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PRESS RELEASE**Asia-Pacific Business Forum in Jakarta**

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The Third Asia-Pacific Business forum, "Public-Private Partnerships for Development in Asia and the Pacific," was held on April 7-8 in Jakarta, Indonesia, on the sidelines of the 62nd session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Over 450 representatives of business, government and academic circles, including the Russian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Yakovenko, took part in the events of the Forum. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad delivered the main report.

Through the prism of engagement between the state and private business, the Forum examined such important economic and social question as a strategy for developing the region, the establishment of a new information and communications connectivity for island states in the Asia-Pacific Region (APR), the development of regional transport infrastructure, and a step-up of the participation of business circles in the Doha Round negotiations of the World Trade Organization as well as in regional trade initiatives.

The outcome of the Forum has demonstrated the great importance of close engagement between the public and private sectors for tackling problems of economic and social development. It was noted that, in the conditions of the APR, states ought to devote more attention to the creation of a favorable investment and business climate and also to an active dialogue with private business to devise a long-term national economic development strategy and to strengthen partner ties between members of the APR business community.

April 10, 2006