



The Bank of East Asia, Limited

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability in 1918)

(Stock Code: 23)

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011 FINAL RESULTS AND KEY RATIOS

Profit attributable to the owners of the parent	HK\$4,358Mn
- representing an increase of 3.2% compared with the year ended 31 st December, 2010	
Return on average assets	0.74%
Return on average equity	9.47%
Net interest margin	1.75%
Basic earnings per share	HK\$1.96
Second interim dividend (in lieu of final dividend) per share (with scrip option)	HK\$0.51
Total dividends per share	HK\$0.94
Total consolidated assets	HK\$611,402Mn
Total loans to customers	HK\$321,890Mn
Impaired loan ratio	0.46%
Total deposits	HK\$478,837Mn
Loan to deposit ratio	67.2%
Average liquidity ratio	42.8%
Capital adequacy ratio	13.7%

PAYMENT OF SECOND INTERIM DIVIDEND (IN LIEU OF FINAL DIVIDEND) FOR 2011

The Board of The Bank of East Asia, Limited (the “**Bank**”) has resolved to change the current practice of paying an interim dividend and a final dividend by paying two interim dividends (i.e. first interim dividend and second interim dividend in lieu of final dividend) with effect from the financial year ended 31st December, 2011.

Instead of recommending a final dividend, the Board has declared a second interim dividend (in lieu of final dividend) for the year ended 31st December, 2011 of HK\$0.51 per share (“**2011 Second Interim Dividend**”) (2010 final dividend: HK\$0.56 per share), which, together with the interim dividend of HK\$0.43 per share paid in September 2011, will constitute a total dividend of HK\$0.94 per share (2010: HK\$0.94 per share) for the full year. The 2011 Second Interim Dividend will be paid on Tuesday, 27th March, 2012 in cash with an option to receive new, fully paid shares in lieu of cash, to shareholders whose names appear on the Register of Members at the close of business on Tuesday, 6th March, 2012 (“**Scrip Dividend Scheme**”). Details of the Scrip Dividend Scheme and the election form will be sent to shareholders on or about Tuesday, 6th March, 2012.

To view the announcement on final results for 2011, please visit the Bank’s website at www.hkbea.com.

CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS

The Register of Members of the Bank will be closed for the following periods:

- (a) For the purpose of determining shareholders who qualify for the 2011 Second Interim Dividend, the Register of Members of the Bank will be closed on Monday, 5th March, 2012 and Tuesday, 6th March, 2012. In order to qualify for the 2011 Second Interim Dividend, all transfer documents should be lodged for registration with Tricor Standard Limited* by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 2nd March, 2012.
- (b) For the purpose of determining shareholders who are entitled to attend and vote at the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Bank (“**2012 AGM**”), the Register of Members of the Bank will be closed on Monday, 23rd April, 2012 and Tuesday, 24th April, 2012. In order to qualify for attending and voting at the 2012 AGM, all transfer documents should be lodged for registration with Tricor Standard Limited* by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 20th April, 2012.

*Address: 26th Floor, Tesbury Centre, 28 Queen’s Road East, Hong Kong

2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2012 AGM will be held in the Grand Ballroom, Conrad Hong Kong, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong on Tuesday, 24th April, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.

By order of the Board
The Bank of East Asia, Limited
Alson LAW Chun-tak
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 14th February, 2012