

For Immediate Release

BEA Issues New Shares to SMBC to Further Strengthen Its Core Capital

Hong Kong, 18th March, 2015 – The Bank of East Asia, Limited (“BEA”) has entered into a subscription agreement with Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (“SMBC”) to raise approximately HK\$6,579.5 million through the issue of 222.6 million new shares at a subscription price of HK\$29.5576 per share.

BEA intends to apply the net proceeds from the share subscription as general working capital and for future expansion of the Bank’s business.

Following the subscription, SMBC’s holding in BEA will increase to 17.50% of BEA’s enlarged share capital. In addition to the subscription agreement, BEA and SMBC have entered into an investment agreement, which is conditional upon the completion of the subscription. Under the investment agreement, SMBC agrees that it and/or its affiliates will not acquire or offer to acquire any interest in additional shares of BEA if such acquisition would result in SMBC’s holdings in BEA to exceed 19.9%, or in BEA’s failure to comply with the public float requirement under the Listing Rules of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

Pursuant to the subscription agreement and investment agreement, and subject to the approval of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority and other relevant authorities, SMBC will be entitled to nominate one person for appointment as a Director of BEA upon completion of the subscription.

Commenting on the subscription, Dr. David K.P. Li, Chairman & Chief Executive of BEA, said: “My colleagues and I are truly pleased with the confidence shown by SMBC in BEA. This investment will further strengthen our capital position, enable us to meet the increasingly stringent capital requirements of regulators, and capitalise on investment and expansion opportunities in Mainland China and elsewhere. We look forward to deepening co-operation with SMBC wherever possible going forward.”

Mr. Takeshi Kunibe, President and CEO of SMBC, said: “We at SMBC greatly value the relationship with BEA, and we aim to forge even closer ties through this investment. We also look forward to developing innovative financial products and services together with BEA, and to pursuing new opportunities for growth, which will bring further benefits to our customers.”

BEA’s business relationship with SMBC dates back to the early 1970s. In addition to being one of Japan’s leading commercial banks, SMBC is a global market leader in syndicated loans, project finance, and transportation finance.

About The Bank of East Asia, Limited

Incorporated in 1918, BEA is Hong Kong's largest independent local bank, with total consolidated assets of HK\$795.9 billion (US\$102.6 billion) as of 31st December, 2014. Listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, the Bank is a constituent stock of the Hang Seng Index.

BEA offers customers a comprehensive range of commercial banking, personal banking, wealth management, and investment services through an extensive network of more than 240 outlets covering Hong Kong and the rest of Greater China, Southeast Asia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. For more information, please visit any BEA branch or the Bank's homepage at www.hkbea.com.

About Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

SMBC is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Inc. ("SMFG"). Listed on the Tokyo, Nagoya and New York (via ADRs) stock exchanges, SMFG has a market capitalisation of approximately JPY 6,909 billion. SMFG is a leading financial institution in Japan as well as a global provider of financial services.

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BEA – Operator of one of the largest banking networks in Hong Kong

