



Press release

Jakarta / Berlin, 1 November 2018

- **Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business sets Agenda for Asian-German Economic Cooperation**
- **Open markets create wealth**
- **Cooperation in the field of innovation between Asian and European partners must be promoted**

"Together with its partners in the Asia-Pacific region and the EU, German industry is committed to open markets and a high degree of transparency in trade, investment and public procurement. To this end, we promote dialogue between business, politics, civil society and the academia. The Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA) wants to contribute to a return of the international community to a consensus on an open global trade order. This will benefit companies, employees and consumers alike". With these words, Hubert Lienhard, Chairman of the APA, explains the objectives of the Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business (APK). The conference will take place in Jakarta on November 2 and 3, 2018 with around 900 participants.

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Peter Altmaier: "Germany and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region have long enjoyed close and strong partnerships. Our common response to global challenges can only be a joint commitment to open, free and fair world trade. This is a key prerequisite for close economic cooperation for the benefit of all concerned".

The conference will focus on important topics regarding the future, such as the development of the global trading system, Industrie 4.0, mobility, artificial intelligence, urbanization, and economic and security policy challenges in the region. The APK is organised jointly by the APA, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the German Chambers of Commerce Abroad in Asia-Pacific.

In addition to the need to promote free trade, Germany and Asia-Pacific require political framework conditions that support successful, future-oriented companies, as Lienhard notes: "Innovation in the Asia-Pacific region is progressing rapidly, especially in China. Germany and Europe must hurry to keep up in the race for tomorrow's technologies. We urgently need a modern digital infrastructure and better conditions in the EU for research and development. Only then can we position ourselves as sought-after partners for close cooperation with the countries in Asia-Pacific. There is a lot to learn when you work together. For example, we should find common solutions to overcome the tension between the need for big data, national security interests, and data security for businesses and consumers."

With regard to the physical connectivity between Asia and Europe, Lienhard also relies on cooperation. The quality of the projects is decisive: "The bundling of our forces is also necessary with regard to the expansion of infrastructure in Asia. Our long-standing European strategy to connect Eastern Europe and Central Asia with our networks – the 'Eurasian connectivity' – must be complemented by participation in Asian infrastructure initiatives that should be financially and ecologically sustainable for the project countries".





**16th ASIA-PACIFIC
CONFERENCE
of German Business**
01 - 03 NOVEMBER
JAKARTA 2018

16TH ASIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE
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Asia-Pacific is the most important non-European region for the trade of German companies. In the first six months of 2018, 17 percent of all German exports went to this region. Over the last decade, German exports to the region have risen by an average of 7.4 percent per year, while total German exports expanded by only 2.9 percent. The region will also remain a top destination for German direct investments. In 2016, German direct investments in Asia-Pacific amounted to 173 billion euros. It is also worth looking at investment flows in the opposite direction. In 2017 alone, more than 400 foreign investment projects in Germany – more than one in five – originated in Asia-Pacific. Over 8,000 Asian companies employ 300,000 people in Germany. A further improvement in market access conditions, especially in some Asian countries, would promote exchange in both directions. Lienhard stresses: "In view of the tendency towards protectionism, it is more important than ever to cooperate with the remaining like-minded countries in the region in order to achieve a level playing field. Open markets and the free flow of goods, services and information are the most effective means of fighting poverty and creating jobs around the world. EU trade agreements with the countries of the Asia-Pacific region include extensive social and environmental standards. The EU's trade strategy aims to counteract economic nationalism and virulent populism, both of which pose a threat to global stability, prosperity and peace".

About the APK:

At the APK 2018, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and ministers from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam, as well as around 900 decision-makers, will analyse current political and economic trends. APK 2018 will be jointly chaired by Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Peter Altmaier and the Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business, Hubert Lienhard.

About the APA:

The Asia-Pacific Committee of German Business (APA) voices the concerns of German business to policy-makers in Germany and the Asia-Pacific region. It is the most important German forum for the formulation and discussion of Asia-Pacific-related economic and political interests concerning German and Asian business interests. The objective of the APA is to intensify co-operation with the Asia-Pacific countries and to foster mutual trade and investment. As global economic challenges and the economic importance of Asia-Pacific are increasing, APA's mission is to shape the future in changing times, together with Asia, based on the principles of partnership, equal opportunity and sustainable development.

Further information:
<http://www.apk2018.com>

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