

**For Immediate Release**

## **BEA Further Extends its Foothold in Yangtze River Delta**

*The Bank Celebrates the Opening of its New Suzhou Representative Office*

**Hong Kong, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2005** — The Bank of East Asia (“BEA”) today celebrated the opening of its new Suzhou Representative Office. Mr. Chan Kay-cheung, BEA’s Executive Director & Deputy Chief Executive, and Mr. Raymond Yu Hok-keung, General Manager & Head of China Division, officiated at the ceremony in Suzhou in Jiangsu Province.

Dignitaries taking part in the opening ceremony included leaders of Suzhou Municipal People’s Government, Suzhou Industrial Park, China Banking Regulatory Commission Suzhou Bureau, and the People’s Bank of China Suzhou Sub-branch, as well as business leaders and media representatives from Suzhou and nearby cities such as Kunshan, Jiangyin, and Changshu.

Suzhou is situated in the middle of the Yangtze River Delta, not far from Shanghai. As a result of China’s increasing openness and foreign investment liberalisation, Suzhou has experienced an impressive surge in economic development, ahead of most regions in the country. At the opening ceremony, Mr. Chan Kay-cheung told the audience that BEA decided to establish its representative office in Suzhou in response to the rapid economic growth and increasing demand for banking services by customers in the Yangtze River Delta. He also remarked that Suzhou Representative Office will play an important role in BEA’s Greater China and global branch networks as a key office providing professional services to one of the world’s most dynamic regions of growth.

BEA’s Suzhou Representative Office is the Bank’s sixth representative office on the Mainland. As one of the foreign banks with the most extensive branch coverage in the country, BEA also has nine branches (seven of them including Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Dalian, Zhuhai, Xiamen and Xi’an branches provide Renminbi services), four sub-branches and six representative offices nationwide. In addition, BEA has obtained approval to establish branches in Hangzhou and Chongqing as well as a representative office in Dongguan, which will be opened within this year.

For further details on Suzhou Representative Office or BEA’s China Services, please contact Mr. Nie Tingming, Disney, Chief Representative of BEA Suzhou Representative Office at Room 1116, Century Financial Tower, No. 1 Suhua Road, Suzhou Industrial Park, Suzhou, Jiangsu, China, Tel: (86 512) 6763 0128, Fax: (86 512) 6763 0138.

Enquiries may also be directed to BEA's China Division on Tel: (852) 3608 3007 or Fax: (852) 3608 6213. To learn more about BEA, please visit the Bank's website at: [www.hkbea.com](http://www.hkbea.com).

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