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## **The Economic Climate – What’s Ahead for Japan?**

### **Economist Jesper Koll to be keynote speaker at HICAP Update Japan**

Costa Mesa, CA, USA --- The hosts and organizers of HICAP are pleased to announce that economist and long-time Japan analyst and strategist Jesper Koll will be the keynote speaker at HICAP Update Japan, set to take place at the Grand Hyatt Tokyo on 24 May 2010.

Koll, who recently joined JP Morgan Securities Japan Co. as Managing Director of Research, also provided the keynote address at last year’s HICAP Update Japan. This year, he will provide delegates with an update on the state of the Japanese economy – taking a look at the current debt situation; the impact of the state of the yen and that of credit and monetary policies; and how Japan will fare, looking ahead, compared with the rest of Asia.

Koll has been researching and investing in Japan since becoming a resident in 1986. Prior to re-joining JP Morgan in 2009, he ran his own investment advisory firm. For almost a decade before that, he was the chief economist for Merrill Lynch. Koll was also a managing director for the Tiger Fund in Tokyo, and prior to that he was the Chief Economist for JP Morgan Japan. Koll has been a member of several government advisory councils, and in his first three years in Japan, worked as an assistant to a member of parliament. He is one of the few non-Japanese members of the Keizai Doyukai, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives. Koll holds a Masters degree from Sais the Johns Hopkins University and is a German national. An outspoken presenter, he has written for and been quoted in numerous publications and media, including the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, *Asia Insight.com*, *Reuters*, *The Far Eastern Economic Review*, *BusinessWeek* and *Barrons.com*.

At HICAP Update Japan, Koll will be sharing the stage with local and international hotel investment industry leaders exchanging and discussing the latest developments and news in the community. HICAP Update Japan, and HICAP Update Southeast Asia, which takes place 26-27 May 2010 at the Fairmont Singapore & Swissôtel The Stamford Singapore, are a series of one-day events put together by the organizers and hosts of HICAP – Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific. HICAP takes place every October in Hong Kong and is the longest running and largest hotel investment conference in the region. This year, HICAP will be held 13-15 October 2010 at the InterContinental Hong Kong.

#### **About the Hosts:**

**BHN** is the worldwide leader in developing and organizing conferences for the hotel and tourism investment community. With more than two decades of experience, over 80 events completed or in production to-date, and more than 59,000 international delegates, BHN conferences have become “must attend” events for industry leaders who come together to network, conduct business and to learn about the latest trends. BHN events include: the Americas Lodging Investment Summit (ALIS) in San Diego; the ALIS Summer Update in Los Angeles; the Central America Tourism & Hotel Investment Exchange (CATHIE) to be held in El Salvador in 2010; the Caribbean Hotel & Resort Investment Summit (CHRIS) in Miami; the Hotel Investment Conference Asia Pacific (HICAP) in Hong Kong; HICAP Update Southeast Asia in Singapore; HICAP Update Japan in Tokyo; and the Hotel Investment Forum India (HIFI) in Mumbai. The BHN website at

www.Burba.com is the gateway for information about the conferences BHN produces, as well as a direct link to important players in the hospitality investment world.

**Horwath HTL – Asia Pacific** since its establishment in 1987, has been involved with over 2,000 projects throughout the region in all phases of the property lifecycle for clients ranging from individually held businesses to the world's most prominent hotel companies, developers, lenders, investors and industrial corporations. Horwath HTL – Asia Pacific currently operates out of offices in Singapore, Hong Kong, Beijing, Tokyo, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Mumbai, Sydney, and Auckland and hosts hotel investment conferences in Hong Kong, Australia, China, and India.

To learn more about HICAP Update Japan, HICAP Update Southeast Asia and HICAP, please visit the conference website at [www.HICAPconference.com](http://www.HICAPconference.com).