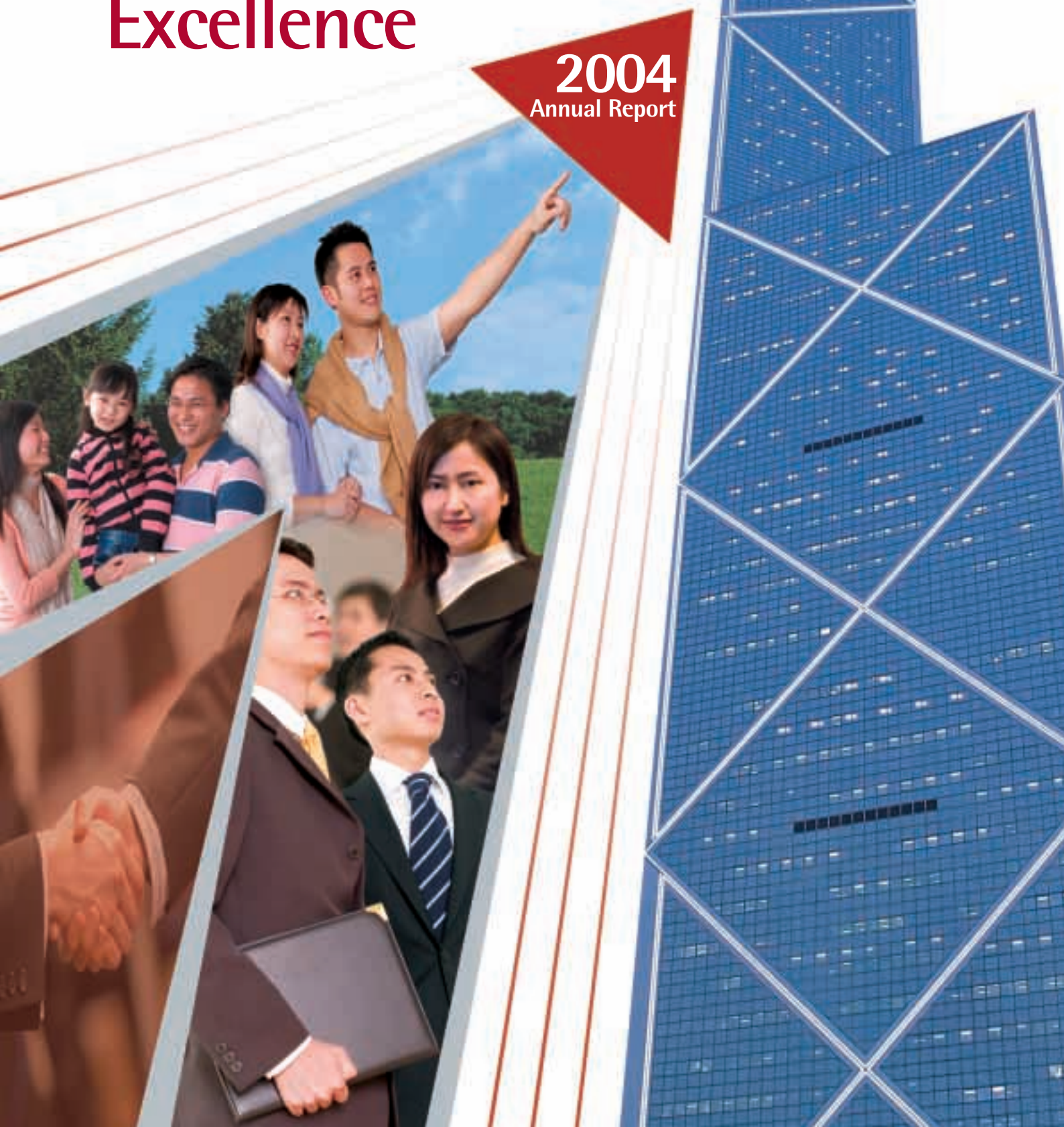


In pursuit of
Growth and
Excellence

2004
Annual Report



BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited ("the Company") was incorporated in Hong Kong on 12 September 2001 to hold the entire equity interest in Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited ("BOCHK"), its principal operating subsidiary. Bank of China Limited holds a substantial part of its interests in the shares of the Company through BOC Hong Kong (BVI) Limited, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of China Limited.

BOCHK is a leading commercial banking group in Hong Kong. With 283 branches and about 450 ATMs and other delivery channels in Hong Kong, it offers a comprehensive range of financial products and services to retail and corporate customers. BOCHK is one of the three banknote issuing banks in Hong Kong and serves as a Chairman Bank of the Hong Kong Association of Banks on a rotational basis. In addition, BOCHK has 14 branches and sub-branches in the Mainland of China to provide cross-border banking services to customers in Hong Kong and the Mainland. BOCHK was appointed by the People's Bank of China as the only Renminbi (RMB) Clearing Bank in Hong Kong on 24 December 2003 and launched RMB clearing services on 25 February 2004.

The Company began trading on the main board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong on 25 July 2002, with stock code "2388", ADR OTC Symbol: "BHKLY".

Cover:

By capitalising on our strengths, we have succeeded in delivering the highest profit attributable to shareholder since our IPO in 2002. This provides the theme for our annual report – In Pursuit of Growth and Excellence.

Our success is founded on the dedicated efforts of our staff, who strive everyday to deliver quality services to achieve our vision "To be customer's premier bank". Symbolising our aspirations for growth is the bamboo-like architectural design of the Bank of China Tower, our headquarters and a landmark in Hong Kong.

Looking forward, we will continue to grow our businesses, expand our local and Mainland markets, and uphold our leadership in areas that we excel at.

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2004	2003	Change
For the year	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	+/(-)%
Operating profit before provisions	10,352	11,595	(10.72)
Operating profit after provisions	11,980	9,924	20.72
Profit before taxation	14,252	8,691	63.99
Profit after taxation	12,121	8,102	49.61
Profit attributable to shareholders	11,963	7,963	50.23
Per share	HK\$	HK\$	+/(-)%
Earnings per share	1.1315	0.7532	50.23
Dividends per share	0.7150	0.5150	38.83
At year-end	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	+/(-)%
Shareholders' funds	68,521	60,261	13.71
Issued and fully paid share capital	52,864	52,864	–
Total assets	796,776	762,587	4.48
Financial ratios	%	%	
Return on average total assets ¹	1.56	1.08	
Return on average shareholders' funds ²	18.58	13.62	
Cost to income ratio	34.72	32.79	
Non-performing loan ratio	2.95	5.78	
Loan to deposit ratio ³	49.61	51.38	
Average liquidity ratio ⁴	36.03	37.76	
Capital adequacy ratio ⁵	16.14	15.11	

1. Return on average total assets = $\frac{\text{Profit after taxation}}{\text{Daily average balance of total assets}}$

2. Return on average shareholders' funds = $\frac{\text{Profit attributable to shareholders}}{\text{Average of the beginning and ending balance of shareholders' funds}}$

3. Loan to deposit ratio is calculated as at year end.

4. Average liquidity ratio is calculated as the simple average of each calendar month's average liquidity ratio of BOCHK for the year.

5. Capital adequacy ratio is computed on the consolidated basis that comprises the positions of BOCHK and certain subsidiaries specified by the HKMA for its regulatory purposes and in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Banking Ordinance.

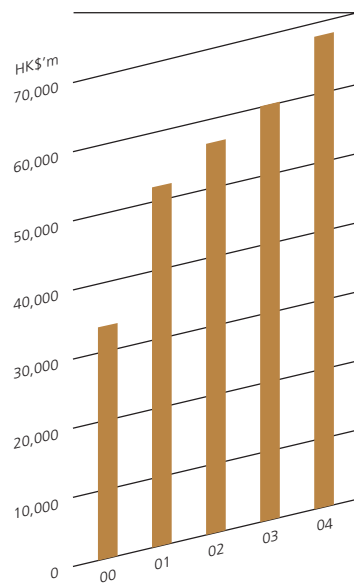
FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The financial information of the Group for the last five years commencing from 1 January 2000 is summarised below:

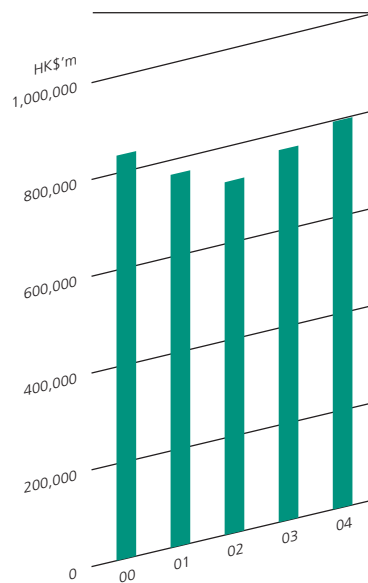
	2004	2003	2002 ³	2001	2000
For the year	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m
Operating profit before provisions	10,352	11,595	12,089	13,162	14,964
Operating profit after provisions	11,980	9,924	9,234	5,750	6,371
Profit before taxation	14,252	8,691	8,068	3,733	6,376
Profit after taxation	12,121	8,102	6,914	2,901	5,198
Profit attributable to shareholders	11,963	7,963	6,787	2,768	5,047
Per share	HK\$	HK\$	HK\$	HK\$	HK\$
Earnings per share ²	1.1315	0.7532	0.6419	0.2618	0.4774
At year-end	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m
Advances and other accounts	309,211	300,094	308,332	308,108	325,569
Total assets	796,776	762,587	735,536	766,140	839,370
Daily average balance of total assets	776,792	752,058	737,779	810,702	830,331
Deposits from customers	631,330	600,642	600,977	606,428	624,726
Total liabilities	727,016	701,170	677,751	712,904	804,493
Issued and fully paid share capital	52,864	52,864	52,864	52,864	52,864
Shareholders' funds	68,521	60,261	56,671	52,170	33,345
Key financial ratios	%	%	%	%	%
Return on average total assets	1.56	1.08	0.94	0.36	0.63
Cost to income ratio	34.72	32.79	33.26	30.76	27.70
Non-performing loan ratio	2.95	5.78	7.99	10.99	10.19
Loan to deposit ratio	49.61	51.38	53.42	53.27	54.43

1. The Company was incorporated on 12 September 2001 and acquired the entire equity interests in BOCHK on 30 September 2001. The Company subsequently became the holding company of BOCHK and its subsidiaries. The financial information of the Group for the years ended 2000 and 2001 are prepared as if the group structure, capital structure and operations had been in existence from the beginning of the period presented.
2. Pursuant to written resolutions of all the shareholders of the Company passed on 10 July 2002, the authorised and issued share capital of the Company, comprising 100,000,000,000 and 52,863,901,330 ordinary shares of HK\$1.00 each respectively, was consolidated and divided into 20,000,000,000 shares and 10,572,780,266 shares of HK\$5.00 each respectively. The amounts for the years ended 2000 and 2001 had been restated to reflect this change.
3. Certain figures for the year ended 2002 have been restated to reflect the adoption of SSAP 12 (revised) "Income taxes".
4. The financial information prior to 2002 has not been restated to reflect the adoption of SSAP 12 (revised) "Income taxes" as it is impracticable to quantify the allocation of deferred tax impact for the years ended 2000 and 2001 before the Group's restructuring and merger.

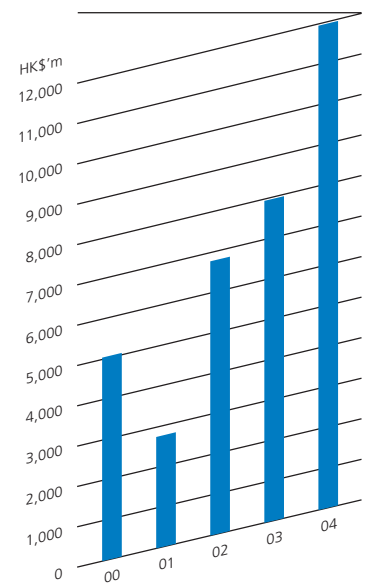
Shareholders' Funds



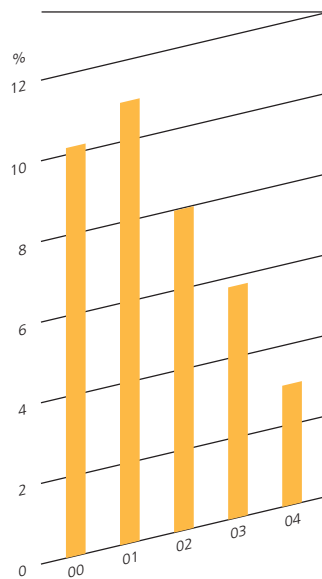
Total Assets



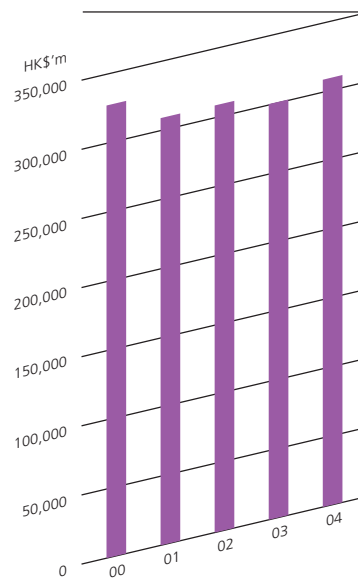
Profit Attributable to Shareholders



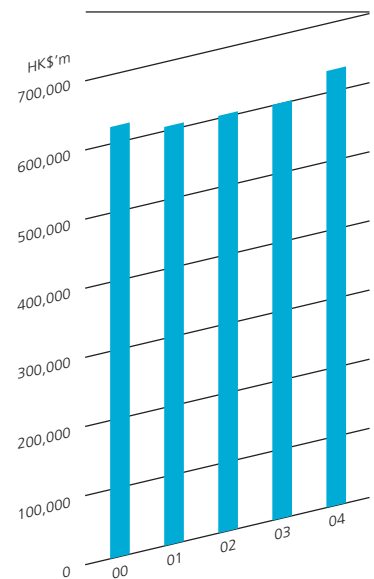
Non-performing Loan Ratio



Advances & Other Accounts



Deposits from Customers



OUR VISION

To be customer's premier bank



OUR CORE VALUES

Social Responsibility

We care for and contribute to our communities

Performance

We measure results and reward achievement

Integrity

We uphold trustworthiness and business ethics

Respect

We cherish every individual

Innovation

We encourage creativity

Teamwork

We work together to succeed

OUR MISSION

Build customer satisfaction and provide quality and professional service

Offer rewarding career opportunities and cultivate staff commitment

Create values and deliver superior returns to shareholders

Combining with mission, we have **BOC SPIRIT**

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT



XIAO Gang

*Chairman, Bank of China Limited,
BOC Hong Kong (Holdings)
Limited and Bank of China
(Hong Kong) Limited*

I am pleased to report that for the year ended 31 December 2004, the Group's profit attributable to shareholders was HK\$11,963 million, up 50.23%, which was assisted by a net provision write-back of HK\$1,628 million and a property revaluation gain of HK\$1,862 million. Operating income for the period was HK\$15,857 million, down 8.09% due to a 13.06% decline in net interest income, which was partially offset by an increase in net fees and commission income. Earnings per share were HK\$1.1315, compared to HK\$0.7532 for 2003.

The Board is recommending a final dividend of HK\$0.395 per share at the Annual General Meeting on 26 May 2005. That, together with the interim dividend payout of HK\$0.320 per share, will result in a total dividend for the full year of HK\$0.715 per share. (Total dividend for 2003: HK\$0.515 per share). In view of the Group's financial strength and healthy financial position, we are able to maintain our dividend payout ratio at a high level, that is, 63.19% of the profit attributable to shareholders.

The upturn of the Hong Kong economy that became increasingly evident in the first two quarters extended into the second half of 2004, as reflected in the strong GDP growth in real terms. The return of consumer confidence was more pronounced as employment figures improved and as deflation officially came to an end in the third quarter of the year. External trade continued to flourish while the local investment and property markets in general became more active than a year ago.

While the banking sector also experienced some spillover effect of the general improvement of market sentiments, the challenges that local banks had to face remained significant. Most notably, competition remained intense, and the downward pressure on net interest margin persisted, making it difficult for banks to grow net interest income in a meaningful way.

Notwithstanding these challenges, we continued to pursue with success our goal of sustaining growth and maximising shareholder value through a focused business development strategy and enhanced corporate governance while keeping operating costs under control. We also embarked on major corporate reforms in the past year, paving the way for healthy development in the long term.

Our retail banking and treasury businesses continued to perform satisfactorily as a result of an expanded wealth management clientele, increase in quality customers and higher demand for our innovative and customised services. On the corporate banking front, I am pleased to report that much progress has been made to de-risk our corporate lending portfolio, improve our loan mix and reduce the NPL ratio. We also performed our role impeccably as the clearing bank for personal RMB banking services in Hong Kong and remained the market leader in offering those services.

The Group's other major task during the year was to implement corporate reforms to further enhance the management structure and develop a more efficient and committed workforce. All these will enhance the Group's competitiveness and capabilities that are essential for sustaining business growth and achieving breakthroughs in the longer term.

During the year, the Board has approved the Group's Vision, Mission and Core Values. With this initiative, we have officially embarked on building a coherent and bank-wide corporate culture and spirit that will motivate us and move us forward in the 21st century.

The Group's management structure has been substantially strengthened with the appointment of Mr. Raymond Lee as Chief Financial Officer, who will also continue to oversee key parts of the Group's operation; Mr. Gao Yingxin as Deputy Chief Executive responsible for corporate banking; and Mr. Alex Cheung as Chief Risk Officer. At the same time, we have appointed Mr. Peter Liu as Chief Information Officer, a newly created position that reflects the increasing importance of information technology in our operation. The new appointees are all highly experienced and versatile in their respective fields of expertise and have been appointed through an open, competitive and global recruitment process. Led by

Chief Executive He Guangbei, the Group now has a much stronger management and operational structure that is in line with international best practices and that can ensure a higher degree of corporate governance and accountability to stakeholders. In this connection, I must thank the Search Committee headed by Dr. Victor Fung and comprising Vice Chairman Sun Changji, all the other Independent Non-executive Directors and Chief Executive He Guangbei for their devotion and relentless effort in the past several months.

With the Board's blessing, the Group rolled out a bank-wide human resources reform project that ensures that our remuneration and placement system is fair, reasonable and merit-based and is in line with market practices and trends. This system allows us to recruit, develop and retain the best staff we need to grow our business and achieve our corporate goals. Of equal, if not greater, importance is that under the new human resources policy and system, staff will be properly incentivised, i.e., those who perform or excel will be duly rewarded and enjoy brighter career prospects with the Group.

The Group remains committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance and transparency. Timely disclosure of corporate information was carried out throughout the year.

During the year, the Board set up an independent board committee comprising all Independent Non-executive Directors and chaired by Mr. Tung Chee Chen to review and approve continuing connected transactions between the Group and BOC. For this purpose, NM Rothschild & Sons (Hong Kong) Limited was retained as independent financial adviser, though it was not mandatory under the Listing Rules. The committee was satisfied that the continuing connected transactions had been entered into in the ordinary and usual course of the Group's business on normal commercial terms.

The Board also set up a Budget Committee, comprising Mr. Zhou Zaiqun, a Non-executive Director and Mdm. Linda Tsao Yang, an Independent Non-executive Director, to oversee the Group's budgeting and business planning process for 2005. The Committee proactively engaged the Management in reviewing the Group's budget and business plan, which turned out to be highly useful and effective.

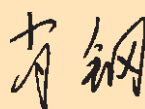
Looking ahead, the Hong Kong economy is on track to sustain its growth momentum. In the Mainland, the macroeconomic control measures have succeeded in ensuring healthy GDP growth. We, therefore, have reasons to believe that more business sectors would benefit from a broader-based economic recovery in 2005, creating greater demand for credit, wealth management and other banking services.

For the Group, we are well prepared for this anticipated economic upturn. The corporate reforms we have carried out will ensure that we can take advantage of new opportunities that emerge. In the coming year, we will continue to implement our market-driven and customer-oriented business strategies to diversify our earnings base and improve our asset quality. We will also strive to grow our customer base and business volume in the Mainland.

The Board has recently formed a Strategy Development Group to work with the Management to recommend a forward-looking strategy and market position that will map out a clear direction for the Group in the longer term, having regard to maximising shareholder value and safeguarding stakeholder interests. We consider ourselves an important part of the financial community in Hong Kong and firmly believe that we can contribute more to maintaining Hong Kong as an important financial centre for the benefit of market reforms in the Mainland and in turn, benefiting from them.

Our goal is to pursue growth by maintaining a sharp competitive edge and by ensuring that we are relentless in our quest for excellence.

Finally, I wish to thank the Board of Directors and the Special Adviser for their valuable advice and guidance in the past year. I also wish to thank our shareholders and customers for their trust and unwavering support. Last but not least, I must extend my heartfelt appreciation to the staff for their commitment and hard work. I have no doubt that I can count on them for the Group's continued success.



XIAO Gang
Chairman

Hong Kong, 23 March 2005



Uphold
Growth
MOMENTUM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



HE Guangbei

*Vice Chairman and Chief Executive,
BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited and
Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited*

The past year was full of opportunities and challenges. With the Board's guidance and the joint effort of the Management and staff, we succeeded in implementing a pragmatic expansionary business strategy in pursuit of growth and excellence and overcoming the key challenges we faced, including a major management crisis.

On the back of Hong Kong's economic upturn and capitalising on its own foundations and strengths, the Group was able to deliver the highest profit attributable to shareholders and total annual dividend since its IPO in 2002. As well, the Group was able to expand most of its core businesses in 2004. Of equal, if not greater, importance is that we have also established a solid platform for business development during the year through the implementation of a number of new initiatives relating to development strategy, business model, risk management, and corporate culture.

In August 2004 we had to face an internal crisis that cropped up from an investigation by the Mainland Authorities concerning two former deputy chief executives of the Company. Nevertheless, the Board and the Management succeeded in resolving this crisis expeditiously and effectively and we could march on again full steam and re-focus on business development in almost no time. The transparent and timely approach we took in handling the issue helped keep the possible impact on the Group's image and reputation to a minimum. At the same time, we turned the crisis into an opportunity to further enhance our corporate governance and management structure so that the Group could keep moving on to realise its vision to be the premier bank for customers.

The other key challenge is one that all banks in Hong Kong had to face. Despite the economic recovery, the operating environment for banks remained tough in 2004 due to the persistently low HIBOR and fierce competition in the market. The extremely liquid HKD interbank market in the second half of the year due largely to speculative activities on RMB also depleted the return on HKD money market investments. To counter these unfavourable market conditions – at least partially – we focused on actively re-structuring our investment portfolio in accordance with the prudent risk management policies and parameters of the Group. Our effort in this area has paid off.

Performance Highlights

For the year ended 31 December 2004, the Group's profit attributable to shareholders reached a record high of HK\$11,963 million, up 50.23%. Earnings per share were HK\$1.1315, up 50.23%. The return on average total assets increased by 0.48 percentage point to 1.56% whereas the return on average shareholders' funds rose by 4.96 percentage points to 18.58%.

The rise in the Group's profit attributable to shareholders was due mainly to net provision write-back, gains on property revaluation and growth in non-interest



income from fees and commissions generated by the high-margin wealth management segment. Moreover, disciplined cost control further reduced the Group's operating expenses.

The Group's total operating income decreased by 8.09% to HK\$15,857 million, which was due partly to a 13.06% reduction in net interest income, caused primarily by the low HIBOR and squeezed margin. Non-interest income, however, increased by 6.51% to HK\$4,664 million, representing 29.41% of total income. In addition to the external environment, the management crisis in August inevitably had some undesirable impact on the implementation of the various initiatives regarding our business strategies and models, and hence, the Group's operating income. Now that the crisis is behind us, we are confident that the positive effects

of those initiatives would gradually manifest themselves and be reflected in the performance of the Group in the course of time.

The Group's operating expenses fell by 2.70% to HK\$5,505 million as operational efficiency and productivity continued to improve, partially offsetting the decrease in operating income. During the year, the Group's cost to income ratio was maintained at the low level of 34.72%.

With improved market conditions as well as effective risk management, the Group's overall asset quality improved substantially in 2004. Both the NPL ratio and classified loan ratio dropped to 2.95%, down 2.83 and 2.87 percentage points respectively. At the same time, the quality of our residential mortgage loans and card advances also improved. These achievements

reflected our commitment to de-risking our loan portfolio in certain industry sectors with an enhanced risk management culture and system that is now strictly observed throughout the Group in its daily operation.

Review of Business Performance

Despite the challenges and an increasingly competitive environment, 2004 was a year of new initiatives and achievements for the Group.

In terms of business performance, we made progress in a number of important areas in 2004. Firstly, we succeeded in enlarging our deposit and lending portfolio while maintaining our edge in traditional businesses. Deposits from customers increased by HK\$30,688 million, or 5.11%. Advances to customers continued to drop in the first half of 2004 as a result of write-offs and collection. However, we saw growth again in the second half with our renewed effort in sales and marketing in both Hong Kong and the Mainland. As a result, total advances to customers grew by 1.50% for the year. An even better measurement would be the growth in our performing loans, which grew by 4.55%. We also continued to diversify our loan portfolio by aggressively growing our retail lending and the loan portfolio of our Mainland branches.

The year under review also witnessed our success in maintaining our leading position in

traditional business. For example, we remained a leading arranger of syndicated loans in Hong Kong. We also remained the market leader in underwriting new residential mortgages. Our mortgage balance grew by 6.24% from end-2003. Our credit card business recorded outstanding performance. Compared to 2003, our cardholder spending and card issuance grew by 31% and 34% respectively. Card advances increased by 13.31%. Of equal importance, our charge-off and delinquency ratios fell to 3.96% and 0.38% respectively – well below the market average.

Secondly, with the momentum we built up in 2003, we recorded robust growth in the high-margin businesses in 2004, particularly wealth management and consumer credit, which partially compensated the fall in net interest income. Basically, the targets for most of the various components of our wealth management business were met or exceeded. The total wealth management income registered a strong growth of 27.91%.

Thirdly, since the introduction of personal RMB banking services in Hong Kong in early 2004, we have impeccably discharged our duty as the sole local clearing bank. We also pioneered the offering of premier RMB services, including personal deposits, exchange, remittance and bank cards, and have remained the local market leader by a large margin. We were the first issuer of RMB credit cards in Hong Kong with over 50,000

RMB cards issued by end-2004. In addition, we took the lead in launching UnionPay Card Payment Service in Hong Kong in January, and have enjoyed a leading position in the market.

Fourthly, our China-related business experienced healthy growth as we made use of our solid foundation to strengthen our presence in the Mainland market. Total advances to customers rose by 53% while customer deposits grew by 17%. The combined operating profit of our Mainland branches before provision increased by nearly 22%. More importantly, we not only succeeded in growing our loan portfolio and profit in the Mainland, but also managed to improve our asset quality substantially, with the classified

loan ratio dropping to 3.26% at end-2004, compared to over 10.35% a year ago.

The performance of our China-related business was the result of an effective business model that leverages the Group's retail and corporate franchise in Hong Kong, branch network in the Mainland and close cooperations with BOC to offer highly efficient and timely cross-border services to customers.

Last but not least, in July, in collaboration with BOCI Asia, Merrill Lynch and HSBC, the Group became the Arrangers and Joint Global Coordinators for the HKSAR Government's HK\$20-billion global bond offering. This was a significant breakthrough for the Group in a new arena of business.



Business Development Initiatives

With respect to the Group's business development, our focus in 2004 covered four main areas: (a) development strategy; (b) business model; (c) risk management; and (d) corporate culture.

Development strategy

In 2004, we continued to enhance our business development strategy to give it more clarity and make it more instructive for all business units. The effort we made in this respect was reflected in our success in maintaining our market leadership in areas we excel at, including the arrangement of syndicated loans, underwriting new residential mortgages and RMB banking.

We have finalised a new three-year business plan and related budgetary targets for the Group. These would guide us in further upgrading our business structure by enhancing the existing service platform for high-yielding businesses, including wealth management and asset management. At the same time, we have also been more proactive in growing and diversifying our customer base with more emphasis on the mid-market segment. This would help us diversify risks and generate new business. Our targets for RMB-related business in the short, medium and long terms would ensure our continued market leadership.

In 2004, we continued implementing a plan for further

strengthening our extensive branch network in Hong Kong, with a view to optimising its value for marketing and selling wealth management products. For the same purpose, we also enhanced our online banking channels.

Business model

During the year, we initiated a series of reforms in our major business models, with a view to improving our operational efficiency and competitiveness.

We refined our corporate banking business model to make it even more customer-focused. In July 2004, we piloted a new programme of corporate relationship management and product development whereby the corporate relationship managers and product managers would work closely, with the support of our middle office and back office units, to anticipate and fulfill individual customers' needs. This new approach has been working very satisfactorily so far and we are confident that it will enable us to identify and capture new business opportunities. At the same time, we have re-defined our customer and industry segmentation so that we can understand and assess customers' needs more accurately. We have also re-organised our sales force to specialise in different industries and serve customers better.

The implementation of our China-related business model was progressing as planned. Through





the joint effort of our people in both the Mainland and Hong Kong, we have come a long way in aligning our Mainland business with our Hong Kong headquarters in terms of development strategy, risk management, financial management and so on. It is expected that the operation of our China-related business model would be fully implemented within 2005.

At the same time, we also strove to strengthen the coordination and cooperation of departments involved in product development, resulting in the introduction of a broad range of new products and services during the year.

Risk management

Risk management remains one of our top strategic priorities. The Board and the Management have been working closely to ensure that we have a comprehensive, independent and effective system for managing risks. Our achievement in this area is reflected in the significant improvement we have made in recent years with

regard to our NPL ratio, which has dropped from 10.99% at end-2001 to 2.95% by end-2004, far exceeding our medium-term target.

Our risk management system is under constant review to take into account changes in internal and external circumstances. In 2004, we conducted a comprehensive review and developed the crucial policy documents for all the key types of risk. These documents have been approved by the Board and are now in force. The recent appointment of a new Chief Risk Officer will serve to further strengthen the Group's risk management function.

In anticipation of the New Capital Accord released by the Basel Committee (Basel II), we have formulated an implementation plan and set up a steering committee to prepare the Group for the implementation. We have also stepped up our effort in studying risk management at the macro level, with a view to assuming a more proactive role in this area.

During the year, we carried out a number of measures to enhance our compliance culture and system, and also strengthened the role of the Legal and Compliance Department in coordinating and supporting the other departments.

We are pleased to announce that the Tian Xing Jian Project introduced in 2003 to upgrade our corporate governance, risk management, credit approval and internal control mechanisms has been substantially completed. The completion of the Project represents an important milestone for the Company and serves as the foundation on which we can continue to reinforce our corporate governance to attain even higher standards of excellence.

The Group's corporate culture

After careful formulation and thorough bank-wide discussion, the Board approved the Group's Vision, Mission and Core Values (VMV), the bedrock of our corporate culture, in 2004.

Our **Vision** is to be customer's premier bank.

Our **Mission** is to **Build** customer satisfaction, **Offer** rewarding career opportunities to the staff and **Create** superior return to shareholders.

Our **Core Values – SPIRIT** in short and carrying equal importance – are **Social** responsibility, **Performance**, **Innovation**, **Respect**, **Integrity** and **Teamwork**.

To encourage our staff to identify with the VMV and in order that the VMV can be properly inculcated, embraced and perpetuated within the Group, we have developed and introduced a comprehensive communication and promotion programme among the staff. This effort will continue well into 2005. With our colleagues' unanimous support and cooperation, I am confident that we can develop a corporate culture that best suits the Group and gives us clear guidance as we move forward in the 21st century.



To ensure that the whole Group is working towards common goals, we started implementing a new performance appraisal system based on key performance indicators ("KPI"). The new KPI system embraces five main categories – profitability, asset quality and risk, the development of strategic business, operational efficiency, and manpower and innovation.

Prospects and Strategies

The economic recovery that Hong Kong is experiencing seems likely to extend into 2005 and benefit more business sectors. This should give rise to higher demand for loans as well as banking and financial services, though competition in the sector would remain intense.

The enhanced management structure that is now in place and the corporate reforms that were carried out in the past year will give the Group an edge in competing for new business, sustaining revenue

and profit growth and excelling itself in key areas in the coming year.

With our achievements in 2004, we will continue to perfect our development strategy, business model, corporate culture and risk management. Our primary objective is to achieve higher top line growth and ensure better return for shareholders.

We will continue to expand and diversify our income base. We will strive to raise our net interest margin by developing high-margin products. We will optimise our income structure by growing our non-interest income, and at the same time taking advantage of the rise in interest rates to grow our net interest income. We will also step up our effort in expanding our Mainland business. Internally, we will continue to enhance our human and technological capabilities as well as improve our operational efficiency and productivity.

For retail banking, we will leverage our product innovation, customisation, relationship building and cross-selling capabilities to ensure the growth momentum is maintained. We will continue to grow our wealth management products, credit card business and personal lending. We are also determined to maintain our leadership in residential mortgage business by offering competitive and flexible products.

For corporate banking, we have the benefit of a newly developed customer relationship building platform that enables us to explore and satisfy customers' diverse needs and capture untapped potential. We will also actively develop the SME business. These will facilitate us in developing and selling trade finance and high-margin products. At the same time, we will focus on further improving the asset quality of our corporate loan portfolio.

To drive the development of our SME business, which we consider an important part of our strategy, we have appointed a segment manager to oversee the SME segment and leverage our branch network to improve SME customers' access to customised services. Portfolio management of small exposures will be adopted to improve efficiency without sacrificing our prudent management of risks.

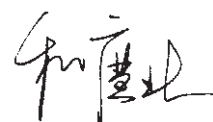
With immensely rich potential, the Mainland market will remain one of our major business focuses in the coming year. With the momentum we have

gained last year in growing our income and profit in this market, we will continue to leverage our branch network in both Hong Kong and the Mainland as well as our cooperation with BOC to expand our customer base and generate new business. At the same time, I am also confident that our capabilities and experience will ensure our leadership in the RMB banking business.

Vote of Thanks

I wish to thank the Board of Directors and the Senior Adviser for their guidance and support

throughout the year. I also thank all my colleagues for their loyalty, dedication and hard work. I am sure that together we can overcome any new challenges and achieve even greater success in the coming year.



HE Guangbei

*Vice Chairman and
Chief Executive*

Hong Kong, 23 March 2005



Senior management team of the Group: Mr HE Guangbei, Chief Executive (centre), Mr LAM Yim Nam, Deputy Chief Executive (2nd from left), Mr LEE Raymond Wing Hung, Chief Financial Officer (2nd from right), Mr GAO Yingxin, Deputy Chief Executive (1st from left), Mr CHEUNG Alex Yau Shing, Chief Risk Officer (1st from right)

Explore BUSINESS Opportunity



MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

In this section, an analysis of the performance, financial position and risk management of the Group is provided. The following discussion is based on, and should be read in conjunction with, the accounts and the notes included in this Annual Report.

Performance Measurement

In 2004, the Group made significant achievements in meeting its financial targets.

