



## **7<sup>th</sup> annual World Chinese Economic Summit to focus on strengthening ties between China, Southeast Asia & Europe**

**LONDON UK:** An array of distinguished figures including former President of Indonesia, H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono; Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and former Vice Premier of China, H.E. Zeng Peiyan are confirmed to speak at the [7<sup>th</sup> World Chinese Economic Summit \(WCES\)](#), which in 2015 will be held in London, outside the Asia Pacific region for the first time. WCES 2015 has been organised by the [Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute \(ASLI\)](#) and for the first time, [Asia House](#). The summit will take place at numerous venues across the capital from 10 – 12 November, namely the Savoy Hotel, The House of Lords, Banqueting House, Asia House and Royal Kensington Palace.

The prestigious annual event will bring together over 200 policy-makers, entrepreneurs, researchers and thought-leaders from around the world to discuss topics around this year's key theme, 'China and the World: Forging Euro-Asian Partnerships towards Shared Prosperity'. The summit will look at how China, the Chinese diaspora, ASEAN and the UK can forge business partnerships that will encourage shared prosperity and business growth. This includes a number of panel sessions focused on the important role China and its Asian neighbours play in the global economy, the integral role they will play in driving regional and world economic recovery and the opportunities for UK and European companies presented by Chinese President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road initiative.

With a population of over 600 million, a growing middle class and a combined GDP of about US\$2.4 trillion, ASEAN is becoming more important to the world economy. The launch of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in December 2015 will establish ASEAN as a single market and production base making the region more dynamic and competitive. H. E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will deliver the summit's closing keynote address '[Will China and ASEAN reshape the New World Order?](#)'

[2015 is also an important year for UK-China relations.](#) Bilateral agreements have been made to encourage the implementation of major investment projects and during UK Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne's recent trip to China (20 – 27 September, 2015), he urged Chinese investors to pitch for £11.8bn worth of contracts covering the first phase of HS2 (the UK's proposed high-speed railway linking London and the North of England). The UK is currently the main investment destination for Chinese companies and China's direct investment in UK totalled US\$40 billion by the end of 2014. China is now the world's second-largest economy by GDP.

The 2015 WCES will examine the impact of Chinese outward investments on global growth and the ways in which the Chinese diaspora – the so-called bamboo network – a vital force for economic prosperity and growth in many countries – can be fostered further to generate new business and investment opportunities. The Chinese diaspora can be found in more than 100 countries and accounts for 60 per cent of FDI into China

To coincide with the UK Chancellor's visit to West China, the UK Foreign Office and UK China-Britain Business Council launched a new study '[One Belt One Road](#)', which sets out opportunities available to British companies as Belt and Road becomes a reality. Belt and Road as an initiative will be a key discussion point across WCES and various sessions will look at the two Silk Roads initiated by President Xi including a keynote address from former Vice Premier of China, Chairman of the State Development Planning Commission and Chairman of the China Center for International Economic Exchanges H. E.

Zeng Peiyan: 'The Belt and Road-Shaping the future of cooperation between China and Europe and China and Asia.'

Other leading figures set to speak include the Minister of Transport of Malaysia the Hon. Dato' Sri Liow Tiong Lai; Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia The Hon. Dato' Mah Siew Keong; former Chinese Ambassador to the USA and current Secretary General of the Boao Forum for Asia H.E. Zhou Wenzhong; former Prime Minister of Pakistan and Board Member of the Boao Forum for Asia H.E. Shaukat Aziz; former Minister of State at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office The Rt. Hon. Lord David Howell; vice chairman of Nomura International plc Sir Andrew Cahn; former chairman of Standard Chartered Bank The Hon. Lord Davies of Abersoch; chairman of Asia House Sir John Boyd; CEO of Asia House Michael Lawrence; and Chief Economic Advisor to the Lord Mayor of London Dr Gerard Lyons.

Tan Sri Michael Yeoh, Chairman of the World Chinese Economic Summit and CEO of the Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute said: "The World Chinese Economic Summit brings together over 40 speakers from four continents to share their knowledge and experiences. Attendees will be updated on key trends in China and Southeast Asia and the Belt and Road initiative of President Xi Jinping. They can also learn how to conduct business successfully in China and East Asia."

Chairman of Asia House Sir John Boyd said: "Asia House is delighted to be co-organising the 7th World Chinese Economic Summit, which will be held in London for the first time this year. Policy-makers and business leaders from China, Southeast Asia and Europe will take part in debate and discussion on China's economic rise and its impact on the rest of the world, as well as the economic clout of the Chinese diaspora and opportunities in the rapidly growing markets of Southeast Asia. The conference is particularly timely taking place just a few weeks after President Xi Jinping's state visit to the UK and following Chancellor George Osborne's September trip to China."

For more information about the event and to see the [complete agenda](#), please click here. Press passes for the conference and interviews with the speakers are available.

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**Asia House** is a centre of expertise on Asia. Our mission is to bring the UK and Asia closer through our pioneering events on business, policy and politics, and arts and learning. We are the leading pan-Asian organisation in the UK, having built our reputation on our extensive network, our objectivity and our independence. Asia House is a non-profit, non-political organisation. Visit [www.asiahouse.org](http://www.asiahouse.org) for further information.

**The World Chinese Economic Summit** is a leading international summit that focuses on strengthening business, economic, and social ties between China, Southeast Asia and Europe. The objective is to bring together government, business, and thought leaders to discuss key issues, important trends and strategic challenges facing the global and regional economy and the role of China.