

For Immediate Release

BEA Canada Celebrates the Opening of Vancouver City Branch

Hong Kong, 15th August, 2005 - The Bank of East Asia (Canada) (“BEA Canada”), a wholly owned banking subsidiary of the BEA Group, announces the opening of its Vancouver City Branch in Vancouver, Canada on 12th August, 2005. The BEA Group’s Chairman and Chief Executive, Dr. David K.P. Li was joined by members of the Board of Directors of BEA Canada at the new branch in a ribbon cutting ceremony, which was followed by a reception.

Incorporated in 1991, BEA Canada is a chartered bank in Canada established as part of the BEA Group’s strategy to expand its banking presence internationally and provide customers with access to services beyond Hong Kong’s borders. Over the years, the BEA Group has steadily expanded its retail presence in Canada and now operates a total of six branches, including the new Vancouver City Branch.

Vancouver City Branch is located at the intersection of Cambie and 18th Street. The Branch is conveniently situated near Vancouver’s downtown commercial area and offers a comprehensive range of personal banking, commercial banking, and trade finance services to the city’s residents and businesses. In addition to standard retail banking services, customers can enjoy comprehensive banking services including residential loans and overdrafts, commercial loans, construction loans, and much more.

In view of the strong growth of China’s economy in recent years, the BEA Group anticipates an influx of foreign investment in China from Canada. To support the personal and commercial banking needs of its customers, the Group operates over 110 branches and SupremeGold Centres in Hong Kong and 20 outlets on the Mainland – one of the most extensive networks of any foreign bank in China. In Canada, BEA Canada operates four branches in the Toronto area, namely in Richmond Hill (Main Branch), Markham, Mississauga, and Scarborough. In the Greater Vancouver area, BEA Canada operates its Richmond Branch, which has been in service for over ten years, in addition to the new Vancouver City Branch.

To further support corporate customers in Greater China and Canada, the BEA Group and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (“CIBC”) jointly announced the signing of a Business Cooperation Agreement in June 2005. Among the many benefits of the agreement, CIBC’s Canadian clients can now enjoy access to China-based corporate deposit accounts in both local and foreign currencies as well as trade finance facilities.

The BEA Group is the largest independent local bank in Hong Kong. It is listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is one of the constituent stocks of the Hang Seng Index. The Group operates a global network covering Hong Kong and the rest of Greater China, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the British Virgin Islands, and Southeast Asia. The Group delivers a full range of retail and wholesale banking services through its Personal Banking, Corporate Banking, Wealth Management,

Investment Banking, and China divisions. For more information, please visit the Bank Group's homepage at www.hkbea.com.

For more details on BEA Canada's new branch, please contact Mr. Henry Lam, Branch Manager, Vancouver City Branch, 3396 Cambie Street, Vancouver, British Columbia V5Z 2W5, Canada. Tel: (604) 709 9668. To learn more about The Bank of East Asia (Canada), please visit <http://ca.hkbea.com>.

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