Financial Indicators	Targets	Performance	Result Highlights
ROE ¹ and ROA ²	Enhance ROE and ROA	- Profit attributable to shareholders increased by 50.23% to HK\$11,963 million, the second consecutive year of double-digit growth since IPO. - ROE increased to 18.58% from 13.62% in 2003. - ROA rose to 1.56% from 1.08% in 2003.	ROE: 18.58% ROA: 1.56%
Dividend payout ratio	60-70%	The proposed final dividend plus interim dividend payout ratio was 63.19%.	Dividend payout ratio: 63.19%
Interest margin and non-interest income ³	- Improve net interest margin - Grow non-interest income	- Net interest margin dropped to 1.55% from 1.82% in 2003, mainly due to decline in net interest spread under the low interest rate environment and keen market competition. - Non-interest income increased, driven by strong wealth management business performance. Non-interest income to total operating income ratio increased by 4.03 percentage points to 29.41%. - Growth in wealth management business mainly came from increase in distribution of life insurance products, investment funds, bonds and stockbroking.	Net interest margin: 1.55% Non-interest income to total operating income: 29.41%
Cost efficiency	Maintain low cost to income ratio	Operating expenses decreased by 2.70%. Cost to income ratio was up 1.93 percentage points to 34.72% from 2003 mainly due to decline in total operating income.	Cost to income ratio: 34.72%
Asset quality	Reduce NPL ratio and classified loan ratio ⁴ to market levels in medium-term	NPL formation sustained at a low level. NPL ratio and classified loan ratio fell significantly. Classified loan ratio would have dropped to market level if not for the larger amount of legacy loss graded loans.	NPL ratio: 2.95% Classified loan ratio: 2.95%
Capital strength and liquidity	Maintain prudent capital and liquidity levels	Capital adequacy ratio and liquidity ratio remained strong.	Capital adequacy ratio: 16.14% Liquidity ratio: 36.03%

1. ROE represents return on average shareholders' funds and is defined in "Financial Highlights".

2. ROA represents return on average total assets and is defined in "Financial Highlights".

3. Non-interest income represents other operating income.

4. Percentage of loans that are classified as substandard, doubtful or loss under the HKMA's loan classification system.

Business Environment

Benefiting from an improving global economy, the implementation of CEPA and the enlargement of the "individual visit scheme", the Hong Kong economy continued to revive in 2004. With continuous increase in exports, inbound tourism and domestic demand, real GDP grew by 8.1% in 2004. During the year, unemployment rate dropped to 6.4% in October to December 2004 from 7.1% in January to March 2004 while consumer prices registered mild increases since July 2004.

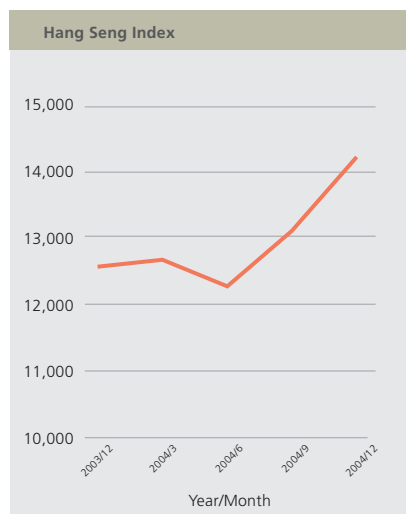


Source: HKSAR Census and Statistics Department

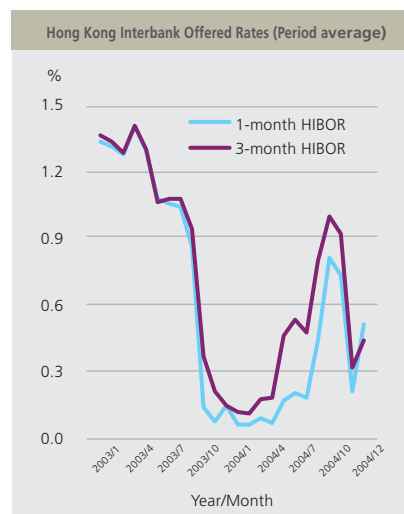


Source: HKSAR Census and Statistics Department

Notwithstanding the economic upturn, the operating environment for the local banking sector continued to be challenging. While consumer confidence, private investment as well as corporate and consumer credit demand regained some growth momentum, the low interest rate environment continued to exert pressure on net interest income.



Source: Bloomberg



Source: Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Although the US Federal Funds Target Rate was raised by an aggregate of 125 basis points to 2.25% by end-2004, HIBOR remained low throughout the year. Average 1-month and 3-month HIBORs were 0.30% and 0.46% respectively, compared to 0.99% and 1.04% in 2003. This had an adverse impact on the larger commercial banks with a more liquid balance sheet.

According to the Stock Exchange statistics, annual stock turnover in 2004 surpassed the record set in 1997 and equity funds raised by IPO also grew significantly from 2003. Investors continued to seek higher-yielding investments and the demand for wealth management products and services increased under the low interest rate environment.

The property market revitalised as prices rebounded, particularly in the luxury residential and commercial property sectors. Both transaction volume and value increased significantly. At the same time, negative equity residential mortgage loans declined sharply. However, intensified market competition further lowered the yield from mortgage loans.

In 2004, the local banking sector benefited from the benign credit environment. Both corporate and consumer credit quality improved significantly. Collateral value and borrowers' business operations picked up, which helped reduce bad debt charges.

The implementation of CEPA and the "individual visit scheme" boosted the economic interaction between the Mainland and Hong Kong. During the year, banks in Hong Kong commenced the personal RMB banking business, including deposits, exchange, remittance and RMB bank cards. These have given rise to more opportunities for growing China-related businesses.

2004 also saw an end to deflation and a return to a slight inflation towards year-end. While this did not cause any major increase in bank operating expenses during the year, it will have an impact in future years.

Consolidated Financial Review

Financial Performance

	2004	2003
Operating profit before provisions (HK\$'m)	10,352	11,595
Operating profit after provisions (HK\$'m)	11,980	9,924
Profit before taxation (HK\$'m)	14,252	8,691
Profit attributable to shareholders (HK\$'m)	11,963	7,963
Earnings per share (HK\$)	1.1315	0.7532
Return on average total assets	1.56%	1.08%
Return on average shareholders' funds	18.58%	13.62%

For the year ended 31 December 2004, the Group's profit attributable to shareholders was HK\$11,963 million, up HK\$4,000 million or 50.23% from 2003. Earnings per share were HK\$1.1315, up HK\$0.3783. Return on average total assets and return on average shareholders' funds increased by 0.48 percentage point and 4.96 percentage points to 1.56% and 18.58% respectively.

Operating profit before provisions was HK\$10,352 million, a drop of HK\$1,243 million or 10.72%. The decrease was mainly attributable to a decline in net interest income, which was partially offset by an increase in net fees and commission income and a decrease in operating expenses. Operating profit after provisions rose by HK\$2,056 million, or 20.72%, to HK\$11,980 million, mainly due to provision write-back and recoveries of loans previously written off. After taking into account a property revaluation gain of HK\$1,862 million, profit before taxation reached HK\$14,252 million, up HK\$5,561 million or 63.99%.

Net Interest Income and Margin

HK\$m, except percentage amounts	2004	2003
Interest income	15,678	17,759
Interest expense	(4,485)	(4,885)
Net interest income	11,193	12,874
Average interest-earning assets	721,402	706,479
Net interest spread	1.46%	1.73%
Net interest margin	1.55%	1.82%

Net interest income fell by HK\$1,681 million, or 13.06%, to HK\$11,193 million from 2003. During the year, average interest-earning assets grew by HK\$14,923 million, or 2.11%, to HK\$721,402 million. Net interest margin fell by 27 basis points to 1.55% due to the contraction of net interest spread.

Low interest rates continued to exert pressure on net interest income for banks with a high proportion of assets deployed in the short-term money market. In 2004, average 1-month HIBOR dropped by 69 basis points to 0.30%. This greatly affected the yield from average interbank placements that fell by 64 basis points from 2003. The yield of average advances to customers also declined by 34 basis points. On the one hand, the repricing of HIBOR-based loans and keen competition affected the yield of average corporate loans. On the other hand, the yield of the residential mortgage portfolio also dropped as market competition intensified during the year. The weighted average residential mortgage yield was 217 basis points below best lending rate, a drop of 26 basis points as compared to 2003. However, the yield from debt securities only dropped marginally by 6 basis points as the Group implemented more active balance sheet management to maximise return. The overall impact was a 34-basis point drop in the yield from average interest-earning assets. Cost of funding, mainly from deposits from customers, fell by 7 basis points as HIBOR stayed low during the year. As a result, both net interest margin and net interest spread contracted by 27 basis points.

Other Operating Income

HK\$m, except percentage amounts	2004	2003
Bills commissions	547	556
Loan commissions	490	473
Wealth management income	1,361	1,064
Stockbroking	836	696
Asset management	233	211
Life insurance	194	120
Bonds	98	37
Trust services	75	76
Payment services	349	315
Credit cards	666	560
Others	819	811
Fees and commission income	4,307	3,855
Fees and commission expenses	(1,086)	(858)
Net fees and commission income	3,221	2,997
Dividend income from investments in securities	14	45
Net gain/(loss) from other investments in securities	29	(108)
Net gain from foreign exchange activities	1,056	965
Net gain from other dealing activities	82	42
Net rental income from investment properties	141	161
Others	121	277
Other operating income	4,664	4,379
Non-interest income to total operating income ratio	29.41%	25.38%

Other operating income was HK\$4,664 million, up HK\$285 million or 6.51% from 2003. It accounted for 29.41% of total operating income, an increase of 4.03 percentage points from last year. Net fees and commission income increased by HK\$224 million, or 7.47%, to HK\$3,221 million, as revenue from the Group's wealth management business recorded a strong growth of HK\$297 million.

Income from loan and bills commissions stayed flat, reflecting tighter margins due to keen market competition. The surge in wealth management income by 27.91% to HK\$1,361 million was primarily driven by increases in income of HK\$74 million, or 61.67%, from the distribution of life insurance products, HK\$140 million, or 20.11%, from stockbroking and HK\$61 million, or 164.86% from structured notes and bond sales. These results reflected the success of the Group's strategic focus on growing its wealth management business to take advantage of the increased demand for higher-yielding investments in the low interest rate environment. Income from payment services rose by HK\$34 million, or 10.79%, driven by the growth in remittance transactions. Income from card business also recorded a growth of HK\$106 million, or 18.93%, as cardholder spending and merchant acquiring volumes increased by 31% and 37% respectively. With the introduction of personal RMB banking services at the beginning of 2004, RMB-related businesses contributed HK\$26 million of fee income. The increase in fees and commission income was partially offset by higher fees and commission expenses from credit card and residential mortgage businesses.

Compared to the first half of the year, loan and bills commission income for the second half outperformed the first half as business volume increased. Wealth management income in the second half of the year was lower mainly due to the drop in stockbroking transaction volume, generally in line with a fall in market turnover. Sales of life insurance products and investment funds also shrank as the demand for these products reduced in an interest rate hike environment.

Net gain from other investments in securities amounted to HK\$29 million as compared to a net loss of HK\$108 million in 2003, which was due to losses from the disposal of debt securities.

Net gain from foreign exchange activities increased by HK\$91 million, or 9.43%, as business volume rose.

Operating Expenses

HK\$'m, except percentage amounts	2004	2003
Staff costs	3,291	3,316
Premises and equipment expenses (excluding depreciation)	725	732
Depreciation on owned fixed assets	585	611
Other operating expenses	904	999
Operating expenses	5,505	5,658
Cost to income ratio	34.72%	32.79%

Operating expenses decreased by HK\$153 million, or 2.70%, to HK\$5,505 million, as a result of disciplined cost control and improvement in operational efficiency. Staff costs fell by HK\$25 million, or 0.75%, to HK\$3,291 million, as headcount decreased. Headcount measured in full time equivalents was 12,976 at end-2004, a decrease of 161 from end-2003. The reduction in other operating expenses of HK\$95 million, or 9.51%, was attributable to the one-off professional fees incurred for a special review in 2003. The slight rise in cost to income ratio of 1.93 percentage points was due to the decline in total operating income.

Provisions for Bad and Doubtful Debts

HK\$'m	2004	2003
Specific provisions		
– new provisions	(1,520)	(3,834)
– releases	1,851	768
– recoveries	1,356	438
General provisions	1,687	(2,628)
	(59)	957
Net credit/(charge) to profit and loss account	1,628	(1,671)

A net provision write-back of HK\$1,628 million was recorded in 2004 as compared to a net charge of HK\$1,671 million in 2003. New specific provision charge was down by HK\$2,314 million, or 60.35%, to HK\$1,520 million, mainly due to lower bad debt formation as the Group's asset quality continued to improve. This represented a HK\$9,129 million, or 85.73%, reduction in new specific provision charge during the Group's merger and structuring in 2001. The significant improvement was due to continuous enhancement of risk management practices since then. Releases in specific provisions increased by HK\$1,083 million, or 141.02% to HK\$1,851 million, reflecting the increase in collateral value and strong collection brought by improvement in the economy and property market. As a result of the Group's relentless effort, the recovery of loans previously written off rose by HK\$918 million, or 209.59%, to HK\$1,356 million. General provision charge was HK\$59 million due to increase in loan balance.

Property Revaluation

HK\$'m	2004	2003
Increase/(decrease) in property revaluation reserves		
– Premises	2,895	(48)
– Investment properties	629	–
	3,524	(48)
Credited/(charged) to profit and loss account		
– Premises	1,337	(741)
– Investment properties	525	(370)
	1,862	(1,111)
Credited to minority interests		
– Premises	28	–
– Investment properties	1	–
	29	–
	5,415	(1,159)

The Group registered an increase in valuation of properties amounting to HK\$5,415 million in 2004, reflecting the increase in market value in a more robust property market. Premises and investment properties were revalued on the basis of their open market value on 31 October 2004 by Chesterton Petty Limited, an independent firm of chartered surveyors. The revaluation resulted in a credit to the profit and loss account of HK\$1,862 million, which included a revaluation gain on premises and investment properties of HK\$1,337 million and HK\$525 million respectively. The remaining revaluation surplus was mainly recognised in property revaluation reserves.

Taxation

HK\$'m	2004	2003
Hong Kong profits tax	2,113	576
Overseas taxation	17	11
Share of taxation attributable to associates	1	2
Taxation	2,131	589

Taxation for 2004 was HK\$2,131 million, up HK\$1,542 million or 261.80%, when compared to 2003. The increase was partly due to a HK\$732 million write-back of tax provisions in 2003 that was no longer required after the Inland Revenue Department finalised the tax losses of the Group's predecessor merging branches and the tax position of BOCHK, and partly due to higher profit before taxation in 2004. The effective tax rate of the Group in 2004 was approximately 15%, which stayed flat when compared to last year after excluding the effect of tax provision write-back in 2003.

Financial Position

HK\$'m, except percentage amounts	At 31 December 2004	At 31 December 2003
Cash and short-term funds	102,647	134,106
Placements with banks and other financial institutions maturing between one and twelve months	107,581	78,240
Certificates of deposit held	22,338	18,776
Hong Kong SAR Government certificates of indebtedness	34,760	31,460
Investments in securities*	189,388	172,518
Advances and other accounts	309,211	300,094
Fixed assets	21,877	17,582
Other assets **	8,974	9,811
Total assets	796,776	762,587
Hong Kong SAR currency notes in circulation	34,760	31,460
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions	34,440	41,347
Deposits from customers	631,330	600,642
Certificates of deposit issued	3,788	2,432
Other accounts and provisions	22,698	25,289
Total liabilities	727,016	701,170
Minority interests	1,239	1,156
Shareholders' funds	68,521	60,261
Total liabilities and capital resources	796,776	762,587
Loan to deposit ratio	49.61%	51.38%

* Investments in securities comprise held-to-maturity securities, investment securities and other investments in securities.

** Trade bills and interests in associates are included in other assets.

Total assets were HK\$796,776 million as at 31 December 2004, up HK\$34,189 million or 4.48%, from end-2003.

Cash and short-term funds fell by 23.46%. At the same time, placements with banks and other financial institutions maturing between one and twelve months increased by 37.50%. Investments in securities rose by 9.78% and the duration extended.

Fixed assets increased by HK\$4,295 million, or 24.43%, to HK\$21,877 million, primarily due to the rise in the valuation of premises and investment properties of HK\$5,415 million.

Advances to Customers

HK\$m, except percentage amounts	At 31 December 2004		At 31 December 2003	
		%		%
Industrial, commercial and financial	148,034	47.26%	155,839	50.50%
Individuals	124,687	39.81%	118,962	38.55%
Trade finance	13,279	4.24%	12,100	3.92%
Loans for use outside Hong Kong	27,226	8.69%	21,681	7.03%
	313,226	100.00%	308,582	100.00%

The Group's advances to customers marginally increased by HK\$4,644 million, or 1.50%, from end-2003 despite large write-off and collection amounting to HK\$2,856 million and HK\$7,323 million respectively. Loan to deposit ratio was 49.61% as at 31 December 2004, down 1.77 percentage points from end-2003.

The Group's efforts to achieve loan growth was better reflected in the growth in performing loans. As at 31 December 2004, the Group's performing loans rose by HK\$13,237 million, or 4.55%, from end-2003. Moreover, the Group continued to diversify its loan portfolio by growing retail loans and overseas lending, particularly the loan portfolio of Mainland branches. As a result, lending to individuals and loans for use outside Hong Kong accounted for 39.81% and 8.69% respectively of the total advances to customers, representing a rise of 1.26 and 1.66 percentage points respectively from end-2003. As a whole, the Group has achieved an improved and more diversified loan mix covering both corporate and retail loans as well as local and overseas loans.

Regarding loans for use in Hong Kong, lending to individuals showed solid growth of HK\$5,725 million or 4.81%, primarily driven by an increase of HK\$5,612 million, or 6.24%, in residential mortgage loans (excluding those under the government-sponsored home purchasing schemes). Credit card advances also rose by HK\$500 million, or 13.31%, reflecting the success of the Group's strategic initiative in growing the consumer credit business. Lending to industrial, commercial and financial sectors declined by HK\$7,805 million, or 5.01% largely due to write-off and collection. Meanwhile, trade finance grew by 9.74%.

The 25.58% growth in loans for use outside Hong Kong was mainly driven by the increase in lending by the Group's Mainland branches and overseas lending.

Deposits from Customers

HK\$m, except percentage amounts	At 31 December 2004		At 31 December 2003	
		%		%
Demand deposits and current accounts	32,470	5.14%	26,974	4.49%
Savings deposits	296,462	46.96%	271,439	45.19%
Time, call and notice deposits	302,398	47.90%	302,229	50.32%
	631,330	100.00%	600,642	100.00%

Total liabilities grew by HK\$25,846 million, or 3.69%, to HK\$727,016 million from end-2003, mainly caused by a rise in deposits from customers.

Deposits from customers increased by HK\$30,688 million, or 5.11%, to HK\$631,330 million from end-2003. During the year, the interbank liquidity remained high in Hong Kong. Despite the low interest rate environment, customers continued to place funds in savings and current accounts for liquidity preference. Savings deposits rose by HK\$25,023 million, or 9.22%, to HK\$296,462 million. For RMB deposits, the Group has continued to be a leading provider of personal RMB banking services since the launch of the services in early 2004.

Asset Quality

HK\$m, except percentage amounts	At 31 December 2004	At 31 December 2003
Advances to customers	313,226	308,582
General provisions	(5,465)	(5,406)
Specific provisions	(2,320)	(5,507)
General provisions as a percentage of advances to customers	1.74%	1.75%
Specific provisions as a percentage of advances to customers	0.74%	1.78%
Total provisions as a percentage of advances to customers	2.49%	3.54%
Non-performing loans	9,239	17,832
Specific provisions made in respect of non-performing loans	(2,269)	(5,467)
Specific provisions as a percentage of non-performing loans	24.56%	30.66%
Specific provisions and collateral coverage for classified loans	91.66%	90.95%
Total provisions as a percentage of non-performing loans	84.26%	61.20%
Non-performing loans as a percentage of advances to customers	2.95%	5.78%
Classified loan ratio	2.95%	5.82%
Residential mortgage loans* – delinquency and rescheduled loan ratio**	0.61%	1.10%
Card advances – delinquency ratio**#	0.38%	0.75%
	2004	2003
Card advances – charge-off ratio#	3.96%	8.86%

* Residential mortgage loans exclude those under the Home Ownership Scheme and other government-sponsored home purchasing schemes.

** Delinquency ratio is measured by a ratio of total amount of overdue loans (more than three months) to total outstanding loans.

Computed according to the HKMA's definition.

During the year, the Group's asset quality showed remarkable improvement, attaining the lowest level of NPL ratio since 2001. Both the NPL ratio and the classified loan ratio were at 2.95%, down 2.83 and 2.87 percentage points respectively. NPLs decreased by HK\$8,593 million, or 48.19% to HK\$9,239 million as at 31 December 2004.

The substantial improvement in asset quality was attributable to the Group's effective risk management and collection efforts. At the same time, the recovery of the economy and increased collateral values were also key factors. During the year, net new formation of classified loans was kept at a very low level, amounting to approximately HK\$1.4 billion, or less than 0.5% of total loan outstanding, compared to HK\$6.3 billion in 2003. Moreover, as at 31 December 2004, classified loan ratio of loans originated after the merger and restructuring of the Group in 2001 was slightly less than 1%, indicating the higher quality of new loans granted since then.

Collateral coverage for classified loans increased to 67.17% from 60.54% at end-2003 due to the increase in collateral value and write-off. Specific provisions and collateral coverage for classified loans was 91.66%, up 0.71 percentage point, compared to 90.95% in 2003. Total provisions as a percentage of NPLs rose significantly by 23.06 percentage points from end-2003 to 84.26% as at 31 December 2004.

The quality of the Group's residential mortgage loans continued to improve. The combined delinquency and rescheduled loan ratio decreased from 1.10% to 0.61%, lower than the market average of 0.85%. The quality of card advances also improved, with charge-off ratio and delinquency ratio falling by 4.90 percentage points and 0.37 percentage point to 3.96% and 0.38% respectively, which were better than the market average.

All these achievements reflect the Group's success in enhancing risk management standards to align with international best practices and in building a more rigorous risk management culture in its daily business operation.

Capital and Liquidity Ratios

HK\$m, except percentage amounts	At 31 December 2004	At 31 December 2003
Tier 1 capital	60,905	56,755
Tier 2 capital	5,049	4,997
Unconsolidated investments and other deductions	(1,257)	(1,429)
Total capital base after deductions	64,697	60,323
Risk-weighted assets		
On-balance sheet	369,875	362,531
Off-balance sheet	34,045	37,249
Deductions	(3,091)	(622)
Total risk-weighted assets	400,829	399,158
Total risk-weighted assets adjusted for market risk	400,977	396,682
Capital adequacy ratios		
Before adjusting for market risk		
Tier 1	15.19%	14.22%
Total	16.14%	15.11%
After adjusting for market risk		
Tier 1*	15.19%	14.31%
Total*	16.13%	15.21%
	2004	2003
Average liquidity ratio	36.03%	37.76%

* The capital adequacy ratios take into account market risks and are calculated in accordance with the relevant HKMA guidelines.

The consolidated capital adequacy ratio increased by 1.03 percentage points to 16.14% as at 31 December 2004, compared to 15.11% at end-2003, mainly due to a growth of the Group's total capital base after deductions.

The capital base after deductions grew by HK\$4,374 million as retained earnings increased. Total risk-weighted assets rose by HK\$1,671 million, primarily because of an increase in on-balance sheet risk-weighted assets by HK\$7,344 million, a decline of HK\$3,204 million in off-balance sheet risk-weighted assets and an increase in deductions by HK\$2,469 million. The growth in on-balance sheet risk-weighted assets was due to an increase in interbank placements and debt securities investments while off-balance sheet risk-weighted assets declined as a result of a decrease in other commitments with an original maturity of one year and over. The increase in deductions of risk-weighted assets was due to an increase in the valuation of premises and investment properties.

BOCHK's average liquidity ratio was 36.03%, down 1.73 percentage points from end-2003, mainly due to a decrease in average 1-month net interbank placements.

Business Review

Commercial banking

The Commercial Banking segment consists of the Retail Banking and Corporate Banking businesses.

HK\$'m	2004	2003
Net interest income	7,880	9,392
Other operating income	3,288	3,116
Operating income	11,168	12,508
Operating expenses	(4,317)	(4,373)
Operating profit before provisions	6,851	8,135
Write-back of/(charge for) bad and doubtful debts	1,628	(1,671)
Operating profit after provisions	8,479	6,464
Segment assets	317,064	310,008
Segment liabilities	651,539	621,211

Note: For additional segmental information, see Note 40 to the accounts.

Segment financial highlights

- Net interest income decreased by HK\$1,512 million, or 16.10%, to HK\$7,880 million. The decrease was mainly due to a narrowed deposit spread, which was partially offset by an increase in income from the Retail Banking loan portfolio, mainly comprising residential mortgage loans as the HKD Prime and HIBOR spread widened and the balance increased. Net interest income from Corporate Banking declined marginally as compared to 2003.
- Other operating income grew by HK\$172 million, or 5.52%, to HK\$3,288 million, driven by strong revenue growth from the Group's wealth management business.
- Costs remained under prudent control.
- Owing to improved asset quality and strong recoveries, there was a significant provision write-back from the Corporate Banking loan portfolio.

- Overall, the provision write-back offset the decline in net interest income, resulting in a net growth of HK\$2,015 million, or 31.17%, in the Commercial Banking segment's operating profit after provisions.

Retail banking

Solid growth in all major business areas. To diversify the Group's income streams, wealth management has been a top priority insofar as Retail Banking strategies are concerned. In 2004, the Group aimed at further solidifying its wealth management platform while developing more professional and tailor-made products and services to cater for different customer segments. It also strove to maintain its leading position in the deposit taking and mortgage lending businesses. Strengthening consumer credit and card advances was another key initiative for raising the return of its retail loan portfolio. Moreover, riding on the business opportunities arising from the economic integration between the Mainland and Hong Kong, the Group continued to grow its RMB-related business. In 2004, the Group achieved significant growth in major business areas, namely, wealth management, mortgage, cards and personal RMB banking businesses.

Wealth management: Wealth management registered strong growth during the year. The Group has been working closely with investment fund houses and strategic business partners to select a series of performing investment funds and other innovative investment products to fulfil customers' needs. Stockbroking transactions, sales of open-ended funds, structured notes and bonds, and distribution of insurance products grew by 31%, 68%, 27% and 66% respectively. The Group became the Arrangers and Joint Global Coordinators for the HKSAR Government's HK\$20-billion global bond offering in July.

In late 2004, with an enhanced wealth management platform, it launched the Wealth Management Prime services in its 81 wealth management centres and branches. Designated Personal Financial Services Managers provide customers with comprehensive and personalised financial planning services. Furthermore, with the introduction of a sophisticated financial planning tool, Wealth MaxiWiser, the Group further strengthened its professional investment portfolio analysis and recommendations for customers. During the year, the total number of wealth management customers tripled with approximately HK\$130 billion asset under management. The enlarged clientele would provide new impetus to the Group's wealth management business.

Mortgage: Despite intense competition, the Group's mortgage business continued to grow and outperform the market. The Group's mortgage balance was up 6.24% from end-2003. To satisfy customers' diverse finance needs under the prevailing low interest rate environment, new products, including the fixed interest rate mortgage scheme and the HIBOR based mortgage scheme, were introduced in 2004. Both schemes were well received by customers. The asset quality of mortgage loans continued to improve as a result of the rise in property price and the Group's effective risk management. The combined delinquency and rescheduled loan ratio fell to 0.61%, lower than the market average. The negative equity ratio dropped to 3.93% at end-2004, compared to the market average of 6.30%.

Personal loans: Sustained economic growth and increasing consumer credit demand contributed to the growth of the Group's personal loans, which increased by approximately 6%. During the year, the Group expanded its range of personal loan products and launched iSmart personal loans and iSmart tax loans that allow customers to enjoy a higher degree of financial flexibility.

Credit cards: Riding on the growth momentum of 2003, the Group's card business showed outstanding performance in 2004 with 11% increase in net fees and commission income. During the year, a wide range of new services and products were offered to customers. For example, the newly launched Warner Mini Card and 2004 BOC Euro Commemorative MasterCard were both well received by customers. The Group was also the first bank in Asia to launch Euro-denominated credit cards. At the same time, it expanded its business to Macau with the issuance of Platinum MasterCard.

Compared to 2003, cardholder spending and the number of cards issued grew by 31% and 34% respectively. Merchant acquiring volume rose by 37%. Meanwhile, card receivable balance increased by 13.31%, higher than the market growth rate. The reviving economy also helped improve the charge-off ratio and delinquency ratio to 3.96% and 0.38% respectively, well below the market average.

The continual success of the Group's card business further solidified its position in the industry. In 2004, it received several awards from Visa International and MasterCard International.

The Group's China-related card business achieved important milestones in 2004. It pioneered the launch of the China UnionPay Card acquiring business in Hong Kong in January. With over 6,400 new terminals in over 4,000 merchant sales points at end-2004, the Group has been providing reliable and convenient payment service to the Mainland UnionPay cardholders in Hong Kong. In September, China UnionPay Card acquiring business was also extended to Macau.



Personal RMB banking business: The Group has maintained its market leadership in offering personal RMB banking services since launching the business in February. It was the first bank to offer a comprehensive range of RMB products and services, including deposits, exchange, remittances and cards. It also provides an extensive service network, comprising branches, ATMs, Internet banking and telephone banking. RMB withdrawal services are made available via its 232 ATMs throughout Hong Kong. It pioneered the issuing of RMB credit cards in April and led the local RMB card business by having issued over 50,000 RMB cards at end-2004.

Channels: In order to optimise its branch network and align with its wealth management strategies, the Group continued to reengineer its distribution network. During the year, 7 branches were closed and 1 branch was opened in Hong Kong. As at end-2004, the total number of branches in Hong Kong was 283 and the number of ATMs was 447, as compared to 289 and 449 respectively at end-2003.

Good progress was made in strengthening the Group's e-business channels. During the year, new functions were incorporated in the Group's Internet banking services, including new on-line wealth management services, transfers, RMB banking services and credit card payment services. By end-2004, the number of IT's Banking customers grew by 15% and the number of transactions doubled that in 2003.

Corporate banking and financial institutions

Growing with a new business model. As one of the largest corporate lenders in Hong Kong, the Group is committed to becoming a close partner to customers by offering a comprehensive range of financial services to meet their specific needs. Capitalising on the strengths and capabilities that it possess, it aims at expanding its market share and building its high-return business.



New business model: In 2004, the Group refined its customer and product management framework. The new business model is more customer-centric, emphasising the development of business strategies appropriate for different customer segments so that the Group can become its customers' preferred banker. Under this model, corporate relationship managers have been re-organised in accordance with their industrial specialty to work closely with a team of product managers. The former specialises in customer relationship management whereas the latter's expertise is in product development. The two teams collaborate with each other to ensure that customers' needs are satisfied with the best products. This approach not only enables the Group to provide customers with quality products and services in a timely and cost-effective way, but also prepares it for new business opportunities.

Business development and asset quality improvement: The Group has maintained its competitive advantage in Corporate Banking business. In 2004, it was ranked by Basis Point, a leading source of Asian debt market news and analysis, as the second largest local syndicated lending arranger. Focusing on strengthening its trade finance services, the Group achieved high ratings in the service quality of import and export factoring at a competition organised by Factors Chain International, a global network of leading factoring companies. Despite intense market competition, the Group's trade bills transaction volume increased by 13%. Trade finance related loans also grew by 9.74%.

During the year, effective collection and write-off were implemented. By the end of 2004, the Group's overall corporate loan quality improved substantially as evidenced by the record low classified loan ratio and bad debt formation level since the Group's restructuring in 2001.

Channels: The Group undertook various initiatives to improve its product quality and operational efficiency. In February 2004, it launched the Financial Institutions Online, which allows correspondent banks to manage their accounts via Internet. In May 2004, the CBS Online was rolled out, enabling corporate clients to manage their accounts via the Internet. By the end of 2004, the number of CBS customers increased by 42%. These initiatives also facilitate the development of the Group's cash management business.

Clearing and settlement services: Appointed by the PBOC as the clearing Bank for RMB business in Hong Kong, the Group launched RMB clearing services in February 2004, serving 38 participating banks. It was also appointed the agent bank for the HKD and USD RTGS Link between the Guangdong Province and Hong Kong in March. In July, the Group was nominated by the PBOC as the agent bank for the USD Joint Cheque Clearing Service between Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

China-related business

Robust growth on a solid foundation. China-related business is one of the Group's core growth areas. The Group's China business model leverages its retail and corporate franchise in Hong Kong, branch network in the Mainland, and close relationship with BOC to provide cross border financial services to customers. The Group's Mainland branch network now acts as an extended arm of its Retail Banking and Corporate Banking business units. New organisational structure, market positioning, customer segmentation and product development strategy have been formulated to drive this new model. The Group has also been taking a new approach in cooperating with BOC in business development by providing complementary financial services to BOC's customers in both Hong Kong and the Mainland.

In 2004, the Group's China-related business continued to deliver good results. The combined operating profit before provisions of the Mainland branches increased by 22% to HK\$147 million. Total advances to customers rose significantly by 53% to HK\$9,345 million while customer deposits grew by 17% to HK\$2,285 million. Asset quality improved considerably with the classified loan ratio falling to 3.26% at end-2004 from 10.35% at end-2003.

The Group has made very good progress in expanding the business scope of its Mainland branches and sub-branches. Further to obtaining the approval to operate RMB business to foreign enterprises, BOCHK's Shanghai and Shenzhen branches (including sub-branches) were allowed to offer RMB business service to Chinese enterprises. In addition, Nanyang's Dalian and Guangzhou branches also obtained the approval for providing RMB business to foreign and Chinese enterprises during the year. Six branches and sub-branches were allowed to commence financial derivatives business. Moreover, benefiting from the implementation of CEPA, BOCHK's Shantou and Shenzhen branches (including sub-branches) were admitted to commence insurance agency business while two other branches have already submitted their documents for insurance agency business.

The Group also undertook to enhance its services through the development of the electronic channel. In January, iT's Online Banking and Telephone Banking were launched successfully, enabling customers to check their account status, review payment records and request for various financial information. Four Mainland branches were also allowed to join the China National Advanced Payment System, which provides real-time, safe and cost-efficient means of fund transfer to the Group's Mainland customers.

Treasury

The Group's treasury operation covers foreign exchange, gold bullion, derivatives, money markets, and capital markets. The following table summarises the performance of the treasury operation.

HK\$m	2004	2003
Net interest income	2,928	2,982
Other operating income	1,121	918
Operating income	4,049	3,900
Operating expenses	(159)	(162)
Operating profit before provisions	3,890	3,738
Charge for bad and doubtful debts	–	–
Operating profit after provisions	3,890	3,738
Segment assets	456,948	432,947
Segment liabilities	72,453	77,671

Note: For additional segmental information, see Note 40 to the accounts.

Segment financial highlights

- Net interest income decreased marginally by HK\$54 million, or 1.81%, to HK\$2,928 million.
- Other operating income increased by HK\$203 million, or 22.11%, to HK\$1,121 million, mainly due to the gain from foreign exchange activities against the losses from the disposal of debt securities in 2003.
- Segment operating profit after provisions increased by HK\$152 million, or 4.07%, to HK\$3,890 million.

Growth in customer-driven business and active surplus fund management. The US interest rate hike and the low HIBOR resulted in a very challenging environment for treasury management in 2004. However, the Group strove to stabilise its net interest income through active asset and liability management. During the year, taking advantage of its flexible balance sheet, the Group lengthened the duration of its debt securities portfolio and increased investments in structured bonds and asset-backed securities for higher interest yield.

At the same time, strong emphasis was placed on developing new products and sales channels to improve the Group's non-interest income stream. Through enhanced collaboration with the Retail Banking and Corporate Banking businesses, customer-driven business grew while transaction volumes of foreign exchange, bullion and option-linked deposits increased significantly from 2003. In the fourth quarter, the Group launched the retail currency option trading services.

The Group also managed to grow the number of treasury customers by 14% and increased the transaction volumes of structured products significantly.

Technology and operations

In 2004, the Group made good progress in information technology development. The Group met its targets in 2004 by successfully completing its core banking system enhancement, and various system changes for business development, process re-engineering and compliance-related requirements.

For the core banking system enhancement, the Group completed and launched its new savings account system with increased functionality. In addition, the development of the new banking application system for its Mainland branches, new securities trading system and new trade services system was completed in 2004 and scheduled to be launched in 2005. To develop its wealth management business, the Group completed and launched a new wealth management system offering financial planning and portfolio management services to customers.

To support business development, the Group also achieved the followings:

- Completed CBS Online that offers an Internet-based channel to corporate customers;
- Upgraded IT's banking system;
- Completed linkage of the RTGS system between Hong Kong and Guangdong;
- Completed RMB Settlement Institute Management System for RMB clearing services; and
- Enhanced system functionality to meet the increasing complexity and diversity of its treasury product development.

