

For Immediate Release

BEA China Opens Its Doors in Hefei

First Locally-incorporated Foreign Bank to Open a Branch in Anhui Province

Hong Kong, 22nd December, 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 Hefei Branch by holding a ceremony at the Hilton Hefei 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 approximately 200 dignitaries from the government, business, and financial sectors in Hefei.

During the ceremony, Dr. Li said, “Today marks a very special occasion for BEA China, as it becomes the first locally-incorporated foreign bank to open a branch in Anhui province. We are pleased to extend our world-class banking services to the people and businesses of Hefei and the surrounding region, and we look forward to helping them achieve their financial goals and dreams”.

Hefei, the capital of Anhui Province, lies on the boundary between northern and southern China. Hefei has enjoyed rapid economic growth following the implementation of the State Council’s policy to develop Central China.

As BEA China’s 61st outlet on the mainland, Hefei Branch will strengthen BEA China’s Central China operations, which include branches and sub-branches in Chengdu, Chongqing, and Wuhan. The opening of Hefei Branch will help the Bank further develop its business in Central China, as well as increase its contributions to the region’s economic development.

BEA Hefei Branch provides comprehensive foreign currency banking services to all customers. These services 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. Hefei Branch will provide Renminbi banking services to all customers, including local residents, once it receives approval from the China Banking Regulatory Commission.

For more details on BEA China’s Hefei Branch, please contact Mr. Chen Jianyang, General Manager of Hefei Branch at 1/F, 18/F, & 26/F, Hong Kong Square, 266 Huaihe Road, Hefei, Anhui Province, China [tel.: (86 551) 5663 888. fax: (86 551) 5663 999]. Enquiries may also be directed to BEA’s China Division in Hong Kong on tel.: (852) 3608 3007 or fax: (852) 3608 6213.

The Bank of East Asia, Limited 東亞銀行有限公司

10 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong 香港中環德輔道中10號

Telephone 電話 (852) 3608 3608 Facsimile 傳真 (852) 3608 6000 Telex 電傳 HX 73017

www.hkbea.com

About BEA in China

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 61 outlets that includes 18 branches and 42 sub-branches in Shanghai, Shenzhen, Xiamen, Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Dalian, Xi'an, Beijing, Chengdu, Hangzhou, Chongqing, Qingdao, Shenyang, Wuhan, Nanjing, Tianjin, Urumqi, and Hefei. BEA China also has two 24-hour self-service banking centres in Shanghai. BEA China is authorised to provide a full range of personal and corporate banking services as well as overseas investment services to all customers. BEA China also provides agency services for general and life insurance products. For more details on BEA China, please visit www.hkbea.com.cn.

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 three representative offices in Fuzhou, Suzhou, and Dongguan.

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\$396.6 billion (US\$50.85 billion) as of 30th June, 2008. 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 230 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.

– End –

For press enquiries, please contact:
Ms. Fonda Kwok Wan-fong
Head of Commercial Lending Department
China Division, BEA
Tel.: (852) 3608 3063

BEA – Serving customers through one of Hong Kong's largest banking networks, with over 130 branches and SupremeGold Centres around town