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SPEECH BY MR PATRICK DANIEL, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, ENGLISH AND MALAY NEWSPAPERS DIVISION, SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS AND CHAIRMAN OF SHAREINVESTOR GROUP AT THE LAUNCH OF INVEST FAIR 2010 CONFERENCE HELD ON FRIDAY, 20 AUGUST 2010 AT 9.00 AM AT THE MARINA BAY SANDS HOTEL GRAND BALLROOM, LEVEL 5

Mrs Lim Hwee Hua
Minister, Prime Minister's Office
Second Minister for Finance and Transport

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this wonderful new venue and to the Invest Fair 2010 Conference organised by The Business Times and ShareInvestor.

ShareInvestor first organised Invest Fair in 2007 as a 2-day exhibition targeting retail investors. Our mission is reflected in our company's motto - Invest with knowledge. Last year's Invest Fair hosted 40 exhibitors and attracted more than 25,000 participants.

This year, we are introducing the Invest Fair Conference in conjunction with the 2-day Invest Fair Exhibition. The theme of the conference is "Riding the Regional Recovery". We have lined up a packed programme with leading names from the business and financial community. They will discuss how the global economy is expected to fare, how companies are positioning themselves to seize the opportunities for growth and expansion, and what this means for investors.

We are pleased to have Minister Lim join us this morning to give the opening address. Thank you, Minister. Her address will be followed by this morning's keynote by Mr Jignesh Shah, Chairman of FT Group and Deputy Chairman of the newly formed Singapore Mercantile Exchange. He will talk about the SMX and the prospects for the commodities market.

After a tea-break, our "Views from the Top" session kicks off with UBS Investment Bank looking at how the global economic recovery is setting the pace for the equity market. Next, the Business Times CEO Panel on Investing will give their insights on the recovery. The panel will comprise esteemed business leaders from four local listed companies - SPH, DBS, Olam International and Starhub.

Following a networking lunch, we welcome top representatives from four bourses in the region – the Singapore Exchange, the Stock Exchange of Thailand, Bursa Malaysia and SMX. They will share with us their unique perspective on the capital and commodities markets.

We then have sessions with the CEOs of listed Sunway REIT Management Bhd from Malaysia and Indorama Ventures Public Ltd from Thailand .

And to conclude the day-long conference, HSBC Private Banking will give their take on the Asian equities landscape.

The Invest Fair 2010 exhibition starts tomorrow. With 50 exhibitors taking part and over 50 workshops and seminar, we hope that investors will benefit from valuable specific investment pointers.

ShareInvestor has over 10 years of experience in the business of helping retail investors. In addition to Singapore, we also have operations in Malaysia and Thailand and we want to establish a wider regional footprint. We recently held Malaysia GEMS 2010, our first cross-border investor roadshow in Singapore to showcase the investment merits of a dozen Malaysian listed companies. And just last month, we organised the Investor Expo 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, an event similar to tomorrow's Invest Fair. Our KL event attracted close to 10,000 participants over 2 days.

ShareInvestor is also a technology company and we leverage on new and existing applications to support the investment community. In July, we revamped our portal ShareInvestor.com so that investors can access the relevant information and manage their portfolio through a single comprehensive interface. We've had positive feedback and the take-up rate of our new portal has been promising.

The Business Times, as Singapore's leading business daily, is widely-read by corporate leaders, businessmen, and the investment community. Aside from providing strong editorial coverage of listed companies and insightful commentaries and analyses, we want to play a role in helping companies practise good corporate governance. We also want them to take investor relations seriously and promote regular communication between companies and their investors and build trust and rapport.

It is also clear to us that there is a strong interest among retail investors in enhancing their financial literacy. Together, the partnership of The Business Times and ShareInvestor is committed to promoting informed investing. For today's conference and the weekend's Invest Fair 2010, we are thankful for the strong line-up of partners and exhibitors who share a common vision. Through their participation, investors will be able to find out the investment merits of a range of asset classes, making this truly a one-stop shop of investment opportunities.

Once again, I would like to thank our Guest-of-Honour Minister Lim Hwee Hua for gracing this occasion, and all our speakers and panelists for giving their time so generously. I wish everyone present a fruitful day ahead. Thank you.