To increase operational efficiency, the Credit Workflow Management System was launched, which facilitates fast and efficient credit approval and management process for the Retail Banking business. Its usage will be extended to the Corporate Banking business in 2005. Meanwhile, the second phase of the Information Processing Centralisation Project to transfer data entry work to Shenzhen was implemented.

To meet the new financial reporting standards effective in 2005, the Group carried out a system enhancement process to ensure compliance to the new standards. Further system refinement to meet the requirement of the new financial reporting standards will be completed in the first half of 2005.

Credit Ratings

	Long-term	Short-term
Fitch	A	F1
Moody's	A2	P-1
Standard & Poor's	BBB+	A-2

On 1 November 2004, BOCHK obtained the first credit ratings from Fitch Ratings. Fitch Ratings assigned a long-term foreign currency rating of A and a short-term foreign currency rating of F1 to BOCHK. The outlook on the ratings is stable.

As at 31 December 2004, the long-term and the short-term foreign currency bank deposit ratings assigned by Moody's Investor Service to BOCHK were A2 and P-1 respectively. The long-term and short-term counterparty credit ratings assigned by Standard & Poor's to BOCHK were BBB+ and A-2 respectively.

These rating agencies review the ratings assigned to BOCHK periodically and may confirm or change the ratings from time to time as a result of their reviews.

Risk Management

Overview

Risk management is fundamental to the business of the Group. It is also an integral part of its day-to-day operation and business development strategy. The principal types of risk inherent in the Group's business are credit risk, market risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk, operational risk, strategic risk, reputation risk, and legal and compliance risk. The Group's risk management goal is to maximise its long-term risk-adjusted return on capital, to reduce volatility in earnings and to enhance shareholder value, while maintaining risk exposures within acceptable limits.

Risk management governance structure

BOCHK's risk management policies are designed to identify and analyse credit risk, market risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk and operational risk, to set appropriate risk limits, and to continually monitor these risks and limits by means of administrative procedures and information systems. BOCHK continually modifies and enhances its risk management policies and procedures to reflect changes in markets and products.

The Risk Committee ("RC", formerly known as Risk Management Committee), established by the Board of Directors as a standing committee, is responsible for approving risk management policies and procedures and major asset and liability management policies proposed by the Asset and Liability Management Committee ("ALCO").

Each Strategic Business Unit ("SBU") is responsible for the implementation of appropriate policies, procedures and controls in relation to risk management under the general guidance of the Chief Risk Officer ("CRO"), who oversees the operation of the Risk Management Department ("RMD").

The Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") has oversight responsibilities for the soundness of the Group's capitalisation and earnings. In addition, the CFO, with the assistance of the Finance Department, monitors the bank-wide interest rate risk and liquidity risk and reports to the ALCO and the RC on a regular basis.

The Audit Department of BOCHK reports directly to the Board and the Audit Committee and is responsible for the monitoring of proper compliance by the Group on all risk management policies and procedures.

BOCHK's principal banking subsidiaries, Nanyang and Chiyu, are both managed consistent with the policies of the Group. These subsidiaries execute their risk management strategy independently and report to BOCHK's management on a regular basis.

Credit risk management

Credit risk is the risk that a customer or counterparty will be unable or unwilling to meet a commitment that it has entered into with BOCHK. Credit risk arises principally from BOCHK's lending, trade finance and treasury activities.

BOCHK's primary goal in credit risk management is to maximise its risk-adjusted returns while maintaining its credit risk exposure within acceptable parameters. In particular, BOCHK has developed and is implementing comprehensive policies and procedures to identify, measure, monitor and control credit risk across the organisation.

The Board of Directors is responsible for determining its strategic objectives and principles for credit risk management. The Board, with the aim of maximising BOCHK's risk-adjusted return as well as shareholders' wealth, holds ultimate responsibility for BOCHK's overall credit risk management process.

The RC is a board-level committee with the responsibility for determining and revising BOCHK's credit risk management policies and procedures. BOCHK believes that independence and proper check-and-balance are of crucial importance in effective risk management. To ensure independence and checks and balance, under BOCHK's managerial and organisational structure, the RMD and the Audit Department report directly to the RC and the Audit Committee respectively.

The Chief Executive is responsible for, among other things, implementing the credit risk management strategy and policies approved by the Board. He is also charged with balancing BOCHK's goal of generating a reasonable yield on its assets whilst maintaining risk exposures within pre-defined tolerance levels.



The RMD, being structurally independent of credit initiation units, assists the Chief Executive in managing credit risk in accordance with BOCHK's credit risk management strategy and policies. It also provides independent due diligence on identification, measurement, monitoring and control of credit risk. To avoid any potential conflicts of interests, the credit review functions are independent of the business units. Multi-level credit approval authorities are set, depending mostly on the credit officers' professional experience, skills and responsibilities. All credit approval and review authorities originate from BOCHK's Board of Directors.

The Special Assets Management Department is responsible for the collection of NPLs.

BOCHK follows different approval procedures for high-risk and low-risk loans.

Low-risk credit transactions that fulfil certain requirements relating to credit types, loan purposes, loan amounts, guarantees, collateral

coverage and security adequacy can be processed using low-risk loan approval procedures. Under these procedures, authorised credit officers in credit initiation units may approve this type of credit applications without prior review by the RMD. A loan review officer in the RMD conducts independent post-approval reviews of such pre-approved low-risk credit transactions and assess if initial credit decisions have been made in accordance with the established procedures.

BOCHK is committed to building a credit scoring system to facilitate credit approval process for retail exposures. Scorecard is a tool for credit risk assessment, using statistical model to analyse applicants' demographic and credit characteristics to predict future repayment performance. With scorecards, credit decisions are made based on credit scoring results, but scoring does not preclude credit officers from making credit judgment. During the year, the first application scorecard for personal unsecured credit facilities was deployed. Several other scorecards for different types of personal lending products are now in the process of implementation.

For high-risk loans, credit officers in credit initiation units can only accept and review loan applications and make the initial lending decisions. These credit applications are then independently evaluated by review officers in the RMD in respect of compliance with policies and procedures, adequacy of credit risk assessment, and information sufficiency. The RMD is authorised to exercise the right of veto based on the review conclusions.

For loans reaching the approval authority of Deputy Chief Executives or above, independent risk assessment by the Credit Risk Assessment Committee ("CRAC") is required. The CRAC is a specialised committee which consists of experts from the lending and other areas of BOCHK. The CRAC is responsible for making independent risk assessment of significant credit applications. Its assessment results will be an important basis for the CRO to make his credit review decision as well as the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executives to make their credit approval decisions. The CRAC itself has no credit approval authority.

Loans that exceed the approval authority of the Chief Executive have to be approved by the RC.

BOCHK has a dedicated division, the Credit Monitoring Division within the RMD, to conduct thorough and comprehensive post-disbursement examination on each obligor and group of obligors in order to identify and control individual and overall credit risk in the loan portfolio.

The early alert programme for identifying potential problem customers has been further enhanced to detect early signs of deterioration in credit status of obligors and to trigger closer monitoring process to prevent further deterioration.

To ensure that adequate efforts are dedicated to improve loan quality, BOCHK has focused more on the monitoring of significant exposures and set up internal targets to evaluate the performance in the resolution of criticised loans. The RMD regularly reports the loan quality to senior management for high-level oversight.

Market risk management

Market risk is the risk that the movements in interest rates or market prices will result in losses in on-and off-balance sheet positions. BOCHK's market risk arises from customer-related business and from position taking. Market risk trading positions are subject to daily mark-to-market valuation.

Market risk is managed within the risk limits approved by the RC. The overall risk limits are divided into sub-limits by reference to different risk factors, including interest rate, foreign exchange rate, commodity price and equity price. Considering the different nature of the products involved, limits are set by using a combination of risk measurement techniques, including position limits and sensitivity limits.

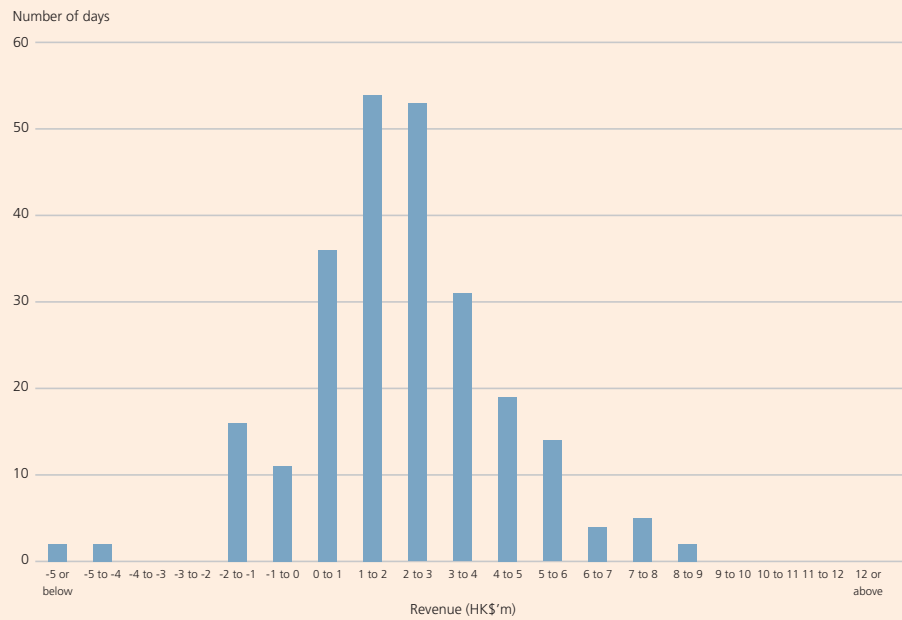
Having set up the monitoring limits and supervisory procedures, the Market Risk Division in the RMD is responsible for the daily oversight of BOCHK's market risk to ensure that the overall and individual market risks are within BOCHK's risk tolerance.

VaR is a statistical technique which estimates the potential losses that could occur on risk positions taken due to movements in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, commodity prices and equity prices over a specified time horizon and to a given level of confidence. The model used by BOCHK to calculate portfolio and individual VaR on a variance/co-variance basis uses historical movements in market rates and prices, a 99% confidence level and a 1-day holding period and generally takes account of correlations between different markets and rates.

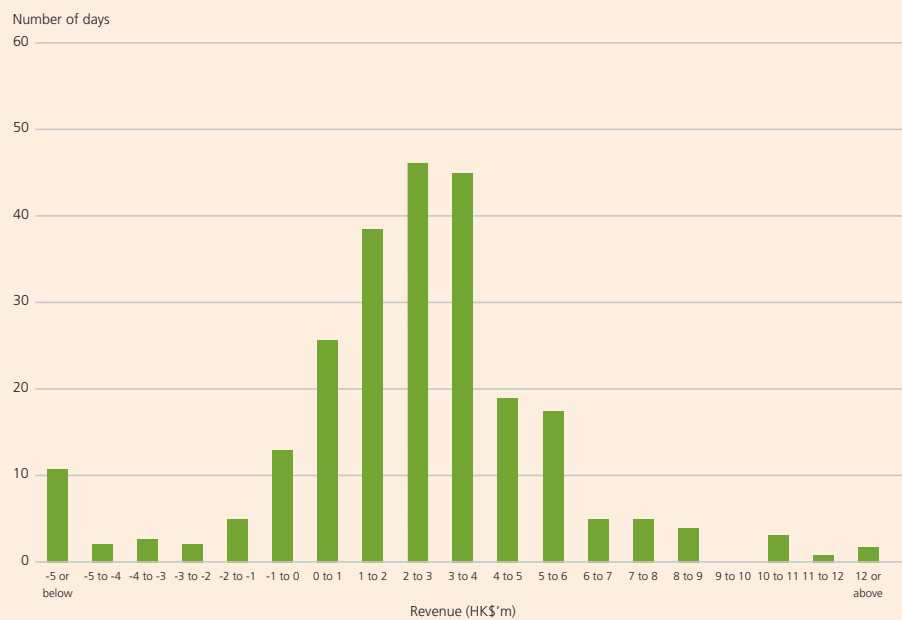
At 31 December 2004, the VaR for all trading market risk exposure of BOCHK was HK\$2.9 million (31 December 2003: HK\$0.8 million), the VaR for all trading interest rate risk exposure was HK\$1.9 million (31 December 2003: HK\$0.7 million) and the VaR for all trading foreign exchange risk exposure was HK\$2.3 million (31 December 2003: HK\$0.6 million). For the year ended 31 December 2004, the average VaR was HK\$3.2 million (2003: HK\$5.9 million), with a maximum of HK\$5.6 million and a minimum of HK\$0.9 million for the period.

For the year ended 31 December 2004, the average daily revenue of BOCHK earned from market risk-related trading activities was HK\$2.1 million (2003: HK\$1.9 million). The standard deviation of these daily trading revenues was HK\$2.3 million (2003: HK\$9.0 million). An analysis on the frequency distribution of daily trading revenues illustrated below shows that 31 losses (2003: 36 losses) were recorded out of 249 trading days for the year ended 31 December 2004 and the maximum daily loss was HK\$6.9 million (2003: HK\$119 million). The most frequent result was a daily trading revenue of between HK\$1.0 million to HK\$3.0 million (2003: HK\$2.0 million to HK\$4.0 million). The highest daily revenue was HK\$8.9 million (2003: HK\$36.3 million).

Daily Distribution of Trading Market Risk Revenues For The Year Ended 31 December 2004



Daily Distribution of Trading Market Risk Revenues For The Year Ended 31 December 2003



Foreign exchange risk management

BOCHK provides foreign exchange deposit, margin trading and forward transaction services to its customers. BOCHK's trading activities in the foreign currency markets expose it to exchange rate risk. BOCHK manages exchange rate risk through its interbank market activities. In particular, BOCHK mitigates exchange rate risk by establishing position limits and limits on the loss of the whole foreign exchange trading floor. All these limits are approved by the RC. The RMD is responsible for monitoring foreign exchange exposure and related stop-loss limits on a day-to-day basis as well as credit risk exposure arising from foreign exchange transactions.

Interest rate risk management

BOCHK's interest rate risk exposures mainly comprise structural positions. The major types of structural positions are: (1) repricing risk: mismatches in the maturity or repricing periods of assets and liabilities; and (2) basis risk: different pricing basis for different transactions so that yield on assets and cost of liabilities may change by different amounts within the same repricing period.

BOCHK's ALCO maintains oversight of interest rate risk and the RC sanctions the interest rate risk management policies formulated by the ALCO. The Finance Department, under the supervision of the CFO, carries out approved policies and develops systems and metrics to identify, measure and monitor interest rate risk.



Gap analysis is one of the tools used to measure BOCHK's exposure to interest rate risk. It provides BOCHK with a static view of the maturity and repricing characteristics of its balance sheet positions. The magnitude of the gaps indicates the extent to which BOCHK is exposed to the risk of potential changes in the margins on new or repriced assets and liabilities. BOCHK uses interest rate derivatives to hedge its interest rate exposures and in most cases, plain vanilla interest rate swaps are used.

With respect to repricing risk, sensitivities of earnings and economic value to interest rate changes (Earnings at Risk and Economic value at Risk) are assessed through hypothetical interest rate shock of 200 basis points across the yield curve on both sides. Earnings at Risk and Economic value at Risk are respectively controlled within an approved percentage of the projected net interest income for the year and the latest capital base as sanctioned by the RC. The result is reported to the ALCO and the RC on a regular basis.

The impact of basis risk is gauged by the projected change in net interest income under scenarios of imperfect correlation in the adjustment of the rates earned and paid on different instruments. Ratios of asset and liability of different pricing basis are set to monitor such risk.

Stress tests on repricing risk and basis risk are conducted regularly. The ALCO monitors the results of stress tests against limits and decides whether remedial action should be made.

Liquidity risk management

The goal of liquidity management is to enable BOCHK, even under adverse market conditions, to meet all its maturing repayment obligations on time and to fund all of its asset growth and strategic opportunities, without forced liquidation of its assets at short notice.

BOCHK funds its operations principally by accepting deposits from retail and corporate depositors. In addition, BOCHK may issue certificates of deposit to secure a long-term financing source or may raise funds through the sale of investments. BOCHK uses the majority of funds raised to extend loans, to purchase debt securities or to conduct interbank placements.

BOCHK manages and measures its liquidity through maintaining strong liquidity ratios (average liquidity ratio for 2004: 36.03%), examining the stability of depositors and the respective concentration risk, monitoring the loan to the deposit ratio, maintaining a portfolio of high quality liquid securities and conducting regular stress tests. BOCHK also smoothes its liquidity by borrowing in the interbank markets on a short-term basis. The interbank markets generally provide an adequate amount of liquidity at borrowing rates that are subject to market conditions.

The primary goal of BOCHK's asset and liability management strategy is to achieve optimal return while ensuring adequate levels of liquidity and capital within an effective risk control framework and at reasonable cost of funding. BOCHK's ALCO is responsible for establishing these policy directives (including the liquidity contingency plan), and the RC sanctions the liquidity management policies. The Finance Department closely monitors and reports BOCHK's on-and off-balance sheet assets and liabilities with regard to the liquidity risk to ALCO.

Operational risk management

Operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people or systems, or from external events. BOCHK aims to manage this risk in line with the best practices of the industry and in preparation for the implementation of Basel II.

BOCHK manages operational risk by identifying, assessing, monitoring, controlling and mitigating the risks, and reviews the risks inherent in business processes, activities and products through internal consultation. BOCHK monitors operational risk losses and reports to the RC and senior management. As part of our effective internal control environment, BOCHK maintains adequate documentation of control procedures for its business processes. BOCHK also emphasises the need for appropriate segregation of duties and independent authorisation in all business activities.

The Business Continuity Plan is in place to support business operations in the event of disasters. Adequate backup facilities are maintained and periodic drills are conducted. The Company also arranges insurance cover to reduce potential losses in respect of operational risk.

Stress testing

BOCHK supplements the analysis of various types of risks with stress testing. Stress testing is a risk management tool for estimating the BOCHK's risk exposures under stressed conditions arising from extreme but plausible market or macroeconomic movements. These tests are conducted on a regular basis and the results are reported to the Board, the RC and the ALCO on a regular basis.

Capital management

The major objective of capital management is to maximise the return to shareholders while maintaining a strong capital position. BOCHK would consider the adjustment of capital mix when appropriate to achieve the lowest overall cost of capital. The ALCO, with the assistance of the Finance Department, monitors the adequacy of BOCHK's capital using the capital adequacy ratio as one of the major measurements. The Group complied with all the statutory capital standards for all the periods presented in the report.

Strategic risk management

Strategic risk generally refers to the risks that may induce some current or future negative impacts on the earnings, capital, reputation or market position of the BOCHK because of poor strategic decisions, improper implementation of decisional strategies and lack of response to the market. BOCHK's Strategic Risk Management Policy defines the responsibilities of the Board and of the Management to ensure that the strategic risks of BOCHK can be effectively taken care of, and desired strategies can be successfully carried out.

Reputation risk management

Reputation risk is the risk that negative publicity regarding BOCHK's business practices, whether genuine or not, will cause a potential decline in the customer base or lead to costly litigation or revenue erosion. Reputation risk is inherent in every aspect of our business operation and covers a wide spectrum of issues. Market rumours or public perceptions are significant factors in determining the level of risk in this category.

In order to mitigate reputation risk, BOCHK has formulated and implemented Reputation Risk Management Policy. This policy requires established standards to prevent and manage reputation risk proactively at an early stage, monitor external reputation risk incidents and learn from published failures of risk incidents within the financial industry. In order to eliminate or alleviate the negative impact on the BOCHK's reputation, incidents related to reputation risk are handled promptly in accordance with the Emergency Contingency Plan and Special Reporting System for Special Incidents. The Group has an Investor Relations Committee which is responsible for the monitoring and reacting to such contingencies, and to ensure compliance to the Reputation Risk Management Policy.

Legal and compliance risk management

Legal risk is the risk arising from the potential that unenforceable contracts, lawsuits or adverse judgments may disrupt or otherwise negatively affect the operations or financial condition of BOCHK. The Legal and Compliance Department ("LCD") is responsible for proactively identifying, assessing and managing legal risk faced by BOCHK in the ordinary course of its business.

Compliance risk is the risk of legal and regulatory sanctions, financial loss, or loss to reputation BOCHK may suffer as a result of its failure to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, international practices, local trade standards, codes of conduct and standards of good practice. By establishing and maintaining appropriate policies and guidelines, the LCD ensures BOCHK conducts its business in compliance with the requirements of relevant laws and regulations.

Regulatory Development

The New Basel Capital Accord

In June 2004, the Basel Committee released the New Basel Capital Accord (also referred to as Basel II). Basel II will be implemented globally by end-2006. All internationally active banks in the major financial markets around the world will follow Basel II. The HKMA has announced that local banks will follow the same timetable as the Basel Committee and Hong Kong is among the first to announce its implementation proposals.

Firstly, Basel II helps promote the safety and stability of the banking sector. In assessing the capital requirements for credit risk, a more risk-sensitive approach will be adopted. Banks will be required to hold more capital against high-risk lending. Furthermore, banks will, for the first time, be required to hold capital against operational risk. In addition to credit risk, market risk and operational risk, banks will be required to assess the full range of other type of risks they run and determine how much capital to hold against them. Secondly, Basel II will help promote the adoption of advanced risk management practices. Thirdly, Basel II requires greater public disclosure about a bank's business.

The Group has formulated an implementation plan for Basel II according to the requirements of the Basel Committee and the HKMA. It is developing the required internal risk management system and conducting researches on the whole capital adequacy assessment process. The internal ratings-based approach will also be gradually adopted in the Group's business decisions. In 2005, the Group will closely follow the latest requirements relating to the Basel II set by the HKMA and carry out its implementation plan progressively.





MAXIMISE Shareholder **Value**



CORPORATE INFORMATION

Board of Directors

Chairman

XIAO Gang[#]

Vice Chairmen

SUN Changji[#]

HE Guangbei

Directors

HUA Qingshan[#]

LI Zaohang[#]

ZHOU Zaiqun[#]

ZHANG Yanling[#]

FUNG Victor Kwok King^{*}

SHAN Weijian^{*}

TUNG Chee Chen^{*}

YANG Linda Tsao^{*}

[#] Non-executive Directors

^{*} Independent Non-executive Directors

Senior Adviser

NEOH Anthony Francis

Senior Management

Chief Executive

HE Guangbei

Deputy Chief Executive (in charge of Retail Banking)

LAM Yim Nam

Chief Financial Officer

LEE Raymond Wing Hung

Deputy Chief Executive (in charge of Corporate Banking)

GAO Yingxin

Chief Risk Officer

CHEUNG Alex Yau Shing

Chief Information Officer

LIU Peter Yun Kwan

Company Secretary

YEUNG Jason Chi Wai

Registered Office

52nd Floor, Bank of China Tower

1 Garden Road

Hong Kong

Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Share Registrar

Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited

46th Floor, Hopewell Centre

183 Queen's Road East

Hong Kong

ADS Depositary Bank

Citibank, N.A.

Depositary Receipts Services

388 Greenwich Street, 14th Floor

New York, NY 10013

United States of America

Website

www.bochk.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT

DIRECTORS



Mr. XIAO Gang, Chairman

Aged 46, is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Risk Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. He is also a Director of BOC (BVI) and BOCHKG. Mr. Xiao has been the Chairman and President of Bank of China since March 2003 and the Chairman of Bank of China Limited since August 2004. He was elected as the Chairman of China Association of Banks from June 2003 to December 2004. Prior to joining BOC, Mr. Xiao joined PBOC in 1981 and had served various positions in PBOC, including Director of the Research Bureau, Head of the China Foreign Exchange Trading Center, Director of the Planning and Treasury Department, Assistant Governor and Director of the Monetary Policy Department, Assistant Governor and President of Guangdong Branch of PBOC and Director of the Guangdong Branch of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange. Mr. Xiao served as Deputy Governor of the PBOC from October 1998 to March 2003. Mr. Xiao graduated from Renmin University of China with a master's degree in Law.



Mr. SUN Changji, Vice Chairman

Aged 62, is a Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. He is also a Director of BOC (BVI) and BOCHKG. Mr. Sun was a Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of BOC from November 2000 to August 2004 and an Executive Vice President of BOC from January 1999 to August 2004. Mr. Sun is a senior engineer (professor). In January 2003, Mr. Sun was elected as a member of the tenth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. He was concurrently the President of China Orient Asset Management Corporation from September 1999 to August 2001. Mr. Sun was the First Deputy Director-General of the State Administration of Machinery Industry of the PRC from April 1998 to January 1999 and a Vice Minister of the Ministry of Machinery Industry of the PRC from April 1993 to April 1998. He was a Deputy Director-General of the Production Department of the Ministry of Machinery Industry from 1991 to 1993. Mr. Sun graduated from Tsinghua University in 1966 with a bachelor's degree.



Mr. HE Guangbei, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive

Aged 50, is a Vice Chairman and the Chief Executive of both the Company and BOCHK with overall responsibility for the business and operations of BOCHK. He is also Chairman of Chiyu and Nanyang, Director of Hong Kong Interbank Clearing Limited, Hong Kong Note Printing Limited and HKICL Services Limited. He is the designated representative of BOCHK to the Hong Kong Association of Banks where he serves as the presiding Chairman and a council member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council in 2005. He holds various public positions which include member of the HKMA Exchange Fund Advisory Committee and Banking Advisory Committee, Vice President of the Hong Kong Institute of Bankers, member of the Board of Hong Kong Airport Authority, member of Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council, Adviser of the Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association and general committee member of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce. He joined BOC in 1980 and since then, he had assumed various positions at BOC and had been posted to its New York Branch and Paris Branch. He was a Managing Director of BOC from 1999 to 2004 and an Executive Vice President of BOC from 2000 to 2003. Mr. He graduated from the Beijing Second Foreign Languages Institute in 1979 with a bachelor's degree and obtained a master's degree in international management studies from the University of Texas at Dallas in 1985.



Mr. HUA Qingshan, Non-executive Director

Aged 52, is a Non-executive Director and a member of the Risk Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. Mr. Hua is also a Director and an Executive Vice President of BOC and the Chairman of BOC-CC. Mr. Hua was an Executive Assistant President of BOC from June 1994 to December 1998. Mr. Hua graduated from Peking University in 1984 and obtained a master's degree from Hunan University in 1996.



Mr. LI Zaohang, Non-executive Director

Aged 49, is a Non-executive Director and a member of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. Mr. Li is also a Director and an Executive Vice President of BOC and the Chairman of BOC Investment, BOC Insurance and Bank of China (Canada). Mr. Li has over 20 years' experience in the banking industry. Mr. Li was the General Manager and an Executive Vice President of the China Construction Bank Head Office from August 1990 to November 2000. Mr. Li graduated from the Nanjing Institute of Meteorology in 1978 with a bachelor's degree.



Mr. ZHOU Zaiqun, Non-executive Director

Aged 52, is a Non-executive Director and a member of the Audit Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. Mr. Zhou is also an Executive Vice President of BOC. Mr. Zhou has over 20 years' experience in the banking industry. Mr. Zhou was a Managing Director of BOC from November 2000 to August 2004 and the General Manager of the ICBC, Beijing Branch from December 1999 to November 2000. Mr. Zhou was the General Manager of the Planning and Financial Department of ICBC from January 1997 to December 1999. Mr. Zhou obtained a master's degree from Northeast Institute of Finance and Economics in 1996.



Mdm. ZHANG Yanling, Non-executive Director

Aged 53, is a Non-executive Director and a member of the Risk Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. She is also an Executive Vice President of BOC and the Chairman of BOCI and Bank of China (Hungary) Limited. Mdm. Zhang is a Vice Chair of ICC Commission on Banking Technique and Practice since September 2003. Mdm. Zhang has joined BOC for 28 years. Mdm. Zhang had been Executive Assistant President of BOC since October 2000 and is also the Chief Legal Adviser of BOC since December 2002. Mdm. Zhang was the General Manager of BOC, Milan Branch from April 2000 to October 2001 and the General Manager of the Legal Department of BOC from February 2001 to August 2002. She was the Deputy General Manager of the Training Department of BOC from June 1992 to April 1997, the General Manager of the Banking Department of BOC from April 1997 to April 2000 and was a Managing Director of BOC from November 2000 to August 2004. Mdm. Zhang graduated from Liaoning University in 1977 with a bachelor's degree and obtained a master's degree from Wuhan University in 1999.



Dr. FUNG Victor Kwok King, Independent Non-executive Director

Aged 59, is an Independent Non-executive Director of both the Company and BOCHK. He is also a member of the Audit Committee and the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. Dr. Fung is Chairman of the Li & Fung Group of companies (including publicly listed Li & Fung Limited, Integrated Distribution Services Group Limited and Convenience Retail Asia Limited), the Hong Kong Airport Authority, the Hong Kong University Council, the Greater Pearl River Delta Business Council and the Hong Kong – Japan Business Co-operation Committee. He is a member of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and the Hong Kong SAR Government Judicial Officers Recommendation Committee. He is also an Independent Non-executive Director of PCCW Limited, Orient Overseas (International) Limited and Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited. Dr. Fung holds Bachelor and Master Degrees in Electrical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Doctorate in Business Economics from Harvard University. In 2003, Hong Kong SAR Government awarded Dr. Fung the Gold Bauhinia Star for distinguished services to the community.



Mr. SHAN Weijian, Independent Non-executive Director

Aged 51, is an Independent Non-executive Director of both the Company and BOCHK. Mr. Shan is the Chairman of the Audit Committee and a member of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. Mr. Shan is a Managing Partner of Newbridge Capital Limited. Mr. Shan is also a Director of a number of companies, including Korea First Bank, Baoshan Iron & Steel Company Limited, TCC International Holdings Limited and China Unicom Limited. Mr. Shan was a Managing Director of JP Morgan, an assistant professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and an Investment Officer at the World Bank in Washington DC. Mr. Shan graduated from the Beijing Institute of Foreign Trade with a major in English in 1979. Mr. Shan obtained a master's degree in business administration from the University of San Francisco in 1981, and received a Master of Arts degree in economics and a PhD degree in business administration from the University of California at Berkeley in 1984 and 1987 respectively.



Mr. TUNG Chee Chen, Independent Non-executive Director

Aged 62, is an Independent Non-executive Director of both the Company and BOCHK. He is also a member of the Audit Committee and the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. Mr. Tung is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Orient Overseas (International) Limited. Mr. Tung is an Independent Non-executive Director of a number of listed companies, including Zhejiang Expressway Company Limited, PetroChina Company Limited, Wing Hang Bank Limited, U-Ming Marine Transport Corp., Global China Group and Cathay Pacific Airways Limited. Mr. Tung was educated at the University of Liverpool, United Kingdom, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in science in 1964. He later obtained a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1966.



Mdm. YANG Linda Tsao, Independent Non-executive Director

Aged 78, is an Independent Non-executive Director and a member of the Audit Committee of both the Company and BOCHK. She currently chairs the Asian Corporate Governance Association (ACGA), a non-profit organisation based in Hong Kong for promoting corporate governance practices among Asian business enterprises. She also serves on various public organisations. Mdm. Yang was appointed by President Clinton as Ambassador and U.S. Executive Director to the Asian Development Bank ("ADB") from 1993 to 1999. Upon her retirement in 1999, then U.S. Secretary of the Treasury presented her with the Distinguished Service Award of the Treasury Department for her contributions at ADB during her tenure of office. Before that, she had served in various public capacities including, California's Savings and Loan Commissioner and Vice President of the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System of the State of California (CalPERS). Mdm. Yang graduated from St. John's University in Shanghai and earned her Master of Philosophy degree (Economics) from Columbia University of New York.

SENIOR ADVISER TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Mr. NEOH Anthony Francis, Senior Adviser

Aged 58, is the Senior Adviser to the Board of Directors of both the Company and BOCHK which is a non-executive position. He is also an adviser to the Risk Committee of both the Company and BOCHK and is an Independent Non-executive Director of BOC since August 2004. Mr. Neoh is the Chairman and Non-executive Director of Global Digital Creations Holdings Limited. He was the Chief Adviser to the China Securities Regulatory Commission from 1998 to 2004 and the Chairman of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission from 1995 to 1998 and of the Technical Committee of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions from 1996 to 1998. From 1991 to 1994, Mr. Neoh was a member of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Council and its Listing Committee. Mr. Neoh was appointed Queen's Counsel (now retitled Senior Counsel) in April 1990. Mr. Neoh was a Visiting Scholar at the Harvard Law School from 1990 to 1991 and for the Spring semester of the academic year 2001/2002, he was the Visiting Professor from Practice at the Harvard Law School. He was appointed Nomura Visiting Professor for International Financial Systems from Practice at the Harvard Law School for the Academic Year 2003/2004.

SENIOR MANAGEMENT



Mr. LAM Yim Nam, Deputy Chief Executive

Aged 52, is the Deputy Chief Executive responsible for the retail banking strategic business unit of the Group and the General Manager of the Retail Banking Department of BOCHK. Mr. Lam is also a Director of BOC-CC. Mr. Lam has over 20 years' experience in the banking industry. From August 1989 to August 1998, Mr. Lam was the Deputy General Manager of the Kwangtung Provincial Bank, Hong Kong Branch. Mr. Lam was the Deputy General Manager of BOC, Hong Kong Branch from November 1998 to December 1999, and the Acting General Manager of the National Commercial Bank, Hong Kong Branch from January 2000 to September 2001. Mr. Lam graduated from the Chinese University of Hong Kong with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in business administration.



Mr. LEE Raymond Wing Hung, Chief Financial Officer

Aged 55, is the Chief Financial Officer of the Group. Mr. Lee is a fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants and an associate of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Mr. Lee has over 30 years' of extensive international banking experience acquired both locally and overseas. Prior to joining the Group, Mr. Lee was a Director, Alternate Chief Executive and Managing Director of CITIC International Financial Holdings Limited from 2002 to 2003, and was a Director and Chief Executive of The Hong Kong Chinese Bank from 1999 to 2002. He was seconded by The Bank of New York in 1992 to serve as a Director and Alternate Chief Executive of Wing Hang Bank and had remained in that capacity until 1999. While serving in Wing Hang, Mr. Lee was concurrently a Senior Vice President and Managing Director of The Bank of New York, where he had served in different capacities in New York and Toronto since 1982. Prior to 1982, he had worked for Bank of America for 8 years in various positions in different Asian and North American cities.



Mr. GAO Yingxin, Deputy Chief Executive

Aged 42, is the Deputy Chief Executive in charge of the Group's corporate banking business. Before joining BOCHK, he was President and Chief Operating Officer of BOCI in Hong Kong. Mr. Gao joined the BOC Group in 1986 where he began working on financing projects for various industries at BOC's Head Office in Beijing. In 1999, he became General Manager of Corporate Banking at BOC Head Office where he was responsible for managing and building BOC Group's customer relationships with and global financing for multinational corporations and premium domestic clients in the Mainland of China. He was also in charge of BOC's major financing projects. From 1995 to 1996, he was seconded to the Finance Department of Northern Telecom (Nortel) Head Office in Canada. Mr. Gao graduated from the East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai with a master's degree in Engineering in 1986.



Mr. CHEUNG Alex Yau Shing, Chief Risk Officer

Aged 43, is the Chief Risk Officer of the Group. He is in charge of the Group's overall risk management function, overseeing BOCHK's Risk Management Department and Legal and Compliance Department. Mr. Cheung has more than 20 years of experience in banking and accounting. Before joining BOCHK, he had worked for Hang Seng Bank for more than 9 years, during which he had assumed various positions including Assistant General Manager and Chief Credit Officer, Head of Credit Risk Management Department and Head of Audit Department. Before joining Hang Seng Bank, he was Vice President and Audit Manager of Chase Manhattan Bank. He had also served the Hong Kong SAR Government and KPMG as Audit Examiner and Accountant respectively. Mr. Cheung graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 1984 with a Bachelor of Social Sciences Degree in Economics and Management Studies. He is a fellow of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants and a Certified Public Accountant of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants.



