

**For Immediate Release**

## **BEA China Opens Tianjin Branch, Strengthens Presence in Bohai Rim Region**

**Hong Kong, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2008** – The Bank of East Asia (China) Limited (“BEA China”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of East Asia (“BEA”) has today celebrated the grand opening of its Tianjin Branch at a ceremony held at the Sheraton Tianjin Hotel. BEA’s Chairman & Chief Executive, Dr. David K.P. Li, and BEA China’s Vice Chairman, Mr. Chan Kay-cheung, officiated at the ceremony, which was attended by more than 200 dignitaries from the government, business, and financial sectors in Tianjin.

BEA’s presence in Tianjin dates back to 1996 when the Bank opened its Tianjin Representative Office, which provided liaison and consultancy services to customers in Tianjin. Recently, BEA China received approval from the China Banking Regulatory Commission (“CBRC”) to upgrade its representative office to a full-service branch. With the opening of the Tianjin Branch, BEA China now operates 16 branches on the mainland.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Li said, “In addition to being one of the four municipalities directly under China’s central government, Tianjin is the largest coastal city in northern China and the economic centre of the Bohai Rim Region. The Region has experienced rapid development in recent years, and we believe that the establishment of our Tianjin Branch will enable BEA China to capture many business opportunities in the area. We look forward to meeting the needs of businesses and individuals in this fast-growing part of the country by continuing to expand our branch network in the Region.”

Tianjin Branch provides comprehensive foreign currency banking services to all customers. These include account and deposit services, 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. Tianjin Branch will provide Renminbi banking services to all customers, including local residents, once it receives approval from the CBRC.

For further details on BEA China’s Tianjin Branch, please contact Ms. Judy Li Yanbing, General Manager of Tianjin Branch at 47 North Youyi Road, Hexi District, Tianjin, P.R.C. [tel.: (86 22) 2836 2288, fax: (86 22) 2327 1616]. Enquiries may also be directed to BEA’s China Division in Hong Kong on tel.: (852) 3608 3007 or fax: (852) 3608 6213.

## About BEA's Operations in China

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 52 outlets that includes 16 branches (Shanghai, Shenzhen, Xiamen, Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Dalian, Xi'an, Beijing, Chengdu, Hangzhou, Chongqing, Qingdao, Shenyang, Wuhan, Nanjing, and Tianjin) and 35 sub-branches (7 in Shanghai, 5 both in Shenzhen and Guangzhou, 3 each in Dalian, Xi'an, and Xiamen, 2 each in Beijing, Zhuhai, Chengdu, and Chongqing, and 1 in Hangzhou). BEA China plans to open branches in Urumqi and Hefei in the second half of this year.

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

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

For more details on BEA China, please visit [www.hkbea.com.cn](http://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\$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 220 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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***BEA – Serving customers through one of Hong Kong's largest banking networks, with over 130 branches and SupremeGold Centres around town***