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**The Bank of East Asia, Limited**

*(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability in 1918)*

## **INTERIM DIVIDEND FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2003**

The scrip entitlements under the 2003 Interim 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 Monday, 1st September, 2003 to Friday, 5th September, 2003 (both days inclusive) which was HK\$19.28.

In our circular letter to shareholders dated 27th August, 2003, it was announced that the Directors had declared an interim dividend for the six months ended 30th June, 2003 in cash at HK\$0.23 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 Monday, 1st September, 2003 to Friday, 5th September, 2003 (both days inclusive) which was HK\$19.28. 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 Thursday, 11th September, 2003 will be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} \text{Number of new shares} & & & & \\ \text{to be received} & = & \text{Number of shares} & \times & \frac{0.23}{19.28} \\ & & \text{elected for scrip} & & \end{array}$$

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 interim dividend in respect of the six months ended 30th June, 2003, 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 interim dividend will be despatched to shareholders by ordinary mail at their own risk on Thursday, 18th September, 2003.

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

Hong Kong, 5th September, 2003