

23 November 2017

Welcoming Remarks at the opening of the Asian Logistics and Maritime Conference 2017

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- Chief Executive (Carrie Lam), Minister Arkhom (Arkhom Termpittayapaisith, Minister of Transport, Thailand), distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,
- Welcome to the 7th edition of the Asian Logistics & Maritime Conference.
- Logistics is very important to our economy and the economy of our partners. Not only is this sector a key contributor to our employment market, trade and logistics make up more than 20 per cent of Hong Kong's economy.
- With all the sea changes in the political, economic and technological scenes in recent years, the logistics, maritime and aviation industries are facing many challenges as well as opportunities.
- Foremost among these opportunities is the Belt and Road Initiative, which is creating tremendous prospects by bringing multiple continents together to create new flows in trade, capital and people.
- Of particular importance is the ASEAN region. With a combined population of over 620 million and an aggregate economic size topping US\$2.4 trillion, the business prospects are enormous.
- With the recently concluded Free Trade Agreement between Hong Kong and ASEAN, we are very excited about the potential this can bring – not only to Hong Kong, but also to the world.
- Alongside advancements in trade and global development, technology and e-commerce are also reshaping the logistics industry.
- In the recent Alibaba Singles' Day on the 11th of this month, the world's largest shopping festival saw transactions worth 168 billion yuan or US\$25 billion on a single day. To cope with this online shopping frenzy, Alibaba deployed artificial intelligence, robots and drones to handle the massive volume of products involved.

- With game-changing trends already happening, our comprehensive programme at ALMC will examine many important issues, ranging from how best to deliver for online shopping, to the future of the tanker market. Our 70 eminent speakers will provide insights into industry trends for sectors spanning maritime, logistics, supply chain management and air freight.
- Our exhibition also showcases more than 120 companies specialising in a range of logistics related businesses, and we welcome regional forums organised by Canada and Zhuhai.
- With all these activities here at ALMC, I invite you to take advantage of the opportunities these two days will bring.
- Last but not least, I would like to thank our sponsors and partners for their generous support. I wish you all a fruitful conference; and to our visitors from abroad, an enjoyable stay in Hong Kong.
- Thank you.

-Ends-

About 480 words,
(approx. 4.5 mins)