

The following is the text of an announcement made today by Hang Seng Bank, a 62.14 per cent owned subsidiary of the HSBC Group.

3 November 2008

HANG SENG ANNOUNCES THIRD INTERIM DIVIDEND FOR 2008

The Board of Directors of Hang Seng Bank today declared a third interim dividend of HK\$1.10 per share in respect of the year ending 31 December 2008.

The third interim dividend will be payable on Wednesday, 10 December 2008, to shareholders on the Register of Shareholders on Thursday, 20 November 2008.

The results for the year ending 31 December 2008 will be announced on Monday, 2 March 2009. It is intended that any fourth interim dividend for 2008 that is announced on that date would be payable on Tuesday, 31 March 2009 to shareholders on the Register of Shareholders on Wednesday, 18 March 2009.

The Register of Shareholders of the Bank will be closed for one day on Thursday, 20 November 2008, during which no transfer of shares can be registered. To qualify for the third interim dividend for 2008, all transfers, accompanied by the relevant share certificates, must be lodged with the Bank's Registrars, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, Rooms 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong, for registration not later than 4:30 pm on Wednesday, 19 November 2008. Shares of the Bank will be traded ex-dividend as from Tuesday, 18 November 2008.

Founded in 1933, Hang Seng Bank operates over 210 service outlets, of which 106 are branches serving both personal and business customers. The Bank also maintains a branch in Shenzhen for foreign currency wholesale business, branches in Macau and Singapore, and representative offices in Xiamen and Taipei.

HANG SENG ANNOUNCES THIRD INTERIM DIVIDEND FOR 2008/2

Established on 28 May 2007, wholly-owned subsidiary Hang Seng Bank (China) Limited operates a mainland China network of 33 outlets in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Dongguan, Fuzhou, Nanjing, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Tianjin and Kunming.

With consolidated assets of HK\$747.9 billion as at 30 June 2008, Hang Seng Bank reported a profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$9,064 million for the first six months of 2008 and HK\$18.24 billion for the year 2007. Hang Seng Bank is a principal member of the HSBC Group, one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. For further information on Hang Seng Bank, please visit the Bank's website at www.hangseng.com.

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The HSBC Group

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from more than 9,500 offices in 85 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$2,547 billion at 30 June 2008, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.