

**For Immediate Release**

## **BEA China Signs Strategic Co-operation Agreement with WeBank**

**Hong Kong, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2015** – The Bank of East Asia, Limited (“BEA” or “the Bank”) today announces that its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Bank of East Asia (China) Limited (“BEA China”) has entered into a strategic co-operation agreement (the “Strategic Agreement”) with WeBank Co., Ltd. (“WeBank”), a privately owned bank in Qianhai, Shenzhen established by its founding shareholders including Tencent, Baiyeyuan Investment, and Liye Group.

In accordance with the Strategic Agreement, BEA China and WeBank agree to fully explore their respective competitive advantages for mutually beneficial business development. The areas of co-operation include but are not limited to: customer referrals, credit card, micro and personal loans, wealth management, interbank lending, and internet finance.

Mr. Brian Li Man-bun, Executive Director & Deputy Chief Executive of BEA, and Director of BEA China said: “We are delighted to announce our important partnership with WeBank. Through WeBank’s big data analysis capabilities, BEA China will be able to reach out to its target customers effectively. WeBank also offers a large scale, low cost business platform. We look forward to working closely with WeBank, and firmly believe that the cooperation will be mutually beneficial.”

The Strategic Agreement sets out a framework through which both parties may separately agree and enter into contracts for subsequent business co-operation, if any. Any such co-operation will be subject to all necessary regulatory approval.

### **About The Bank of East Asia, Limited in China**

BEA has maintained an operational presence in Mainland China since the opening of its Shanghai Branch in 1920. In April 2007, BEA established The Bank of East Asia (China) Limited (“BEA China”), one of the first wholly-owned, locally-incorporated foreign banking subsidiaries on the Mainland. BEA China is authorised to provide a full range of banking and financial services to a broad customer base that includes both local and foreign residents and enterprises.

BEA China operates one of the most extensive branch networks of any foreign bank on the Mainland. BEA China’s network of 128 outlets includes its Headquarters in Shanghai, 29 branches, and 98 sub-branches in 42 cities nationwide. For more details on BEA China, please visit [www.hkbea.com.cn](http://www.hkbea.com.cn).

In addition to the BEA China network, BEA operates a rural bank in Fuping County, Weinan City, in Shaanxi Province.

### **About The Bank of East Asia, Limited**

Incorporated in 1918, BEA is Hong Kong's largest independent local bank, with total consolidated assets of HK\$795.9 billion (US\$102.6 billion) as of 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014. The Bank is listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, and is a constituent stock of the Hang Seng Index.

BEA offers customers a comprehensive range of commercial banking, personal banking, wealth management, and investment services through an extensive network of more than 240 outlets covering Hong Kong and the rest of Greater China, Southeast Asia, the United Kingdom, and United States. For more information, please visit any BEA branch or the Bank's homepage at [www.hkbea.com](http://www.hkbea.com).

### **About WeBank Co., Ltd.**

WeBank, one of the first private commercial banks in mainland China and also the first officially launched online bank, was established in 2014. Tencent owns 30% of WeBank's total share capital, while Baiyeyuan Investment and Liye Group each owns 20% of WeBank's total share capital.

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

