



LORD MAYOR HOSTS 9th WIEF AT PRESTIGIOUS GUILDHALL

The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Roger Gifford, tonight hosted a prestigious reception at London's Guildhall, in the heart of the City of London, to officially welcome the 9th World Islamic Economic Forum to London.

The event was held to celebrate the role of the 200 speakers, and the 2,600 delegates joining the 2013 Forum.

His Excellency Atifete Jahjaga, President of Kosovo, His Excellency Abdelilah Benkirane, Prime Minister of Morocco and His Excellency Craig Cannonier, Premier of Bermuda were present, as were Baroness Warsi, Minister of State at the Foreign Office and Lord Green, Minister for Trade and Investment.

Speaking at the Forum, Tun Musa Hitam, Chairman of the World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation, said:

“Tonight's reception has a great traditional significance to us – it marks the start of proceedings, and we hold it to pay tribute to all those who play a vital role in the Forum – you the political leaders, businesses, sponsors, speakers, policy experts and media. Your contribution is crucial in ensuring the success of the Forum, and so tonight we celebrate and thank you.

“We have come a long way since our inception. In 2005, about 600 business people gathered together in Kuala Lumpur at the 1st WIEF. Tomorrow we will be welcoming 18 Global Leaders, 5 Central Bank Governors, 25 Ministers, 2,300 delegates and over 250 international members of the media to the 9th Forum in this great historic city of London.

“The WIEF is building on its successful legacy to date, and is developing into a globally renowned Forum, not just an event for Islamic business. Our hope is that differences in culture and tradition can be embraced, and that the west and the east can work together by using the common language of business to improve the state of the world.

“We look to you, gathered here today, to make that important contribution over the days ahead. It is my great hope that the Forum will be productive and rewarding, not only for the Role-players, but also to all participants who are travelling across the world to join us in London.”