

**For Immediate Release**

## **BEA China Becomes First Foreign Bank to Open Data Centre in China**

**Hong Kong, 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2010** – The Bank of East Asia (“BEA”) today announces that its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Bank of East Asia (China) Limited (“BEA China”), has opened a data centre in Shanghai, becoming the first locally-incorporated foreign bank to set up its own data centre in China. This state-of-the-art data centre will increase BEA China’s processing capacity and operational efficiency to accommodate its rapid business expansion on the mainland.

A ceremony was held at the data centre today to mark the opening of this first-of-its-kind facility. BEA China’s Vice Chairman, Mr. Chan Kay-cheung, officiated at the ceremony, which was attended by dignitaries from the government and regulatory authorities, business, financial, and information technology sectors in Shanghai.

Speaking at the event, Mr. Chan said: “Strong IT capacity and robust infrastructure are of paramount importance to our business operations and customers. We are proud to establish this new data centre in Shanghai, which is an important strategic investment by the Bank Group. The facility highlights our commitment to and confidence in China, where we have identified significant business opportunities.”

The China Banking Regulatory Commission requires all locally-incorporated foreign banks in China to operate their own domestic data centres before March 2011. BEA China began preparatory work on its data centre in the last quarter of 2007.

The brand new data centre is located in the Shanghai Financial Information Service Industrial Park in Zhangjiang, Pudong, which aims to become the platform for the back offices of domestic and foreign financial institutions and for business process outsourcing. With a gross floor area of about 5,000 square metres, the data centre centralises the data management of BEA China’s nationwide branch network, and processes millions of business transactions and customer data exchanges every day. The data centre will be further expanded to manage back-office data supporting functions for BEA China in the future.

Throughout its history, the Bank Group has invested in world-class technology solutions to bring greater value to its customers through enhanced systems and services. With the new data centre, BEA China will be able to provide new value-added banking and financial services to its growing customer base on the mainland. By consolidating its data processing facilities into a centrally managed hub, BEA China can vastly improve its resilience, security, and business efficiency.

For more details on BEA China's new data centre, please contact Mr. Sun Minjie, Deputy Chief Executive of BEA China [tel.: (86 21) 3866 3598, fax: (86 21) 3866 3966]. 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 in China**

BEA China operates one of the most extensive branch networks of any China-incorporated foreign bank on the mainland. Headquartered in Shanghai, BEA China has a network of 73 outlets that includes 19 branches and 53 sub-branches in Shanghai, Shenzhen, Xiamen, Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Dalian, Xi'an, Beijing, Chengdu, Hangzhou, Chongqing, Qingdao, Shenyang, Wuhan, Nanjing, Tianjin, Urumqi, Hefei, Shijiazhuang, and Foshan. BEA China also operates eight 24-hour self-service banking centres and more than 340 automatic teller machines in major urban areas nationwide. 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](http://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 and other major markets around the world. BEA is the largest independent local bank in Hong Kong, with total consolidated assets of HK\$411.9 billion (US\$53.14 billion) as of 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2009. The Bank is listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is one of the constituent stocks of the Hang Seng Index.

With over 250 outlets worldwide, BEA operates an extensive international network covering Hong Kong and the rest of 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 140 branches and SupremeGold Centres around town***



Photo:



BEA China's newly established data centre in Pudong, Shanghai.