



International Centre for  
Financial Regulation

**For immediate release**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December

**ICFR: Asia not immune from Euro crisis, but cross-border financial regulation needed to protect Asian economies**

In a speech at the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, the Chief Executive of the [International Centre for Financial Regulation \(ICFR\)](#) will warn on 7<sup>th</sup> December that the Eurozone crisis is having a profound impact on economies across Asia, and argue that Asia needs to play an enlarged role in international policy-making, such as the G20 and the Financial Stability Board, in order to ensure that regulatory convergence is appropriate for Asia and takes into account different levels of financial development in economies.

In a keynote speech, [Barbara Ridpath](#) will cite deteriorating export markets as the most immediate impact of the Eurozone crisis on Asian economies. She will discuss the current balance of trade between the EU and Asia, reflecting on existing trends and projecting what may happen should the Eurozone crisis deepen in the coming weeks.

Ridpath will also address the challenges triggered by the contraction in lending now available to Asia from European banks that are under unprecedented capital and funding pressures. A key factor in the availability of credit from European banks to Asia will be the imposition of higher capital requirements for 29 Systemically Important Financial Institutions (SIFIs) across the globe.

Ridpath will also explore how Asian economies can best navigate the crisis and discuss the importance of cross border co-operation on financial regulation, as well as the problems caused by "regulatory arbitrage".

The ICFR is the only independent body exclusively promoting regulatory best practice across the globe, with members including Standard Chartered, HSBC, Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, Aviva, Prudential, Citigroup, UBS and Barclays. Its advisory board includes two HK-based members: Katherine Tsang of Standard Chartered Bank and Mark Tucker of American International Assurance.

The ICFR is concerned that a failure to co-operate on regulation will serve to deepen the crisis in both the Eurozone and Asia. However, as advocates of best practice in regulation, Ridpath will also seek to strike a positive note and emphasise that good regulation can also be a driver of growth.

Ahead of her speech, **Ridpath** commented:

"This is a grave time for the global economy, but the message I'm giving in Hong Kong is that Asian economies can't ignore the Eurozone crisis. It will affect financial markets in Asia, and particularly bank lending, but if we can shape cross-border solutions to regulatory challenges, with stronger intra-Asian co-operation and a leading Asian voice in bodies such as the Financial Stability Board, good regulation can act as an engine of growth for all of Asia."

The ICFR is putting on a conference in Hong Kong on the 8<sup>th</sup> December, with the support of the British Consulate-General, on the topic "*Corporate Governance in Emerging*

*Markets: New Thinking for Sustained Growth, Firm Value and Economic Confidence."*  
Speakers include:

- Ninghua Zhong, HK University of Science and Technology,
- Dr Sumanjeet Singh of the University of Delhi,
- Dr Supriti Mishra, Associate Professor at the International Management Institute (IMI)
- Nicholas Emmerson, Partner, Eversheds LLP
- Charles Taylor of the ICFR.

## **Ends**

**For more information / to arrange an interview with Barbara Ridpath, contact:**

Andrew Lewin / Andrew Marshall, Fishburn Hedges

+44 (0)207 544 3105

[icfr@fishburn-hedges.co.uk](mailto:icfr@fishburn-hedges.co.uk)

## **About the ICFR**

The International Centre for Financial Regulation (ICFR), a product of cooperation between 19 leading financial institutions and government, provides training, scholarship and thought leadership on financial regulation. The Centre, while based in the City of London, serves constituencies well beyond the borders of the UK. Internationally, the ICFR engages in dialogue across borders on effective regulatory cooperation and regulatory best practice; acts as a clearing centre for those seeking training on regulation and produces research on regulatory frameworks fit for the 21st Century.

For further information about the ICFR please refer to: [www.icfr.org](http://www.icfr.org)