

For Immediate Release

BEA Expands its U.S. Banking Operations to Flushing, New York

Hong Kong, 26th March 2007 –The Bank of East Asia (U.S.A.) N.A. (“BEA-USA”), a wholly owned subsidiary of The Bank of East Asia (“BEA”), today announces the opening of a new branch in Flushing, New York. With the opening of Flushing Branch, BEA-USA now operates a total of ten branches in the U.S., of which three are located in New York City.

The new branch is located at 39-02 Main Street in Downtown Flushing. As one of the major centres of economic activity outside Manhattan in New York City, the area is not only a main retail and commercial centre, but also a transportation hub for air, rail, and bus links. The opening of Flushing Branch today will enable BEA-USA to provide an enhanced level of service to residents and businesses in and around this vibrant community.

BEA-USA’s Flushing Branch provides a full range of banking services, including retail deposits, residential and commercial mortgages, commercial loans, small business loans, trade finance, and remittance services.

About The Bank of East Asia

Incorporated in Hong Kong in 1918, BEA is dedicated to providing comprehensive retail and commercial banking services to its customers in Hong Kong, Greater China, and overseas. BEA is the largest independent local bank in Hong Kong, with total consolidated assets of HKD 294.2 billion (USD 37.83 billion) as of 31st December, 2006. The Bank is listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is one of the constituent stocks of the Hang Seng Index.

With more than 180 outlets worldwide, BEA operates an extensive international network covering Hong Kong and Greater China, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the British Virgin Islands, and Southeast Asia. For more information on BEA, please visit any BEA branch or the Bank’s homepage at www.hkbea.com.

About The Bank of East Asia (U.S.A.) N.A.

Headquartered in New York, BEA-USA is a full service, relationship-oriented community bank that provides comprehensive retail banking, commercial banking, and trade finance services in New York City, Greater Los Angeles, and San Francisco. BEA-USA had total assets of USD 620 million as of 31st December, 2006 and currently operates ten outlets, including three branches in New York City; four branches in the Los Angeles suburbs of Alhambra, City of Industry, Temple City, and Torrance; and three branches in San Francisco. Combining highly accessible, personalised service with the resources and expertise of BEA's international operations, BEA-USA offers a range of products and services beyond the capabilities of most local community banks. For more information on BEA-USA, please visit its homepage at www.hkbea-beausa.com.

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BEA – Serving customers through one of Hong Kong's largest banking networks, with over 120 branches and SupremeGold Centres around town