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BEA 東亞銀行

The Bank of East Asia, Limited

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability in 1918)

(Stock Code: 23)

FINAL DIVIDEND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2004

The scrip entitlements under the 2004 Final Scrip Dividend would be calculated by reference to the average of the closing prices on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited of the existing shares of the Bank from Thursday, 17th March, 2005 to Wednesday, 23rd March, 2005 (both days inclusive) which was HK\$22.78.

In our circular letter to shareholders of The Bank of East Asia, Limited (the "Bank") dated 16th March, 2005, it was announced that the Directors had declared a final dividend for the year ended 31st December, 2004 in cash at HK\$0.80 per share; and that any shareholder entitled to receive such dividend would be given the option to elect to receive new, fully paid ordinary shares in lieu of cash. The scrip entitlements would be calculated by reference to the average of the closing prices on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited of the existing shares of the Bank from Thursday, 17th March, 2005 to Wednesday, 23rd March, 2005 (both days inclusive) which was HK\$22.78. Accordingly, the number of new shares which shareholders will receive in respect of their existing shares for which forms containing an election to receive shares in lieu of cash will have been lodged with the share registrar of the Bank by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 1st April, 2005 will be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Number of new shares} \\ \text{to be received} \end{array} = \begin{array}{r} \text{Number of shares} \\ \text{elected for scrip} \end{array} \times \frac{0.80}{22.78}$$

The number of new shares to be received will be rounded down to the nearest whole number of new shares. Fractional entitlements to new shares will be disregarded and the benefit thereof will accrue to the Bank. The new shares will, on issue, not be entitled to the final dividend in respect of the financial year ended 31st December, 2004, but will rank *pari passu* in all other respects with the existing shares of the Bank.

Certificates for the new shares and dividend warrants in respect of the final dividend will be despatched to shareholders by ordinary mail at their own risk on or about Saturday, 9th April, 2005.

For and on behalf of
The Bank of East Asia, Limited
Molly HO Kam-lan
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 23rd March, 2005.

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, Mr. Thomas KWOK Ping-kwong and Mr. TAN Man-kou.