

For Immediate Release

Hong Kong, 23 February 2004 – The Bank of East Asia, Limited (“BEA”) wishes to warn its customers and the public that The BEA Group has no affiliation whatsoever to a recently established Internet website operating under the URL “<http://www.onlinebea.com>”.

All BEA Internet-based services may be accessed safely and securely through the main BEA web page at “<http://www.hkbea.com>”.

Customers of the Bank and members of the public are strongly advised to ensure that they use a web address authorised by BEA when accessing BEA Internet services. Log-in information and passwords should not be divulged to third parties under any circumstances.

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

- End -

For press enquiries, please contact:

Mr Vincent Hui

Head of e-Distribution Department, BEA

Tel: 3407 2018