

For Immediate Release

Hong Kong, 20 January 2004 - The Bank of East Asia, Limited (“BEA”) wishes to draw the attention of its customers and the public to the fact that an Internet website calling itself East Asia Credit and operating under the URLs “www.eastasiacredit.com” and “eastasiacredit.com” has been re-established, soliciting deposits online from individuals.

The BEA Group wishes to remind the public that this website has no affiliation whatsoever with BEA, nor is the website associated with any of the Bank’s employees or existing or former subsidiaries.

Members of the public are strongly advised to take the foregoing into consideration in any dealings with the operators of the website.

The Bank has reported the existence of the website both to the police and to the regulator, and will take any action that may be appropriate to protect the good name and standing of The Bank of East Asia, Limited.

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