

**For Immediate Release**

## **BEA China Raises RMB4 Billion through Its Debut Issue of RMB Bonds in Hong Kong**

**Hong Kong, 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2009** - The Bank of East Asia (China) Limited ("BEA China"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of East Asia, Limited ("BEAHK"), today announces that the subscription period of the BEA China Renminbi ("RMB") Bonds (the "Bonds") was successfully concluded on 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2009. BEA China will issue the Bonds in an aggregate principal amount of RMB4 billion in Hong Kong.

During the subscription period from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, BEA China received more than 24,000 applications from retail subscribers. It also accepted applications from institutional investors on 16<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2009. BEA China received applications for an aggregate principal amount of approximately RMB6.3 billion from both retail and institutional investors, against the original target to offer the Bonds in an aggregate principal amount of not less than RMB1 billion.

In view of the encouraging subscription result of the Bonds, BEA China has decided to fully utilise the RMB4 billion in aggregate principal amount of the Bonds approved by the People's Bank of China and the National Development and Reform Commission. All retail investors will be allocated the Bonds. The aggregate principal amount to be allocated to the retail tranche is approximately RMB2.8 billion, representing about 70% of the total issue size of RMB4 billion. The remaining issue size of Bonds, which is an aggregate principal amount of approximately RMB1.2 billion, will be allotted to institutional investors.

Dr. David K.P. Li, Chairman & Chief Executive of BEAHK and Chairman of BEA China, said: "We are pleased that the Bonds have been very well received in the market. This demonstrates investors' confidence in BEA China as an issuer. Given the existing investment sentiment and the enhanced regulatory requirements on the selling process of investment products, we are thankful to the retail investors for their understanding, and their time spent on the subscription process. To show our appreciation for their support, BEA China has decided to allot about 70% of the total issue size of RMB4 billion of the Bonds to the retail investors.

"We are also truly grateful for the assistance given by the joint lead managers and the lead arrangers, as well as all placing banks that have helped make the issuance of the Bonds a success," Dr. Li added.

The issue date of the Bonds is 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2009 and the maturity date is 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2011. The denomination of the Bonds is RMB10,000 and the Bonds will bear an annual interest rate of 2.80%. Interest will be payable at the end of every six months on 23<sup>rd</sup> January and 23<sup>rd</sup> July in each year, starting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2010 until the maturity date. If any payment date of principal or interest is not a business day in both Hong Kong and Shanghai, such payment will generally be made on the next day that is a business day.

The joint lead managers and bookrunners of the Bonds were the Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited (“BOCHK”) and BEAHK and the three lead arrangers were China International Capital Corporation Hong Kong Securities Limited, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, and Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited. A total of 18 placing banks participated in the distribution of the Bonds, namely BOCHK, Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. Hong Kong Branch, BEAHK, China Construction Bank (Asia) Corporation Limited, Chiyu Banking Corporation Limited, Chong Hing Bank Limited, CITIC Ka Wah Bank Limited, Dah Sing Bank, Limited, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, Fubon Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited, Nanyang Commercial Bank, Limited, Public Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, Shanghai Commercial Bank Limited, Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited, Wing Hang Bank, Limited, and Wing Lung Bank Limited.

Following the successful issuance of the Bonds in Hong Kong, BEA China will continue to provide innovative and value-added banking services to its customers as well as promote cross-border financial development between Hong Kong and Mainland China.

#### **About BEA China**

A wholly-owned subsidiary of BEAHK, BEA China operates one of the most extensive branch networks of any China-incorporated foreign bank authorised to operate on the mainland. BEA China has a network of 67 outlets that includes its headquarters in Shanghai, 18 branches, and 48 sub-branches in major urban centres throughout the nation. BEA China provides increasingly diversified banking and financial services and products to its customers in China, including personal banking, corporate banking, treasury operations, insurance agency, and bank card services. For more details on BEA China, please visit [www.hkbea.com.cn](http://www.hkbea.com.cn).

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