Mr. LIU Peter Yun Kwan, Chief Information Officer

Aged 53, is the Chief Information Officer of the Group. Reporting to the Chief Financial Officer, he is in charge of the Group's Information Technology Department. Mr. Liu has more than 34 years of experience in IT and financial services. He was previously Sector Head – Business Consulting Services (Financial Services Sector) of IBM China/Hong Kong Limited. Mr. Liu had also acted as Regional Chief Operating Officer of UBS Warburg, Managing Director and Asia Pacific Chief Operating Officer of UBS Private Banking and Global Business Technology Officer of UBS Private Banking – Asia, USA and the UK. Before joining UBS, he had held other senior positions in information technology, operations and business management at Chase Manhattan Bank, Citibank, Hong Kong Productivity Council and John Swire & Sons (Hong Kong) Limited respectively.



Mr. YEUNG Jason Chi Wai, Company Secretary

Aged 50, is the Company Secretary of the Company and BOCHK and Head of Investor Relations of the Group. Mr. Yeung has over 10 years' experience practising corporate and commercial law. Prior to joining the Group on 1 October 2001, Mr. Yeung was the General Counsel and a Director of China Everbright Limited and a partner of Woo, Kwan, Lee & Lo. He has also served at the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong. Mr. Yeung is a member of the Legal Committee of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, the Inland Revenue Board of Review and the Juries Sub-committee of the Hong Kong Law Reform Commission. Mr. Yeung was educated at the University of Hong Kong where he obtained a bachelor's degree in social sciences. Mr. Yeung later graduated from The College of Law, United Kingdom and further obtained a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Western Ontario, Canada and a master's degree in business administration from the Richard Ivey School of Business of the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The Directors are pleased to present their report together with the audited consolidated accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 2004.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the Group are the provision of banking and related financial services. An analysis of the Group's performance for the year by business segments is set out in Note 40 to the accounts.

Results and Appropriations

The results of the Group for the year are set out in the consolidated profit and loss account on page 83.

The Board has recommended a final dividend of HK\$0.395 per share, amounting to approximately HK\$4,176 million, subject to the approval of shareholders at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 26 May 2005. If approved, the final dividend will be paid on Tuesday, 31 May 2005 to shareholders whose names appear on the Register of Members of the Company on Tuesday, 24 May 2005. Together with the interim dividend of HK\$0.320 per share declared in August 2004, the total dividend payout for 2004 would be HK\$0.715 per share.

Closure of Register of Members

The Register of Members of the Company will be closed, for the purpose of determining shareholders' entitlement to the final dividend, from Thursday, 19 May 2005 to Tuesday, 24 May 2005 (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of shares will be registered. In order to rank for the final dividend, shareholders should ensure that all transfer documents, accompanied by the relevant share certificates, are lodged with the Company's Share Registrar, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, at Rooms 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong, not later than 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18 May 2005. Shares of the Company will be traded ex-dividend as from Tuesday, 17 May 2005.

Reserves

Details of movements in the reserves of the Group are set out in the consolidated statement of changes in equity on page 86.

Donations

Charitable and other donations made by the Group during the year amounted to approximately HK\$6.15 million.

Fixed Assets

Details of movements in the fixed assets of the Group are set out in Note 26 to the accounts.

Share Capital

Details of the share capital of the Company are set out in Note 32 to the accounts.

As at the latest practicable date prior to the issue of this Annual Report and based on publicly available information, the public float of the Company was approximately 34%. The Directors consider that there is sufficient public float in the shares of the Company.

Distributable Reserves

Distributable reserves of the Company as at 31 December 2004, calculated under section 79B of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, amounted to approximately HK\$5,253 million.

Five-year Financial Summary

A summary of the results, assets and liabilities of the Group for the last five years is set out on page 2.

Directors

The present Directors of the Company are set out on page 45. The biographical details of the Directors and senior management are set out on pages 46 to 51 of this Annual Report. The term of office for each Non-executive Director is three years.

On 2 February 2004, Mr. Ping Yue resigned as Non-executive Director of the Company due to retirement.

In accordance with Article 98 of the Company's Articles of Association, at each annual general meeting, one-third of the Directors or the nearest number to but not less than one-third of the Directors shall retire from office by rotation and be eligible for re-election. Accordingly, Mr. Sun Changji, Mr. Hua Qingshan, Mdm. Zhang Yanling and Dr. Fung Victor Kwok King will retire by rotation at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The Company has received from each of its Independent Non-executive Directors an annual confirmation of his/her independence and hence still considers each of them to be independent.

Directors' Service Contracts

No Director offering for re-election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting has a service contract with the Company or any of its subsidiaries which is not determinable by the employing company within one year without payment of compensation other than the normal statutory compensation.

Directors' Interests in Contracts of Significance

No contracts of significance, in relation to the Group's business to which the Company, its holding companies or any of its subsidiaries or fellow subsidiaries was a party and in which a Director had a material interest, whether directly or indirectly, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

Directors' Interests in Competing Business

Messrs. Xiao Gang, Hua Qingshan and Li Zaohang are directors of BOC and Mr. Anthony Neoh, the Senior Adviser to the Board, is an Independent Non-executive Director of BOC. Mr. Zhou Zaiqun and Mdm. Zhang Yanling are members of the senior management of BOC. BOC is the Company's controlling shareholder, which was re-organised into a joint stock company and changed its name to Bank of China Limited in August 2004. Messrs. Sun Changji, He Guangbei and Zhou Zaiqun and Mdm. Zhang Yanling were directors of BOC prior to its re-organisation.

BOC is a state-owned commercial bank in the Mainland of China providing a full range of commercial banking and other financial services through its associates throughout the world. Certain of the Group's operations overlap with and/or are complementary to those of BOC and its associates. To the extent that BOC or its associates compete with the Group, the Directors believe that the Group's interests are adequately protected by good corporate governance practices and the involvement of the Independent Non-executive Directors.

Further, the Board's mandate also expressly provide that unless permissible under applicable laws or regulations, if a substantial shareholder or a Director has a conflict of interest in the matter to be considered by the Board, the matter shall not be dealt with by way of written resolutions, but a Board meeting attended by Independent Non-executive Directors who have no material interest in the matter shall be held to deliberate on the same.

Save as disclosed above, none of the Directors is interested in any business apart from the Group's business, which competes or is likely to compete, either directly or indirectly, with the Group's business.

Directors' Rights to Acquire Shares

On 5 July 2002, the following Directors were granted options by BOC (BVI), the immediate holding company of the Company, pursuant to a Pre-Listing Share Option Scheme to purchase from BOC (BVI) existing issued shares of the Company at a price of HK\$8.50 per share. These options have a vesting period of four years from 25 July 2002 with a valid exercise period of ten years. Twenty-five percent of the shares subject to such options will vest at the end of each year.

Particulars of the outstanding options granted to the Directors under the Pre-Listing Share Option Scheme as at 31 December 2004 are set out below:

	Date of grant	Exercise price (HK\$)	Exercisable Period	Number of share options					
				Granted on 5 July 2002	Balances as at 1 January 2004	Exercised during the year	Surrendered during the year	Lapsed during the year	Balances as at 31 December 2004
SUN Changji	5 July 2002	8.50	25 July 2003 to 4 July 2012	1,590,600	1,590,600	–	–	–	1,590,600
HE Guangbei	5 July 2002	8.50	25 July 2003 to 4 July 2012	1,446,000	1,446,000	361,500	–	–	1,084,500
HUA Qingshan	5 July 2002	8.50	25 July 2003 to 4 July 2012	1,446,000	1,446,000	–	–	–	1,446,000
LI Zaohang	5 July 2002	8.50	25 July 2003 to 4 July 2012	1,446,000	1,446,000	–	–	–	1,446,000
ZHOU Zaiqun	5 July 2002	8.50	25 July 2003 to 4 July 2012	1,446,000	1,446,000	–	–	–	1,446,000
ZHANG Yanling	5 July 2002	8.50	25 July 2003 to 4 July 2012	1,446,000	1,446,000	–	–	–	1,446,000
PING Yue *	5 July 2002	8.50	25 July 2003 to 4 July 2012	1,446,000	1,446,000	–	–	–	1,446,000

* Resigned on 2 February 2004

Save as disclosed above, at no time during the year was the Company, its holding companies, or any of its subsidiaries or fellow subsidiaries a party to any arrangements to enable the Directors to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of shares in, or debentures of, the Company or any other body corporate.

Directors' and Chief Executive's Interests in Shares, Underlying Shares and Debentures

Save as disclosed above, as at 31 December 2004, none of the Directors or Chief Executive of the Company had any interests or short positions in the shares, underlying shares or debentures of the Company or any associated corporation (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company pursuant to section 352 of the SFO or as otherwise notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Companies.

Substantial Interests in Share Capital

The register maintained by the Company pursuant to section 336 of the SFO recorded that, as at 31 December 2004, the following corporations had the following interests (as defined in the SFO) in the Company set opposite their respective names:

Name of Corporation	No. of shares of HK\$5 each in the Company (% of total issued shares)
Huijin	6,974,414,229 (65.97%)
BOC	6,974,414,229 (65.97%)
BOCHKG	6,958,973,925 (65.82%)
BOC (BVI)	6,958,973,925 (65.82%)

Notes:

1. In August 2004, the PRC Government established Huijin to hold the entire equity capital of BOC on behalf of the State. Accordingly, for the purpose of the SFO, Huijin is deemed to have the same interests in the Company as BOC.
2. BOC holds the entire issued share capital of BOCHKG, which in turn holds the entire issued share capital of BOC (BVI). Accordingly, BOC and BOCHKG are deemed to have the same interests in the Company as BOC (BVI) for the purpose of the SFO.
3. BOC (BVI) beneficially held 6,958,406,556 shares of the Company. BOC (BVI) also holds 93.64% of the issued share capital of Hua Chiao which is in members' voluntary winding-up and which had an interest in 567,369 shares of the Company.
4. BOC holds the entire issued share capital of BOC Insurance, which in turn holds the entire issued share capital of BOC Life. Accordingly, for the purpose of the SFO, BOC is deemed to have the same interests in the Company as BOC Insurance and BOC Life, each of which had an interest in 5,700,000 shares of the Company.
5. BOC holds the entire issued share capital of BOCI, which in turn holds the entire issued share capital of BOCI Financial Products Limited. Accordingly, BOC is deemed to have the same interests in the Company as BOCI Financial Products Limited which had an interest in 521,464 shares of the Company and an interest in 3,518,840 shares held under physically settled equity derivatives.

All the interests stated above represented long positions. Save as disclosed above, as at 31 December 2004, no other interests or short positions were recorded in the register maintained by the Company under section 336 of the SFO.

Management Contracts

No contracts concerning the management or administration of the whole or any substantial part of the business of the Company were entered into or existed during the year.

Share Options

Pursuant to written resolutions of all the Company's shareholders passed on 10 July 2002, the Company has approved and adopted two share option schemes, namely, the Share Option Scheme and the Sharesave Plan. No options have been granted by the Company pursuant to the Share Option Scheme or the Sharesave Plan during the year.

The following is a summary of the Share Option Scheme and the Sharesave Plan disclosed in accordance with the Listing Rules:

	Share Option Scheme	Sharesave Plan
Purpose	To provide the participants with the opportunity to acquire proprietary interests in the Company, to attract and retain the best available personnel, to encourage and motivate the participants to work towards enhancing the value of the Company and its shares, to allow the participants to participate in the growth of the Company and to align the interests of the Company's shareholders with those of the participants.	To encourage broad-based employee ownership of the Company's shares, to increase employee awareness and participation in the Company's share price performance, to provide employees with an additional vehicle for asset accumulation and to align the interests of all employees with those of the Company's shareholders.
Participants	Subject to compliance with applicable laws, any full-time or part-time employee, executive or officer of the Group, executive or non-executive director of the Group, or full-time or part-time employee, executive, officer or director of BOC or any of its subsidiaries serving as a member of any committee of the Group.	Any employee, executive, officer or director of the Group having such qualifying period of service (if any) as the Board may determine from time to time and not having been granted any options under the Share Option Scheme.
Total number of shares available for issue and percentage of issued share capital as at 31 December 2004	The maximum number of shares in respect of which options may be granted under the Share Option Scheme, the Sharesave Plan and any other share option schemes and savings-based share option plans of any company in the Group (the "Other Schemes and Plans") shall not in aggregate exceed 10% of the shares in issue on 10 July 2002, that is, 1,057,278,026 shares.	Same as Share Option Scheme.
Maximum entitlement of each participant	The total number of shares issued and to be issued upon the exercise of the options granted and to be granted to any one participant under the Share Option Scheme and the Other Schemes and Plans (including exercised, cancelled and outstanding options) in any twelve-month period up to and including the date of grant shall not exceed 1% of the shares in issue from time to time.	The maximum number of shares (rounded down to the next whole number) which can be paid for at the exercise price with monies equal to the aggregate of the savings contributions the participant has undertaken to make by the Maturity Date (defined as below) and interest which may be accrued thereon. Provided that the total number of shares issued and to be issued upon the exercise of the options granted and to be granted to any one participant under the Sharesave Plan and the Other Schemes and Plans (including exercised, cancelled and outstanding options) in any twelve-month period up to and including the date of grant shall not exceed 1% of the shares in issue from time to time. The amount of the monthly contribution to be made by a participant shall not be less than 1% and not more than 10% of the participant's monthly salary or such other maximum or minimum amounts as permitted by the Board.
Period within which the shares must be taken up under an option	Such period as shall be prescribed by the directors and specified in the letter of offer.	The thirty-day period (excluding the anniversary days) immediately after the first and second anniversary days from the date of grant or such other date as determined by the Board, or the thirty-day period immediately after the third anniversary of the date of grant or such other date as determined by the Board (the "Maturity Date"), or such other period(s) as may be determined by the Board.
Minimum period for which an option must be held before it can be exercised	Such minimum period as shall be prescribed by the directors and specified in the letter of offer.	One year.
(a) Amount payable on acceptance of the option	(a) HK\$1.00	(a) HK\$1.00
(b) Period within which payments or calls must or may be made	(b) Payment or an undertaking to make payment on demand of the Company must be received by the Company within the period open for acceptance as set out in the letter of offer which shall not be less than 7 days after the offer date.	(b) Payment or an undertaking to make payment on demand of the Company must be received by the Company not later than the date specified in the letter of invitation as the directors may determine.
(c) Period within which loans for such purposes must be repaid	(c) Not applicable.	(c) Not applicable.
Basis of determining the exercise price	The exercise price is determined on the date of grant by the directors and shall not be less than the highest of: (a) the nominal value of the Company's shares; (b) the closing price of the Company's shares as stated in the Stock Exchange's daily quotations sheet on the date of grant, which must be a business day; and (c) the average closing price of the Company's shares as stated in the Stock Exchange's daily quotations sheets for the five business days immediately preceding the date of grant.	Same as Share Option Scheme.
Remaining life	The Share Option Scheme shall remain in force for a period of ten years commencing on the first day of dealings in the Company's shares on the Stock Exchange which was 25 July 2002.	The Sharesave Plan shall remain in force for a period of ten years after the date of approval and adoption of the Sharesave Plan by the Company's shareholders, which was 10 July 2002.

Please refer to the section “Directors’ Rights to Acquire Shares” for details of the options granted by BOC (BVI) over shares of the Company pursuant to the Pre-Listing Share Option Scheme.

Purchase, Sale or Redemption of the Company’s Shares

During the year, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company’s shares.

Major Customers

During the year, the five largest customers of the Group accounted for less than 30% of the total of interest income and other operating income of the Group.

Connected Transactions

The Independent Non-executive Directors have reviewed the transactions for which the Stock Exchange has granted a waiver and confirmed that these transactions were:



- (i) entered into in the ordinary and usual course of business of the Group;
- (ii) conducted either on normal commercial terms or, if there were not sufficient comparable transactions to judge whether they were on normal commercial terms, were on terms that were fair and reasonable so far as the Company’s shareholders are concerned;
- (iii) entered into either in accordance with the terms of the agreements governing such transactions or (where there were no such agreements) on terms no less favourable than those available to or from independent third parties, as applicable; and
- (iv) in each case where an annual cap had been agreed with the Stock Exchange, that such cap was not exceeded.

Budgetary Discipline and Reporting

The annual budget of the Group is reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors prior to its implementation by the Management. Financial and business targets are allocated to departments and subsidiaries. There are defined procedures for the appraisal, review

and approval of major capital and recurrent expenditures. Proposed significant expenditures outside the approved budget will be referred to the Board or the relevant Board committee for decision. Financial performance against targets is reported to the Board regularly. Should significant changes arise in relation to the operations, a revised financial forecast will be submitted to the Board for review in a timely manner.

Compliance with the Guideline on “Financial Disclosure by Locally Incorporated Authorized Institutions”

The accounts for the year ended 31 December 2004 fully comply with the requirements set out in the guideline on “Financial Disclosure by Locally Incorporated Authorized Institutions” under the Supervisory Policy Manual issued by the HKMA.

Compliance with the Code of Best Practice of the Listing Rules

The Directors confirm that the Company has complied with the Code of Best Practice as set out in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules throughout the year ended 31 December 2004. The said Code has been replaced by the Code on Corporate Governance Practices which came into effect on 1 January 2005. The Company will report on its compliance with the Code on Corporate Governance Practices in accordance with the applicable regulatory requirements in due course.

Auditors

The accounts have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers. A resolution for their re-appointment as auditors for the ensuing year will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the Board



XIAO Gang

Chairman

Hong Kong, 23 March 2005



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Excellence

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Company believes in the upholding of the principles and practices of good corporate governance as the best means to ensure effective internal control and safeguard the interests of shareholders, customers and staff. It is also crucial to the healthy development of the Company in the long term. The Company strictly abides by the laws and regulations of the jurisdiction where it operates, and observes the guidelines and rules issued by regulatory authorities such as the HKMA, the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong. It also strives to follow the latest international and local corporate governance best practices.

Corporate Governance Framework

With the Board at the core, the Company's corporate governance structure operates to high standards and is kept under constant review and reinforcement to maintain such standards. Under this governance structure, the role of the Board is to provide high-level guidance and oversight and is separate from that of the Management, which is devoted to the day-to-day



operation and administration of the Company. The Board provides strategic guidance for the Company and maintains effective oversight over the Management. The Board acts honestly and in good faith. Its decisions are made objectively and in the best interests of the Company, with a view to maximising long-term shareholder value and fulfilling its corporate responsibility to other stakeholders of the Company.

To assist the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities and in accordance with best corporate governance practices, three standing committees have been established under the Board, namely, Audit Committee, Risk Committee, and Nomination and Remuneration Committee. A sub-committee known as Compliance Committee is also established under the Audit Committee. Ad hoc committees will be set up to undertake special assignments as and when necessary. The ad hoc committees will report to the Board or a designated standing committee. The standing committees and ad hoc committees perform their respective roles and functions as mandated by the Board, and subject to the oversight and guidance of the Board. The Board and all Board committees will assess their respective work procedure and effectiveness on a regular basis in accordance with their mandate.

The Board delegates to the Chief Executive and his Management team the power to manage and administer the day-to-day affairs of the Company. At the same time, the Board gives clear guidance as to the powers of the Management, in particular with respect to the circumstances under which the Management shall report back to and obtain prior approval from the Board before making a decision or entering into any commitment on behalf of the Company. Such delegation and guidance are subject to review by the Board on a regular basis. Furthermore, the overall strategic role of the Board and the day-to-day management function of the Management are clearly delineated within the Company in order to ensure the proper allocation of authority, responsibility and accountability. While the Chairman leads the Board, the Chief Executive is the head of the Management. The roles of the Chairman and the Chief Executive are separated and are performed by different individuals so that power is not concentrated in any one individual. In addition, the division of responsibilities between the Chairman and the Chief Executive is expressly set out in the Board's mandate.

In order to enhance the transparency of the Company's corporate governance, a new corporate governance web-page is included in the Company's corporate website. Information provided on the web-page includes the Company's corporate governance principles and framework, the composition of the Board and its Committees and a summary of their respective terms of reference, shareholders' rights and the Company's Fair Disclosure Policy. The Company's corporate website is at www.bochk.com.

Board of Directors

The majority of the Board is made up of Non-executive Directors and Independent Non-executive Directors and the Board is assisted by a Senior Adviser. This ensures the independence and objectivity of the Board's decision-making process and the thoroughness and impartiality of the Board's oversight of the Management. The Board has established and been implementing effective procedures for the appointment of new directors. All Non-executive Directors, Independent Non-executive Directors and the Senior Adviser are appointed for a fixed term, with formal letters of appointment setting out the key terms and conditions relative to their appointment. Furthermore, in order to reinforce the accountability of Directors, the Company has passed a shareholders' resolution at the 2004 annual general meeting to amend the Company's Articles of Association. Pursuant to the amended Articles, all Directors, including the Chairman, Vice Chairmen and Chief Executive, shall retire by rotation at least once every three years at annual general meetings and be eligible for re-election.

The Board currently comprises eleven Directors, of whom four are Independent Non-executive Directors, six are Non-executive Directors and one is Executive Director. Independent Non-executive Directors comprise more than one-third of the Board and include Directors with appropriate financial management expertise. The Company is therefore in full compliance with Rules 3.10(1) and (2) of the Listing Rules. In addition, the Company has received from each of the Independent Non-executive Directors an annual confirmation of his/her independence and hence still considers each of them to be independent. Apart from Board members, the Board has also appointed an experienced and reputable Senior Adviser. The Senior Adviser attends Board meetings and offers his objective and professional advice and recommendations to the Board. Biographical details of the Directors and Senior Adviser are set out in the section "Board of Directors and Senior Management" of this Annual Report and the Company's website at www.bochk.com.

There is no relationship (including financial, business, family or other material/relevant relationship(s)) among the Board members. Messrs. Xiao Gang, Hua Qingshan and Li Zaohang are directors of BOC and Mr. Anthony Neoh, the Senior Adviser to the Board, is an Independent Non-executive Director of BOC. Mr. Zhou Zaiqun and Mdm. Zhang Yanling are members of the senior management of BOC. BOC is the Company's controlling shareholder, which was re-organised into a joint stock company and changed its name to Bank of China Limited in August 2004. Messrs. Sun Changji, He Guangbei and Zhou Zaiqun and Mdm. Zhang Yanling were directors of BOC prior to its re-organisation. It is expressly provided in the Board's mandate that, unless permissible under applicable laws or regulations, if a substantial shareholder or Director has a conflict of interest in the matter to be considered by the Board, the matter shall not be dealt with by way of written resolutions, but a Board meeting attended by Independent Non-executive Directors who have no material interest in the matter shall be held to deliberate on the same.

Six board meetings were held during the year with an average attendance rate of 97%. Individual attendance records of the Directors are set out as follows:

Director	Number of board meetings attended	Attendance rate
<i>Non-executive Directors</i>		
Mr. XIAO Gang (Chairman)	6 out of 6	100%
Mr. SUN Changji (Vice Chairman)	5 out of 6	83%
Mr. HUA Qingshan	5 out of 6	83%
Mr. LI Zaohang	6 out of 6	100%
Mr. ZHOU Zaiqun	6 out of 6	100%
Mdm. ZHANG Yanling	6 out of 6	100%
<i>Independent Non-executive Directors</i>		
Dr. FUNG Victor Kwok King	6 out of 6	100%
Mr. SHAN Weijian	6 out of 6	100%
Mr. TUNG Chee Chen	6 out of 6	100%
Mdm. YANG Linda Tsao	6 out of 6	100%
<i>Executive Director</i>		
Mr. HE Guangbei (Vice Chairman and Chief Executive)	6 out of 6	100%

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee currently has five members comprising one Non-executive Director and four Independent Non-executive Directors (representing 80% thereof). The Committee is chaired by Mr. Shan Weijian, an Independent Non-executive Director.

The Committee assists the Board to fulfill its oversight role over the Company and its subsidiaries in, among others, the following areas:

- integrity of accounts and financial reporting process;
- internal control systems;
- effectiveness of internal audit function and performance appraisal of head of internal audit;
- appointment of external auditors and assessment of their qualifications, independence and performance;
- periodic review and annual audit of the Company's and the Group's accounts; and
- compliance with applicable accounting standards and legal and regulatory requirements on financial disclosures.

In August 2004, the Audit Committee undertook a thorough investigation into the events surrounding the judicial investigation by Mainland Chinese authorities of two former deputy chief executives of the Company in connection with alleged unauthorised distribution for personal purposes of certain funds belonging to BOC.

With the proactive participation of all the Independent Non-executive Directors and based on available information from internal audit and the Company's external auditors, the Committee concluded the investigation and confirmed to the Board that the funds involved are beneficially owned by BOC and have never formed part of the assets of the Group or customers other than BOC and that the incident does not impact on the financial position and operating results of the Company.

Apart from the investigation aforesaid, five scheduled committee meetings were held during the year with an average attendance rate of 92%. Individual attendance records of the relevant Directors are set out as follows:

Director	Number of committee meetings attended		Attendance rate
Mr. SHAN Weijian (Chairman)	5 out of 5		100%
Mr. ZHOU Zaiqun	4 out of 5		80%
Dr. FUNG Victor Kwok King	4 out of 5		80%
Mr. TUNG Chee Chen	5 out of 5		100%
Mdm. YANG Linda Tsao	5 out of 5		100%

Risk Committee

For better corporate governance and to reflect more accurately its role and responsibilities as well as the authorities and obligations of its members, the name of the Committee was changed from Risk Management Committee to Risk Committee in September 2004.

Mr. Anthony Neoh, the Senior Adviser to the Board, attends Committee meetings as an adviser to offer his advice.

The Risk Committee currently has three members, all of whom are Non-executive Directors. It is chaired by Mr. Xiao Gang, the Chairman of the Board.

The Committee assists the Board to fulfill its oversight role over the Company and its subsidiaries in, among others, the following areas:

- establishment of the risk appetite, risk profile and risk management strategy of the Group;
- identification, assessment and management of the material risks faced by the various business units of the Group;
- review and assessment of the adequacy of the Group's risk management process, system and internal control; and
- review and monitoring of compliance with the Group's risk management process, system and internal control including compliance with prudential, legal and regulatory requirements governing the business of the Group.

During the year, the Committee reviewed the Proposal on Segmenting Risk Management Policies by Tiers, Risk Management Policy Statement and various other risk-related policies and recommended the same for adoption by the Board. The Committee also deliberated on the Group's preparation for Basel II implementation. To enhance the Group's risk monitoring, the Committee has been receiving key risk indicators prepared by the Management on a monthly basis.

Seven committee meetings were held during the year with an average attendance rate of 86%. Individual attendance records of the relevant Directors are set out as follows:

Director	Number of committee meetings attended	Attendance rate
Mr. XIAO Gang (Chairman)	6 out of 7	86%
Mr. HUA Qingshan	7 out of 7	100%
Mdm. ZHANG Yanling	5 out of 7	71%

Nomination and Remuneration Committee

The Nomination and Remuneration Committee currently has five members comprising two Non-executive Directors and three Independent Non-executive Directors (representing 60% thereof). It is chaired by Mr. Sun Changji, Vice-chairman of the Board and a Non-executive Director.

The Committee assists the Board to fulfill its oversight role over the Company and its subsidiaries in, among others, the following areas:

- overall human resources and remuneration strategies of the Group;
- identification and nomination of Directors, Board committee members and certain senior management members as designated by the Board from time to time;
- skills, experience and knowledge of Directors and Board committee members;
- remuneration of Directors, Board committee members and Senior Management;
- effectiveness of the Board and Board committees; and
- corporate governance framework of the Group and implementation thereof.

With a view to improving the overall human resources management, the Group launched a human resources management reform in July 2004, after reviews and inputs by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. The Committee also reviewed the key performance indicators of the Group and senior management and the performance appraisal manual for senior management and recommended the same for approval by the Board.

Four committee meetings were held during the year with an average attendance rate of 90%. Individual attendance records of the relevant Directors are set out as follows:

Director	Number of committee meetings attended		Attendance rate
Mr. SUN Changji (Chairman)	4 out of 4		100%
Mr. LI Zaohang	3 out of 4		75%
Dr. FUNG Victor Kwok King	4 out of 4		100%
Mr. SHAN Weijian	4 out of 4		100%
Mr. TUNG Chee Chen	3 out of 4		75%

Ad Hoc Committees

Three ad hoc committees, namely, Search Committee, Independent Board Committee and Budget Committee, were established by the Board during the year to deal with specific matters delegated by the Board.

Search Committee

Following the judicial investigation by Mainland Chinese authorities in August 2004 of two former deputy chief executives of the Company, the Board, in accordance with prior approved Board policy, set up the Search Committee to conduct a global and open recruitment of candidates for the positions at deputy chief executive level and to recommend to the Nomination and Remuneration Committee and the Board for final approval.

The Committee was chaired by Dr. Victor Fung Kwok King, an Independent Non-executive Director and comprised Mr. Sun Changji, Mr. He Guangbei and Independent Non-executive Directors Mr. Shan Weijian, Mr. Tung Chee Chen and Mdm. Linda Tsao Yang.

The Committee met seven times from August to December 2004 and, with the assistance of SpencerStuart, an international search consultant, succeeded in recruiting Mr. Gao Yingxin as the Deputy Chief Executive in charge of corporate banking, Mr. Alex Cheung Yau Shing as the Chief Risk Officer, and Mr. Peter Liu Yun Kwan as the Chief Information Officer before the end of the year. Throughout the search process, the Committee maintained a close dialogue with the regulators and the Company issued timely announcements to keep the public informed of the progress.

Independent Board Committee

Pursuant to the Board's mandate, an Independent Board Committee was set up in August 2004 to review and approve the continuing connected transactions between the Company and its subsidiaries on the one hand and members of the BOC Group (other than the Company and its subsidiaries) on the other hand. The Committee comprised all the Independent Non-executive Directors of the Company and was chaired by Mr. Tung Chee Chen.

Although it was not required under the Listing Rules, the Independent Board Committee retained NM Rothschild & Sons (Hong Kong) Limited ("Rothschild") as the independent financial adviser to the Committee for the purpose of reviewing the continuing connected

transactions. On the basis of Rothschild's affirmative advice and its own review, the Independent Board Committee was satisfied that the continuing connected transactions had been entered into in the ordinary and usual course of the Group's business on normal commercial terms.

The Company will comply strictly with the relevant reporting and annual review requirements under the Listing Rules. An announcement on this subject was made by the Company on 5 January 2005. Detailed disclosure is also included in the section "Connected Transactions" in this Annual Report.

Budget Committee

The Budget Committee was set up in August 2004 for the purpose of overseeing the budgeting and business planning process for 2005. The Committee, comprising Mr. Zhou Zaiqun, a Non-executive Director and Mdm. Linda Tsao Yang, an Independent Non-executive Director, adopted an interactive approach in its review by engaging in open dialogue with the heads of all major business departments and principal subsidiaries of the Company. Recommendations made by the Committee was reviewed and accepted by the Board when finalising the Group's 2005 budget and business plan.

Directors' Securities Transactions

The Company has adopted a "Code for Securities Transactions by Directors" to govern securities transactions by Directors. The terms of the said Code are no less exacting than the required standard set out in the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers contained in Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules. Having made specific enquiry of all Directors, the Directors confirmed that they have complied with the required standard set out in both the said Code and the Model Code throughout the year of 2004.

Auditors' Fees

The Company's 2004 accounts were audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers at a total audit fee of HK\$24 million. The said audit fee was approved by the Audit Committee and endorsed by the Board.

The Company incurred a fee of HK\$16 million for non-audit services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers in 2004. The Audit Committee has been briefed of the non-audit services and fees and was satisfied that such non-audit services did not (in terms of the nature of the services and the amount of fees charged relative to the audit fees) affect the independence of PricewaterhouseCoopers. The non-audit services mainly comprised tax-related services, internal control review services in relation to the Tian Xing Jian Project and accounting consultations.

Communication with Shareholders and Shareholders' Rights

The Board regards continuous communication with shareholders as an important part of its role. For such purpose, the Company's annual general meetings offer a valuable forum for the Board to communicate directly with shareholders who are encouraged to actively participate at such meetings.

The Chairmen of the Board, the Risk Committee and the Nomination and Remuneration Committee respectively, members of the Audit Committee and representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers were present at the Company's 2004 annual general meeting held on 21 May 2004 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre to respond to questions and comments raised by shareholders.

Resolutions passed at the aforesaid meeting included: adoption of the Company's and the Group's 2003 accounts, declaration of 2003 final dividend, re-election of Directors, payment of additional remuneration to Board and Committee members and secretaries, re-appointment of auditors, amendment of the Company's Articles of Association and grant of a general mandate to the Board to issue and repurchase shares of the Company.

The Board also announced at the 2004 annual general meeting certain internal policies for the exercise of the powers granted to the Board under the aforesaid general mandates to issue and repurchase shares as follows:

- The Board will not exercise the mandate to issue shares for cash in excess of 10% of the Company's issued share capital or at a discount that will result in significant dilution of shareholder value. In the exercise of such power to issue shares for cash, the Board will have regard to factors such as the Group's capital adequacy ratio, need for cash for the Group's business development, the principle that shareholders should be treated equally and the alternative of conducting a rights issue; and
- The Board has set the triggering events for the exercise of the power to repurchase shares, which include: market price of the Company's shares is lower than the fair value of the shares; the Group has surplus funds which is in excess of its short to mid term development requirements; and the Board considers it proper and appropriate to exercise the general mandate for enhancing the return on equity or net assets or earnings per share of the Company. In general, such purchases will be made on the Stock Exchange. However, if it is expected that the size of the purchases may lead to a disorderly market for the Company's shares, then the Board will consider making the purchases through a general offer, i.e. offer to all existing shareholders in proportion to their respective shareholdings. The price at which shares are repurchased will not be higher than the fair value of the shares of the Company.

In order to enhance the transparency of shareholders' voting, all the resolutions proposed at the Company's 2004 annual general meeting were voted on by poll. The Company has engaged Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, the Company's Share Registrar, to act as the scrutineer for such purpose. The results of the poll voting were published in the press and on the Company's website on the next following business day, i.e., 24 May 2004.

The Company has also provided additional information on the 2005 annual general meeting in a circular to shareholders. This includes background information to the proposed resolutions, information on the retiring Directors and information on voting and other issues relating to the 2005 annual general meeting in the form of "Frequently Asked Questions" (including how to convene an extraordinary general meeting and how to put forward a proposal for consideration by the shareholders at a general meeting). This is done to ensure that shareholders have a better understanding of their rights and can make informed decisions in relation to the subject matters of the 2005 annual general meeting.

Further shareholder information is set out in the section "Investor Relations" of this Annual Report. Shareholders who wish to raise any queries with the Board may write to the Company Secretary at 52nd Floor, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong.

Project Tian Xing Jian

The “Tian Xing Jian Project” was launched in September 2003 pursuant to the recommendations of the Special Committee and relevant external institutions. In this connection, the Company has conducted a comprehensive and systematic review of its corporate governance, risk management, credit approval and internal control mechanisms with a view to implementing the recommendations made by all those concerned. As a result of the Project, the standard of the Company’s corporate governance, risk management, credit approval and internal control mechanisms have been significantly enhanced. The Company’s image and reputation as well as the staff’s confidence in the long-term development of the Company have also been reinforced. The Company is therefore pleased to announce that the Tian Xing Jian Project has been substantially completed. The completion of the Tian Xing Jian Project represents an important milestone in the Company’s corporate governance and serves as the foundation on which the Company can continue to reinforce its corporate governance to attain even higher standards of excellence.

Directors’ Responsibility Statement in relation to Accounts

The following statement should be read in conjunction with the Auditors’ statement of their responsibilities as set out in the auditors’ report contained in this Annual Report. The statement is made with a view to distinguishing for shareholders the respective responsibilities of the Directors and of the Auditors in relation to the accounts.

The Directors are required by the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance to prepare accounts, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company. The accounts should be prepared on a going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to do so. The Directors have responsibility for ensuring that the Company keeps accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and which enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance. The Directors also have general responsibilities for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Group and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors consider that in preparing the accounts contained in this Annual Report, the Company has used appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied, and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, and that all accounting standards which they consider to be applicable have been followed.



