



恒生銀行

HANG SENG BANK

Press Release

10 November 2005

HANG SENG NAMED 'BEST DOMESTIC BANK' FOR SIXTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

Hang Seng Bank has been named the Best Domestic Bank in Hong Kong by *The Asset* magazine in its annual recognition of the best banks in Asia. This is the sixth consecutive year that Hang Seng has received this award for banking excellence.

The Triple A Country Awards are conferred annually to acknowledge performance excellence in the financial services industry over the past 12 months. The results of the Awards are published in the November issue of *The Asset*.

The Asset praised Hang Seng for "continuing to manifest its commitment to achieving further growth, increasing shareholder value and providing superior service to its customers."

The magazine noted that Hang Seng's achievements this year "continue to impress", highlighting the return on shareholders' funds of 29.7% in the first half of 2005. This was three percentage points higher than the Bank's cost-to-income ratio, which, at 26.7%, remains one of the lowest in the banking world.

The Bank's focus on higher margin businesses such as commercial lending, personal consumer finance and wealth management, as well as its efforts to grow its business in mainland China, were also noted as determining factors in naming Hang Seng as the Best Domestic Bank in Hong Kong.

Founded in 1933, Hang Seng Bank is a principal member of the HSBC Group. It operates 156 branches and automated banking centres in Hong Kong; a branch in Macau; and a network of 12 mainland China outlets, including six branches (in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Fuzhou and Nanjing), four sub-branches (three in Shanghai and one in Shenzhen) and two representative offices (in Xiamen and Dongguan). The Bank also has a representative office in Taipei.

With consolidated assets of HK\$569.7 billion as at 30 June 2005, the Bank reported a profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$6,045 million for the first six months of 2005, and HK\$11.40 billion in 2004. For further information on Hang Seng, please visit the Bank's website at www.hangseng.com.

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