

For Immediate Release

BEA Holds “Economic and Market Outlook 2012” Seminar
Experts share views on the economic outlook, investment opportunities, and foreign exchange and property markets

Hong Kong, 9th January, 2012 – The Bank of East Asia (“BEA”) has today held a business seminar entitled “Economic and Market Outlook 2012”. The event brought together experts from the academic, financial, investment, and banking fields to share their views with over 500 corporate and personal customers of the Bank on the outlook for 2012.

In his opening address at the seminar, Mr. Adrian M.K. Li, Deputy Chief Executive of BEA, provided attendees with a summary of the current economic situation. “For the past year, the sovereign credit rating of most countries has been downgraded. The European debt crisis has affected the global economy, while the US economy continued to underperform.”

To shed light on the uncertainty ahead, four guest speakers were invited to share their knowledge and expertise. The speakers were:

- Dr. Chan Yan-chong, Associate Professor, Department of Management Sciences, College of Business, City University of Hong Kong, who shared his views on the general economic outlook for Hong Kong and Mainland China in 2012;
- Mr. Shih Wing-ching, Founder of Centaline Group, who shared his views on the general outlook for the property market in Hong Kong in 2012;
- Mr. Francis Kwok, Marketing Director, Bright Smart Securities & Commodities Group Ltd., who gave a presentation on the equity market and investment opportunities in 2012; and
- Ms. Kenix Lai, Senior Market Analyst, Currencies & Interest Rates Trading Department of BEA, who spoke on foreign exchange trends in 2012 and the outlook for the US dollar.

Following their presentations, the speakers fielded questions from the seminar attendees in a question and answer session moderated by Mr. T.C. Chan, Senior Advisor to BEA, and Mr. Samson Li, BEA’s Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Investment Officer.

BEA holds events each year to keep corporate and personal customers abreast of the latest market developments. The “Economic and Market Outlook 2012” Seminar

was designed to provide these customers with the market intelligence they require to refine their business and investment strategies for 2012.

About The Bank of East Asia

Incorporated in Hong Kong in 1918, BEA is dedicated to providing comprehensive retail banking, commercial banking, wealth management, and investment 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\$598.9 billion (US\$77 billion) as of 30th June 2011. 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 the rest of Greater China, North America, the United Kingdom, 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:

Mr. Paul Lai
Head of Business Development Department
Corporate Banking Division
The Bank of East Asia
Tel.: (852) 3608 0868
Email: laipkw@hkbea.com

BEA – Operator of one of the largest banking networks in Hong Kong





Guest speakers and members of BEA's Management attending the Bank's "Economic and Market Outlook 2012" seminar: (from left) Ms. Kenix Lai, Mr. Shih Wing-ching, Dr. Chan Yan-chong, Mr. Francis Kwok, Mr. Adrian Li and Mr. Samson Li.