

Press release

SFST: HK firmly established as Asia's premier capital formation hub

Friday, November 23, 2007

Hong Kong had firmly established itself as the premier capital formation hub in Asia, the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, Professor K C Chan, said in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, today (November 23).

Addressing more than 300 guests at an IPO in Hong Kong Conference, Professor Chan said Hong Kong, being the international financial centre located at the heart of Asia, with strong global linkage, and with China as the resourceful hinterland, provided an unparalleled and unrivalled capital formation and global investment platform.

Noting the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission and the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEx) published a joint policy statement to facilitate listing of overseas companies, Professor Chan encouraged Vietnamese enterprises to make use of Hong Kong's listing platform to raise capital.

He said enterprises around the world were attracted to Hong Kong's capital market not just for efficient access to capital, but also for the corporate governance standards and Hong Kong's internationally recognised regulatory standards for the badge of quality.

Professor Chan also highlighted Hong Kong as the top choice for foreign investors to tap the tremendous business opportunities in Mainland China. He said investors eyeing the growing Mainland market would find Hong Kong's equity market an ideal investment platform of magnetic attraction.

He said said Hong Kong's success as a fundraising centre for Mainland enterprises showed the deep and large pool of liquidity in the city's market.

"We are confident that with our extensive experience in financing the growth of enterprises in Mainland China, we are capable of providing equally quality service to Vietnamese enterprises, be they state-owned or private, seeking to tap the international market," Professor Chan said.

Also speaking at the conference were Chairman of HKEx Mr Ronald Arculli, and representatives from the State Securities Commission (SSC) of Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange (HOSE). The conference, jointly organised by HKEx and SSC, was also attended by a 50-strong delegation from Hong Kong's financial services sector which comprised investment managers, lawyers, accountants and valuers.

During the day, Professor Chan called on the Vice-Mayor of Ho Chi Minh City, Madam Nguyen Thi Hong, and met leaders of the financial services sector. He also visited the HOSE and exchanged views with the Vice Executive President of the HOSE, Mrs Phan Thi Tuong Tam, on financial market developments in the two cities.

Professor Chan will return to Hong Kong tonight.

Ends