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HANG SENG BANK

Press Release

新聞稿

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HANG SENG RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RECOGNITION

Hang Seng Bank has become the first local financial institution to receive international ISO 14001 certification for its sound environmental management practices.

The award of an ISO 14001 certificate — the world's most recognised standard for environmental management systems (EMS) — follows Hang Seng's inclusion as a constituent stock of the FTSE4Good Global Index in 2001. This Index was developed by FTSE to encourage investment in companies that meet globally recognised corporate social responsibility standards, including environmental sustainability.

As a socially responsible citizen, Hang Seng is committed to enhancing the environment, and minimising the environmental impacts of its business. With professional assistance from the Business Environment Council, the Bank set up an EMS for its Headquarters in July 2004, and was ISO14001-certified six months later.

Mr Vincent Cheng, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive of the Bank, said: "We firmly believe that by operating in an environmentally responsible manner, we can help create a better future for society. Being certified to ISO 14001 is recognition of the management's efforts in protecting the environment."

Dr Andrew Thomson, Chief Executive Officer of the Business Environment Council remarked: "Hang Seng Bank serves as a shining example for financial corporations in Hong Kong. We are delighted to have assisted Hang Seng to develop their EMS and certify to ISO 14001. The organisation has made significant progress in a short period — which has been facilitated by top management commitment cascaded down the company by policy, procedures and training. This has reached all levels of staff."

The Bank launched its environmental policy in January 2003. An Environmental Management Committee was also set up to oversee the implementation of the environmental policy. In addition, Hang Seng has stepped up efforts to save energy, minimise waste generation and increase recycling. A Bank-wide "Green Ambassador Scheme" was set up in 2003 to encourage staff to strive for continual environmental improvement and promote green practices.

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The Bank also continues to increase efforts to save resources in-house and in customer transactions through electronic communications and services. Reflecting the success of these efforts, the number of personal e-Banking customers now exceeds 430,000.

The Bank stopped sending out Christmas cards in 1996 and subsequently launched an e-Card series, the most comprehensive among local financial institutions. Since the launch of the service three years ago, about 230,000 e-Cards have been sent by customers and the public.

Other initiatives include the planting of 30,000 trees at Shek O Country Park and Tung Tze, Tai Po through the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department's Corporate Afforestation Scheme. The Bank also supports WWF Hong Kong as a diamond corporate member.

Founded in 1933, Hang Seng Bank is a principal member of the HSBC Group and the second largest listed bank in Hong Kong in terms of market capitalisation. It operates 159 branches and automated banking centres in Hong Kong; a branch in Macau; and a network of five branches (in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Fuzhou and Nanjing), two sub-branches (in Shanghai) and two representative offices (in Beijing and Xiamen) in mainland China. The Bank also has a representative office in Taipei.

With consolidated assets of HK$503.9 billion as at 30 June 2004, the Bank reported a profit attributable to shareholders of HK$6.24 billion for the first six months of 2004, and HK$9.54 billion in 2003. For further information on Hang Seng, please visit the Bank's website at www.hangseng.com and its Mainland website at cn.hangseng.com.

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