year's Forum. We would appreciate it if you could kindly inform business associations and chambers of commerce and industry in your country of APBF and I hope to see you at this year's Forum.

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H.E. Mr. Sergey Victorovich Lavrov  
Minister,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Government of the Russian Federation  
Moscow  
Russian Federation

The tentative programme of the Forum is enclosed for your information. Participants are kindly requested to register for the event online at: <http://apbf.unescap.org/2013/register.asp>. The Forum's website can be accessed at: <http://apbf.unescap.org>. Please feel free to contact our team at [suriyan@un.org](mailto:suriyan@un.org) with any inquiries.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Noeleen Heyzer  
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations  
and Executive Secretary of ESCAP

Enclosure