

# Asiya launches Hong Kong office to support growing investor demand for access to Asian markets

## Firm hosts first Asia Investment Symposium to strengthen strategic alliance between the Middle East and Asia

Hong Kong – Asiya Investments ("Asiya"), the Asia specialist investment firm, launched its inaugural Asiya Investments Symposium today, which will take place over the next two days in Hong Kong.

The symposium marks the official launch of the firm's Hong Kong office, which serves as its regional headquarters. The event brings together experts from both the Gulf Cooperation Council ("GCC") countries and Asia to discuss and debate current economic trends and investment opportunities.

As part of the symposium, the firm will host an evening reception in honor of Mr. Bader M. Al Sa'ad, the Managing Director of the Kuwait Investment Authority ("KIA"). Asiya is wholly owned by the Kuwait China Investment Company ("KCIC") of which KIA is a 15% shareholder.

On September 19th, the second day of the event, the agenda will feature a panel discussion on trade flows between the GCC and Asia, and the prospect for their expansion. The panel will be moderated by Francisco Quintana, Asiya's Senior Economist. In addition to its macroeconomic research, Asiya's research team has also studied the deepening relationships between the two regions, highlighting how the growth of trade has laid the foundation for both strategic alliances and cooperative efforts.

It is expected that a substantial increase in investment opportunities should arise across the region as a result of these exchanges. Several experts from the fields of trade, finance and international media will participate in the dialogue, including Christian Stauffer, CEO of EuroFin Asia, a trade finance specialist with whom Asiya manages a trade finance fund, Andrew Ferguson, CEO, APAC Resources and Ben Simpfendorfer, author, The New Silk Road.

Asiya Investments' Group Managing Director Ahmad Al-Hamad, said: "The world's centre of economic gravity is moving east. Despite Asia's continued population growth and the expansion of the middle class and the concomitant transition to domestic demand driven economies, the region remains an under-allocated to by global investors.

"The increasing strength of trade and investment ties between the GCC and Asian economies offers GCC investors attractive investment opportunities in sectors such as energy, financial services, real estate, technology and healthcare, while at the same time providing solutions for the financing of Asia's much-needed infrastructure.

"At the same time, there has been strong investment from Asia into the GCC – as evidenced by the capital committed by Chinese companies in Gulf-based construction projects. The GCC is also an important consumer of Asian goods, with imports doubling in the last two decades, helping to cement this strategic alliance for the 21st century."

The symposium will also feature a debate: "Should Asian Investors be Concerned about a China Slowdown?". Moderated by Ms. Henny Sender, Chief International Finance Correspondent for the FT, the discussion will be interactive with the audience issuing their support or denial of the motion both before and after the presentation. Dr. Jiming Ha, Goldman Sachs and Mr. Gillem Tulloch, ForensicAsia will argue in favor of the motion, while Mr. Ting Lu, Bank of America Merrill Lynch and Mr. John Woods, Citi Investment Management will represent the opposition.

As part of the firm's official launch the event will be attended by government officials, diplomats, investors and corporate leaders from Hong Kong, the Middle East and Asia and will provide a platform for the strengthening of Asian – Middle East economic initiatives and investment.

### About Asiya Investments

Asiya Investments ("Asiya") is a Hong Kong and Dubai based asset management firm that is owned by the Gulf Cooperation Council's ("GCC") premier Emerging Asia focused investment firm, the Kuwait China Investment Company, ("KCIC").

- KCIC was founded in 2005 by decree of the Emir of Kuwait. It was founded with 80 million Kuwaiti Dinars (approximately US\$300million) of permanent capital to actively invest in the Asia growth story
- In 2009, KCIC was listed on the Kuwait Stock Exchange. The Kuwait Investment Authority ("KIA"), the world's 6th largest sovereign wealth fund, owns 15% of Asiya/KCIC. Amongst other KCIC shareholders are leading Gulf based financial institutions and family offices
- In 2012, KCIC, rebranded its operations outside of Kuwait as Asiya Investments. Asiya, Arabic for "Asia", was chosen to more fully reflect the firm's investment mandates and its long term commitment to Greater China, Korea, India and Southeast Asia
- Since 2009, KCIC has managed long-only and long-short equity strategies, comprised of assets from 10 countries, 9 exchanges and constituents from MSCI AC Asia ex-Japan index. The firm also manages credit strategies and private equity investments
- Asiya currently manages approximately US\$450 million in proprietary and investor capital across both private and public markets
- Asiya boasts a 20-strong team of research and investment professionals in Hong Kong, with 47 employees worldwide, led by Ahmad Al-Hamad
- For further information about Asiya, please visit [www.asiyainvestments.com](http://www.asiyainvestments.com)

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