

For Immediate Release

BEA Rolls Out China UnionPay Renminbi Debit Card in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, 29 July 2004 – The Bank of East Asia (“BEA”) is pleased to announce that it has been authorised by China UnionPay (“CUP”) to issue the CUP-branded Renminbi Debit Card in Hong Kong.

BEA will launch its Cyberbanking Renminbi Card, bearing the CUP brand in early August. With the new Cyberbanking Renminbi Card, customers can conveniently withdraw Renminbi at over 50,000 ATMs and make payments at more than 400,000 merchant outlets displaying the “China UnionPay” symbol on the Mainland. The transaction amounts will be debited directly from customers’ Renminbi deposit accounts. Customers can also access their HKD deposit accounts at over 130 BEA ATMs in Hong Kong.

H.S. Tong, General Manager & Head of Personal Banking Division at BEA, said: “The Cyberbanking Renminbi Card will be extremely useful, particularly for those customers who frequently travel between Hong Kong and the Mainland. With the Card, customers can obtain Hong Kong dollars, when in Hong Kong, and Renminbi, when on the Mainland. Easy access to cash in both currencies will be extremely convenient for many of our customers.”

In addition to ATM services, the Cyberbanking Renminbi Card will enable customers to manage their personal finances anytime, anywhere through BEA’s e-banking platform, Cyberbanking. With one single Cyberbanking account number, customers can access up to twelve related accounts and enjoy a wide range of banking and investment services, including account enquiries, fund transfers, stock trading, and much more. For more information on BEA, please visit any BEA branch or log onto the Bank’s homepage at www.hkbea.com. To learn more about Cyberbanking, please visit www.hkbea-cyberbanking.com.

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