For Immediate Release

BEA Foundation Reaffirms Its Commitment to the Elderly of Hong Kong

Hong Kong, 8th May, 2017 – The Bank of East Asia, Limited (“BEA”) today announces that The Bank of East Asia Charitable Foundation (the “BEA Foundation”) has reaffirmed its commitment to the development of palliative care in Hong Kong together with "la Caixa" Foundation and The Salvation Army Hong Kong and Macau Command (“The Salvation Army”).

Established in April 2010, the Palliative Care in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly Programme (the “Programme”) serves as an alternative approach to end-of-life care for the elderly residents of Hong Kong, specifically those living in residential care homes and suffering from terminal illness. Admittance into homes has steadily increased in recent years, as the city’s population continues to age. By 2024, it is expected that 23% of Hong Kong’s population will be aged 65 or older. Given these trends, and the burdens placed on Hong Kong’s hospital system, the Programme has been designed to provide elderly residents with palliative care that focuses on relieving the pains and stress associated with terminal illness, and that provides social, emotional, and spiritual care to elderly residents and their family members.

The three parties reaffirmed their commitment to the Programme at a signing ceremony held on 5th May, 2017. Commenting on the Programme, Dr. David, K.P. Li, Chairman & Chief Executive of BEA, and Chairman of the BEA Foundation, said “I am truly pleased with the impact that our Programme has had on the development of palliative care in Hong Kong. Under the management of The Salvation Army, I am confident that the Programme will support a growing number of people in our community in the years to come”.

“Our palliative care programme in Spain has touched the lives of countless people in Spain, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to share our experience with the people of Hong Kong. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with the BEA Foundation and The Salvation Army in the years ahead, to bring peace and comfort to people suffering from terminal illness”, said Dr. Isidro Fainé, Chairman of "la Caixa” Foundation.

“We are extremely grateful for the support provided by "la Caixa" Foundation and BEA Foundation in the development of palliative care in Hong Kong. Apart from providing financial support, "la Caixa” Foundation has been our invaluable partner in knowledge sharing for our local programme development while BEA Foundation has been actively volunteering in visits to entertain the elderly,” said Lt.-Colonel Ian Swan, Officer Commanding of The Salvation Army.
Managed by The Salvation Army, the Programme has contributed significantly to the development of palliative care in Hong Kong. In 2015, The Salvation Army shared its experience in palliative care with other professionals in the community when it published the Palliative Care Practice Manual, the first of its kind in Hong Kong. The Programme has benefited greatly from the expertise of "la Caixa" Foundation, which runs a mature palliative care programme in Spain. Since the launch of the Programme, the concept of end-of-life care has gained growing acceptance and awareness among the people of Hong Kong, and it has gained medical support from district hospitals in the public health care system.

By the end of March 2017, the Programme included 13 participating care homes and care had been provided to 224 elderly residents and more than 140 family members. In addition, over 7,500 people had been engaged through outreach activities. While the Programme has focused on meeting the needs of elderly residents with cancer and other terminal illness, going forward, it will also address the needs of those suffering from dementia, which is a growing problem not only in Hong Kong, but worldwide.

Throughout its history spanning nearly 100 years, BEA has supported a wide range of charitable programmes and events in the communities it serves. In 2009, the Bank established the BEA Foundation in support of education, and to help alleviate the burdens of underprivileged members of society. For more information on BEA’s CSR efforts, please visit the Bank’s homepage at www.hkbea.com (About BEA / Corporate Social Responsibility).

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$765.7 billion (US$98.7 billion) as of 31st December, 2016. 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 corporate banking, personal banking, wealth management, and investment services through an extensive network of more than 210 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 "la Caixa” Foundation

"la Caixa” Foundation is dedicated to devoting its resources to social action, undertaking various types of activities and projects including, poverty and social exclusion, environment and science, cultural, and education and research programmes. As the largest foundation in Spain, and one of the largest in Europe, "la Caixa”
Foundation aims to achieve a society that presents more opportunities for its people, by promoting social initiatives, investing in research and education, and spreading culture and science.

**About The Salvation Army Hong Kong and Macau Command**

The Salvation Army is an International Christian church and charity working in 128 countries with the commitment to transforming lives, caring for people and making disciples.

The Salvation Army is called to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Salvation Army is dedicated to supporting the people in need in Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China; and strives to respond to local needs, emergencies, and disasters with the love of God. Its work spans a diverse range of areas including, but not limited to: People with spiritual needs, families facing crisis, disadvantaged elders, children and youth, people with disabilities, the marginalised minorities and disaster survivors.

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**Media enquiries:**

Ms. Mimi Kam  
General Manager and  
Head of Human Resources & Corporate Communications Division  
The Bank of East Asia, Limited  
Tel.: (852) 3608 0989  
Email: kamam@hkbea.com

**BEA – Operator of one of the largest banking networks in Hong Kong**
Dr. Isidro Fainé, Chairman of "la Caixa" Foundation, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Swan, Officer Commanding of The Salvation Army Hong Kong and Macau Command, and Dr. David K.P. Li, Chairman & Chief Executive of BEA and Chairman of the BEA Foundation, signed an agreement to commence third 3-year phase of their Palliative Care Programme.

On behalf of The Salvation Army, Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Swan (middle) presented gifts prepared by elderly residents in the Programme to the two sponsors' representatives, Dr. Isidro Fainé (left), and Dr. David K.P. Li (right).