

Press Release

April 2017

Bank of China to bring 150 investors at the 12th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Investors Seminar

Makati, Philippines - Bank of China, the fourth largest bank in the world, will be bringing around 150 investors when it participates in the 12th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Investors Seminar (AFMIS) happening this April 6 in Mactan, Cebu. The theme of this year's AFMIS is ASEAN@50: Unleashing Potentials, Fostering Connectivity".

This is the first time that BOC will participate in such event.

Mr. Deng Jun, Bank of China Country Head, said that of these investors, 70% are corporates involved in various industries while 30% are into finance including 15 fund managers. All are interested in investing not only on Philippine companies but firms from other countries, as well.

AFMIS is an annual event where ASEAN ministers meet with investors, both within and outside the region, to promote ASEAN as an attractive investment destination.

The Cebu event will highlight investment opportunities in Southeast Asia, explore financial market development and ASEAN economic potentials compared to other developing market.

"Bank of China is one with the ASEAN in increasing trade and investments in the region; in integrating small, and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the digital economy for greater access to trade information, global market and value chain, and finance, promoting entrepreneurship; and in increasing cooperation within the region and connectivity to the rest of the world," Mr. Deng said.

ASEAN, a regional organization comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, is now the 7th biggest economy in the world with a combined GDP of USD 2.5 trillion and a population of more than 600 million.

For this year, the region's economic growth is projected to reach between 4.5 percent and 4.6 percent. Data also showed foreign direct investment (FDI) from other countries around the world into ASEAN skyrocketed from USD 86 billion dollars in 2007 to USD 120 billion dollars in 2015.

"Bank of China aims to seize trade and economic opportunities and encourage investments in the Philippines and the rest of the region which will be made available during the 12th ASEAN Finance Minister's Seminar," Mr. Deng added.

The Chairman of Bank of China Group, Mr. Tian Guoli, will participate in the Seminar to support the economic development in ASEAN. The Seminar is a one-day event composed of a panel discussion by ASEAN Finance Ministers on the latest economic developments and outlook for the region, and a series of breakout sessions that focus on investment opportunities in ASEAN. Two of these breakout sessions with topics in infrastructure and e-commerce, will be moderated respectively by Mr. Gao Yingxin, Executive Vice President of Bank of China Group, and Mr. Yue Yi, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive of Bank of China Hong Kong.

Recently, 320 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from China and 350 from the Philippines participated in a matchmaking process as part of Bank of China's SME Cross-Border Trade and Investment Conference.

This supports the "Belt and Road" initiative of the Chinese government which aims to link economic partners in Asia, Europe, and Africa.

"In supporting the "Belt and Road", Bank of China has become an important window facilitating exchanges of peoples and enterprises between China and countries along the way. Bank of China envisions a world that builds mutually beneficial relationships that meet the interest of all," Mr. Deng said.

According to China Ministry of Commerce, the "Belt and Road" initiative has already produced big results in terms of China's outbound direct investments (ODI) which has exceeded inbound foreign direct investment (FDI) for the first time in 2015 by more than USD 10 billion.

Last year, China's non-financial ODI increased by 44.1 percent to \$170.11 billion. Chinese companies invested in 7,961 overseas enterprises in 164 countries and regions in the past year.

Up to 18.3 percent of the ODI went to manufacturing in 2016, up from 12.1 percent in 2015. Meanwhile, Chinese companies carried out 197 overseas mergers and acquisitions (M&A) in the manufacturing sector last year, accounting for 26.6 percent of the total.

In the Philippines alone, data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed foreign direct investments from China last year jumped by more than 1,000 percent to USD 10.77 million from USD 0.57 million the previous year.

For full-year 2016, the Philippines' net FDI inflows reached USD 7.9 billion, registering a year-on-year growth of 40.7 percent.

Equity capital placements in the Philippines last year originated mainly from Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, the United States, and Taiwan, and was infused largely to financial and insurance; arts, entertainment and recreation; manufacturing; real estate; and construction activities.

Mr. Deng said more Chinese investors are interested in the Philippines because of the country's strong economic growth in the past decade, and the improvements of relationships between Philippines and China.

###