

**For Immediate Release**

## **BEA Wins the Best SME's Partner Award for the Third Year in a Row**

**Hong Kong, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2010** – The Bank of East Asia (“BEA”) today announces that it has won the “2010 Best SME’s Partner Award” organised by The Hong Kong Chamber of Small and Medium Business Ltd. (“HKCSMB”), a non-profit organisation established to represent and promote the interests of small and medium-sized enterprises (“SMEs”) in Hong Kong. This is the third consecutive year that BEA has garnered the award, which has been bestowed upon the Bank in recognition of its long-standing support to finance the local SMEs.

Mr. Paul Lai, BEA’s Head of Business Development Department, accepted the award on behalf of the Bank at the “14<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of HKCSMB and 2010 Awards Ceremony of the Best SME Awards” held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre earlier.

“For over 90 years, we have helped locally-owned enterprises grow and prosper,” says Mr. Lai. “We are extremely delighted that our dedication to the local business community has been recognised for the third straight year, and we will continue to focus on facilitating business for the SMEs in Hong Kong,” he adds.

BEA designs flexible, tailor-made packages for its business clients based on individual requirements. BEA’s comprehensive commercial banking services include a wide range of trade financing, MPF, general insurance services and Hong Kong government-backed loan guarantee schemes. For more information on BEA’s SME loans and corporate banking services, please visit any BEA branch or call (852) 2211 1338.

### **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\$434.1 billion (US\$56 billion) as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 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 more than 240 outlets worldwide, BEA operates an extensive international network covering Hong Kong and the rest of Greater China, North America, 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 140 branches and SupremeGold Centres around town***



Mr. Paul Lai, BEA’s Head of Business Development Department, received the award from Miss Maria Kwan, Director – General of Trade and Industry at the awards presentation ceremony.