

2004 Events Highlights

January

- Launched the joint promotion program "Remittance Express" with ICBC Guangdong Provincial Branch, Shenzhen Branch and Macau Branch.
- Signed a cooperation agreement with Shanghai famed developer "Yanlord Group" solely to provide HKD/USD currency mortgage loan financing to the project of "Yanlord Riverside Garden".

February

- Launched the RMB business, provide savings accounts, fixed deposits and RMB remittances, other than the existing notes exchange services.
- In order to broaden the shareholders and capital base, the Bank had issued 124,874,000 new ordinary shares at a price of HK\$11.25 per share through placement, the proceeds mainly utilized for cash payment of the acquisition of Fortis Bank Asia HK.

March

• Acted as manager for the US\$60 million 3-year Floating Rate Notes issued by Bumiputra-Commerce Bank (L) Limited, the second largest commercial bank in Malaysia.

April

- Moody's assigned first-time ratings to the Bank. Long-term deposit ratings of A2, stable outlook; Short-term deposit ratings of Prime-1, stable outlook; Bank financial strength rating of D, positive outlook.
- Joint with ICBC Beijing to offer the HKD/USD currency mortgage loan financing in "Beijing Golf Palace" project.
- The Bank acted as one of the co-managers in the Government issued the "Hong Kong Link Bond", which is backed by the toll revenue of five tunnels and one bridge. Since this was the first time the Government offered bonds through securitization, the institutional demand was very strong and the issue was over-subscribed four times.
- The 202,219,218 convertible non-cumulative preference shares issued by the Bank to ICBC were converted into 204,399,479 new ordinary shares.
- Issued US\$150 million Subordinated Floating Rate Notes to ICBC.
- According to the December 2003 sale and purchase agreement for the acquisition of the entire issued share capital of Fortis Bank Asia HK, the Bank had completed the acquisition on 30 April 2004 by way of a cash payment and allotment of new ordinary shares.
- Fortis Bank Asia HK changed its name to Belgian Bank.

May

• Corporate Banking won the Bank's first mandate in Australia providing US\$360M syndicated aircraft finance of Qantas Airways.

June

• Introduced the "Personal Predetermined Rate Remittance" service as the first bank in Hong Kong to provide such service to personal customers.

July

- Provided mortgage financing to those foreign buyers of "Longxi Shunjing" built by a local quality developer to further expanding our business in Beijing.
- The Bank's CD program was upsized from HK\$10 billion to HK\$15 billion to accommodate our business development and market demand.

August

- Successfully joined in some mainland projects, "Shimao Riviera Garden", "Yanlord Town", and "Westgate Garden", in Shanghai developed by famed local and Hong Kong developers "Shimao Group", "Yanlord Group" and "Citic Pacific" respectively.
- Associated with Credit Card Center to sponsor the charity event of Yan Oi Tong's ICBC TaiChi campaign activity 2004.

September

- For the first time, the Bank issued a 5 years Eurodollar bond. Subscription amount topped US\$1,400 million, which was 4.7 times the amount initially offered, hence the final issued amount was increased from US\$300 million to US\$400 million. Moody's assigned an A2 rating to the bond; outlook stable.
- Relocated and expanded the new Yaumatei branch from Reclamation Street to Nathan Road closed to MTR entrance and provides three new services such as self-banking, safe deposit box and securities center.
- Launched the 95588 Roaming Services of both ICBC and ICBC (Asia)'s Phone Banking Services, which facilitate the use of cross-border phone banking services between Mainland and Hong Kong without the long distance-call cost.
- Launched The Accidental Emergency Medical Insurance underwritten by Ming An. It provided insurance coverage for both business and holiday travelers who encountered an accident and requiring emergency medical treatment on the Mainland China.
- Lined up the first project "City Condo" with "Shun Tak Group" in Shanghai to provide privilege mortgage pricing to their buyers.

October

- Became one of the receiving banks to collect cheques for CNC IPO.
- Introduced the "Mortgage Plus Auto Remittance Service", for customers to make loan repayment to ICBC Shenzhen Branch.

November

- Successfully launched the new Core-Banking system on 22 November 2004 to provide more comprehensive services to our customers.
- Corporate Banking won the Bank's first mandate in Korea, providing US\$86.1M syndicated ship finance for SK Shipping.
- Signed up an agreement with the developer to their quality customer to provide PRC mortgage loan financing to "Forest Hills", one of the most luxury real estate projects in Beijing.
- ICBC, Hong Kong Credit Card Centre joined force with Yan Oi Tong to launch Yan Oi Tong VISA Card.
- Option to acquire equity interest in The Tai Ping Insurance Company, Limited.

December

- Became one of the receiving banks to collect cheques for "China Airline" IPO.
- ICBC (Asia)'s headquarters at 3 Garden Road, Central is officially named ICBC Tower.
- Entered into the Acquisition Agreement with ICBC and CITIC Ka Wah Bank Limited on 30 December 2004 to acquire the entire equity interest of Chinese Mercantile Bank in Shenzhen.