

For Immediate Release

BEA (China) Celebrates the Grand Opening of Wuhan Branch

Hong Kong, 20th September, 2007 – The Bank of East Asia (China) Limited (“BEA (China)”) has today celebrated the grand opening of its Wuhan Branch at a ceremony held at the Shangri-la Hotel, Wuhan. The Chairman of BEA (China), Dr. David K.P. Li, and its Vice Chairman, Mr. Chan Kay-cheung, officiated at the ceremony attended by approximately 200 dignitaries from Hubei’s government, business, and financial sectors.

According to Dr. Li, “The opening of Wuhan Branch reflects our commitment to expanding our network on the mainland. Not only is the branch the first to be opened by BEA (China) since its establishment, it is also our first outlet operating in Central China. Wuhan Branch will serve the diverse banking and financial needs of our customers in Wuhan and throughout Hubei Province.”

Wuhan, the provincial capital of Hubei, has enjoyed sustained economic growth thanks to the State Council’s support of policies reviving the industrial bases of Central China. In addition to providing BEA (China) with a firm foothold in Central China, Wuhan Branch will enable the Bank to capture business opportunities arising from rapid economic development in the area. With nearly 90 years of operating experience in China and an extensive network on the mainland, BEA (China) is well positioned to contribute to the ongoing development of Wuhan and Hubei Province.

Wuhan Branch commenced business on 10th September, 2007. As the 14th branch of BEA (China), Wuhan Branch provides comprehensive foreign currency banking services to all customers, including deposits, loans and advances, bill acceptance and discounting, documentary credit and bank guarantees, remittance and international settlement, foreign exchange, derivative products, agency services for general and life insurance products, and overseas investment services to local residents and enterprises. Wuhan Branch will provide Renminbi banking services to all customers, including local residents, once approval from the China Banking Regulatory Commission (“CBRC”) is obtained.

Having obtained preliminary approval from the CBRC, BEA (China) plans to open its Nanjing Branch later this year. In addition, the Bank has recently received preliminary approval from the CBRC to open a branch in Tianjin. Tianjin Branch is expected to open for business in the first quarter of 2008.

For more information on Wuhan Branch, please contact Mr. Peter Lo Wai-ming, General Manager of Wuhan Branch at 1/F., 9/F. and 10/F., C-Bank Plaza, 933 Jian She Da Dao, Wuhan, China [tel.: (86 27) 8226 1668, fax: (86 27) 8226 1666]. Enquiries may also be directed to BEA’s China Division in Hong Kong on tel.: (852) 3608 3005 or fax: (852) 3608 6213.

About BEA's China Operations

A wholly-owned subsidiary of BEA, BEA (China) operates one of the most extensive branch networks of any China-incorporated foreign bank authorised to operate on the mainland. Headquartered in Shanghai, BEA (China) has a network of 41 outlets that includes 14 branches (Shanghai, Shenzhen, Xiamen, Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Dalian, Xi'an, Beijing, Chengdu, Hangzhou, Chongqing, Qingdao, Shenyang, and Wuhan) and 26 sub-branches (7 in Shanghai, 4 in both Shenzhen and Guangzhou, 2 each in Dalian, Xi'an, and Xiamen, and 1 each in Zhuhai, Beijing, Chengdu, Hangzhou, and Chongqing).

BEA (China) is authorised to provide a full range of personal and corporate banking services, agency services for general and life insurance products, and overseas investment services to all customers, including local residents and enterprises.

In addition to the BEA (China) network, BEA operates a branch in Shanghai, through which it conducts its foreign exchange wholesale banking business. BEA also operates 4 representative offices in Fuzhou, Tianjin, Suzhou, and Dongguan.

For more details, please visit www.hkbea.com.cn.

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 HK\$343.2 billion (US\$43.9 billion) as of 30th June, 2007. 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 200 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.

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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