

For Immediate Release**BEA Launches Retail Chinese Yuan Non-Deliverable Forward Contracts**

Hong Kong, 8th November, 2005 - The Bank of East Asia (“BEA”) announces the availability of its new treasury product, retail Chinese Yuan Non-Deliverable Forward Contracts (the “retail CNY NDF”) on 9th November, 2005. BEA’s latest offering is in further support of the Treasury Markets Forum of Hong Kong in regard to the introduction of retail Chinese Yuan non-deliverable forward contracts.

Following the recent Chinese yuan exchange rate regime reforms, there has been increasing interest from small and medium-sized enterprises and other retail customers for readily available financial instruments, such as foreign exchange derivative products, that enable them to hedge their Chinese yuan exposure.

For BEA’s SME customers, the retail CNY NDF serves as a hedging tool that enables the SMEs to avoid unnecessary fluctuation of their operating costs or to lock in the return in respect of their businesses in China. With the margining feature of the product, it also helps corporate clients improve their liquidity management.

The retail CNY NDF is also an ideal alternative investment tool for BEA retail customers to take investment position in Chinese yuan. In addition, it also helps BEA retail customers hedge their position on their Chinese yuan-denominated assets with a view to avoiding undesirable exchange rate fluctuations.

The main features of the retail CNY NDF include the following:

Type of contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A retail CNY NDF is a non-deliverable forward contract / transaction in respect of Chinese yuan which will be settled in U.S. dollars on maturity.
Contract amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts are offered at a minimum notional amount of USD10,000.
Transaction limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no transaction limit.
Tenor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts are offered (on rolling basis) in tenors of 1, 2, 3, 6, and 12 months.
Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Reference Currency is in Chinese yuan and the Settlement Currency is in United States Dollar.

Settlement currency amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The settlement currency amount will be determined by BEA on the Valuation Date. Customers will be informed of the payment details.
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To learn more about the retail CNY NDF, please contact the Customer Service Hotline on 2211 1311, visit any BEA branch or the Bank's homepage at www.hkbea.com.

About The Bank of East Asia

Since its incorporation in 1918, BEA has dedicated itself to serving the people of Hong Kong, as well as providing business and personal banking services to customers in China and overseas. BEA is the largest independent local bank in Hong Kong, with total assets of HKD212 billion (USD27.3 billion) as of 30th June, 2005. BEA is listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is one of the constituent stocks of the Hang Seng Index.

Currently, BEA operates more than 160 outlets worldwide, including over 110 branches and SupremeGold Centres in Hong Kong, 24 outlets in Greater China, and an extensive international network covering the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the British Virgin Islands, and Southeast Asia.

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