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PRESS RELEASE

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Spire appointed to generate official report for JETRO-APEC seminar to be held in Singapore on 27 July 2009

Spire will be generating the official report containing key conclusions and highlights of proceedings for a seminar being held in conjunction with the APEC Senior Officials Meeting 2 in Singapore. The seminar, entitled "Capacity Building for sharing Success Factors for the Improvement of the Investment Environment", is to be held on 27 July 2009.

JETRO has appointed the Spire Research and Consulting group as its partner to generate the official summary report containing overall conclusions and key highlights of proceedings for an important upcoming event being organized by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation organization (APEC).

The event, entitled, "Capacity Building for sharing Success Factors for the Improvement of the Investment Environment", is to be held on 27 July 09 in Singapore's Grand Copthorne Waterfront hotel.

The event is being organized as a follow-up to previous Ministerial calls for enhancing capacity building among APEC member governments to improve the investment climate in APEC. Its aims is to enhance the capabilities of governments to promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into their economies, by enhancing the investment climate in respect of investment rules, other legal and regulatory factors, physical infrastructure as well as other avenues aimed at increasing the operational ease and commercial attractiveness of FDI entering APEC economies.

Confirmed speakers and panelists at the event include:

- Mr Takashi Tsuchiya, Director-General, Trade and Economic Co-operation department, JETRO
- Mr Noriyuki Mita, Director for Economic Partnership division, Trade Policy bureau, Ministry of the Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (METI)
- Mr Roy Nixon, APEC Investment Experts Group (IEG) Governor
- Mr Chris Kanter, Vice-President for Investment, KADIN (Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry), Indonesia
- Mr Virgilio C. Rivera, Jr., Group Director, Regulation and Corporate Development group, Manila Water Company, Philippines

Singapore is playing host to the APEC meetings for 2009, which include numerous Senior Officials Meetings and private sector events culminating in the APEC CEOs Forum and, of course, the APEC heads of government meeting in December which is scheduled to be attended by President Barrack Obama of the United States and the heads of government of the other 20 APEC nations.

"Spire is proud and excited to be associated with this event being led by JETRO and being organized in conjunction with 2009's APEC meetings. With this event, JETRO has very laudably taken the lead to help disseminate best practices in FDI attraction amongst the APEC member states. The meeting promises to yield many useful insights, and perhaps initiatives that would help to improve the climate for FDI in APEC collectively, as well as in individual APEC countries," commented Ms Koh Ee Mei, Project Management Director for Spire Research and Consulting, who will be attending the event.

JETRO is a Japanese government-related organization that works to promote mutual trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world. Originally established in 1958 to promote Japanese exports abroad, JETRO's core focus in the 21st century has shifted toward promoting foreign direct investment into Japan and helping small to medium size Japanese firms maximize their global export potential.

APEC was established in 1989 to further enhance economic growth and prosperity for the region and to strengthen the Asia-Pacific community. It is the only inter governmental grouping in the world operating on the basis of non-binding commitments, open dialogue and equal respect for the views of all participants. APEC has 21 members - referred to as "Member Economies" - which account for approximately 40.5%¹ of the world's population, approximately 54.2%¹ of world GDP and about 43.7%² of world trade. APEC's 21 Member Economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Republic of the Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.

About Spire Research and Consulting

Spire Research and Consulting is Asia's leading strategic market intelligence consultancy. Spire's competitive advantage lies in its ability to deliver to its clients actionable intelligence on the external business environment in support of their strategic decision-making in marketing and business development. Spire's clients include over 30 Global Fortune 500 organizations as well as Government agencies in ten countries. For more information, visit us at www.spireresearch.com

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