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The Bank of East Asia, Limited

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability in 1918)

(Stock Code: 23)

GRANT OF SHARE OPTIONS

On 3rd May, 2013, the Bank granted 5,650,000 share options to subscribe for Shares to certain Eligible Persons (as defined in the rules of the 2011 Scheme), out of which 2,000,000 share options were granted to the Chief Executive of the Bank.

This announcement is made pursuant to Rule 17.06A of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

The Board of Directors of The Bank of East Asia, Limited (the "**Bank**") announces that on 3rd May, 2013, the Bank granted 5,650,000 share options to subscribe for ordinary shares of HK\$2.50 each of the Bank ("**Shares**") under its Staff Share Option Scheme adopted on 19th April, 2011 (the "**2011 Scheme**") to certain Eligible Persons (as defined in the rules of the 2011 Scheme). Details of such grant are set out below:

Date of grant	:	3 rd May, 2013
Exercise price of share options granted	:	HK\$31.40 per Share
Number of share options granted	:	5,650,000
Closing price of the Shares on the date of grant	:	HK\$31.40 per Share
Validity period of the share options	:	(i) First tranche (not more than one third of the share options) is exercisable from 3 rd May, 2014 to 3 rd May, 2019 (ii) Second tranche (not more than one third of the share options) is exercisable from 3 rd May, 2015 to 3 rd May, 2020 (iii) Third tranche (the remaining balance of the share options) is exercisable from 3 rd May, 2016 to 3 rd May, 2021

Out of the 5,650,000 share options, 2,000,000 share options were granted to Dr. the Hon. Sir David Li Kwok-po as Chief Executive of the Bank. The granting of the share options to the Chief Executive was approved by all the Independent Non-executive Directors of the Bank.

By Order of the Board
Alson LAW Chun-tak
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 3rd May, 2013.

As at the date of this announcement, the Board of Directors of the Bank comprises Dr. the Hon. Sir David LI Kwok-po (Chairman & Chief Executive); Professor Arthur LI Kwok-cheung (Deputy Chairman), Dr. Allan WONG Chi-yun** (Deputy Chairman), Mr. WONG Chung-hin**, Mr. Aubrey LI Kwok-sing*, Mr. Winston LO Yau-lai**, Tan Sri Dr. KHOO Kay-peng**, Dr. Thomas KWOK Ping-kwong**, Mr. Richard LI Tzar-kai*, Mr. Kenneth LO Chin-ming**, Mr. Eric LI Fook-chuen*, Mr. Stephen Charles LI Kwok-sze*, Mr. William DOO Wai-hoi**, Mr. KUOK Khoon-ean**, Mr. Valiant CHEUNG Kin-piu**, Dr. Isidro FAINÉ CASAS* and Mr. Peter LEE Ka-kit*.*

** Non-executive Directors*

*** Independent Non-executive Directors*