

**For Immediate Release**

**BEA Global Resources Fund Helps Investors Tap the Investment Potential of the Resources Sector**

*Customers Can Enjoy a Preliminary Charge as Low as 1.35% and a HK\$2,000 Reward*

**Hong Kong, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2008** – The Bank of East Asia Limited (“BEA”) today announces the launch of its new investment fund, the BEA Global Resources Fund (the “Fund”), to help investors capture long-term potential growth in resource-related industries.

Investment opportunities in energy, mining, and raw materials are arising as a result of the growing imbalance between supply and demand. The finiteness of resources, such as oil and gas, and the ever-growing demands for resources worldwide are dramatically forcing commodity prices upwards.

Professionally managed by specialists from BEA Union Investment Management Limited (“BEA Union Investment”, a joint venture between BEA and Union Asset Management Holding AG (“Union Investment”)), the Fund invests in a diversified international portfolio of stocks with a key focus on three sectors, namely, materials, industrial production, and energy. By investing in the Fund, investors can capture the long-term investment potential of these sectors. Asset selection is based on investment potential using a bottom-up approach.

“The massive scale and speed of infrastructure activity in rapidly industrialising countries such as China and India is driving the demand for machinery, cement, metal, and chemicals, thus pushing up prices,” said Mr. John Lai, Chief Investment Officer of BEA Union Investment. “On the other hand, extreme weather conditions across the globe, impede the transportation of natural resources and consequently create restrict supply and increase demand. BEA Global Resources Fund helps investors to capture opportunities as they arise, all around the world.”

Mr. Ilex Lam, Chief Executive Officer of BEA Union Investment said, “As the competency centre for BEA and Union Investment in Asia, we at BEA Union Investment aim to become one of Asia’s premier investment service providers. We are fully committed to offering innovative investment solutions to both retail and institutional investors. BEA Global Resources Fund is the latest example and we are planning to launch more funds in 2008.”

From now until 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2008, customers who subscribe to the Fund can enjoy a variety of promotional offers including a Preliminary Charge as low as 1.35% for lump-sum subscriptions and 2.5% for the Monthly Investment Plan. What’s more, the top 50 customers with the highest accumulative subscription amounts will be entitled to receive a HK\$2,000 Red Packet.

For details of the Fund and the terms and conditions of the promotional offers, please call the Enquiry Hotline on (852) 2211 1311, or visit any BEA Branch or the Bank's homepage at [www.hkbea.com](http://www.hkbea.com).

### Fund Facts

	Class A	Class B
Fund Inception Date	10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2008	
Fund Base Currency	US dollar	
Minimum Initial Investment Amount	US\$2,000*	
Minimum Additional Investment Amount	US\$1,000*	
Minimum Holding Amount	US\$2,000*	
Management Fee	1.5% p.a.	
Trustee Fee	0.175% p.a.	
Preliminary Charge	Up to 5% of the issue price	Nil
Realisation Charge	Waived <sup>#</sup>	Up to 3% of the realisation price for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a holding period of less than 2 years: 3%</li> <li>• a holding period of 2 years or more but less than 4 years: 2%</li> <li>• a holding period of 4 years or more: Nil</li> </ul>
Investment Manager	BEA Union Investment Management Limited	
Investment Advisor	Union Investment Institutional GmbH	

\* (i) Inclusive of the Preliminary Charge (for Class A Units only)

(ii) The Manager may at his/her discretion agree to accept applications for investments of smaller amounts.

# Pursuant to the Trust Deed of the Fund, the Manager is entitled to levy a Realisation Charge on the realisation of Class A Units of up to 0.5% of the realisation price of such Units. The Manager currently agrees to waive such Realisation Charge.

#### Disclaimer:

Investments in the Fund are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. Investors should be aware that the price of units may go up as well as down, as the investments of the Fund are subject to market fluctuations and to the risks inherent in all investments. Investors should read the Explanatory Memorandum of the Fund for detailed information and the risks involved when investing in emerging markets prior to any subscription. Past performance of the Fund is not indicative of future performance.

The Fund has been authorised by the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong. However, such authorisation does not imply official approval or recommendation.

## **About BEA Union Investment Management Limited**

BEA Union Investment is the asset management joint venture established by BEA and Union Investment. The joint venture has incorporated the business and infrastructure of BEA's wholly-owned asset management subsidiary, East Asia Asset Management Limited ("EAAM") in which Union Investment acquired a 49% stake in April 2007. BEA Union Investment is the sole investment management centre for both BEA and Union Investment in Asia.

## **About Union Asset Management Holding AG**

Established in 1956, Union Investment is one of the largest German fund management groups with US\$255 billion in assets under management as at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007. Union Investment has built up a comprehensive range of over 680 mutual, private label, and specialised funds, managing about 5 million private and 1,200 institutional investment accounts. For more information on Union Investment, please visit [www.union-investment.com](http://www.union-investment.com).

## **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\$394 billion (US\$50.51 billion) as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 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](http://www.hkbea.com).

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