INVESTOR RELATIONS

Investor Relations Policy

The Company believes that effective communication with the investment community is necessary for enhancing the latter's knowledge and understanding of its goals and targets, how it seeks to achieve them and how it performs. The disclosure and presentation of timely and accurate facts and figures are especially important to ensure that investors can make an informed judgement about the Company's future prospects.

The main purpose of the Company's investor relations policy, therefore, is to enable investors to have access – on a fair and timely basis – to information that is reasonably required for making the best investment decisions. Such information includes the Company's corporate strategies, opportunities and challenges for growth and development, business performance and prospects as well as updates of major corporate developments. To achieve this purpose, the Company has in place an investor relations programme to carry out relevant communication activities.

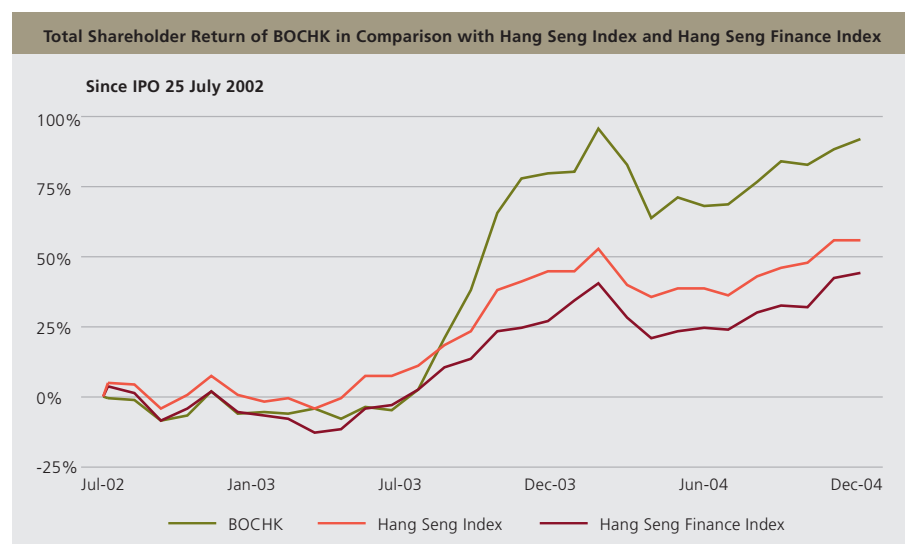
Investor Relations Programme and Guidelines

The Company has established the Investor Relations Committee to spearhead its investor relations programme by formulating and implementing investor relations strategies. The Committee is chaired by the Chief Executive and comprising senior executives.

To attain a high standard of investor relations practice, the Company adopts the Fair Disclosure Policy under which there are clear guidelines to ensure (1) compliance with the Listing Rules and other regulatory requirements in relation to the disclosure of price-sensitive information; (2) that all communications with the public, including the investment community and the media, are fair; and (3) that material non-public information is not disseminated on a selective basis. The Policy is posted on the Group's website for public reference.

Enhancing Shareholder Value

Over the two-and-a-half year period since the listing of the Company on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong on 25 July 2002, a total return for shareholders of 91.8% has been achieved, as measured by share price appreciation and reinvested dividend. This aptly reflects the solid operating performance, good corporate governance and growing value of the Company. For the year 2004, annual total return for shareholders was 6.6%. The following chart sets out the Company's performance in this respect since the listing.



Source: Bloomberg

Shareholding Structure and Shareholder Base

As at 31 December 2004, the Company had 10,572,780,266 shares in issue of which approximately 34% was held by the public. As at that date, the Company had a broad base of 140,984 registered shareholders distributed in Asia, Europe and North America. The following table shows the distribution of ownership according to the register of members and the participant shareholding report generated from the Central Clearing and Settlement System as of 31 December 2004:

Category	Number of registered shareholders	% of shareholders	Number of shares	% of total issued share capital
Individuals	140,372	99.6%	284,261,941	2.7%
Institutions, corporates and nominees	610	0.4%	3,314,104,096	31.3%
Bank of China Group	2	0.0%	6,974,414,229	66.0%
Total	140,984	100.0%	10,572,780,266	100.0%

Review of 2004 Investor Relations Activities

In 2004, the Company continued to provide effective channels for investors to communicate directly with the Board and senior management on a regular basis.

At the Annual General Meeting held in May 2004, the Chairmen of the Board, the Risk Committee and the Nomination and Remuneration Committee respectively, members of the Audit Committee as well as the Company's external auditors were present to respond to questions and comments from shareholders. At the Group's 2003 annual results announcement on 22 March 2004 and 2004 interim results announcement on 19 August 2004, the senior management led by the Chief Executive conducted briefings with analysts and the press to apprise them of the



Company's operating results as well as business strategies and outlook. The public could access the live webcast of these events and the relevant presentation materials through the Group's website. In 2004, the Company's senior management met over 340 institutional investors and 60 analysts or investment professionals during global road-shows, international investor conferences and company visits. Through these activities, the Company aimed to raise the awareness and understanding of its investment proposition in the global investment community. The Company is now covered by more than 20 research institutions.

During the year, investors continued to have access to up-to-date information regarding the Company through the Group's website, including the latest corporate financial information, corporate governance principles and practices, share price information, corporate fact sheet, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. The Company also continued to promote two-way communication through direct emails and investor feedback surveys. The response received from these initiatives would be helpful for understanding the market's concerns and formulating the Company's communication plan going forward.

Market Recognition

In recognition of its efforts in building and maintaining transparency, the Company was given the “Most Progress in Investor Relations” Asia Award 2004 organized by the Investor Relations Magazine and selected by Institutional Investor Research Group to receive the “Most Improved Investor Relations” 2004 Award, which was voted by sell-side analysts. In the Corporate Governance Disclosures Report released by Standard & Poor’s in 2004, the Company was named one of the top five companies among the 33 Hang Seng Index constituent stocks with better disclosures of corporate governance practices.

Going Forward

The Company will continue to pursue a proactive communication programme with investors. The aim is to maintain a high degree of transparency, with a view to keeping investors well informed about the Company’s direction and strategic initiatives.

Shareholder Information

Financial calendar 2005

Announcement of 2004 annual results	23 March (Wednesday)
Last day in Hong Kong of dealings in Company’s shares with entitlement to final dividend	13 May (Friday)
Ex-dividend date	17 May (Tuesday)
ADS record date for final dividend	18 May (Wednesday)
Latest time in Hong Kong for lodging transfers for entitlement to final dividend	18 May (Wednesday) 4:00 p.m.
Book closure period (both days inclusive)	19 May (Thursday) to 24 May (Tuesday)
Record date for final dividend	24 May (Tuesday)
Latest time for lodging proxy forms for 2005 Annual General Meeting	24 May (Tuesday) 3:00 p.m.
2005 Annual General Meeting	26 May (Thursday) 3:00 p.m.
Final dividend payment date	31 May (Tuesday)
Announcement of 2005 interim results	Late August

Annual General Meeting

The 2005 Annual General Meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, 26 May 2005 at Meeting Room 401, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong (please use Harbour Road Entrance).

Dividend

The Directors have recommended a final dividend of HK\$0.395 per share subject to the approval of shareholders at the 2005 Annual General Meeting.

Share Information

Listing

The Company’s ordinary shares are listed and traded on the Stock Exchange. In addition, the Company maintains a Level 1 ADR facility for its ADSs. Each ADS represents 20 ordinary shares of the Company.

Ordinary shares (as at 31 December 2004)

Issued shares:	10,572,780,266
Public float:	Approximately 34%

Nominal value

HK\$5.00 per share

Market capitalisation (as at 31 December 2004)

HK\$157.01 billion

Share Price

Closing Price on 31 December 2003:	HK\$14.60
Closing Price on 31 December 2004:	HK\$14.85
Highest trading price during the year:	HK\$15.95
Lowest trading price during the year:	HK\$11.25

Index constituent

The Company is a constituent of the following indices:

Hang Seng Index Series
 Hang Seng London Reference Index
 MSCI Index Series
 FTSE All-World Hong Kong Index
 FTSE/Xinhua China 25 Index

Stock codes

Ordinary shares	
The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited	2388
Reuters	2388.HK
Bloomberg	2388 HK
Level 1 ADR Programme	
CUSIP No.:	096813209
OTC Symbol:	BHKLY

Shareholder Enquiries

Any matters relating to your shareholding, e.g. transfer of shares, change of name or address, lost share certificates and dividend warrants, should be sent in writing to:

Hong Kong	Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited 46th Floor Hopewell Centre 183 Queen's Road East Telephone: (852) 2862 8628 Facsimile: (852) 2865 0990/(852) 2529 6087
USA	ADSs Shareholder Services Citibank Shareholder Services 150 Royal Street Canton, MA 02021 Telephone: 1-877-248-4237 (toll free) E-mail: Citibank@em.fcnbd.com

Investor relations

Enquiries may be directed to:

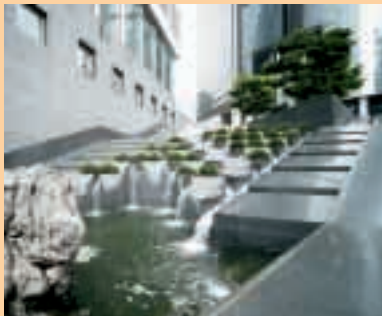
Investor Relations Division
 BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited
 52nd Floor
 Bank of China Tower
 1 Garden Road
 Hong Kong
 Telephone: (852) 2903 6602/(852) 2826 6314
 Facsimile: (852) 2810 5830
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Other information

This Annual Report is available in both English and Chinese. A copy prepared in the language different from that in which you have received is available by writing to the Company's Share Registrar, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, at 46th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong. This Annual Report is also available (in both English and Chinese) on the Company's website at www.bochk.com and the Stock Exchange's website at www.hkex.com.hk.

If you have any queries about how to obtain copies of this Annual Report or how to access those documents on the Company's website, please call the Company's hotline at (852) 2846 2700.





Commit
to **STAFF**
Development

OUR PEOPLE

Our people are key to the development and growth of our business. Only with their dedication can we achieve our vision: “To be customer’s premier bank”. The Group, therefore, is committed to creating a congenial working environment with plenty of opportunities for employees to achieve excellence. In 2004, we took a number of major initiatives to develop and instill a new corporate culture within the Group. We streamlined our organisational structure, implemented a carefully designed scheme for allocating human resources and continued with comprehensive staff training and development, thus breathing new life into our performance-driven management culture. All these initiatives should help to ensure that our employees can maximise their potential by aligning their goals with those of the Group.

Instilling a New Corporate Culture

We believe that a strong corporate culture inspires passion among employees in what they do. In order to reach a higher level of business performance, new vibrancy has to be injected into our corporate culture. A Corporate Culture Steering Committee was set up for this purpose, and for the launch of our new corporate culture.

After extensive and thorough discussion by the Management and consultation with employees, the Board approved the Group’s Vision, Mission and Values in July 2004.

Our **Vision** is:

To be customer’s premier bank

Our **Mission** is to:

- Build customer satisfaction and provide high quality and professional service;
- Offer rewarding career opportunities and cultivate staff commitment; and
- Create value and deliver superior returns to shareholders.

Our **Core Values** – SPIRIT for short and carrying equal importance – are:

Social Responsibility, **P**erformance, **I**ntegrity, **R**espect, **I**nnovation and **T**eamwork.

Taken as a whole, our Mission and Values form the acronym “BOC SPIRIT” – a simple yet powerful message that all our employees can identify with and work together as a team towards corporate goals.

We recognise that building our corporate culture is a long-term commitment. In this connection, the Group’s comprehensive employee communication programme will be rolled out in 2005, an important step towards building a new corporate culture that will enable us to better meet the challenges ahead.

Enhancing Human Resources Management

A new job-based and performance-driven human resources management system was introduced in July 2004 with the primary objective of aligning the Group's policies and practices with those commonly adopted in the market so that we can attract, retain, motivate and develop the best talent we need to attain our corporate goals. Under the new system, employees are placed in jobs matching their competencies and abilities, and those who perform well will be duly rewarded and have brighter career prospects with the Group.

We believe the new system is fair, reasonable and competitive, and will benefit the development of employees and the Group as a whole in the long run.

Recruiting Top Talent

The Group actively seeks and attracts highly qualified candidates to join its operation. In view of our business needs, career seminars were held at seven tertiary institutions in February 2004, with more than 1,000 graduating students in attendance. Fresh graduates hired by the Group underwent two six-month staff orientation programmes.

A recruitment day for front-line personnel was organised on 30 October 2004 at the Bank of China Tower, where marketing professionals were hired in six job



categories, namely, Customer Services Manager, Financial Planning Consultant, Personal Banking Manager, Sales Manager, Relationship Manager, and Relationship Officer. More than 800 people turned up at the event and over 400 candidates were interviewed on-site.

We also streamlined our recruitment process in 2004 through the introduction of scientifically validated assessment tools on a web-based platform.

Encouraging Staff Development

Quality employee training equips our people with the skills to meet the challenges of an ever-changing market environment, thus ensuring

that quality banking and financial services are offered to our customers. During 2004, our staff attended a great variety of general and professional training courses, workshops or seminars on topics such as Compliance, Corporate Governance, Corporate Culture, and Sales and Services. Over 1,250 training classes were offered during the year to more than 95,000 employees.

The Group promotes lifelong learning. We successfully launched our first e-learning management-training programme last year. This e-learning channel allows our staff to learn any time, anywhere and effectively controls training costs and the frequency of off-job training.



Promoting Staff Relations

Effective channels for communication in the organisation are in place to facilitate communication and interaction between the staff and the Management. These include face-to-face dialogues, front-line visits by the senior

management, internal circulars, staff telephone hotlines and numerous team-building activities. A consultancy firm was commissioned to conduct a staff engagement survey in 2004.

The Group recognised the contributions and achievements

of staff through its Distinguished Staff Awards. A total of 626 staff members and 43 departmental units received awards for their outstanding performance in 2003. The award recipients were invited to go on a Mainland tour to facilitate the open exchange of ideas.

Balancing work and leisure is important for both the staff and the company. The Group regularly organises staff events such as the BOCHK Carnival and football, table tennis and bowling tournaments to help boost team spirit and create a greater sense of commitment to the organisation. Employees are also encouraged to join charitable activities supported by the Group.



GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

As a major banking group listed in Hong Kong, the Group undertakes its responsibility as a good corporate citizen. In 2004, in cooperation with the BOCHK Charitable Foundation (the "Foundation"), the Group participated in a broad range of community activities or initiatives that could help to make our community a better place to live and work in. Our support during the year extended to more than 36 charitable activities in Hong Kong, Macau and the Mainland of China in the areas of education, sports and recreation, medical and health care, environmental protection, social welfare and assistance to the needy.

Fund-raising for Tsunami Victims

At the end of 2004, a tsunami triggered by an earthquake in Indonesia created a natural disaster of unprecedented scale in South and South East Asia. In order to provide timely assistance to victims in the afflicted areas, the Foundation appealed to the Group's 13,000 staff to join in the drive for donations. For every dollar donated by staff, the Foundation pledged an equal amount. A designated account was also set up to collect donations from customers and the general public. As of mid-January 2005, the Foundation has raised over HK\$7 million in donations for tsunami victims and the afflicted countries. The donation proceeds have been dispatched to the Hong Kong Red Cross for timely and proper distribution.

Nurturing the Young

Education of the younger generation has been a focus of our charitable activities for years. In 2004, the Foundation provided scholarships and bursaries of HK\$1.07 million to eight universities and two tertiary education institutions in Hong Kong in



To help nurture talented students, the future pillars of our society, we provide tertiary education scholarships and bursaries



Ms Wang Chen, Hong Kong Badminton Team Member, demonstrates her skillful technique at the BOCHK Hong Kong Badminton Doubles League Family Fun Day

recognition of outstanding students and to assist those in need of financial aid. Since 1990, the Foundation has contributed HK\$7.5 million in the form of tertiary education scholarships and bursaries, which have been awarded to a total of 725 students.

Last year, the Foundation sponsored a conference on *Creativity in School Leadership* in celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the Hong Kong Association of Heads of Secondary Schools and to support and promote creative education and school management.

Promoting Sports Development

The Group is an avid supporter of badminton in Hong Kong. Through the Foundation, it has been sponsoring the *Hong Kong*

Badminton Promotion Scheme since 1999, with a total contribution of HK\$5.34 million. The number of participants in the Scheme has increased every year, reaching 290,000 by the end of 2004. The Foundation also piloted the *Bank of China (Hong Kong) Badminton Ambassadors School Roving Demonstration* for primary and secondary schools. Since its formation, the ambassador teams have visited 32 schools and reached out to 6,800 students. The third annual *Bank of China (Hong Kong) Badminton Doubles League Family Fun Day* also received enthusiastic response from the public.

Riding on the success of the *Inter-school Sports Competition – Hong Kong Island and Kowloon Secondary Schools Region* in the last two years, the Foundation has

continued its sponsorship of the event from 2004 to 2006. The *BOCHK Bauhinia Bowls Award* and the *Outstanding Athlete Award*, sponsored by the Group, give due recognition to aspiring young athletes and help foster a strong sense of sportsmanship among them. A total of 265 schools joined the 2004 event, with more than 40,000 athlete enrolments. An aggregate of 8,000 matches under this competition took place and was the largest number of matches ever recorded in any year of the event.

Improving Public Health Care

The Foundation donated HK\$3 million to Tung Wah Groups of Hospitals (TWGHs) to establish the *TWGHs BOCHK Diabetes Centre*, which was officially opened in November 2004. Occupying an



TWGHs BOCHK Diabetes Centre provides a quality one-stop medical service for diabetic patients. The opening ceremony was officiated by Mr Lam Yim Nam, Deputy Chief Executive (1st from left); Dr William Ho, Chief Executive of Hospital Authority (1st from right) and Mr Christopher Chan, Chairman of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (2nd from right)

area of 3,000 square feet, the Centre provides a range of quality one-stop medical services, consisting of diagnosis, nursing, screening of complications, and diabetes education for diabetic patients. Its clinical facilities include a retina examination room, a triage station, a treatment room, a diabetes resources centre, a multi-function room and an auditorium. The Centre is expected to handle more than 9,000 patient cases each year.

BOCHK also sponsored the 2004 Hospital Authority Convention and Hong Kong SARS Forum. Healthcare professionals from Hong Kong, the Mainland and around the world gathered there to exchange ideas, shaping the direction of healthcare development in the years to come.

Promoting the Green Message

The Group believes that the fostering of environmental awareness should begin at primary and secondary schools. Through the Foundation's sponsorship of the *Hong Kong Green School*

Award for the fifth consecutive year, environmental awareness has increased in schools, homes and the community at large through student activities that promote a healthier and green environment. For the past four years, more than 800 schools have participated in the award programme, of which 169 schools were selected as winners. The Foundation also supported the *Second Hong Kong Green Pre-School Award* to increase children's understanding of the inter-dependence between humans and the eco-system.

Providing Community Support

The Foundation donates to and participates in the charitable activities of community organisations. A donation of HK\$1 million from the Foundation in early 2004 enabled the establishment of the *Community Chest BOCHK Rainbow Fund*, which provides emergency relief to the needy. The Foundation also



Mr He Guangbei, Chief Executive (4th from right) and Mrs Rita Fan Hsu Lai-tai, President of the Legislative Council (5th from left); Dr Sarah Liao, Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works (4th from left) and Mr Joseph Lee, Chairman of the Environmental Campaign Committee (3rd from right), officiating at the launch ceremony of the Fifth Hong Kong Green School Award cum the Second Hong Kong Green Pre-School Award

donated HK\$800,000 to the Community Chest and the Hong Kong Police to organise the *Police Community Carnival 2004*. BOCHK promoted the event through the sale of souvenirs and raffle tickets in its branches. A charitable lunch was organised for the event's benefactors. A total of approximately HK\$6 million was raised for the Community Chest.

The *BOCHK Walkalong for Light* raises funds to provide free medical treatment to blind cataract patients in the remote areas of the Mainland of China. Sponsored by the Foundation, the charity walk organised by Lifeline Express has run for three consecutive years. About 1,000 staff members and their families joined in the walk, and around HK\$2 million was raised.

In 2004, the Foundation also sponsored a number of other fund-raising events, including:



Young athletes realising their potential at the HK Island & Kowloon Regional Inter-school Sports Competition

- *Po Leung Kuk Bank of China (Hong Kong) Charity Carnival* – the Group served as the Diamond Sponsor of Po Leung Kuk for the seventh consecutive year;
- *Yan Chai – BOCHK Subsidy for New Arrival Students Account* – which provides education funds for children from low-income immigrant families;
- *Charity Family Fun Fair of UNICEF China Children's Week*

Fundraising Campaign – which helps to raise the health and living standard of children in the Mainland;

- *17th Cup of Kindness Charity Day 2004*; and
- Pok Oi Hospital's annual television fund-raising event.

In 2004, the Foundation assisted in the fund-raising initiatives of six charitable organisations by including 3.53 million donation leaflets with BOCHK's bank statement mailers. These generated positive response from our customers and helped the organisations raise a total of more than HK\$1.2 million in donations.

The Group will continue to maintain a strong sense of social responsibility. This commitment is one of its core corporate values and will be demonstrated through its active support of a wide spectrum of community and charitable activities.



Mr He Guangbei, Chief Executive (4th from right) and the officiating guests, including Mr Niu Mao-sheng, Chairman of the Subcommittee of Ethnic and Religious Affairs, National Committee of the CPPCC (5th from left); Mr Yan Da-kui, President of the Chinese Medical Doctor Association (5th from right); Mr Wang Yi-fu, 2004 Olympics Gold Medalist (3rd from right); Mr Li Ching (1st from left) and Mr Ko Li Chak (2nd from left), 2004 Olympics Silver Medalists, and Mrs Pamela Tan, Director of Home Affairs, HKSAR (4th from left) officiating at the BOCHK Walkalong for Light which brings hope to blind cataract patients in the Mainland of China



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REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF BOC HONG KONG (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

We have audited the accounts set out on pages 83 to 136 which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The Hong Kong Companies Ordinance requires the directors to prepare accounts which give a true and fair view. In preparing accounts which give a true and fair view it is fundamental that appropriate accounting policies are selected and applied consistently.

It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion solely to you, as a body, in accordance with section 141 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Statements of Auditing Standards issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the Company and the Group, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free from material misstatement. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the Group as at 31 December 2004 and of the profit and cash flows of the Group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.



PricewaterhouseCoopers

Certified Public Accountants

Hong Kong, 23 March 2005

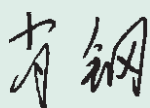
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December	Notes	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Interest income	4	15,678	17,759
Interest expense		(4,485)	(4,885)
Net interest income		11,193	12,874
Other operating income	5	4,664	4,379
Operating income		15,857	17,253
Operating expenses	6	(5,505)	(5,658)
Operating profit before provisions		10,352	11,595
Write-back of/(charge for) bad and doubtful debts	7	1,628	(1,671)
Operating profit after provisions		11,980	9,924
Net gain/(loss) from disposal/revaluation of fixed assets	8	2,084	(1,121)
Net gain from disposal of held-to-maturity securities		2	–
Write-back of provision for impairment on held-to-maturity securities and investment securities	9	–	30
Net loss on disposal of a subsidiary		–	(1)
Net gain on disposal of an associate		50	–
Write-back of provision/(provision) for impairment on interests in associates		152	(132)
Share of profits less losses of associates		(16)	(9)
Profit before taxation		14,252	8,691
Taxation	10	(2,131)	(589)
Profit after taxation		12,121	8,102
Minority interests		(158)	(139)
Profit attributable to shareholders	11	11,963	7,963
Dividends	12	7,559	5,445
		HK\$	HK\$
Earnings per share	13	1.1315	0.7532

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December	Notes	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
ASSETS			
Cash and short-term funds	17	102,647	134,106
Placements with banks and other financial institutions maturing between one and twelve months		107,581	78,240
Trade bills		1,086	691
Certificates of deposit held	18	22,338	18,776
Hong Kong SAR Government certificates of indebtedness		34,760	31,460
Held-to-maturity securities	19	181,050	101,065
Investment securities	20	50	53
Other investments in securities	21	8,288	71,400
Advances and other accounts	22	309,211	300,094
Interests in associates	25	62	278
Fixed assets	26	21,877	17,582
Other assets		7,826	8,842
Total assets		796,776	762,587
LIABILITIES			
Hong Kong SAR currency notes in circulation	27	34,760	31,460
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions		34,440	41,347
Deposits from customers	28	631,330	600,642
Certificates of deposit issued		3,788	2,432
Other accounts and provisions	30	22,698	25,289
Total liabilities		727,016	701,170
CAPITAL RESOURCES			
Minority interests		1,239	1,156
Share capital	32	52,864	52,864
Reserves	33	15,657	7,397
Shareholders' funds		68,521	60,261
Total capital resources		69,760	61,417
Total liabilities and capital resources		796,776	762,587

Approved by the Board of Directors on 23 March 2005 and signed on behalf of the Board by:



XIAO Gang
Director



HE Guangbei
Director

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December	Notes	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
ASSETS			
Bank balances		1,166	184
Investment in a subsidiary	24	52,864	52,864
Other assets		4,090	3,875
		58,120	56,923
LIABILITIES			
Other accounts and provisions		3	1
CAPITAL RESOURCES			
Share capital	32	52,864	52,864
Retained earnings	33	5,253	4,058
Shareholders' funds		58,117	56,922
Total liabilities and capital resources		58,120	56,923

Approved by the Board of Directors on 23 March 2005 and signed on behalf of the Board by:



XIAO Gang
Director



HE Guangbei
Director

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

	Share capital HK\$'m	Premises revaluation reserve HK\$'m	Investment properties revaluation reserve HK\$'m	Translation reserve HK\$'m	Retained earnings HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
At 1 January 2003	52,864	99	–	(2)	3,710	56,671
Net profit for the year	–	–	–	–	7,963	7,963
Currency translation difference	–	–	–	(1)	–	(1)
2002 final dividend paid	–	–	–	–	(2,273)	(2,273)
2003 interim dividend paid	–	–	–	–	(2,062)	(2,062)
Revaluation of properties	–	(48)	–	–	–	(48)
Release from deferred tax liabilities	–	11	–	–	–	11
At 31 December 2003	52,864	62	–	(3)	7,338	60,261
Company and subsidiaries	52,864	62	–	(3)	7,354	60,277
Associates	–	–	–	–	(16)	(16)
	52,864	62	–	(3)	7,338	60,261
Representing:						
2003 final dividend proposed					3,383	
Others					3,955	
Retained earnings as at 31 December 2003					7,338	
At 1 January 2004	52,864	62	–	(3)	7,338	60,261
Net profit for the year	–	–	–	–	11,963	11,963
Currency translation difference	–	–	–	(2)	–	(2)
2003 final dividend paid	–	–	–	–	(3,383)	(3,383)
2004 interim dividend paid	–	–	–	–	(3,383)	(3,383)
Revaluation of properties	–	2,895	629	–	–	3,524
Release upon disposal of properties	–	(6)	(6)	–	6	(6)
Release to deferred tax liabilities	–	(453)	–	–	–	(453)
At 31 December 2004	52,864	2,498	623	(5)	12,541	68,521
Company and subsidiaries	52,864	2,498	623	(5)	12,574	68,554
Associates	–	–	–	–	(33)	(33)
	52,864	2,498	623	(5)	12,541	68,521
Representing:						
2004 final dividend proposed					4,176	
Others					8,365	
Retained earnings as at 31 December 2004					12,541	

CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December	Notes	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Cash flow from operating activities			
Operating cash outflow before taxation	34(a)	(3,268)	(6,284)
Hong Kong profits tax paid		(1,287)	(103)
Overseas profits tax paid		(6)	(18)
Net cash outflow from operating activities		(4,561)	(6,405)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Dividends received from investment securities		14	32
Purchase of fixed assets		(450)	(369)
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		1,201	1,061
Purchase of investment securities		–	(6)
Disposal of investment securities		3	–
Proceeds from disposal of a subsidiary	34(b)	–	157
Proceeds from disposal of an associate		50	–
Proceeds from dissolution of associates		66	19
Dividends received from associates		5	4
Loans to associates		(9)	(358)
Loans repaid by associates		289	397
Net cash inflow from investing activities		1,169	937
Cash flow from financing activities			
Dividends paid		(6,766)	(4,335)
Dividends paid to minority shareholders	34(c)	(99)	(97)
Net cash outflow from financing activities		(6,865)	(4,432)
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(10,257)	(9,900)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		73,165	83,065
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	34(d)	62,908	73,165

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Principal activities

The Company is an investment holding company and its subsidiaries are principally engaged in the provision of banking and related financial services in Hong Kong.

2. Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain investments in securities, off-balance sheet financial instruments, premises and investment properties, and in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong and comply with the SSAPs issued by the HKICPA. In addition, these accounts comply fully with the requirements set out in the guideline on "Financial Disclosure by Locally Incorporated Authorized Institutions" under the Supervisory Policy Manual issued by the HKMA. These accounts also comply with the applicable disclosure provisions of the Listing Rules of the Stock Exchange.

The accounting policies and methods of computation used in the preparation of the accounts are consistent with those used in the preparation of the Group's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2003.

3. Principal accounting policies

(a) *Basis of consolidation*

The consolidated accounts include the accounts of the Company and its subsidiaries made up to 31 December. Subsidiaries are those entities in which the Group, directly and indirectly, controls the composition of the board of directors, controls more than half of the voting power or holds more than half of the issued share capital. The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are included in the consolidated profit and loss account from the effective date of acquisition or up to the effective date of disposal, as appropriate.

All significant intercompany transactions and balances within the Group are eliminated on consolidation.

The gain or loss on the disposal of a subsidiary represents the difference between: a) the proceeds of the sale and, b) the Group's share of its net assets together with any unamortised goodwill (or goodwill taken to reserves and which was not previously charged or recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account) and any related accumulated foreign currency translation difference.

Minority interests represent the interests of outside shareholders in the operating results and net assets of subsidiaries.

In the Company's balance sheet, the investment in a subsidiary is stated at cost less provision for impairment losses. The results of the subsidiary are accounted for by the Company on the basis of dividends received and receivable.

(b) *Associates*

An associate is a company, not being a subsidiary, in which an equity interest is held for the long-term and significant influence is exercised in its management.

The consolidated profit and loss account includes the Group's share of the results of associates for the year. The consolidated balance sheet includes the Group's share of the net assets of the associates plus goodwill/negative goodwill (net of accumulated amortisation) on acquisition and net of any provision for impairment losses.

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(b) *Associates (continued)*

Unless the Group has incurred obligations or guaranteed obligations in respect of the associate, its share of further losses is discontinued when the share of losses of an associate equals or exceeds the carrying value of the investment in the associate.

(c) *Revenue recognition*

Interest income is recognised in the profit and loss account as it accrues, except in the case of doubtful debts, where interest is credited to a suspense account which is netted in the balance sheet against the relevant balances.

Fees and commission income are recognised in the period when earned unless they relate to transactions involving an interest rate risk or other risks which extend beyond the current period, in which case they are amortised over the period of the transaction.

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

Rental income under operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease unless another systematic basis is more representative of the pattern in which the benefit derived from the leased asset is used.

(d) *Advances*

Advances to customers, banks and other financial institutions are reported on the balance sheet at the principal amount outstanding net of provisions for bad and doubtful debts and suspended interest. Advances to banks and other financial institutions include placements with banks and other financial institutions of more than one year.

All advances are recognised when cash is advanced to the borrowers.

Assets acquired by repossession of collateral for realisation would continue to be reported as advances, except in the case of a loan restructuring where the asset acquired is part of the terms of a new loan agreement and the assets are recognised on the balance sheet under the relevant assets category. When the repossessed asset is realised, the sales proceeds are applied against the outstanding advance and any shortfall is written off to the profit and loss account.

(e) *Provisions for bad and doubtful debts*

The Group internally classifies loans and advances into categories reflecting the Group's assessment of the borrower's capacity to repay and on the degree of doubt about the collectibility of interest and/or principal.

Provisions are made against specific loans and advances as and when the directors have doubt on the ultimate recoverability of principal or interest in full. Based on the directors' assessment of the potential losses on those identified loans and advances on a case-by-case basis, specific provision is made to reduce the carrying value of the assets, taking into account available collateral, to their expected net realisable value. Where it is not possible to reliably estimate the loss, the Group applies pre-determined provisioning levels to the unsecured portion of loans and advances based on the Group's loan classification procedures.

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(e) Provisions for bad and doubtful debts (continued)

In addition, amounts have been set aside as a general provision for bad and doubtful debts. Specific and general provisions are deducted from "Advances and other accounts" in the consolidated balance sheet. When there is no realistic prospect of recovery, the outstanding debt is written off against the balance sheet asset and provision in part, or in whole.

(f) Fixed assets

(i) Premises

Premises are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated impairment losses and accumulated depreciation calculated to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

Leasehold land	Over the remaining period of lease
Buildings	Over the shorter of the remaining period of the lease and 15 to 50 years

Independent valuations are performed every three years on individual properties on the basis of open market values. In the intervening years, the directors review the carrying value of individual properties, by reference to the fair values of similar properties, and adjustment is made when they consider that there has been a material change. Increases in valuation are credited to the premises revaluation reserve. Decreases in valuation are first set off against increases on earlier valuations in respect of the same individual asset and thereafter are debited to the profit and loss account. Any subsequent increases are credited to the profit and loss account up to the amount previously debited, and then to the premises revaluation reserve. Upon disposal of premises, the relevant portion of the premises revaluation reserve realised in respect of previous valuations is released and transferred from the premises revaluation reserve to retained earnings.

The gain or loss on disposal of premises is the difference between the net sales proceeds and the carrying value of the relevant asset, and is recognised in the profit and loss account.

(ii) Investment properties

Investment properties are interests in land and buildings in respect of which construction work and development have been completed and which are held for their investment potential, any rental income being negotiated at arm's length.

Investment properties are valued annually and independent valuations are performed at intervals of not more than three years; in each of the intervening years, valuations are undertaken by professionally qualified persons appointed by the Group. The valuations are on an open market value basis. Changes in the value of investment properties are treated as movements in the investment properties revaluation reserve, unless the total of the reserve is insufficient to cover a deficit on a portfolio basis. In such cases, the amount by which the deficit exceeds the total amount in the investment properties revaluation reserve is charged to the profit and loss account. Where a deficit has previously been charged to the profit and loss account and a revaluation surplus subsequently arises, this surplus is credited to the profit and loss account to the extent of the deficit previously charged.

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(f) Fixed assets (continued)

(ii) Investment properties (continued)

Investment properties held on leases with unexpired periods of 20 years or less are depreciated over the remaining terms of the leases.

Upon the disposal of an investment property, the relevant portion of the investment properties revaluation reserve realised in respect of previous valuations is released from the investment properties revaluation reserve to the profit and loss account.

(iii) Property under development

Property under development is carried at cost less impairment losses. Cost includes development and construction expenditure incurred, interest and other direct costs attributable to the development. On completion, the property is transferred to premises or investment properties.

(iv) Equipment, fixtures and fittings

Equipment, fixtures and fittings are stated at cost less accumulated impairment losses and accumulated depreciation calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives, which are generally between 3 and 15 years.

The gain or loss on disposal of equipment, fixtures and fittings is recognised in the profit and loss account.

(v) Impairment and gain or loss on sale

At each balance sheet date, both internal and external sources of information are considered to determine whether there is any indication that premises, equipment, fixtures and fittings are impaired. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and where relevant, an impairment loss is recognised to reduce the asset to its recoverable amount. Such impairment losses are recognised in the profit and loss account except where the asset is carried at valuation and the impairment loss does not exceed the revaluation surplus for that same asset, in which case it is treated as a revaluation decrease.

The gain or loss on disposal of fixed assets is the difference between the net sales proceeds and the carrying value of the relevant assets, and is recognised in the profit and loss account.

(g) Investments in securities

(i) Held-to-maturity securities

Held-to-maturity securities are dated debt securities which the Group has the expressed intention and ability to hold to maturity. These securities are stated at cost adjusted for the amortisation of premiums or discounts arising on acquisition over the periods to maturity, less provision for impairment in their value which is other than temporary. Provisions are made for the amount of the carrying value which the Group does not expect to recover and are recognised as an expense in the profit and loss account as they arise.

