

The Bank of East Asia, Limited

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability in 1918)

(Stock code: 23)

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. TAN Man-kou has been appointed as an Independent Non-executive Director and a member of the Audit Committee of the Bank, with effect from 1st December, 2004.

The Bank of East Asia, Limited (the "Bank") is pleased to announce that Mr. TAN Man-kou ("Mr. Tan") has been appointed as an Independent Non-executive Director and a member of the Audit Committee of the Bank, with effect from 1st December, 2004.

Mr. Tan, aged 68, currently serves as a consultant to Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. He is a fellow of both the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. Mr. Tan, who has over 30 years of public accounting experience, was until 2002 a partner with Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. As partner, he was responsible for leading Deloitte's professional services in the areas of audit, tax, corporate finance, insolvency and listings. He had client responsibilities in China, Hong Kong, Europe and the United States.

Mr. Tan is a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and a member of the Selection Committee of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Mr. Tan is active in public service, and has been a member, an honorary treasurer, and a chairman of the Hong Kong Housing Society over the course of more than 20 years. He also served as a member of the Airport Consultative Committee.

Mr. Tan is an Independent Non-executive Director of Harbour Centre Development Limited. He has not held any directorship in other listed public companies during the last three years.

Save as disclosed, Mr. Tan does not hold any position with the Bank or with other members of the Bank Group. Mr. Tan has not entered into any service contract with the Bank. No terms have been fixed or proposed for Mr. Tan's length of service with the Bank, although he is subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at an annual general meeting of the Bank in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Bank. The fees payable to directors are determined by the Board with reference to market trends. Mr. Tan will receive a directors' fee of HK\$100,000 per

Mr. Tan is not connected with any director, the senior management nor any substantial shareholder of the Bank. The Bank does not have a controlling shareholder as at the date hereof.

As at the date of this announcement, Mr. Tan is not interested in any shares of the Bank within the meaning of Part XV of the Securities and Futures Ordinance.

Save as disclosed above, there are no other matters relating to the appointment of Mr. Tan that need to be brought to the attention of the shareholders of the Bank.

The Bank is pleased to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Tan to the Board, and congratulates him on his appointment

By order of the Board Molly HO Kam-lan Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 1st December, 2004.

As at the date of this announcement, the Executive Directors of the Bank are: Dr. David LI Kwok-po (Chairman and Chief Executive), Mr. Joseph PANG Yuk-wing (Deputy Chief Executive) and Mr. CHAN Kay-cheung (Deputy Chief Executive); Non-executive Directors of the Bank are: Dr. LI Fook-wo; Dr. Simon LI Fook-sean, Mr. Aubrey LI Kwok-sing, Dr. William MONG Man-wai, Tan Sri Dr. KHOO Kay-peng and Mr. Richard LI Tzar-kai; and Independent Non-executive Directors are: Mr. WONG Chung-hin, Dr. LEE Shau-kee, Dr. Allan WONG Chi-yun, Mr. Winston LO Yau-lai and Mr. Thomas KWOK Ping-kwong.