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PRESS RELEASE

**New Global Think-Tank in Hong Kong to Provide
Asian Perspectives on the World's Critical Issues**

25 August 2011 – The Fung Global Institute (the “Institute”), a new Hong Kong-based, independent and non-profit think-tank, was established today with the aim of generating and disseminating innovative thinking and business-relevant research on global issues from Asian perspectives.

The core leadership of the Institute comprises Dr Victor K. Fung, the founding Chairman of the Institute who is also Chairman of the Li & Fung Group of Companies; Mr Andrew Sheng, former Chairman of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, who will serve as the Institute’s President; and Professor Michael Spence, Nobel Laureate in economics, who heads its Academic Board.

“We are assembling a team of respected thought leaders, from Asia and other continents, who are experts in their respective fields to help shape and advance international dialogue on Asia’s growing influence on the world economy,” said Dr Fung. “Today’s challenges call for a broader, more inclusive analytical framework. The world is changing in unprecedented ways at multiple speeds, and as Asia becomes more prominent in these transformations, it is essential to engage Asia and to provide Asian perspectives into the global dialogue towards a more constructive future,” he added.

Asia is growing more rapidly than the rest of the world. It is estimated that Asia’s output will account for over half of the world’s output by 2050¹. Seven Asian economies, namely China, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Thailand, will account for 45% of global GDP by 2050, with an average per capita income of US\$45,800 (PPP), 25% higher than the global average of US\$36,600².

“The idea of global think-tanks is relatively new,” said Mr Sheng. “The Fung Global Institute is one of the first to be established in Asia. Our efforts will be backed by business-relevant research, executive learning programs and an ability to convene thought leaders from around the globe.” He added that the Institute would serve as a critical resource for business leaders as well as policymakers and civil society to develop the perspectives and tools needed in an era of transformation.

¹ Asian Development Bank’s Report on ASIA 2050, May 2011 p.32

² Asian Development Bank’s Report on ASIA 2050, May 2011 p.2

Initially, the Institute's research is structured around four themes associated with global sustainability and growth, namely:

- Global Supply Chains: Trade and Jobs in the New Economic Landscape;
- Global Governance: Asia Finance 2020;
- China's New Growth Model: Implementation and Impacts of the 12th Five-Year Plan; and
- Global Growth and Sustainability: New Lifestyle and Growth Models

"We will examine closely the much-discussed 'people/ planet/ profits' debate," Mr Sheng said. "The issues of job creation, which is about people, environmental impact and business profitability, are inter-linked like never before. Business is the main driver of economic activities by producing goods and services and creating jobs. Thus, business has a central role in effecting change from the ground up during these transformative times. Business leaders need to be informed about the interplay of these critical global issues with practical options for change."

Professor Spence added, "The Institute aims to do research that has direct relevance to business decisions, business strategy and policymakers, and to the intersection where they complement each other. It is very important in fulfilling the mission of the Institute to locate the innovative thinking in Asia, disseminate it effectively and share it with the rest of the participants in the global economy."

To complement the Institute's research and learning programs, the Institute will also convene an annual forum, business briefings and seminars to promote knowledge exchange and communication across diverse stakeholder groups.

The Institute has partnered with established international research and learning institutes in order to extend its global reach and provide unique executive learning programs for present and future business leaders. In Hong Kong, the Institute's partner is the University of Hong Kong (Faculty of Business and Economics), with which it is co-located at the Cyberport campus and undertakes joint projects. Its global partners currently include Harvard University's Asia Center in the US; IMD, Switzerland; and the MIT Sloan School of Management in the US. The Institute is also in discussions with the London School of Economics and Political Science and other potential partners with the intention of creating specific agreements for collaboration and partnership.

The Institute has been established through an initial endowment from the Victor and William Fung Foundation. It will invite further contributions and endowments from other family foundations and private sector sources throughout Asia and beyond.

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About the Fung Global Institute

The Fung Global Institute is an independent think-tank and learning institute that generates and disseminates innovative thinking from Asian perspectives on issues that are transforming the global economy. Its business-relevant research is combined with practical experience and learning that can be applied by senior global executives as well as policymakers and civil society leaders. The Institute is a non-profit organisation based in Hong Kong.

For further information, please visit: www.fungglobalinstitute.org

For media enquiries, please contact:

Sue So
GolinHarris

+852 2501 7984