The amortisation of premiums and discounts arising on acquisition of dated debt securities is included as part of interest income in the profit and loss account. Gain or loss on realisation of held-to-maturity securities is accounted for in the profit and loss account as they arise.

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(g) Investments in securities (continued)

(ii) Investment securities

Securities which are intended to be held on a continuing basis for an identified long-term purpose at the time of acquisition (for example, for strategic purposes), are stated in the balance sheet at cost less any provisions for impairment in value which is other than temporary.

The carrying value of investment securities are reviewed as at the balance sheet date in order to assess whether the fair value has declined below the carrying value. When such a decline has occurred, the carrying value is reduced to the fair value unless there is evidence that the decline is temporary. The amount of the reduction is recognised as an expense in the profit and loss account.

Fair value is the amount for which an asset can be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

(iii) Other investments in securities

All other investments in securities (whether held for trading or otherwise) are stated in the balance sheet at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognised in the profit and loss account as they arise.

Provisions against the carrying value of held-to-maturity securities and investment securities are written back when the circumstances and events that led to the write-downs cease to exist and there is persuasive evidence that the new circumstances and events will persist for the foreseeable future. The amount written back is limited to the amount of the write-downs.

(h) Operating leases

Leases where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of assets remain with the lessor are accounted for as operating leases. Rentals applicable to such operating leases net of any incentives received from the lessor are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Where the Group is the lessor, the assets subject to the lease are included in fixed assets in the balance sheet. They are depreciated over their expected useful lives on a basis consistent with similar owned fixed assets. Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Initial direct costs incurred specifically to earn revenue from an operating lease are recognised as an expense in the profit and loss account in the period in which they are incurred.

(i) Provisions

A provision is recognised when the Group has a present obligation, legal or constructive, as a result of a past event and it is probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

A provision for restructuring costs is recognised when the above general recognition criteria are met and a detailed formal plan for the restructuring has been implemented, or has been announced and communicated to those affected by it in a sufficiently specific manner to raise a valid expectation that the restructuring will be carried out without long delay.

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(j) *Deferred taxation*

Deferred taxation is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method in respect of temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the accounts. The principal temporary differences arise from depreciation on fixed assets, revaluations of properties, general provision for bad and doubtful debts and tax losses carried forward. Taxation rates enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date are used to determine deferred taxation.

Deferred tax is charged or credited in the profit and loss account except when it relates to items charged or credited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is also dealt with in equity.

Deferred tax liabilities are provided in full on all taxable temporary differences and deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the deductible temporary differences can be utilised.

(k) *Foreign currency translation*

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at exchange rates ruling at the transaction dates. Monetary assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising in these cases are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

The balance sheets of subsidiaries and associates expressed in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date whilst the profit and loss account is translated at an average rate for the period. Exchange differences are dealt with as a movement in reserves.

(l) *Employee benefits*

(i) **Retirement benefit costs**

The Group contributes to defined contribution retirement schemes under either recognised ORSO schemes or MPF schemes that are available to the Group's employees. Contributions to the schemes by the Group and employees are calculated as a percentage of employees' basic salaries for the ORSO schemes and in accordance with the MPF rules for MPF schemes. The retirement benefit scheme costs are charged to the profit and loss account as incurred and represent contributions payable by the Group to the schemes. Forfeited contributions by those employees who leave the ORSO scheme prior to the full vesting of their contributions are used by the Group to reduce the existing level of contributions or to meet its expenses under the trust deed of the ORSO schemes.

The assets of the schemes are held in independently-administered funds separate from those of the Group.

(ii) **Leave entitlements**

Employee entitlements to annual leave and sick leave are recognised when they accrue to employees. A provision is made for the estimated liability for unused annual leave and the amount of sick leave expected to be paid as a result of services rendered by employees up to the balance sheet date.

Compensated absences other than annual leave and sick leave are non-accumulating; they lapse if the current period's entitlement is not used in full and do not entitle employees to a cash payment for unused entitlement on leaving the Group. Such compensated absences are recognised when the absences occur.

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(l) *Employee benefits (continued)*

(iii) **Bonus plans**

The expected cost of bonus payments are recognised as a liability when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of services rendered by employees and a reliable estimate of the obligation can be made.

Liabilities for bonus plans are expected to be settled within twelve months and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when they are settled.

(m) *Off-balance sheet financial instruments*

Off-balance sheet financial instruments arise from futures, forwards, swaps, options and other transactions undertaken by the Group in the foreign exchange, interest rate, equity and other markets. The accounting for these instruments is dependent upon whether the transactions are undertaken for dealing or hedging purposes. The Group designates a derivative as held for dealing or hedging purposes when it enters into a derivative contract.

Transactions undertaken for dealing purposes are marked to market at fair value. For exchange traded contracts, fair value is based on quoted market prices. For non-exchange traded contracts, fair value is based on dealers' quotes, pricing models or quoted prices for instruments with similar characteristics. The gain or loss arising from changes in fair value is recognised in the profit and loss account as "Net gain/(loss) from foreign exchange activities" or "Net gain/(loss) from other dealing activities".

Unrealised gains on transactions which are marked to market are included in "Other assets". Unrealised losses on transactions which are marked to market are included in "Other accounts and provisions".

Hedging derivative transactions are designated as such at inception and the hedging instrument is required to be highly effective in accomplishing the objective of offsetting the risk being hedged throughout the life of the hedge. Hedging instruments are valued on an equivalent basis to the assets, liabilities or net positions that they are hedging. Any profit or loss is recognised in the profit and loss account on the same basis as that arising from the related assets, liabilities or net positions.

If the derivative transaction no longer meets the criteria for a hedge, the derivative is deemed to be held for dealing purposes and is accounted for as set out above.

Assets and liabilities arising from derivative transactions are netted off only when the Group has entered into master netting agreements or other legally enforceable arrangements, which assures beyond doubt, the Group's right to insist on settlement with the same counterparty on a net basis in all situations of default by the other party or parties including insolvency of any parties to the contract.

Derivative transactions are not offset unless the related settlement currencies are the same, or are denominated in freely convertible currencies for which quoted exchange rates are available in an active market.

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(n) *Contingent liabilities and contingent assets*

A contingent liability is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Group. It can also be a present obligation arising from past events that is not recognised because it is not probable that outflow of economic resources will be required or the amount of obligation cannot be measured reliably.

A contingent liability is not recognised but is disclosed in the notes to the accounts. When a change in the probability of an outflow occurs so that outflow is probable, it will then be recognised as a provision.

A contingent asset is a possible asset that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain events not wholly within the control of the Group.

Contingent assets are not recognised but are disclosed in the notes to the accounts when an inflow of economic benefits is probable. When inflow is virtually certain, it will be recognised as an asset.

(o) *Cash and cash equivalents*

For the purposes of the consolidated cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise balances with less than three months' maturity from the date of acquisition including cash, balances with banks and other financial institutions, treasury bills, other eligible bills and certificates of deposit.

(p) *Dividends*

Dividends proposed or declared after the balance sheet date are disclosed as a post balance sheet event and are not recognised as a liability at the balance sheet date.

(q) *Recently issued accounting standards*

The HKICPA has issued a number of new and revised HKFRSs and HKASs (the "new HKFRSs") which are effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005.

The Group has not early adopted any of the new HKFRSs in the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2004. The effect of first-time adoption of the new HKFRSs will be reported by the Group as an adjustment to the opening balances of the relevant assets, liabilities, equity reserve or retained earnings in 2005.

The Group is in the process of making an assessment of the impact of these new HKFRSs, and has so far concluded that the following HKFRSs will have significant financial or presentation effects on the Group's accounts upon adoption in the areas as briefly described below:

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(q) Recently issued accounting standards (continued)

(i) HKAS39 "Financial instruments: Recognition and Measurement"

Classification of investments in securities

The current accounting policy on investments in securities is set out in Note 3(g) above. Upon adoption of HKAS39, all investment securities other than investments in subsidiaries and associates are classified into one of the following three categories:

- held-to-maturity debt securities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment loss;
- at fair value through profit or loss securities are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in the profit and loss account;
- available-for-sale securities are measured at fair value, with the difference between fair value and amortised cost reported in the equity reserve directly.

Upon first-time adoption of HKAS39, the Group has reclassified its investment securities into the above categories. Majority of the Group's securities are classified as held-to-maturity or available-for-sale. The changes in fair value of available-for-sale securities will cause volatility to the equity reserve.

Derivatives

The current accounting policy on derivatives is set out in Note 3(m) above. Upon adoption of HKAS39, all derivatives are recognised separately as either assets or liabilities in the balance sheet and measured at fair value. The accounting for changes in the fair value of derivatives are recognised as follows:

For a derivative designated as fair value hedge, the gain or loss is recognised in the profit and loss account in the period of change together with the associated loss or gain on the hedged item;

For a derivative designated as cash flow hedge, the gain or loss on the derivative associated with the effective portion of the hedge is initially recognised in equity reserve and subsequently released into the profit and loss account in line with the recognition of the element of the recognised asset or liability which is being hedged. Any ineffective portion is recognised in the profit and loss account as it arises; and

For other derivatives (including for dealing purpose and for economic hedging purpose which do not qualify for hedge accounting), the gain or loss is recognised in the profit and loss account.

Volatility in income will become higher due to stricter requirements to qualify for hedge accounting treatment. The volatility in equity reserve will also increase due to change in fair value of derivatives designated as cash flow hedges.

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(q) Recently issued accounting standards (continued)

(i) HKAS39 “Financial instruments: Recognition and Measurement” (continued)

Revenue recognition

The current accounting policy on revenue recognition is set out in Note 3(c) above. Upon adoption of HKAS39, interest accrual on doubtful loans ceased previously will be recognised in the profit and loss account up to the extent of their outstanding carrying value net of impairment. Directly attributable loan origination fees and costs which were previously recognised as commission expenses will be recognised as interest income over the expected life of the loan as part of the effective interest calculation.

These changes in recognition and classification will have an effect on the Group’s net interest income and net interest margin.

Provisions for bad and doubtful debts

The current accounting policy on loan provisions is set out in Note 3(e) above. Upon adoption of HKAS39, loan impairment provisions are calculated using a discounted future cash flow analysis of loan repayments with significant carrying value. Collective assessment of impairment for individually insignificant items or items where no impairment has been identified on an individual basis is made by adopting formula-based approaches or statistical methods on groups of loan portfolio according to their credit characteristics.

Loan impairment provisions assessed individually and collectively will be presented in an aggregate amount as allowance for losses on loans and advances instead of specific provisions and general provisions.

(ii) HKAS17 “Leasing”

Premises

The current accounting policy on premises is set out in Note 3(f)(i) above. Upon adoption of HKAS17, the land element of a leasehold property held for own use would be recognised as operating lease if the land and building elements of the lease payment can be allocated reliably at the inception of the lease, otherwise both of the land and building elements will be recognised as finance lease. The land premiums and other related costs for acquiring the leasehold land will be amortised over the terms of the leases.

The Group will continue to adopt the fair value model. The financial impact of adopting HKAS17 to existing premises is not significant based on the preliminary assumption that the value of the land and building elements of the Group’s premises at inception of the leases cannot be separated. However, this preliminary assumption is subject to change pending further consultation with independent valuers.

3. Principal accounting policies (continued)

(q) Recently issued accounting standards (continued)

(iii) HKAS40 "Investment property"

Investment properties

The current accounting policy on investment properties is set out in Note 3(f)(ii) above. Upon adoption of HKAS40, change in fair value of investment properties will be recognised directly in the profit and loss account instead of equity reserve.

The Group will continue to adopt the fair value model. The change in fair value of investment properties will cause volatility in the profit and loss account.

(iv) HKAS12 "Income taxes" – HKAS Interpretation 21

Deferred tax

There is currently no deferred tax provided on revaluation surplus of investment properties. According to the HKAS Interpretation 21, the Group will calculate deferred tax on the change in fair value of investment properties based on the applicable profits tax rate. On transition, retained earnings will be reduced by the amount of deferred tax derived.

The Group will continue with the assessment of the other new HKFRSs and other significant changes may be identified as a result.

4. Interest income

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Interest income from listed investments	1,753	1,669
Interest income from unlisted investments	2,861	3,059
Other interest income	11,064	13,031
	15,678	17,759

5. Other operating income

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Fees and commission income (Note)	4,307	3,855
Less: Fees and commission expenses	(1,086)	(858)
Net fees and commission income	3,221	2,997
Dividend income from investments in securities		
– unlisted investments	14	45
Net gain/(loss) from other investments in securities	29	(108)
Net gain from foreign exchange activities	1,056	965
Net gain from other dealing activities	82	42
Gross rental income from investment properties	210	241
Less: Outgoings in respect of investment properties	(69)	(80)
Others	121	277
	4,664	4,379

Note: Fees and commission income

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Securities brokerage	934	733
Credit cards	666	560
Bills commissions	547	556
Loan commissions	490	473
Payment services	349	315
Insurance	314	235
Asset management	233	211
Trust services	75	76
Guarantees	38	39
Others		
– safe deposit box	161	166
– low deposit balance accounts	63	106
– currency exchange	52	45
– BOC cards	35	40
– dormant accounts	28	24
– agency services	24	24
– postage and telegrams	25	19
– information search	33	16
– correspondent banking	18	15
– RMB business	26	–
– sundries	196	202
	4,307	3,855

6. Operating expenses

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Staff costs (including directors' emoluments)		
– salaries and other costs	3,049	3,069
– termination benefit	1	1
– pension cost	241	246
	3,291	3,316
Premises and equipment expenses (excluding depreciation)		
– rental of premises	226	213
– information technology	301	310
– others	198	209
	725	732
Depreciation on owned fixed assets	585	611
Auditors' remuneration		
– audit services	24	29
– non-audit services	16	9
Other operating expenses	864	961
	5,505	5,658

7. Write-back of/(charge for) bad and doubtful debts

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Net charge for bad and doubtful debts		
Specific provisions		
– new provisions	(1,520)	(3,834)
– releases	1,851	768
– recoveries (Note 23)	1,356	438
	1,687	(2,628)
General provisions (Note 23)	(59)	957
Net credit/(charge) to profit and loss account (Note 23)	1,628	(1,671)

8. Net gain/(loss) from disposal/revaluation of fixed assets

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Net gain on disposal of premises	29	8
Net gain on disposal of investment properties	196	5
Loss on disposal of other fixed assets	(3)	(23)
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation of premises (Note 26)	1,337	(741)
Surplus/(deficit) on revaluation of investment properties (Note 26)	525	(370)
	2,084	(1,121)

9. Write-back of provision for impairment on held-to-maturity securities and investment securities

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Write-back of provision for impairment on held-to-maturity securities	–	29
Write-back of provision for impairment on investment securities	–	1
	–	30

10. Taxation

Taxation in the profit and loss account represents:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Hong Kong profits tax		
– current year taxation	2,116	1,470
– over-provision in prior years	(91)	(732)
Deferred tax charge	152	55
	2,177	793
Attributable share of estimated Hong Kong profits tax losses arising from investments in partnerships	(203)	(817)
	1,974	(24)
Investments in partnerships written off	139	600
Hong Kong profits tax	2,113	576
Overseas taxation	17	11
	2,130	587
Share of taxation attributable to associates	1	2
	2,131	589

10. Taxation (continued)

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 17.5% (2003: 17.5%) on the estimated assessable profits arising in Hong Kong during the year. Taxation on overseas profits has been calculated on the estimated assessable profits for the year at the rates of taxation prevailing in the countries in which the Group operates.

The Group has entered into a number of aircraft leasing and coupon strip transactions involving special purpose partnerships. As at 31 December 2004, the Group's investments in such partnerships, which are included in "Other assets" in the consolidated balance sheet, amounted to HK\$613 million (2003: HK\$1,474 million). The Group's investments in partnerships are amortised over the life of the partnerships in proportion to the taxation benefits resulting from those investments.

The total assets and liabilities of the aforementioned partnerships are as follows:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Assets	2,356	6,159
Liabilities	1,655	4,098

The taxation on the Group's profit before taxation that differs from the theoretical amount that would arise using the taxation rate of Hong Kong is as follows:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Profit before taxation	14,252	8,691
Calculated at a taxation rate of 17.5% (2003: 17.5%)	2,494	1,521
Effect of different taxation rates in other countries	(41)	(31)
Income not subject to taxation	(2,089)	(1,511)
Expenses not deductible for taxation purposes	1,937	1,518
Tax losses not recognised	3	5
Temporary differences not recognised	–	55
Utilisation of previously unrecognised tax losses	(19)	(21)
Over-provision in prior years	(91)	(732)
Tax benefits from partnerships	(64)	(217)
Share of taxation attributable to associates	1	2
Taxation charge	2,131	589

11. Profit attributable to shareholders

The profit of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2004 attributable to shareholders and dealt with in the accounts of the Company amounted to HK\$7,961 million (2003: HK\$5,810 million).

12. Dividends

	2004		2003	
	Per share HK\$	Total HK\$'m	Per share HK\$	Total HK\$'m
Interim dividend paid	0.320	3,383	0.195	2,062
Proposed final dividend	0.395	4,176	0.320	3,383
	0.715	7,559	0.515	5,445

At a meeting held on 19 August 2004, the Board declared an interim dividend of HK\$0.320 per ordinary share for the first half of 2004 amounting to approximately HK\$3,383 million.

At a meeting held on 23 March 2005, the Board proposed to declare a final dividend of HK\$0.395 per ordinary share for the year ended 31 December 2004 amounting to approximately HK\$4,176 million. This declared final dividend is not reflected as a dividend payable in these accounts, but will be reflected as an appropriation of retained earnings for the year ending 31 December 2005.

13. Earnings per share

The calculation of basic earnings per share is based on the consolidated profit attributable to shareholders for the year ended 31 December 2004 of approximately HK\$11,963 million (2003: HK\$7,963 million) and on the ordinary shares in issue of 10,572,780,266 shares (2003: 10,572,780,266 ordinary shares).

There was no dilution of earnings per share as no potential ordinary shares were in issue for the year ended 31 December 2004 (2003: Nil).

14. Retirement benefit costs

The principal defined contribution schemes for the Group's employees are ORSO schemes exempted under the MPF Scheme Ordinance and the BOC-Prudential Easy Choice MPF Scheme. Under the ORSO schemes, employees make monthly contributions to the ORSO schemes equal to 5% of their basic salaries, while the employer makes monthly contributions equal to 5% to 15% of the employees' monthly basic salaries, depending on years of service. The employees are entitled to receive 100% of the employer's contributions upon termination of employment after completing 20 years of service, or at a scale ranging from 20% to 95% for employees who have completed between 3 to 20 years of service, on conditions of retirement, early retirement, permanent incapacity and ill-health or termination of employment other than summary dismissal.

With the implementation of the MPF Schemes Ordinance on 1 December 2000, the Group also participates in the BOC-Prudential Easy Choice MPF Scheme, of which the trustee is BOCI-Prudential Trustee and the investment manager is BOCI-Prudential Manager, which are related parties of the Company.

The Group's total contributions made to the ORSO schemes for the year ended 31 December 2004 amounted to approximately HK\$225 million (2003: approximately HK\$233 million), after a deduction of forfeited contributions of approximately HK\$21 million (2003: approximately HK\$19 million). For the MPF Scheme, the Group contributed approximately HK\$12 million (2003: approximately HK\$9 million) for the year ended 31 December 2004.

15. Share option schemes

(a) *Share Option Scheme and Sharesave Plan*

The principal terms of the Share Option Scheme and the Sharesave Plan were approved and adopted by written resolutions of all the shareholders of the Company dated 10 July 2002.

The purpose of the Share Option Scheme is to provide the participants with the opportunity to acquire proprietary interests in the Company. The Board may, in its absolute discretion, offer to grant options under the Share Option Scheme to any person as the Board may select. The subscription price for the shares shall be determined on the date of grant by the Board as an amount per share calculated on the basis of established rules. An option may be exercised in whole or in part at any time after the date prescribed by the Board and from time to time as specified in the offer and on or before the termination date prescribed by the Board.

The purpose of the Sharesave Plan is to encourage broad-based employee ownership of the shares of the Company. The amount of the monthly contribution under the savings contract to be made in connection with an option shall be the amount which the relevant eligible employee is willing to contribute, which amount shall not be less than 1% and not more than 10% of the eligible employee's monthly salary as at the date of application or such other maximum or minimum amounts as permitted by the Board. When an option is exercised during an exercise period, it may be exercised in whole or in part.

No options were granted pursuant to the Share Option Scheme or the Sharesave Plan during the year.

15. Share option schemes (continued)

(b) Pre-Listing Share Option Scheme

On 5 July 2002, several directors together with approximately 60 senior management personnel of the Group and employees of BOC were granted options by BOC (BVI), the immediate holding company of the Company, pursuant to a Pre-Listing Share Option Scheme to purchase from BOC (BVI) an aggregate of 31,132,600 existing issued shares of the Company.

Details of the share options outstanding as at 31 December 2004 are as follows:

	Directors	Senior management	Others*	Total number of share options
At 1 January 2004	12,001,800	14,705,700	–	26,707,500
Transfer	(3,181,200)	–	3,181,200	–
Less: Share options exercised during the year	(361,500)	(1,814,000)	–	(2,175,500)
Less: Share options lapsed during the year	–	(2,359,000)	(1,735,200)	(4,094,200)
At 31 December 2004	8,459,100	10,532,700	1,446,000	20,437,800
At 1 January 2003	13,737,000	17,221,600	–	30,958,600
Less: Share options exercised during the year	–	(1,591,000)	–	(1,591,000)
Less: Share options surrendered during the year	(1,735,200)	–	–	(1,735,200)
Less: Share options lapsed during the year	–	(924,900)	–	(924,900)
At 31 December 2003	12,001,800	14,705,700	–	26,707,500

* Represented share options held by ex-directors of the Group.

The options granted under this scheme can be exercised at HK\$8.50 per share in respect of the option price of HK\$1.00. None of these options may be exercised within one year from the date on which dealings in the shares commenced on the Stock Exchange. These options have a vesting period of four years (25% of the number of shares subject to such options will vest at the end of each year) from the date on which dealings in the shares commenced on the Stock Exchange with a valid exercise period of ten years. No offer to grant any options under the Pre-Listing Share Option Scheme will be made on or after the date on which dealings in the shares commenced on the Stock Exchange.

16. Directors' and senior management's emoluments

(a) Directors' emoluments

Details of the emoluments paid and payable to the directors of the Company in respect of their services rendered for managing the subsidiaries within the Group during the year are as follows:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Fees	3	2
Other emoluments		
– basic salaries and allowances	3	4
– others (including benefits in kind)	1	1
	7	7

Emoluments of the directors were within the following bands:

	Number of directors	
	2004	2003
Up to HK\$1,000,000	11	13
HK\$2,000,001 – HK\$2,500,000	–	1
HK\$2,500,001 – HK\$3,000,000	–	1
HK\$4,000,001 – HK\$4,500,000	1	–

Fees of HK\$1.20 million (2003: HK\$0.70 million) were paid to the Independent Non-executive Directors during the year.

In July 2002, options were granted to several directors of the Company by the immediate holding company, BOC (BVI), under the Pre-Listing Share Option Scheme. Full details of the scheme are stated in Note 15(b). During the year, certain options were exercised, but no benefits arising from the granting of these share options were included in the directors' emoluments disclosed above or recognised in the profit and loss account.

(b) Five highest paid individuals

The five individuals whose emoluments were the highest in the Group for the year include 1 director (2003: 1) whose emoluments are reflected in the analysis presented above. The emoluments payable to the remaining 4 individuals (2003: 4) during the year are as follows:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Basic salaries and allowances	7	9
Discretionary bonuses	1	1
Others (including pension contributions)	1	1
	9	11

16. Directors' and senior management's emoluments (continued)**(b) Five highest paid individuals (continued)**

Emoluments of individuals were within the following bands:

	Number of individuals	
	2004	2003
HK\$2,000,001 – HK\$2,500,000	3	1
HK\$2,500,001 – HK\$3,000,000	1	2
HK\$3,000,001 – HK\$3,500,000	–	1

During the year, no director waived any emoluments and the Group has not paid any emoluments to the directors or any of the five highest paid individuals as an inducement to join or upon joining the Group or as compensation for loss of office.

17. Cash and short-term funds

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Cash	4,072	4,247
Balances with banks and other financial institutions	16,904	8,300
Money at call and short notice maturing within one month	70,892	100,987
Treasury bills (including Exchange Fund Bills)	10,779	20,572
	102,647	134,106
An analysis of treasury bills held is as follows:		
Unlisted, held-to-maturity, at amortised cost	8,947	17,867
Unlisted, other investments in securities, at fair value	1,832	2,705
	10,779	20,572

18. Certificates of deposit held

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Held-to-maturity, at amortised cost		
– Unlisted	22,132	6,585
Other investments in securities, at fair value		
– Unlisted	206	12,191
	22,338	18,776

19. Held-to-maturity securities

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Listed, at amortised cost	56,108	40,051
Less: Provision for impairment in value	(12)	(12)
	56,096	40,039
Unlisted, at amortised cost	124,954	61,026
Total	181,050	101,065
Listed, at amortised cost less provision		
– in Hong Kong	4,443	4,000
– outside Hong Kong	51,653	36,039
	56,096	40,039
Market value of listed securities	56,480	40,906
Held-to-maturity securities are analysed by issuers as follows:		
– Central governments and central banks	3,377	2,698
– Public sector entities	31,730	23,060
– Banks and other financial institutions	124,906	57,668
– Corporate entities	21,037	17,639
	181,050	101,065

20. Investment securities

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Equity securities		
– Listed in Hong Kong, at cost	–	16
Less: Provision for impairment in value	–	(14)
	–	2
– Listed outside Hong Kong, at cost	1	1
	1	3
– Unlisted, at cost	49	50
Total	50	53
Market value of listed equity securities	5	7
Investment securities are analysed by issuers as follows:		
– Banks and other financial institutions	1	1
– Corporate entities	49	52
	50	53

21. Other investments in securities

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
At fair value		
Debt securities		
– Listed in Hong Kong	321	286
– Listed outside Hong Kong	4,655	25,440
	4,976	25,726
– Unlisted	3,291	45,629
	8,267	71,355
Equity securities		
– Listed in Hong Kong	20	41
– Unlisted	1	4
	21	45
Total	8,288	71,400
Other investments in securities are analysed by issuers as follows:		
– Central governments and central banks	759	3,192
– Public sector entities	1,387	4,873
– Banks and other financial institutions	5,732	62,395
– Corporate entities	410	940
	8,288	71,400

22. Advances and other accounts

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Advances to customers	313,226	308,582
Accrued interest	2,480	1,905
	315,706	310,487
Provision for bad and doubtful debts		
– General (Note 23)	(5,465)	(5,406)
– Specific (Note 23)	(2,320)	(5,507)
	(7,785)	(10,913)
	307,921	299,574
Advances to banks and other financial institutions	1,290	520
	309,211	300,094
Non-performing loans are analysed as follows:		
Non-performing loans	9,239	17,832
Specific provisions made in respect of such advances	2,269	5,467
As a percentage of total advances to customers	2.95%	5.78%
Amount of interest in suspense	172	324

Non-performing loans are defined as loans and advances to customers on which interest is being placed in suspense or on which interest accrual has ceased. Specific provisions were made after taking into account the value of collateral in respect of such advances.

There were no advances to banks and other financial institutions on which interest has been placed in suspense or on which interest accrual has ceased as at 31 December 2004 (2003: Nil), nor were there any specific provisions made.

23. Provisions for bad and doubtful debts

	2004			
	Specific HK\$'m	General HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m	Suspended interest HK\$'m
At 1 January 2004	5,507	5,406	10,913	324
(Credited)/charged to profit and loss account (Note 7)	(1,687)	59	(1,628)	–
Amounts written off	(2,856)	–	(2,856)	(139)
Recoveries of advances written off in previous years (Note 7)	1,356	–	1,356	–
Interest suspended during the year	–	–	–	130
Suspended interest recovered	–	–	–	(143)
At 31 December 2004	2,320	5,465	7,785	172
Deducted from:				
– advances to customers	2,320	5,465	7,785	

	2003			
	Specific HK\$'m	General HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m	Suspended interest HK\$'m
At 1 January 2003	8,650	6,363	15,013	408
Charged/(credited) to profit and loss account (Note 7)	2,628	(957)	1,671	–
Amounts written off	(6,209)	–	(6,209)	(119)
Recoveries of advances written off in previous years (Note 7)	438	–	438	–
Interest suspended during the year	–	–	–	210
Suspended interest recovered	–	–	–	(175)
At 31 December 2003	5,507	5,406	10,913	324
Deducted from:				
– advances to customers	5,507	5,406	10,913	

24. Investment in a subsidiary

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Unlisted shares, at cost	52,864	52,864

The particulars of all direct and indirect subsidiaries of the Company are set out in Appendix of the Annual Report, "Subsidiaries of the Company". The following is a list of principal subsidiaries as at 31 December 2004.

Name	Place of incorporation	Particulars of issued share capital	Interest held	Principal activities
Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited	Hong Kong	43,042,840,858 ordinary shares of HK\$1 each	*100%	Banking business
Nanyang Commercial Bank, Limited	Hong Kong	6,000,000 ordinary shares of HK\$100 each	100%	Banking business
Chiyu Banking Corporation Limited	Hong Kong	3,000,000 ordinary shares of HK\$100 each	70.49%	Banking business
BOC Credit Card (International) Limited	Hong Kong	4,800,000 ordinary shares of HK\$100 each	100%	Credit card services
Po Sang Futures Limited	Hong Kong	250,000 ordinary shares of HK\$100 each	100%	Commodities brokerage

* Shares held directly by the Company

Yien Yieh Finance Company Limited commenced members' voluntary winding up on 6 December 2004.

25. Interests in associates

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Share of net assets	67	155
Less: Provision for impairment in value	(5)	(17)
	62	138
Loans to associates (Note)	–	280
Less: Provision for loans to associates	–	(140)
	–	140
	62	278

Note: As at 31 December 2003, loans to associates were all on commercial terms and carried interest at the then prevailing market interest rates.

The following is a list of the principal associates as at 31 December 2004, all of which are corporate entities.

Name	Place of incorporation & establishment	Particulars of issued share capital	Group's equity interest held indirectly	Principal activities
Charleston Investments Company Limited	Hong Kong	100,000 ordinary shares of HK\$10 each	40%	Property investment
CJM Insurance Brokers Limited	Hong Kong	6,000,000 ordinary shares of HK\$1 each	33%	Insurance broker
Joint Electronic Teller Services Limited	Hong Kong	100,238 ordinary shares of HK\$100 each	19.96%	Operation of a private interbank message switching network in respect of ATM services
Trilease International Limited	Hong Kong	30,000,000 ordinary shares of HK\$1 each	40%	Provision of leasing finance

Kincheng-Tokyo Finance Company Limited had commenced members' voluntary winding up during the year and completed the winding up procedures on 28 January 2005.

Trilease International Limited commenced members' voluntary winding up in January 2005.

During the year, the Group disposed of its entire interest in Zhejiang Commercial Bank, Ltd. to an independent third party.

26. Fixed assets

	2004				
	Premises HK\$'m	Investment properties HK\$'m	Property under development HK\$'m	Equipment, fixtures and fittings HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
Cost or valuation					
At 1 January 2004	11,632	4,994	39	3,596	20,261
Additions	–	–	–	450	450
Disposals	(125)	(858)	–	(171)	(1,154)
Revaluation	3,768	1,154	–	–	4,922
Reclassification	(91)	91	–	–	–
At 31 December 2004	15,184	5,381	39	3,875	24,479
Accumulated depreciation and impairment losses					
At 1 January 2004	166	–	7	2,506	2,679
Depreciation for the year	328	1	–	256	585
Disposals	(2)	–	–	(167)	(169)
Write-back on revaluation	(492)	(1)	–	–	(493)
At 31 December 2004	–	–	7	2,595	2,602
Net book value					
At 31 December 2004	15,184	5,381	32	1,280	21,877
At 31 December 2003	11,466	4,994	32	1,090	17,582
The analysis of cost or valuation of the above assets is as follows:					
At 31 December 2004					
At cost	–	–	39	3,875	3,914
At valuation	15,184	5,381	–	–	20,565
	15,184	5,381	39	3,875	24,479
At 31 December 2003					
At cost	–	–	39	3,596	3,635
At valuation	11,632	4,994	–	–	16,626
	11,632	4,994	39	3,596	20,261

26. Fixed assets (continued)

The carrying value of premises is analysed based on the remaining terms of the leases as follows:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Held in Hong Kong		
On long-term lease (over 50 years)	9,493	7,051
On medium-term lease (10-50 years)	5,475	4,152
On short-term lease (less than 10 years)	3	2
Held outside Hong Kong		
On long-term lease (over 50 years)	42	40
On medium-term lease (10-50 years)	165	215
On short-term lease (less than 10 years)	6	6
	15,184	11,466

The carrying value of investment properties is analysed based on the remaining terms of the leases as follows:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Held in Hong Kong		
On long-term lease (over 50 years)	4,566	4,070
On medium-term lease (10-50 years)	681	792
Held outside Hong Kong		
On long-term lease (over 50 years)	34	34
On medium-term lease (10-50 years)	100	98
	5,381	4,994

As at 31 December 2004, the premises and investment properties are included in the balance sheet at valuation carried out at 31 October 2004 on the basis of their open market value by an independent firm of chartered surveyors, Chesterton Petty Limited. Chesterton Petty Limited also confirmed that there has been no material change in valuations at 31 December 2004.

26. Fixed assets (continued)

As a result of the above-mentioned revaluations, changes in value of the Group's premises and investment properties were recognised in the Group's property revaluation reserves, the profit and loss account and minority interests respectively as follows:

	2004		
	Premises HK\$'m	Investment properties HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
Increase in valuation credited to property revaluation reserves	2,895	629	3,524
Increase in valuation credited to profit and loss account (Note 8)	1,337	525	1,862
Increase in valuation credited to minority interests (Note 34(c))	28	1	29
	4,260	1,155	5,415

	2003		
	Premises HK\$'m	Investment properties HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
Decrease in valuation debited to property revaluation reserves	(48)	–	(48)
Decrease in valuation charged to profit and loss account (Note 8)	(741)	(370)	(1,111)
	(789)	(370)	(1,159)

As at 31 December 2004, the net book value of premises that would have been included in the Group's balance sheet had the assets been carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses were HK\$6,032 million (2003: HK\$5,653 million).

27. Hong Kong SAR currency notes in circulation

The Hong Kong SAR currency notes in circulation are secured by deposit of funds in respect of which the Hong Kong SAR Government certificates of indebtedness are held.

28. Deposits from customers

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Demand deposits and current accounts	32,470	26,974
Savings deposits	296,462	271,439
Time, call and notice deposits	302,398	302,229
	631,330	600,642

29. Assets pledged as security

As at 31 December 2004, liabilities of the Group amounting to HK\$1,982 million (2003: HK\$2,735 million) were secured by assets deposited with central depositories to facilitate settlement operations. The amount of assets pledged by the Group to secure these liabilities was HK\$2,170 million (2003: HK\$2,918 million) included in "Cash and short-term funds".

30. Other accounts and provisions

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Interest payable	959	850
Current taxation (Note 31(a))	901	355
Deferred taxation (Note 31(b))	947	341
Short positions in Exchange Fund Bills (Note 29)	1,982	2,735
Accruals and other payables	17,909	21,008
	22,698	25,289

31. Tax liabilities

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Current taxation (Note a)	901	355
Deferred taxation (Note b)	947	341
	1,848	696

Notes:

(a) Current taxation

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Hong Kong profits tax	884	349
Overseas taxation	17	6
	901	355

(b) Deferred taxation

During the year, deferred tax is recognised in respect of the temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the accounts according to SSAP 12 (revised) "Income taxes".

