



For Immediate Release

BEA Forms Business Alliance with California-Based City National Bank

*Banks Leverage Strengths to Support Growing Business Activity between
China and the United States*

Hong Kong, 17th July, 2006 – The Bank of East Asia (“BEA”) and City National Bank (“City National”), California’s Premier Private and Business Bank[®], today announced they have signed a Business Cooperation Agreement. The agreement sets out a framework for cooperation between the two banks, which will allow them to facilitate business between Greater China and California.

Under the terms of the agreement, City National will refer clients, as appropriate, in need of local banking services in Greater China to BEA. In exchange, BEA will refer clients who wish to do business in California to City National, as appropriate. The agreement also allows for cooperation extending throughout Asia Pacific, and to New York, where both banks have offices.

Dr. David K.P. Li, BEA’s Chairman and Chief Executive, said, “We have observed increasing business activity between China and California, and this alliance between Hong Kong’s largest independent local bank and City National Bank will enable customers to enjoy banking services and commercial lines of credit, cash management, investment advice and asset management services on both sides of the Pacific.”

“We are very pleased and proud to enter into this agreement with BEA,” said City National’s Chief Executive Officer Russell Goldsmith. “City National and BEA are two very complementary, independent, local business banks committed to premier client service and financial capabilities. This agreement between our companies will enable both banks to better serve the global financial needs of our respective clients as trade, manufacturing, investing, and banking expand between entrepreneurs in China and the U.S.”

The agreement will benefit City National’s clients who invest or do business in China, as well as those seeking Chinese distributors for American-made goods. BEA has the advantage of legal authority to underwrite credit in China. In addition, BEA can provide financing in the local currency and offers access to legal, accounting, and other banking-related services on the Mainland. Tricor Group, a member of the BEA Group and the leading professional provider of integrated business, corporate, and investor services in Asia can also help U.S. clients establish and manage corporate structures for operations in China.

China is the world’s fourth largest economy, and its commercial relationship with the U.S. has grown sharply in recent years. According to the U.S. Department of State, cumulative American investment in China now exceeds USD50 billion, making the U.S. the second largest foreign investor in China. Trade between the two nations last year was valued at USD285.3 billion, making it the United States’ third largest trading partner (behind Canada and Mexico). Since 2000, U.S. exports to China have

increased 260 percent to USD41.8 billion, and California companies own the largest share of that figure, accounting for nearly one of every five export dollars. California is currently the eighth largest economy in the world.

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 HKD238.8 billion (USD30.79 billion) as of 31st December, 2005. The Bank is listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is one of the constituent stocks of the Hang Seng Index.

Currently, BEA operates more than 170 outlets worldwide, including over 110 branches and SupremeGold Centres in Hong Kong, 30 outlets in Greater China, and an extensive international network covering the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the British Virgin Islands, and Southeast Asia.

For more information on BEA, please visit any branch or the bank's homepage at www.hkbea.com.

About City National Bank

City National Corporation (NYSE: CYN) is a financial services company with USD14.7 billion in total assets. Its wholly owned subsidiary, City National Bank, is California's Premier Private and Business Bank[®]. City National provides banking, investment, and trust services through 55 offices, including 12 full-service regional centres, in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, and New York City.

City National Bank's International department serves businesses, professional firms, business managers and their clients, and entrepreneurs through a range of international banking services, including trade financing, currency management, foreign exchange, foreign credit information, online foreign exchange, and online letter of credit.

For more information about City National, visit the company's website at www.cnb.com.

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