

**For Immediate Release**

## **BEA Holds Annual Economic and Market Outlook Seminar for Corporate and Personal Customers**

**Hong Kong, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2016** – The Bank of East Asia, Limited (“BEA”) held its “Economic and Market Outlook 2016” seminar at the Conrad Hotel on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2016. At the event, a panel of experts from academia and the property, stock, and foreign exchange markets shared their views and professional insight with more than 650 corporate and personal customers of the Bank.

In his opening address, Mr. Adrian M.K. Li, Executive Director & Deputy Chief Executive of BEA, provided an overview of the current global economy, saying, “The overall macro situation has improved but there are lingering concerns of a renewed downturn.” Turning his attention to the Mainland and Hong Kong markets, Mr. Li stated that “The recent inclusion of the Renminbi in the IMF’s reserve currency basket is widely seen as formal recognition of its arrival as a major global currency and a milestone in financial reform and market liberalisation on the Mainland”. Meanwhile, Hong Kong will play “a key role in China’s ongoing economic development especially in the nation’s latest 5-year plan and the New Silk Road initiative.”

The four panelists who shared their views on the economy and investment opportunities in 2016 included (in order of presentation):

- Dr. Billy S.C. Mak, Associate Professor of Department of Finance and Decision Sciences, Hong Kong Baptist University, who analysed the general economic outlook;
- Mr. Shek Kang-chuen, Associate Publisher and Head of Research Department, Hong Kong Economic Times, who presented his views on the equity market and investment opportunities;
- Mr. Chan Tak-cheung, Head of Currencies and Interest Rates Trading Department of BEA, who spoke on foreign exchange trends in 2016; and
- Mr. Shih Wing-ching, Chairman and President of Centaline Group, who shared his views on the general outlook for the property market in Hong Kong in 2016.

BEA representatives Mr. T.C. Chan, Senior Advisor, and Mr. Samson Li, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Investment Officer, moderated a question and answer session following the speakers’ topical addresses.

Each year, BEA organises a number of events to help corporate and personal customers stay informed of the latest market developments. The annual Economic and Market Outlook seminar is designed to provide customers with a greater understanding of the investment landscape to assist them in their financial planning.

### **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\$816.0 billion (US\$105.3 billion) as of 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2015. 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 the United States. For more information, please visit any BEA branch or the Bank's homepage at [www.hkbea.com](http://www.hkbea.com).

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Media enquiries:

Ms. Kannis Cheung  
Head of Marketing Department  
Personal Banking Division  
The Bank of East Asia, Limited  
Tel.: (852) 3608 2698  
Email: [cheungklm@hkbea.com](mailto:cheungklm@hkbea.com)

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





Guest speakers and representatives of BEA attending the Bank's Economic and Market Outlook 2016 seminar included (from left) Mr. Samson Li, Mr. Shih Wing-ching, Mr. Shek Kang-chuen, Dr. Billy S.C. Mak, Mr. Adrian Li, Mr. Chan Tak-cheung, and Mr. T.C. Chan.