31. Tax liabilities (continued)

Notes: (continued)

(b) Deferred taxation (continued)

The major components of deferred tax assets and liabilities recorded in the consolidated balance sheet, and the movements during the year are as follows:

	2004					
	Accelerated tax depreciation	Asset revaluation	Losses	Provisions	Other temporary differences	Total
	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m
At 1 January 2004	262	984	(3)	(936)	18	325
Charged/(credited) to profit and loss account	16	173	(13)	1	(25)	152
Charged to equity and minority interests	–	458	–	–	–	458
At 31 December 2004	278	1,615	(16)	(935)	(7)	935

	2003					
	Accelerated tax depreciation	Asset revaluation	Losses	Provisions	Other temporary differences	Total
	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m
At 1 January 2003	247	1,043	(2)	(1,009)	2	281
Charged/(credited) to profit and loss account	15	(48)	(1)	73	16	55
Credited to equity	–	(11)	–	–	–	(11)
At 31 December 2003	262	984	(3)	(936)	18	325

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset on an individual entity basis when there is a legal right to set off current tax assets against current tax liabilities and when the deferred taxation relates to the same authority. The following amounts, determined after appropriate offsetting, are shown in the consolidated balance sheet:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Deferred tax assets (Note)	(12)	(16)
Deferred tax liabilities	947	341
	935	325

Note: This amount has been included in "Other assets".

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Deferred tax assets to be recovered after more than twelve months	(971)	(961)
Deferred tax liabilities to be settled after more than twelve months	282	274
	(689)	(687)

32. Share capital

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Authorised: 20,000,000,000 ordinary shares of HK\$5.00 each	100,000	100,000
Issued and fully paid: 10,572,780,266 ordinary shares of HK\$5.00 each	52,864	52,864

33. Reserves

(a) Group

The amounts of the Group's reserves and the movements therein for the current and prior years are presented in the consolidated statement of changes in equity on page 86 of the accounts.

(b) Company

Included in the Company's retained earnings was a final dividend of HK\$4,176 million (2003: HK\$3,383 million) which was proposed by the Board after the balance sheet date.

34. Notes to consolidated cash flow statement**(a) Reconciliation of operating profit after provisions to operating cash outflow before taxation:**

	2004	2003
	HK\$'m	HK\$'m
Operating profit after provisions	11,980	9,924
Dividend income from investment securities	(14)	(32)
Depreciation	585	611
(Write-back of)/charge for bad and doubtful debts	(1,628)	1,671
Advances written off net of recoveries	(1,500)	(5,771)
Change in money at call and short notice with original maturity over three months	19,452	(17,420)
Change in treasury bills with original maturity over three months	(467)	372
Change in placements with banks and other financial institutions with original maturity over three months	(33,856)	(1,040)
Change in trade bills	(395)	(99)
Change in certificates of deposit held with original maturity over three months	(3,639)	103
Change in held-to-maturity securities	(13,512)	(6,809)
Change in other investments in securities	(3,359)	(7,040)
Change in advances and other accounts	(5,989)	12,338
Change in other assets	873	(4,061)
Change in deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions repayable over three months	(98)	1,115
Change in deposits from customers	30,688	(335)
Change in certificates of deposit issued	1,356	2,432
Change in other accounts and provisions	(3,743)	7,758
Exchange difference	(2)	(1)
Operating cash outflow before taxation	(3,268)	(6,284)

34. Notes to consolidated cash flow statement (continued)**(b) Disposal of a subsidiary**

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Net assets disposed of:		
– Fixed assets	–	158
– Loss on disposal	–	(1)
	–	157
Satisfied by:		
– Cash	–	157
Analysis of net cash inflow in respect of the disposal of a subsidiary:		
– Cash consideration received	–	157

(c) Analysis of changes in financing

	2004	
	Share capital HK\$'m	Minority interests HK\$'m
At 1 January 2004	52,864	1,156
Minority interests share of profits	–	158
Minority interests share of current year increase in property revaluation reserves (Note 26)	–	29
Dividends paid to minority shareholders	–	(99)
Released to deferred tax liabilities	–	(5)
At 31 December 2004	52,864	1,239

	2003	
	Share capital HK\$'m	Minority interests HK\$'m
At 1 January 2003	52,864	1,114
Minority interests share of profits	–	139
Dividends paid to minority shareholders	–	(97)
At 31 December 2003	52,864	1,156

34. Notes to consolidated cash flow statement (continued)**(d) Analysis of the balances of cash and cash equivalents**

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Cash and balances with banks and other financial institutions	20,976	12,547
Money at call and short notice with original maturity within three months	54,281	64,924
Treasury bills with original maturity within three months	4,871	15,131
Placements with banks and other financial institutions with original maturity within three months	12,249	16,764
Certificates of deposit held with original maturity within three months	1,508	1,585
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions with original maturity within three months	(30,977)	(37,786)
	62,908	73,165

(e) Major non-cash transactions

During the year, "Other investments in securities" with fair value of HK\$66,471 million were transferred to "Held-to-maturity securities" to align with the Group's associated intention of holding.

35. Maturity profile

The maturity profile of assets and liabilities analysed by the remaining period as at 31 December to the contractual maturity dates is as follows:

	2004						
	Repayable on demand HK\$'m	3 months or less HK\$'m	1 year or less but over 3 months HK\$'m	5 years or less but over 1 year HK\$'m	Over 5 years HK\$'m	Undated HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
Assets							
Treasury bills	–	7,812	2,967	–	–	–	10,779
Cash and other short-term funds	20,976	70,892	–	–	–	–	91,868
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	16	47,849	59,716	–	–	–	107,581
Certificates of deposit held	–	5,242	5,695	11,085	316	–	22,338
Debt securities included in:							
– held-to-maturity securities	–	31,479	36,755	101,053	11,743	32	181,062
– other investments in securities	–	506	730	6,150	881	–	8,267
Advances to customers	19,548	24,254	28,995	128,816	102,356	9,257	313,226
Advances to banks and other financial institutions	–	–	–	1,290	–	–	1,290
Liabilities							
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions	14,990	16,818	2,632	–	–	–	34,440
Deposits from customers	332,194	273,580	20,768	4,476	312	–	631,330
Certificates of deposit issued	–	–	891	2,897	–	–	3,788

35. Maturity profile (continued)

	2003						Total HK\$'m
	Repayable on demand HK\$'m	3 months or less HK\$'m	1 year or less but over 3 months HK\$'m	5 years or less but over 1 year HK\$'m	Over 5 years HK\$'m	Undated HK\$'m	
Assets							
Treasury bills	–	18,923	1,649	–	–	–	20,572
Cash and other short-term funds	12,547	100,987	–	–	–	–	113,534
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	16	64,521	13,703	–	–	–	78,240
Certificates of deposit held	–	3,870	3,702	10,923	281	–	18,776
Debt securities included in:							
– held-to-maturity securities	–	13,358	9,161	71,227	7,297	34	101,077
– other investments in securities	–	12,122	12,521	44,938	1,774	–	71,355
Advances to customers	23,690	19,161	23,859	125,786	97,944	18,142	308,582
Advances to banks and other financial institutions	–	1	1	518	–	–	520
Liabilities							
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions	6,800	32,151	2,396	–	–	–	41,347
Deposits from customers	303,335	278,509	17,586	1,212	–	–	600,642
Certificates of deposit issued	–	–	–	2,432	–	–	2,432

Apart from certain deferred tax assets and liabilities, the majority of other assets and other accounts and provisions are due within one year.

The above maturity classifications have been prepared in accordance with the guideline on “Financial Disclosure by Locally Incorporated Authorized Institutions” under the Supervisory Policy Manual issued by the HKMA. In accordance with the guideline, the Group has reported assets such as advances and debt securities which have been overdue for not more than one month as “Repayable on demand” and assets which are non-performing or which are overdue for more than one month as “Undated”. In the case of an asset that is repayable by different payments or instalments, only that portion of the asset that is actually overdue is reported as overdue. Any part of the asset that is not due is reported according to the residual maturity unless the repayment of the asset is in doubt in which case the amount is reported as “Undated”. The above assets are stated before deduction of provisions, if any.

The analysis of other investments in securities by remaining period to maturity is disclosed in order to comply with the guideline on “Financial Disclosure by Locally Incorporated Authorized Institutions” under the Supervisory Policy Manual issued by the HKMA. The disclosure does not imply that the securities will be held to maturity.

36. Off-balance sheet exposures

(a) *Contingent liabilities and commitments*

The following is a summary of the contractual amounts of each significant class of contingent liabilities and commitments:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Direct credit substitutes	1,132	1,264
Transaction-related contingencies	4,647	4,427
Trade-related contingencies	16,266	16,120
Other commitments with an original maturity of		
– under one year or which are unconditionally cancellable	90,947	78,291
– one year and over	41,460	49,037
	154,452	149,139

(b) *Derivatives*

The following is a summary of the notional amounts of each significant type of derivative:

	2004			2003		
	Trading HK\$'m	Hedging HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m	Trading HK\$'m	Hedging HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
Exchange rate contracts						
Spot	14,954	–	14,954	14,673	–	14,673
Forward and futures contracts	886	–	886	950	–	950
Swaps	200,862	3,715	204,577	184,524	6,254	190,778
Foreign exchange option contracts						
– Currency options purchased	1,415	–	1,415	1,476	–	1,476
– Currency options written	2,851	–	2,851	4,435	–	4,435
	220,968	3,715	224,683	206,058	6,254	212,312
Interest rate contracts						
Interest rate swaps	5,349	17,166	22,515	381	21,087	21,468
Interest rate futures	389	–	389	–	–	–
Interest rate option contracts						
– Swaptions purchased	469	–	469	–	–	–
– Swaptions written	2,206	–	2,206	1,446	–	1,446
	8,413	17,166	25,579	1,827	21,087	22,914
Bullion contracts						
Bullion contracts	929	–	929	606	–	606
Gold option contracts						
– Gold options purchased	98	–	98	31	–	31
– Gold options written	65	–	65	30	–	30
	1,092	–	1,092	667	–	667
Equity contracts						
Equity option contracts						
– Equity options purchased	564	–	564	1,016	–	1,016
– Equity options written	450	–	450	829	–	829
	1,014	–	1,014	1,845	–	1,845
Total	231,487	20,881	252,368	210,397	27,341	237,738

36. Off-balance sheet exposures (continued)**(b) Derivatives (continued)**

The trading transactions include positions arising from dealing activities and positions arising from the execution of trade orders from customers or transactions taken to hedge those positions. Interest rate swaps include both plain vanilla and non-standard swaps.

The replacement costs and credit risk weighted amounts of the above off-balance sheet exposures, which do not take into account the effects of bilateral netting arrangements are as follows:

	2004	2003	2004	2003
	Credit risk weighted amount		Replacement cost	
	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m	HK\$'m
Contingent liabilities and commitments	26,303	29,813	N/A	N/A
Derivatives				
– Exchange rate contracts	694	673	1,264	1,227
– Interest rate contracts	57	57	97	112
– Bullion contracts	10	10	12	33
– Equity contracts	16	29	6	9
	777	769	1,379	1,381
Total	27,080	30,582	1,379	1,381

The contract or notional amounts of these instruments indicate the volume of transactions outstanding as at 31 December 2004 and 31 December 2003; they do not represent the amounts at risk.

The credit risk weighted amounts are the amounts that have been calculated in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Banking Ordinance and guidelines issued by the HKMA. The amounts calculated are dependent upon the status of the counterparty and the maturity characteristics of each type of contract.

Replacement cost is the cost of replacing all contracts that have a positive value when marked to market (should the counterparty default on its obligations) and is obtained by marking contracts to market. Replacement cost is a close approximation of the credit risk for these contracts at the balance sheet dates.

37. Capital commitments

The Group has the following outstanding capital commitments not provided for in the accounts:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Authorised and contracted for but not recorded	197	117
Authorised but not contracted for	17	–
	214	117

The above capital commitments mainly relate to commitments to purchase computer equipment and software; and to renovate the Group's premises.

38. Operating lease commitments

(a) The Group as lessee

The Group has commitments to make the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Land and buildings		
– not later than one year	200	183
– later than one year but not later than five years	188	182
– later than five years	3	9
	391	374
Computer equipment		
– not later than one year	1	1

Certain non-cancellable operating leases included in the above were subject to renegotiation and rent adjustment with reference to market rates prevailing at specified date agreed.

(b) The Group as lessor

The Group has contracted with tenants for the following future minimum lease receivables under non-cancellable operating leases:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Land and buildings		
– not later than one year	135	168
– later than one year but not later than five years	102	132
	237	300

The Group leases its investment properties (Note 26) under operating lease arrangements, with leases typically run for a period from one to three years. The terms of the leases generally require the tenants to pay security deposits and provide for periodic rent adjustments according to the then prevailing market conditions. None of the leases includes contingent rentals.

39. Litigation

The Group is currently being served a number of claims and counterclaims by various independent parties. These claims and counterclaims are in relation to the normal commercial activities of the Group.

No material provision was made against these claims and counterclaims because the directors believe that the Group has meritorious defences against the claimants or the amounts involved in these claims are not expected to be material.

40. Segmental reporting

A segment is a distinguishable component of the Group that is engaged either in providing products and services (business segment), or in providing products and services within a particular economic environment (geographical segment), which is subject to risks and rewards that are different from those of other business or geographical segments. The Group has chosen business segment information as the primary reporting format and geographical segment information as the secondary reporting format.

Segment revenue, expenses, results, assets and liabilities include items directly attributable to a segment and those that can be allocated on a reasonable basis to that segment. The allocation of revenue reflects the benefits of capital and other funding resources allocated to the business or geographical segments by way of internal capital allocations and fund transfer mechanisms.

40. Segmental reporting (continued)
(a) By class of business

	2004					
	Commercial banking HK\$'m	Treasury HK\$'m	Unallocated HK\$'m	Subtotal HK\$'m	Eliminations HK\$'m	Consolidated HK\$'m
Net interest income	7,880	2,928	385	11,193	–	11,193
Other operating income	3,288	1,121	673	5,082	(418)	4,664
Operating income	11,168	4,049	1,058	16,275	(418)	15,857
Operating expenses	(4,317)	(159)	(1,447)	(5,923)	418	(5,505)
Operating profit/(loss) before provisions	6,851	3,890	(389)	10,352	–	10,352
Write-back of bad and doubtful debts	1,628	–	–	1,628	–	1,628
Operating profit/(loss) after provisions	8,479	3,890	(389)	11,980	–	11,980
Net gain from disposal/revaluation of fixed assets	–	–	2,084	2,084	–	2,084
Net gain from disposal of held-to-maturity securities	–	–	2	2	–	2
Net gain on disposal of an associate	–	–	50	50	–	50
Write-back of provision for impairment on interests in associates	–	–	152	152	–	152
Share of profits less losses of associates	–	–	(16)	(16)	–	(16)
Profit before taxation	8,479	3,890	1,883	14,252	–	14,252
Assets						
Segment assets	317,064	456,948	21,969	795,981	–	795,981
Interests in associates	–	–	62	62	–	62
Unallocated corporate assets	–	–	733	733	–	733
	317,064	456,948	22,764	796,776	–	796,776
Liabilities						
Segment liabilities	651,539	72,453	805	724,797	–	724,797
Unallocated corporate liabilities	–	–	2,219	2,219	–	2,219
	651,539	72,453	3,024	727,016	–	727,016
Other information						
Additions of fixed assets	–	–	450	450	–	450
Depreciation	–	–	585	585	–	585
Amortisation of premium/discount of held-to-maturity securities	–	207	–	207	–	207

40. Segmental reporting (continued)
(a) By class of business (continued)

	2003					
	Commercial banking HK\$'m	Treasury HK\$'m	Unallocated HK\$'m	Subtotal HK\$'m	Eliminations HK\$'m	Consolidated HK\$'m
Net interest income	9,392	2,982	500	12,874	–	12,874
Other operating income	3,116	918	832	4,866	(487)	4,379
Operating income	12,508	3,900	1,332	17,740	(487)	17,253
Operating expenses	(4,373)	(162)	(1,610)	(6,145)	487	(5,658)
Operating profit/(loss) before provisions	8,135	3,738	(278)	11,595	–	11,595
Charge for bad and doubtful debts	(1,671)	–	–	(1,671)	–	(1,671)
Operating profit/(loss) after provisions	6,464	3,738	(278)	9,924	–	9,924
Net loss from disposal/revaluation of fixed assets	–	–	(1,121)	(1,121)	–	(1,121)
Write-back of provision for impairment on held-to-maturity securities and investment securities	–	29	1	30	–	30
Net loss on disposal of a subsidiary	–	–	(1)	(1)	–	(1)
Provision for impairment on interests in associates	–	–	(132)	(132)	–	(132)
Share of profits less losses of associates	–	–	(9)	(9)	–	(9)
Profit/(loss) before taxation	6,464	3,767	(1,540)	8,691	–	8,691
Assets						
Segment assets	310,008	432,947	18,439	761,394	–	761,394
Interests in associates	–	–	278	278	–	278
Unallocated corporate assets	–	–	915	915	–	915
	310,008	432,947	19,632	762,587	–	762,587
Liabilities						
Segment liabilities	621,211	77,671	648	699,530	–	699,530
Unallocated corporate liabilities	–	–	1,640	1,640	–	1,640
	621,211	77,671	2,288	701,170	–	701,170
Other information						
Additions of fixed assets	–	–	369	369	–	369
Depreciation	–	–	611	611	–	611
Amortisation of premium/discount of held-to-maturity securities	–	544	–	544	–	544
Non-cash expenses other than depreciation/amortisation	1,671	–	–	1,671	–	1,671

Commercial banking business includes acceptance of deposits, mortgage lending, credit card advances, remittance, provision of securities brokerage and insurance agency services, commercial lending, trade finance and overdraft facilities.

40. Segmental reporting (continued)

(a) By class of business (continued)

Treasury activities include money market, foreign exchange dealing and capital market activities. Treasury manages funding of the Group. Treasury provides funding to all other business segments and receives funds from commercial banking's deposit taking activities. These inter-segment funding transactions are priced either at market bid/offer rates as appropriate or at an internal funding rate as determined by the average funding requirements of other business segments and the average one-month inter-bank rates of the relevant financial year. In addition, the gains and losses on the foreign exchange activities of the Group are included in "Treasury". The profit and loss information presented in this note has been prepared using inter-segment charging/income transactions. The segmental assets and liabilities have not been adjusted to reflect the effect of inter-segment borrowing and lending (i.e. segmental profit and loss information is not comparable to segmental assets and liabilities information).

Unallocated items mainly comprise fixed assets of the Group, investment securities, interests in associates and other items that cannot be reasonably allocated to a specific business segment. The interest benefit of the capital of the Group is also included as unallocated within net interest income. Rental expenses are allocated to business segments based on a fixed rate per square footage occupied.

Operating expenses of a functional unit are allocated to the relevant business segment that is the predominant user of the services provided by the unit. Operating expenses of other shared services, which cannot be allocated to a specific business segment, are included in "Unallocated".

(b) By geographical area

No geographical reporting is provided as over 90% of the Group's revenues are derived from Hong Kong and over 90% of the Group's assets are originated from business decisions and operations based in Hong Kong.

41. Loans to directors and officers

Particulars of advances made to directors and officers of the Company pursuant to section 161B(4C) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance are as follows:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Aggregate amount of relevant loans outstanding at year end	185	35
Maximum aggregate amount of relevant loans outstanding during the year	193	100

42. Significant related party transactions

Related parties are those parties that have the ability, directly or indirectly, to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. Parties are also considered to be related if they are subject to common control or common significant influence. Related parties may be individuals or other entities.

42. Significant related party transactions (continued)

As detailed in Note 44, pursuant to the reorganisation of BOC on 26 August 2004, the PRC government established Huijin to hold the equity capital of BOC and the equity capital of certain other financial institutions previously held directly by the State. The stated purpose of Huijin is to exercise the rights of an equity investor on behalf of the State and not to have any commercial operations. In accordance with SSAP 20 "Related Party Disclosures", Huijin and financial institutions, other than BOC, that it controls have not been regarded as related parties, as such entities are acting on behalf of the State similar to government departments and agencies, simply by virtue of their normal dealings with the Company.

During the year, the Group entered into various transactions with related parties which are summarised as follows:

(a) Advances to third parties guaranteed by related parties

As at 31 December 2004, BOC, the intermediate holding company and fellow subsidiaries provided guarantees for loans in favour of the Group amounting to HK\$4,512 million (2003: HK\$2,886 million) to certain third parties. The intermediate holding company and fellow subsidiaries held equity interests of not more than 20% in these third parties.

(b) Summary of transactions entered into during the ordinary course of business with the related parties

The aggregate income and expenses arising from related party transactions with the immediate holding company, intermediate holding companies, fellow subsidiaries and associates of the Company as well as associates of an intermediate holding company are summarised as follows:

	Notes	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Profit and loss items:			
Interest income	(i)	175	314
Interest expense	(ii)	(210)	(257)
Insurance commission received (net)	(iii)	149	123
Administrative services fees received/receivable	(iv)	55	45
Rental fees received/receivable	(iv)	19	30
Credit card commission paid/payable (net)	(v)	(66)	(44)
Securities brokerage commission paid/payable (net)	(v)	(113)	(119)
Rental, property management and letting agency fees paid/payable	(v)	(66)	(62)
Write-back of/(charge for) bad and doubtful debts		162	(125)
Funds selling commission received	(vi)	71	58
Correspondent banking fee received	(vii)	11	8
Loan services fees received	(viii)	7	11
Balance sheet items:			
Cash and short-term funds	(i)	11,587	27,913
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	(i)	22,726	9,535
Advances and other accounts	(i)	353	604
Other investments in securities	(i)	–	234
Other assets	(ix)	1,343	2,507
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions	(ii)	19,549	19,779
Deposits from customers	(ii)	5,175	17,771
Other accounts and provisions	(ix)	1,183	2,270

42. Significant related party transactions (continued)

(b) Summary of transactions entered into during the ordinary course of business with the related parties (continued)

Notes:

(i) Interest income

In the ordinary course of business, the Group enters into various transactions with an intermediate holding company, fellow subsidiaries and associates including deposit of cash and short-term funds, placement of interbank deposits, investments in securities and provision of loans and credit facilities. The transactions were conducted at prices and terms that are no more favourable than those charged to and contracted with other third party customers of the Group.

(ii) Interest expense

In the ordinary course of business, the Group accepts interbank deposits and current, fixed, savings and other deposits from the immediate holding company, intermediate holding companies and fellow subsidiaries of the Company as well as associates of an intermediate holding company at the relevant market rates at the time of the transactions.

(iii) Insurance commission received (net)

In the ordinary course of business, the Group provides insurance agency services to and purchases general and life insurance policies from fellow subsidiaries at the relevant market rates at the time of the transactions.

(iv) Administrative services fees and rental fees received/receivable

In the ordinary course of business, the Group receives administrative services fees for the provision of various administrative services including internal audit, technology, human resources support and training to the intermediate holding companies and fellow subsidiaries mainly on the basis of cost plus a margin of 5%, and receives office premises rental fees from the fellow subsidiaries at the relevant market rates at the time of the transactions.

(v) Commission, property management, letting agency fees and rental fees paid/payable

In the ordinary course of business, the Group pays commission fees for credit card administrative and promotional services, securities brokerage services, property management and letting agency fees to an intermediate holding company and fellow subsidiaries. The Group also pays rental fees to fellow subsidiaries. These transactions have been entered into in the ordinary course of business and were priced at the relevant market rates at the time of the transactions.

(vi) Funds selling commission received

In the ordinary course of business, the Group receives commission for engaging in promotion and sale of fund products of a fellow subsidiary to customers of the Group at the relevant market rates at the time of the transactions.

(vii) Correspondent banking fee received

In the ordinary course of business, an intermediate holding company provides services to the Group's customers including the remittance services and advising on and collecting letters of credit issued by the Group. The Group shares the fees paid by its customers with the intermediate holding company on the basis agreed between the parties from time to time.

42. Significant related party transactions (continued)**(b) Summary of transactions entered into during the ordinary course of business with the related parties (continued)**

Notes: (continued)

(viii) Loan services fees received

In the ordinary course of business, the Group undertakes to service and administer the loans and the related securities transferred to fellow subsidiaries and an intermediate holding company in prior years at a fee agreed among the parties from time to time. Such loan service was ended in June 2004 when the loans were sold.

In prior year, the fellow subsidiary and the former ultimate holding company entered into a Deed of Assignment with another fellow subsidiary (the "Transferee"), to which the Group is also a party, pursuant to which the Group agrees to service the loans assigned to the Transferee, commencing in this year, for essentially the same compensation, adjusted on a pro rata basis, as contained in the original loan servicing agreements.

(ix) Other assets and other accounts and provisions

Included within "Other assets" and "Other accounts and provisions" are receivables from and payables to intermediate holding companies and fellow subsidiaries. The amounts mainly represent the accounts receivables from and payables to a fellow subsidiary in relation to dealing securities trading transactions on behalf of the Group's customers. The receivables and payables arose from transactions carried out in the normal course of business.

(c) Off-balance sheet items**Contingent liabilities and commitments**

In the ordinary course of business, the Group provides loan facilities and trade finance services to, and guarantees for the obligations of an intermediate holding company, fellow subsidiaries and associates on normal commercial terms. As at 31 December 2004, the total undrawn loan commitments, trade finance-related contingencies and guarantees amounted to HK\$1,283 million (2003: HK\$1,132 million).

Derivatives

In the ordinary course of business, the Group enters into foreign exchange contracts and interest rate contracts with an intermediate holding company and fellow subsidiaries. The aggregate notional amount of such derivative transactions amounted to HK\$6,943 million as at 31 December 2004 (2003: HK\$19,323 million). These transactions are executed at the relevant market rates at the time of the transactions.

(d) Key management personnel

The Group accepts deposits from and grants loans and credit facilities to key management personnel in the ordinary course of business. During the year and that of the prior year, no material transaction was conducted with key management personnel of BOCHK, its holding companies and parties related to them.

43. Balances with group companies and associates

Included in the following balance sheet captions are balances with group companies:

	2004		
	Immediate and intermediate holding companies HK\$'m	Other group companies HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
Cash and short-term funds	11,534	53	11,587
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	22,673	53	22,726
Advances and other accounts	15	338	353
Other assets	41	1,302	1,343
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions	18,536	1,013	19,549
Deposits from customers	81	4,984	5,065
Other accounts and provisions	24	1,159	1,183

	2003		
	Immediate and intermediate holding companies HK\$'m	Other group companies HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
Cash and short-term funds	27,789	124	27,913
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	9,532	3	9,535
Advances and other accounts	18	446	464
Other investments in securities	234	–	234
Other assets	35	2,472	2,507
Deposits and balances of banks and other financial institutions	19,066	710	19,776
Deposits from customers	14,426	3,269	17,695
Other accounts and provisions	29	2,241	2,270

As detailed in the Report of the Directors and Note 44, pursuant to the reorganisation on 26 August 2004, Huijin became the ultimate holding company of the Company. The Group did not have any balances with Huijin for the years ended 2003 and 2004 respectively.

There were no material balances with associates of the Group as at 31 December 2004 and 31 December 2003 respectively.

44. Ultimate holding company

With the approval of the State Council of the PRC, BOC, the former ultimate holding company of the Company, has been reorganised into a joint stock company with limited liability in the PRC (the "Reorganisation") and was renamed Bank of China Limited on 26 August 2004. Pursuant to the Reorganisation, Huijin becomes the owner of the entire equity interest in Bank of China Limited. Huijin is approved by State Council of the PRC to assume the rights and obligations of the equity owner on behalf of the State. Accordingly, Huijin, acting on behalf of the State, has become the ultimate holding company of the Company by virtue of its interest in Bank of China Limited immediately after the Reorganisation.

45. Approval of accounts

The accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 23 March 2005.

UNAUDITED SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. Capital adequacy ratio

	2004	2003
Capital adequacy ratio	16.14%	15.11%
Adjusted capital adequacy ratio	16.13%	15.21%

The CAR is computed on the consolidated basis that comprises the positions of BOCHK and certain subsidiaries specified by the HKMA for its regulatory purposes and in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Banking Ordinance.

The adjusted CAR taking into account market risk exposure as at the balance sheet date is computed in accordance with the guideline on "Maintenance of Adequate Capital Against Market Risks" under the Supervisory Policy Manual issued by the HKMA and on the same basis as for the unadjusted CAR.

2. Components of capital base after deductions

The consolidated capital base after deductions used in the calculation of the above capital adequacy ratios as at 31 December 2004 and 31 December 2003 and reported to the HKMA is analysed as follows:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Core capital:		
Paid up ordinary share capital	43,043	43,043
Reserves	12,408	10,468
Profit and loss account	4,491	2,327
Minority interests	963	917
	60,905	56,755
Supplementary capital:		
General provisions for doubtful debts	5,049	4,997
Total capital base	65,954	61,752
Deduction from total capital base:		
Shareholdings in subsidiaries or holding company	(351)	(449)
Exposures to connected companies	(845)	(872)
Equity investments of 20% or more in non-subsidiary companies	(60)	(107)
Investments in the capital of other banks or other financial institutions	(1)	(1)
	(1,257)	(1,429)
Total capital base after deductions	64,697	60,323

3. Liquidity ratio

	2004	2003
Average liquidity ratio	36.03 %	37.76%

The average liquidity ratio is calculated as the simple average of each calendar month's average liquidity ratio of BOCHK for the year.

The liquidity ratio is computed on the solo basis (the Hong Kong offices only) and is in accordance with the Fourth Schedule of the Banking Ordinance.

4. Currency concentrations

The following is a summary of the major foreign currency exposures arising from trading, non-trading and structural positions. The net options position is calculated based on the worst-case approach set out in the prudential return "Foreign Currency Position" issued by the HKMA.

	2004							
	Equivalent in million of HK\$							
	US Dollars	Japanese Yen	Australian Euro	Macau Dollars	Renminbi Yuan	Others	Total	
Spot assets	228,593	21,041	16,581	21,532	181	13,129	14,189	315,246
Spot liabilities	(161,784)	(2,893)	(7,086)	(23,701)	(2)	(12,282)	(28,630)	(236,378)
Forward purchases	112,090	12,153	12,348	14,892	–	92	38,179	189,754
Forward sales	(178,122)	(30,661)	(21,972)	(12,945)	–	(54)	(23,902)	(267,656)
Net options position	(319)	8	32	53	–	–	238	12
Net long/(short) position	458	(352)	(97)	(169)	179	885	74	978
Net structural position	–	–	–	–	–	94	–	94

	2003							
	Equivalent in million of HK\$							
	US Dollars	Japanese Yen	Australian Euro	Macau Dollars	Renminbi Yuan	Others	Total	
Spot assets	164,349	16,571	21,619	22,007	153	1,144	22,776	248,619
Spot liabilities	(142,187)	(3,049)	(11,011)	(28,336)	(2)	(563)	(39,661)	(224,809)
Forward purchases	125,005	14,602	13,252	20,289	–	–	36,248	209,396
Forward sales	(149,283)	(28,057)	(24,134)	(14,112)	–	–	(19,762)	(235,348)
Net options position	(974)	–	59	837	–	–	95	17
Net long/(short) position	(3,090)	67	(215)	685	151	581	(304)	(2,125)
Net structural position	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

5. Segmental information

(a) Sectoral analysis of gross advances to customers

The information concerning gross advances to customers has been analysed into loans used inside or outside Hong Kong by industry sectors of the borrowers as follows:

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Loans for use in Hong Kong		
Industrial, commercial and financial		
– Property development*	21,323	23,161
– Property investment	47,809	46,754
– Financial concerns	9,956	6,589
– Stockbrokers	124	41
– Wholesale and retail trade*	15,243	17,679
– Manufacturing*	11,767	10,711
– Transport and transport equipment*	11,777	12,383
– Others*	30,035	38,521
Individuals		
– Loans for the purchase of flats in Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme and Tenants Purchase Scheme	17,430	18,244
– Loans for purchase of other residential properties	95,615	90,003
– Credit card advances	4,256	3,756
– Others*	7,386	6,959
Total loans for use in Hong Kong*	272,721	274,801
Trade finance*	13,279	12,100
Loans for use outside Hong Kong	27,226	21,681
Gross advances to customers	313,226	308,582

* Certain comparative amounts have been restated to conform with the current year's presentation.

5. Segmental information (continued)

(b) *Geographical analysis of gross advances to customers, overdue advances and non-performing loans*

The following geographical analysis of gross advances to customers, advances overdue for over three months and NPLs is based on the location of the counterparties, after taking into account the transfer of risk in respect of such advances where appropriate.

(i) Gross advances to customers

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Hong Kong	286,768	289,129
Mainland China	11,166	8,434
Others	15,292	11,019
	313,226	308,582

(ii) Advances overdue for over three months

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Hong Kong	5,066	11,066
Mainland China	264	469
Others	39	69
	5,369	11,604

(iii) Non-performing loans

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Hong Kong	8,871	16,801
Mainland China	321	887
Others	47	144
	9,239	17,832

6. Cross-border claims

The information on cross-border claims discloses exposures to foreign counterparties on which the ultimate risk lies, and is derived according to the location of the counterparties after taking into account any transfer of risk. In general, such transfer of risk takes place if the claims are guaranteed by a party in a country, which is different from that of the counterparty or if the claims are on an overseas branch of a bank whose head office is located in another country. Only regions constituting 10% or more of the aggregate cross-border claims are analysed by geographical areas and disclosed as follows:

	Banks and other financial institutions HK\$'m	Public sector entities HK\$'m	Others HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
At 31 December 2004				
Asia, other than Hong Kong				
– Mainland China	48,234	14,338	12,103	74,675
– Others	54,183	915	7,142	62,240
	102,417	15,253	19,245	136,915
North America				
– United States	6,043	26,051	15,886	47,980
– Others	11,731	395	16	12,142
	17,774	26,446	15,902	60,122
Western Europe				
– Germany	40,020	–	4,415	44,435
– Others	147,474	743	15,238	163,455
	187,494	743	19,653	207,890
Total	307,685	42,442	54,800	404,927
	Banks and other financial institutions HK\$'m	Public sector entities HK\$'m	Others HK\$'m	Total HK\$'m
At 31 December 2003				
Asia, other than Hong Kong				
– Mainland China	45,698	2,157	8,507	56,362
– Others	49,750	1,180	4,981	55,911
	95,448	3,337	13,488	112,273
North America				
– United States	7,571	14,850	18,130	40,551
– Others	15,013	2,997	39	18,049
	22,584	17,847	18,169	58,600
Western Europe				
– Germany	38,563	–	5,359	43,922
– Others	117,451	1,470	13,949	132,870
	156,014	1,470	19,308	176,792
Total	274,046	22,654	50,965	347,665

7. Overdue and rescheduled assets
(a) Overdue and non-performing loans

	2004		2003	
	Amount HK\$'m	% of gross advances to customers	Amount HK\$'m	% of gross advances to customers
Gross advances to customers which have been overdue for:				
– six months or less but over three months	489	0.16%	977	0.31%
– one year or less but over six months	395	0.13%	2,521	0.82%
– over one year	4,485	1.43%	8,106	2.63%
Advances overdue for over three months	5,369	1.72%	11,604	3.76%
Less:				
Amount overdue for over three months and on which interest is still being accrued	(61)	(0.02%)	(67)	(0.02%)
Add:				
Amount overdue for three months or less and on which interest is being placed in suspense or on which interest accrual has ceased				
– included in rescheduled advances	916	0.29%	798	0.26%
– others	3,015	0.96%	5,497	1.78%
Gross non-performing loans	9,239	2.95%	17,832	5.78%

As at 31 December 2004 and 31 December 2003, there were no advances to banks and other financial institutions that were overdue for over three months.

7. Overdue and rescheduled assets (continued)

(b) Other overdue assets

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Overdue for:		
– six months or less but over three months	2	2
– over one year	1	2
	3	4

As at 31 December 2004 and 31 December 2003, other overdue assets represented the accrued interest.

(c) Rescheduled advances to customers

	2004		2003	
	Amount HK\$'m	% of gross advances to customers	Amount HK\$'m	% of gross advances to customers
Rescheduled advances to customers	974	0.31%	851	0.28%

Advances with a specific repayment date are classified as overdue when the principal or interest is overdue and remains unpaid. Advances repayable by regular instalments are classified as overdue when an instalment payment is overdue and remains unpaid. Advances repayable on demand are classified as overdue either when a demand for repayment has been served on the borrower but repayment has not been made in accordance with the instruction or when the advances have remained continuously outside the approved limit that was advised to the borrower.

