

ICBC (Asia) Launches a Long-term Professional Certification Training Programme with HKIB

31 March 2014, Hong Kong – ICBC (Asia) (the “Bank”) announced a strategic partnership with The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (the “HKIB”). The Bank and the HKIB would launch a long-term professional certification training programme in March 2014. Administered by the HKIB, this authoritative and systematic training programme and professional qualifications with the intention of imbuing ICBC (Asia)’s staff with more confidence in the performance of their jobs by enhancing the standard of their competency, all in the hope of providing customers with better service and improving the Bank’s competitiveness in the market.

The training programme would cover all four of the HKIB professional banking qualifications, namely the Associate of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (AHKIB), Certified Professional (CP), Accredited Banking Practitioner (ABP) and Certified Financial Management Planner (CFMP). The HKIB professional banking qualifications comprised of certification training course and professional examination, which could serve as a comprehensive set of competency standards in helping banking practitioners to meet the requirements for technical and ethical competency stated in the Competence and Ethical Behaviour (Code CG-6) of the Supervisory Policy Manual issued by Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA). In 2013, these learning programmes for Professional Banking Qualifications were accredited by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ) from Qualifications Framework (QF) Level 4 to 6. (QF Level 6 is comparable to that of a master’s degree programmes offered by local universities).

In view of the Bank’s commitment to staff training, the Bank will be looking to make a significant and long-term investment in its training programmes, with the intention of making this programme one of the most monumental projects that will further contribute to the Bank’s culture for continual staff training and education. It is anticipated that this year there will be around 170 employees of the Bank joining this training programme.

The HKIB is the only professional training body that offers banking professional qualifications in Hong Kong. It has been serving the local banking community in the provision of education and training since 1963. The banking professional qualification programmes, which comprise of professional examinations and training courses, could ascertain the professional and academic status of the qualification holders, and help banking professionals to articulate a clearer path for their career progression, which are valued highly by the banking industry as well as the banking practitioners.

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Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited (“ICBC (Asia)”) is a licensed bank incorporated in Hong Kong. It has 55 branches, 22 “Elite Club” Wealth Management Centres and 4 commercial business centres in Hong Kong. It is principally engaged in banking, financial and other finance-related services with a focus on retail and commercial banking as well as corporate banking business. Chinese Mercantile Bank and ICBC (Asia) Investment Management Company Limited, two wholly-owned subsidiaries of ICBC (Asia), are specialized in RMB services in Mainland China and the investment management businesses with a focus on Asia respectively. ICBC (Asia) is the flagship of Hong Kong banking business of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited (“ICBC”). ICBC was ranked first on the Forbes Global 2000 list (by sales, profits, assets and market value) in 2013, and topped Fortune’s Global 500 in Commercial Banks. On 25 June 2013, Fitch Ratings affirmed A/F1 Long-Term/Short-Term Issuer Default Rating with stable outlook, with '1' Support Rating assigned to ICBC (Asia). On 27 June 2013, ICBC (Asia)'s A2/Prime-1 Long-Term/Short-Term Deposit Ratings and C- Bank Financial Strength Rating (BFSR) assigned by Moody's Investors Service were affirmed. The outlook on the BFSR was revised to 'negative' from 'stable', while the outlook on the bank's deposit rating remained 'stable'.