Rescheduled advances are those advances that have been restructured or renegotiated because of a deterioration in the financial position of the borrower or of the inability of the borrower to meet the original repayment schedule and for which the revised repayment terms, either of interest or of repayment period, are non-commercial. Rescheduled advances, which have been overdue for more than three months under the revised repayment terms, are included in overdue advances. Rescheduled advances are stated after deduction of accrued interest that has been charged to customers but accrued to a suspense account and before deduction of specific provisions.

As at 31 December 2004 and 31 December 2003, there were no rescheduled advances to banks and other financial institutions.

8. Repossessed assets held

	2004 HK\$'m	2003 HK\$'m
Reposessed assets held	1,185	1,757

Reposessed assets are properties or securities in respect of which the Group has acquired access or control (e.g. through court proceedings or voluntary actions by the borrowers concerned) for release in full or in part of the obligations of the borrowers. Upon repossession of the assets, the related loans and advances will continue to be recorded as loans and advances until all collection efforts have been exhausted and the reposessed assets are realised. Specific provisions will be made after taking into account the market value of the reposessed assets which are yet to be disposed. Upon disposal of the reposessed assets, any specific provisions previously made will be utilised to write off the loans and advances.

9. Connected transactions

In 2004, BOCHK, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, and its subsidiaries engaged on a regular basis in the usual course of their business in numerous transactions with BOC and its Associates. As BOC is the Company's controlling shareholder and therefore a connected person of the Company, all such transactions constituted connected transactions subsequent to the listing of the Company on the Stock Exchange for the purposes of the Listing Rules. In August 2004, the PRC government established Huijin to hold the equity capital of BOC and the equity capital of certain other financial institutions previously held directly by the State. The stated purpose of Huijin is to exercise the rights of an equity investor on behalf of the State and not to have any commercial operations. For purposes of this report, therefore, Huijin and the companies of which it is a substantial shareholder have not been treated as connected persons to the Company.

The transactions fell into the following two categories:

1. de minimis transactions entered into in the usual course of business and under normal commercial terms. Such transactions were exempted from disclosure and shareholder approval by virtue of rule 14.24 (and since 31 March 2004, Rule 14A.33) of the Listing Rules;
2. certain regular banking transactions for which the Stock Exchange has granted a waiver. These transactions were entered into on a continual basis throughout the year unless otherwise noted. The waiver expired on 31 December 2004 and on 4 January 2005 the Company made an announcement (the "Announcement") in accordance with Rule 14A.34 of the Listing Rules. The Announcement listed those continuing connected transactions that exceeded the de minimis threshold and set out caps that the Company will comply with in respect of such transactions for the next three years. Details of these continuing connected transactions may be found in the Announcement at www.bochk.com/ir.

A brief description of the transactions set out in paragraph (2) is set out below, followed by a table setting out the amounts for each such type of transaction in 2004. Certain of these transactions were subject to annual caps agreed by the Stock Exchange and the Company, and none of these caps was exceeded. All of these transactions were conducted on normal commercial terms unless specified otherwise.

9. Connected transactions (continued)

Derivatives Transactions

These included interest rate and currency interest rate swaps, equity derivatives, and currency and bond options entered into with BOC and its Associates.

Foreign Exchange Transactions

These included inter-bank foreign currency exchange transactions, spot, forward and outright transactions, and exercised currency options entered into with BOC and its Associates.

Inter-bank Capital Markets Transactions

These included buying and selling debt securities (both those issued by independent third parties and those issued by BOC and its Associates) by the Group from and to BOC and its Associates and on their behalf on issue and in the secondary market, and the Group acting as the custodian for BOC and its Associates and BOC acting as the custodian for the Group.

Bullion Trading

BOCHK entered into deferred settlement bullion transactions with BOC Macau Branch and Tai Fung Bank, a subsidiary of BOC, and bullion spot transactions with normal settlement with BOC. BOCHK also entered into physically settled bullion transactions with BOC Macau Branch and BOC Singapore Branch on which it provided a rebate on normal commercial terms.

Forfaiting Trading

BOCHK entered into forfaiting transactions to buy and sell interests in certain trade finance products, including with BOC. All such transactions with BOC were entered into on normal commercial terms and only in relation to bills of exchange secured under a letter of credit.

Correspondent Banking Fee Sharing Programmes

BOCHK and Nanyang have signed agency agreements with the New York, Frankfurt, Osaka and Tokyo branches of Bank of China, pursuant to which they are given priority over other banks for advising and negotiating Letters of Credit and for funds transfers, provided the terms are at least as good as those offered by other banks, and as compensation they will rebate part of the commission.

Capital Markets Transactions

The Group entered into various capital markets transactions with BOC and its Associates, in particular BOCI Capital, an indirect subsidiary of BOC. These transactions included sub-participation of loans, acquiring and disposing of interests in syndicated loans and tax efficiency financing.

Loan Servicing Agreements

On 6 July 2002, BOCHK and Nanyang entered into loan servicing agreements with BOC Cayman and Zhong Gang, pursuant to which BOCHK and Nanyang agreed to provide, for a fixed fee based on the agreed cost of the services plus a margin, servicing, collection, account opening and reporting services in respect of certain loans sold by BOCHK and Nanyang to BOC Cayman and Zhong Gang in 2002 and 1999 respectively. Such loan service was ended in June 2004 when the loans were sold.

Provision of Insurance Cover by BOC Insurance

BOC Insurance and its subsidiaries provided general and life insurance to the Group.

9. Connected transactions (continued)

Insurance Agency

The Group provided insurance agency services to BOC Insurance and BOC Life on a commission basis.

Securities Brokerage

BOCI Securities provided securities brokerage services to the Group. The Group paid BOCI Securities commissions for its services and received rebates in return.

Credit Card Services

Pursuant to a Credit Card Cooperation and Services Agreement dated 6 July 2002 between BOC-CC and BOC, BOC-CC provided certain services to BOC in relation to its Great Wall International Card (the "International Card") and its Great Wall Renminbi Card (the "Renminbi Card"). BOC-CC shared the profits and losses or fee income in relation to the operations of the International Card and the Renminbi Card with BOC as set out in the agreement. This agreement formalised many of the relationships that existed prior to its execution.

BOC-CC Business in Macau

BOC Macau Branch and Tai Fung Bank promoted BOC-CC's Hong Kong dollar and Macau pataca settled credit cards and provided customer services in return for a share of profits or commission payment. They also provided services for BOC-CC's merchant acquiring business in Macau in return for commission sharing.

BOC-CC Business in Mainland China

BOC promoted and provided services for BOC-CC's merchant acquiring business in Mainland China in return for commission sharing. BOC provided over-the-counter cash withdrawal services to cardholders of BOC-CC in Mainland China, for which the cardholder was charged a transaction handling fee that was shared between BOC and BOC-CC.

Credit Card Support Services to BOC Singapore Branch

BOC-CC provided business support services to BOC Singapore Branch in relation to its credit card business, for which BOC-CC was paid on the basis of cost plus a margin of 5%. Pursuant to the Credit Card Cooperation and Services Agreement, these services may be extended on similar terms to such other branches of BOC outside Mainland China.

Credit Card Training Subsidy

Pursuant to the Credit Card Cooperation and Services Agreement, BOC-CC has agreed to pay BOC a training subsidy of HK\$2 million per annum, or such other amount as may be agreed for the provision of training by BOC to BOC's personnel in its provincial branches throughout Mainland China in support of BOC-CC's business in Mainland China.

Selling of Funds Products

The Group promoted MPF products for BOCI-Prudential Trustee, a subsidiary of BOCHK, and promoted guaranteed fund and open-end fund products for BOCI-Prudential Manager, an indirect subsidiary of BOC, and sold these products for a commission.

9. Connected transactions (continued)

Services and Relationship Agreement

On 6 July 2002, the Company and BOCHK entered into a Services and Relationship Agreement with BOC and certain of its subsidiaries. Under this agreement, BOC has agreed to, and agreed to procure that its Associates, enter into all future arrangements with BOCHK on an arm's length basis, on normal commercial terms and at rates no less favourable than those offered to independent third parties, in relation to inter-bank lending, loans, correspondent banking arrangements, treasury transactions, provision of insurance and syndicated loans. BOCHK has agreed to, and agreed to procure that its subsidiaries, enter into all future arrangements on the same basis, save that the rates offered to BOC and its Associates will be no more favourable than those offered to independent third parties. The Services and Relationship Agreement also covers the provision of the services set out below:

Administrative Services

Administrative support and company secretarial services to BOC (BVI), BOCHKG and Hua Chiao on the basis of cost plus a margin of 5%.

Audit Services

Audit services for BOC on various branches and subsidiaries of BOC located in the Asia-Pacific region, other than BOC's branches in Mainland China, on the basis of cost plus a margin of 5%.

Information Technology Services

Information technology services to BOC's branches in Hong Kong, Macau, the Asia-Pacific region and Mainland China, on the basis of cost plus a margin of 5%. Under various information technology services contracts BOCHK provides similar services to BOC's Associates on similar terms. Prior to July 2002, BOCHK charged BOC, its branches and Associates for its information technology services only at cost.

Training Services

Training services to BOC's employees on the basis of cost plus a margin of 5%.

Secondments from BOC

BOC seconded management level and supervisory staff to BOCHK's branches in Mainland China. BOCHK paid salaries directly to the staff concerned and in some cases BOCHK also paid a management fee to BOC.

BOC Markets Services Agreement

Under the terms of a BOC Markets Services Agreement, dated 6 July 2002, between BOCHK and BOC Markets, BOCHK provides office premises and certain support services to BOC Markets in connection with its operations in Hong Kong. A small number of BOCHK's employees are also seconded to BOC Markets. The provision of office premises is charged at market rent while all other services are provided on the basis of cost plus a margin of 5%.

Deposits by Directors and their Associates

BOCHK paid preferential interest rate for deposits of over 1 month's duration and up to a maximum of HK\$5 million in total from each of the directors of the Group and their Associates who are employees of the Group on the same terms as those offered to other employees. The preferential interest rate is applicable to all staff of the Group.

9. Connected transactions (continued)

Type of Transaction	2004 HK\$'m
Derivatives Transactions (volume)	923.94
Foreign Exchange Transactions (volume)	280,216
Inter-Bank Capital Markets Transactions	N/A
Bullion Trading (volume)	3,727.74
Forfaiting Transactions (volume)	11.69
Correspondent Banking Fee Sharing	10.65
Capital Markets Transactions	N/A
Loan Servicing Agreements	5.25
Provision of Insurance Cover by BOC Insurance	50.67
Insurance Agency Commission Income	199.79
Securities Brokerage Commission Payments, Net of Rebates	112.98
International Card	17
Renminbi Card (payment to BOC)	1.13
BOC-CC Business in Macau	10.48
BOC-CC Business in the Mainland China – Payments retained by and to BOC	36.94
Credit Card Support Services to BOC overseas branches	1.85
Credit Card Training Subsidy	2
Funds Selling Commission Income	70.91
Administrative Services (under the Services and Relationship Agreement and the BOC Markets Services Agreement)	0.39
Audit Services	7.50
Information Technology Services	40.36
Training Services	2.16
Secondments from BOC – Management Fee	0.03
Human Resources Support Services and Secondments to BOC Markets	0.07
Staff Preferential Rate Deposits of Directors	*

N/A: these transactions were diverse and large in number.

* no director and his/her Associates have preferential rate deposits in excess of HK\$50 million in aggregate.

APPENDIX

Subsidiaries of the Company

The particulars of our subsidiaries are as follows:

Name of company	Country/place and date of incorporation/ establishment	Issued and fully paid up share capital/ registered capital	Percentage of attributable equity interest	Principal activities
Directly held:				
Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited	Hong Kong 16 October 1964	Ordinary shares HK\$43,042,840,858	100.00%	Banking business
Indirectly held:				
Nanyang Commercial Bank, Limited	Hong Kong 2 February 1948	Ordinary shares HK\$600,000,000	100.00%	Banking business
Chiyu Banking Corporation Limited	Hong Kong 24 April 1947	Ordinary shares HK\$300,000,000	70.49%	Banking business
BOC Credit Card (International) Limited	Hong Kong 9 September 1980	Ordinary shares HK\$480,000,000	100.00%	Credit card services
Arene Trading Limited	Hong Kong 22 August 1978	Ordinary shares HK\$500,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Attempt Fit Enterprises Limited	Hong Kong 30 March 1993	Ordinary shares HK\$10,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Bank of China (Hong Kong) Nominees Limited	Hong Kong 1 October 1985	Ordinary shares HK\$2	100.00%	Nominee services
Bank of China (Hong Kong) Trustees Limited	Hong Kong 6 November 1987	Ordinary shares HK\$3,000,000	100.00%	Trustee and agency services
BOC Group Trustee Company Limited	Hong Kong 1 December 1997	Ordinary shares HK\$200,000,000	64.20%	Trustee services
BOC Travel Services Limited	Hong Kong 24 August 1982	Ordinary shares HK\$2,000,000	100.00%	Travel services
BOCHK Information Technology (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd.	PRC 16 April 1990	Registered capital HK\$70,000,000	100.00%	Development of software

Subsidiaries of the Company (continued)

Name of company	Country/place and date of incorporation/ establishment	Issued and fully paid up share capital/ registered capital	Percentage of attributable equity interest	Principal activities
BOCI-Prudential Trustee Limited	Hong Kong 11 October 1999	Ordinary shares HK\$300,000,000	41.10%	Trustee services
Champion Leader International Limited	Hong Kong 19 January 1998	Ordinary shares HK\$2	100.00%	Club management
Che Hsing (Nominees) Limited	Hong Kong 23 April 1980	Ordinary shares HK\$10,000	100.00%	Nominee services and investment holding
Chiyu Banking Corporation (Nominees) Limited	Hong Kong 3 November 1981	Ordinary shares HK\$100,000	70.49%	Investment holding
Chung Chiat Company Limited	Hong Kong 9 April 1980	Ordinary shares HK\$200	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Dwell Bay Limited	Hong Kong 19 December 1980	Ordinary shares HK\$100,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Excellent Way Properties Limited	Hong Kong 17 December 1992	Ordinary shares HK\$10,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Fortune Holds Development Limited	Hong Kong 22 January 1997	Ordinary shares HK\$10,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Glistar Company Limited	Hong Kong 26 March 2001	Ordinary shares HK\$2	70.49%	Investment holding
Glory Cardinal Limited	Hong Kong 4 May 2001	Ordinary shares HK\$2	70.49%	Investment holding
Grace Charter Limited	Hong Kong 4 May 2001	Ordinary shares HK\$2	70.49%	Investment holding
G.Z.Y. Microfilm Technology (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd.	PRC 24 September 1993	Registered capital HK\$40,000,000	100.00%	Microfilm services
Hua Chiao Commercial (Nominees) Limited	Hong Kong 28 October 1986	Ordinary shares HK\$10,000	100.00%	Nominee services

Subsidiaries of the Company (continued)

Name of company	Country/place and date of incorporation/ establishment	Issued and fully paid up share capital/ registered capital	Percentage of attributable equity interest	Principal activities
Kincheng Finance (H.K.) Limited	Hong Kong 30 March 1979	Ordinary shares HK\$225,000,000	100.00%	Loan financing
Kincheng Investments & Developments (H.K.) Limited	Hong Kong 15 May 1981	Ordinary shares HK\$6,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Kincheng (Nominees) Limited	Hong Kong 12 December 1980	Ordinary shares HK\$100,000	100.00%	Nominee services
Kiu Nam Investment Corporation Limited	Hong Kong 9 November 1963	Ordinary shares HK\$2,000,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Kwong Li Nam Investment Agency Limited	Hong Kong 25 May 1984	Ordinary shares HK\$3,050,000	100.00%	Investment agency
Nan Song Company, Limited	Hong Kong 13 April 1965	Ordinary shares HK\$1,000,000	100.00%	Property investment and investment holding
Nanyang Commercial Bank (Nominees) Limited	Hong Kong 22 August 1980	Ordinary shares HK\$50,000	100.00%	Nominee services
Nanyang Commercial Bank Trustee Limited	Hong Kong 22 October 1976	Ordinary shares HK\$3,000,000	100.00%	Trustee services
Nanyang Finance Company Limited	Hong Kong 16 March 1979	Ordinary shares HK\$50,000,000	100.00%	Financial services
Pacific Trend Profits Corporation	British Virgin Islands 20 April 2001	Registered shares US\$1	70.49%	Investment holding
Patson (HK) Limited	Hong Kong 18 August 1970	Ordinary shares HK\$1,000,000	100.00%	Property investment
Perento Limited	Hong Kong 27 September 1983	Ordinary shares HK\$10,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Po Hay Enterprises Limited	Hong Kong 2 October 1979	Ordinary shares HK\$100,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment

Subsidiaries of the Company (continued)

Name of company	Country/place and date of incorporation/ establishment	Issued and fully paid up share capital/ registered capital	Percentage of attributable equity interest	Principal activities
Po Sang Financial Investment Services Company Limited	Hong Kong 23 September 1980	Ordinary shares HK\$25,000,000	100.00%	Gold trading and investment holding
Po Sang Futures Limited	Hong Kong 19 October 1993	Ordinary shares HK\$25,000,000	100.00%	Commodities brokerage
Po Sang (Nominees) Limited	Hong Kong 29 April 1993	Ordinary shares HK\$10,000	100.00%	Nominee services
Prosper Glory Limited	Hong Kong 14 May 2001	Ordinary shares HK\$2,000	100.00%	Pledge holding
Rams City (Nominees) Limited	Hong Kong 2 May 1986	Ordinary shares HK\$2,000,000	100.00%	Nominee services and investment holding
Rams City Trustee Limited	Hong Kong 16 April 1981	Ordinary shares HK\$14,300,000	100.00%	Trustee services
Sanicon Investment Limited	Hong Kong 24 January 2000	Ordinary shares HK\$2	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Seng Sun Development Company, Limited	Hong Kong 11 December 1961	Ordinary shares HK\$2,800,000	70.49%	Investment holding
Seng Sun Development (Xiamen) Co., Ltd.	PRC 17 April 1993	Registered capital US\$5,000,000	70.49%	Property development and investment
Shenstone Limited	Hong Kong 4 September 1979	Ordinary shares HK\$2	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Shenyin Storage (Shenzhen) Co., Ltd.	PRC 26 May 1993	Registered capital HK\$40,000,000	100.00%	Storage services
Sin Chiao Enterprises Corporation, Limited	Hong Kong 13 September 1961	Ordinary shares HK\$3,000,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment

Subsidiaries of the Company (continued)

Name of company	Country/place and date of incorporation/ establishment	Issued and fully paid up share capital/ registered capital	Percentage of attributable equity interest	Principal activities
Sin Hua Trustee Limited	Hong Kong 27 October 1978	Ordinary shares HK\$3,000,000	100.00%	Trustee services
Sin Mei (Nominee) Limited	Hong Kong 27 April 1982	Ordinary shares HK\$100,000	100.00%	Nominee services and investment holding
Sin Yeh Shing Company Limited	Hong Kong 28 November 1980	Ordinary shares HK\$100,000	100.00%	Property holding and investment
Sino Information Services Company Limited	Hong Kong 11 February 1993	Ordinary shares HK\$7,000,000	100.00%	Information services
The China-South Sea (Nominees) Services Limited	Hong Kong 13 February 1981	Ordinary shares HK\$100,000	100.00%	Nominee services
The China-South Sea Trustee Limited	Hong Kong 15 May 1979	Ordinary shares HK\$3,000,000	100.00%	Trustee services
The China State (Nominees) Limited	Hong Kong 14 May 1982	Ordinary shares HK\$100,000	100.00%	Nominee services and investment holding
The China State Trustee Limited	Hong Kong 17 July 1981	Ordinary shares HK\$3,000,000	100.00%	Trustee services
Track Link Investment Limited	Hong Kong 8 February 1994	Ordinary shares HK\$2	100.00%	Property holding and investment
The Yien Yieh Finance Company Limited	Hong Kong 27 March 1979	Ordinary shares HK\$25,000,000	100.00%	Loan financing
Yien Yieh (Nominee) Limited	Hong Kong 26 June 2001	Ordinary shares HK\$2,000	100.00%	Nominee services and investment holding

DEFINITIONS

In this Annual Report, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the meanings set out below:

Terms	Meanings
"ADR(s)"	American Depositary Receipt(s)
"ADS(s)"	American Depositary Share(s)
"Associate(s)"	has the meaning ascribed to "associate(s)" in the Listing Rules
"ATM(s)"	Automated Teller Machine(s)
"Board" or "Board of Directors"	the Board of Directors of the Company
"BOC"	Bank of China Limited (formerly known as Bank of China), a state-owned commercial bank established under the laws of the PRC and a joint stock company with limited liability
"BOC (BVI)"	BOC Hong Kong (BVI) Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of the British Virgin Islands and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOCHK
"BOC Cayman"	the Cayman Islands Branch of BOC
"BOC Group Trustee"	BOC Group Trustee Company Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong, in which the Group and BOCI hold equity interests of 66% and 34% respectively
"BOC Insurance"	Bank of China Group Insurance Company Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOC
"BOC Investment"	Bank of China Group Investment Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOC
"BOC Life"	BOC Group Life Assurance Company Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOC Insurance
"BOC Markets"	the Hong Kong Branch of BOC
"BOC-CC"	BOC Credit Card (International) Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOCHK
"BOCHK"	Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company
"BOCHK Charitable Foundation"	Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited Charitable Foundation (formerly known as the "Bank of China Group Charitable Foundation"), a charitable foundation being established in July 1994
"BOCHKG"	BOC Hong Kong (Group) Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOC
"BOCI"	BOC International Holdings Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOC

Terms	Meanings
"BOCI Capital"	BOCI Capital Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOCI
"BOCI-Prudential Manager"	BOCI-Prudential Asset Management Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong, in which BOCI Asset Management Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of BOCI, and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited hold equity interests of 64% and 36% respectively
"BOCI-Prudential Trustee"	BOCI-Prudential Trustee Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong, in which BOC Group Trustee and Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited hold equity interests of 64% and 36% respectively
"BOCI Securities"	BOCI Securities Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of BOCI
"CAR"	Capital Adequacy Ratio, computed on the consolidated basis that comprises the positions of BOCHK and certain subsidiaries specified by the HKMA for its regulatory purposes and in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Banking Ordinance
"CBS"	Corporate Banking Services
"CEPA"	Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement
"Chiyu"	Chiyu Banking Corporation Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong, in which BOCHK holds an equity interest of 70.49%
"Company"	BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong
"GDP"	Gross Domestic Product
"Group"	the Company and its subsidiaries collectively referred as the Group
"HIBOR"	Hong Kong Interbank Offered Rate
"HKAS(s)"	Hong Kong Accounting Standard(s)
"HKFRSs"	Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards
"HKICPA"	Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (formerly known as Hong Kong Society of Accountants)
"HKMA"	Hong Kong Monetary Authority
"HKSAR" or "Hong Kong SAR"	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region
"Hua Chiao"	Hua Chiao Commercial Limited (in members' voluntary liquidation), a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong, in which BOC holds an equity interest of 93.64%
"Huijin"	China SAFE Investments Ltd. (previously known as Central Huijin Investment Company Limited)
"ICBC"	Industrial and Commercial Bank of China
"IPO"	Initial Public Offering

Terms	Meanings
"IT"	Information Technology
"Listing Rules"	The Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
"The Mainland" or "Mainland China" or "The Mainland of China"	The mainland of the PRC
"MPF"	Mandatory Provident Fund
"MPF Schemes Ordinance"	the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance, Chapter 485 of the Laws of Hong Kong, as amended
"MSCI Index"	Morgan Stanley Capital International Index
"Nanyang"	Nanyang Commercial Bank, Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOCHK
"NPL(s)"	Non-performing loan(s)
"ORSO schemes"	the Occupational Retirement Schemes under Occupational Retirement Schemes Ordinance, Chapter 426 of the Laws of Hong Kong
"PBOC"	The People's Bank of China
"PRC"	The People's Republic of China
"RMB" or "Renminbi"	Renminbi, the lawful currency of the PRC
"RTGS"	Real Time Gross Settlement System
"SARS"	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
"SFO"	the Securities and Futures Ordinance, Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong
"Share Option Scheme"	the Share Option Scheme (previously known as 2002 Share Option Scheme) conditionally approved and adopted by the shareholders of the Company on 10 July 2002
"Sharesave Plan"	the Sharesave Plan (previously known as 2002 Sharesave Plan) conditionally approved and adopted by the shareholders of the Company on 10 July 2002
"SSAP(s)"	Statement(s) of Standard Accounting Practice
"Stock Exchange" or "Stock Exchange of Hong Kong"	The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
"UK"	United Kingdom
"US" or "USA"	the United States of America
"VaR"	Value at Risk
"Zhong Gang"	Zhong Gang (Cayman) Company Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of the Cayman Islands and a wholly owned subsidiary of BOC

BRANCH NETWORK & CORPORATE BANKING CENTRES

BANK OF CHINA (HONG KONG) – BRANCH NETWORK

Hong Kong Island

Branch	Address	Telephone
Central & Western District		
Bank of China Tower Branch	1 Garden Road, Hong Kong	2826 6888
Sheung Wan Branch	252 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong	2541 1601
Queen's Road West (Sheung Wan) Branch	2-12 Queen's Road West, Sheung Wan, Hong Kong	2815 6888
Sheung Wan (Guangdong Investment Tower) Branch	297 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong	2544 5521
Connaught Road Central Branch	13-14 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong	2841 0410
Central District Branch	2A Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong	2160 8888
Central District (Wing On House) Branch	71 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong	2843 6111
Central District (International Finance Centre) Branch	Shop 3022, Level 3, International Finance Centre, 1 Harbour View Street, Central, Hong Kong	2501 0373
Shek Tong Tsui Branch	534 Queen's Road West, Shek Tong Tsui, Hong Kong	2819 7277
Western District Branch	386-388 Des Voeux Road West, Hong Kong	2549 9828
Queen's Road Central Branch	81-83 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong	2588 1288
Bonham Road Branch	63 Bonham Road, Hong Kong	2517 7066
Kennedy Town Branch	Harbour View Garden, 2-2F Catchick Street, Kennedy Town, Hong Kong	2818 6162
Caine Road Branch	57 Caine Road, Hong Kong	2521 3318
First Street Branch	55A First Street, Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong	2517 3399
United Centre Branch	Shop 1021, United Centre, 95 Queensway, Hong Kong	2861 1889
Wyndham Street Branch	1-3 Wyndham Street, Central, Hong Kong	2843 2888
Des Voeux Road West Branch	111-119 Des Voeux Road West, Hong Kong	2546 1134
Gilman Street Branch	136 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong	2135 1123
Wan Chai District		
Pak Sha Road Branch	1 Pak Sha Road, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong	2882 1383
Gloucester Road Branch	Unit 3, G/F Immigration Tower, 7 Gloucester Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2877 1133
409 Hennessy Road Branch	409-415 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2835 6118
Johnston Road Branch	152-158 Johnston Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2574 8257
Harbour Road Branch	26 Harbour Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2827 8407
Happy Valley Branch	11 King Kwong Street, Happy Valley, Hong Kong	2838 6668
Causeway Bay Branch	18 Percival Street, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong	2572 4273
Wan Chai (China Overseas Building) Branch	139 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2529 0866
Wan Chai (Wu Chung House) Branch	213 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2892 0909
Hennessy Road (Wan Chai) Branch	310-312 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2923 5628
Wan Chai Road Branch	127-135 Wan Chai Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2577 4862
Eastern District		
Siu Sai Wan Branch	Shop 19, Cheerful Garden, Siu Sai Wan, Hong Kong	2505 2399
Taikoo Shing Branch	Shop G1012, Yiu Sing Mansion, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong	2886 0612
Taikoo Shing Branch Safe Box Service Centre	Shop G1006, Hoi Shing Mansion, Taikoo Shing, Hong Kong	2885 4582
North Point Branch	Roca Centre, 464 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong	2811 8880
North Point (King's Centre) Branch	193-209 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong	2286 2000
North Point (Hang Ying Building) Branch	Shop B1, 318-328 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong	2887 1199
North Point (Kiu Fai Mansion) Branch	413-415 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong	2562 6108
Sai Wan Ho Branch	142-146 Shau Kei Wan Road, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong	2886 3344
Heng Fa Chuen Branch	Shop 205-208, East Wing Shopping Centre, Heng Fa Chuen, Chai Wan, Hong Kong	2897 1131
Kam Wa Street Branch	3 Kam Wa Street, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong	2885 9311
City Garden Branch	233 Electric Road, North Point, Hong Kong	2571 2878
King's Road Branch	131-133 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong	2887 0282
Chai Wan Branch Safe Box Service Centre	27 Gold Mine Building, 345 Chai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong	2557 0248
Chai Wan (Walton Estate) Branch	Block B, Walton Estate, 341-343 Chai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong	2558 6433
Healthy Village Branch	Shop 1&2, Healthy Village Phase II, 668 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong	2563 2278
Sheung On Street Branch	77 Sheung On Street, Chai Wan, Hong Kong	2897 0923

Branch	Address	Telephone
Aldrich Garden Branch	Shop 58, Aldrich Garden, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong	3196 4956
Shau Kei Wan (Po Man Building) Branch	260-262 Shau Kei Wan Road, Shau Kei Wan, Hong Kong	2568 5211
Wan Tsui Road Branch	4 Lin Shing Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong	2557 3283
Quarry Bay Branch	Parkvale, 1060 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong	2564 0333
Southern District		
Tin Wan Branch	2-12 Ka Wo Street, Tin Wan, Hong Kong	2553 0135
Stanley Branch	Shop 401, Shopping Centre, Stanley Plaza, Hong Kong	2813 2290
Aberdeen Branch	25 Wu Pak Street, Aberdeen, Hong Kong	2553 4165
South Horizons Branch	G38, West Centre Marina Square, South Horizons, Ap Lei Chau, Hong Kong	2580 0345
South Horizons Branch Safe Box Service Centre	Shop 118, Marina Square East Centre, Ap Lei Chau, Hong Kong	2555 7477
Wah Kwai Estate Branch	Shop 17, Shopping Centre, Wah Kwai Estate, Hong Kong	2550 2298
Wong Chuk Hang Road Branch	40 Wong Chuk Hang Road, Hong Kong	2814 8272
Chi Fu Landmark Branch	Shop 510, Chi Fu Landmark, Pok Fu Lam, Hong Kong	2551 2282
Ap Lei Chau Branch	13-15 Wai Fung Street, Ap Lei Chau, Hong Kong	2554 6487

Kowloon

Branch	Address	Telephone
Kowloon City District		
Prince Edward Road (Kowloon City) Branch	382-384 Prince Edward Road, Kowloon City, Kowloon	2926 6038
To Kwa Wan Branch	80N To Kwa Wan Road, To Kwa Wan, Kowloon	2364 4344
Pak Tai Street Branch	4-6 Pak Tai Street, To Kwa Wan, Kowloon	2760 7773
Hunghom Commercial Centre Branch	37-39 Ma Tau Wai Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon	2363 9217
Hung Hom (Eldex Industrial Building) Branch	21 Ma Tau Wai Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon	2764 8363
OUHK Branch	The Open University of Hong Kong, 30 Good Shepherd Street, Ho Man Tin, Kowloon	2760 9099
Ma Tau Kok Road Branch	39-45 Ma Tau Kok Road, To Kwa Wan, Kowloon	2714 9118
Ma Tau Wai Road Branch	47-49 Ma Tau Wai Road, Hung Hom, Kowloon	2926 5123
Site 11 Whampoa Garden Branch	Shop G6, Site 11 Whampoa Garden, Hung Hom, Kowloon	2363 3982
Whampoa Garden Branch	Shop G8B, Site 1, Whampoa Garden, Hung Hom, Kowloon	2764 7233
Nga Tsin Wai Road Branch	25 Nga Tsin Wai Road, Kowloon City, Kowloon	2383 2316
Wuhu Street Branch	105-107 Wuhu Street, Hung Hom, Kowloon	2363 9231
Wong Tai Sin District		
Tai Yau Street Branch	35 Tai Yau Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon	2328 0087
Chuk Yuen Estate Branch	Shop S1, Chuk Yuen Shopping Centre, Chuk Yuen South Estate, Kowloon	2325 5261
Choi Hung Branch	19 Clear Water Bay Road, Ngau Chi Wan, Kowloon	2327 0271
Choi Hung Road Branch	58-68 Choi Hung Road, San Po Kong, Kowloon	2927 6111
Choi Wan Estate Branch	A3-18 Commercial Complex, Choi Wan Estate, Kowloon	2754 5911
Wong Tai Sin Branch	Shop G1, Wong Tai Sin Shopping Centre, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon	2327 8147
San Po Kong (Wing Lok Building) Branch	28-34 Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon	2328 7915
Yuk Wah Street Branch	46-48 Yuk Wah Street, Tsz Wan Shan, Kowloon	2927 6655
Fung Tak Road Branch	5-11 Fung Tak Road, Tsz Wan Shan, Kowloon	2927 6333
Lok Fu Branch	Shop 2, Lok Fu Shopping Centre II, Lok Fu, Kowloon	2337 0271
Tseuk Luk Street Branch	86 Tseuk Luk Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon	2927 6228
Sheung Fung Street Branch	66-68 Sheung Fung Street, Tsz Wan Shan, Kowloon	2327 8118
Diamond Hill Branch	G107 Plaza Hollywood, Diamond Hill, Kowloon	2955 5088

BANK OF CHINA (HONG KONG) – BRANCH NETWORK (continued)

Branch	Address	Telephone
Kwun Tong District		
Kowloon Bay (Telford House) Branch	Shop 2, Telford House, 16 Wang Hoi Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon	2331 3783
Ngau Tau Kok (Garden Estate) Branch	Shop 6, Lotus Tower 2, Kwun Tong Garden Estate, 297 Ngau Tau Kok Road, Ngau Tau Kok, Kowloon	2763 5456
169 Ngau Tau Kok Road Branch	169 Ngau Tau Kok Road, Ngau Tau Kok, Kowloon	2750 7311
177 Ngau Tau Kok Road Branch	177 Ngau Tau Kok Road, Ngau Tau Kok, Kowloon	2927 4321
Ping Tin Estate Branch	Shop 225, 2/F Ping Tin Shopping Centre, Lam Tin, Kowloon	2927 7828
Wang Kwun Road Branch	Unit G1, Nan Fung Commercial Centre, Wang Kwun Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon	2755 0268
Sau Mau Ping Branch	Shop 214, Sau Mau Ping Shopping Centre, Sau Mau Ping, Kowloon	2772 0028
Hip Wo Street Branch	195-197 Hip Wo Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2345 0102
Ting Fu Street Branch	11-13 Ting Fu Street, Ngau Tau Kok, Kowloon	2756 4621
Yau Tong Branch	Shop G1-G27, Ka Fu Arcade, Yau Tong Centre, Kowloon	2349 9191
Hoi Yuen Road Branch	55 Hoi Yuen Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2763 2127
Tsui Ping Estate Branch	Shop 116, 1/F Shopping Circuit, Tsui Ping Estate, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2345 3238
26 Fu Yan Street Branch	26-32 Fu Yan Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2342 5262
95 Fu Yan Street Branch	95 Fu Yan Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2343 4141
Telford Gardens Branch	Shop P20, Telford Gardens, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon	2796 1551
Lam Tin Branch	Shop 12, 49 Kai Tin Road, Lam Tin, Kowloon	2347 1456
Kwun Tong Branch	20-24 Yue Man Square, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2344 4116
Ngau Tau Kok Road (Kwun Tong) Branch	327 Ngau Tau Kok Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2389 3301
Kwun Tong Plaza Branch	G1 Kwun Tong Plaza, 68 Hoi Yuen Road, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2342 4295
Yau Tsim Mong District		
Tai Kok Tsui Branch	73-77 Tai Kok Tsui Road, Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon	2395 3269
Shan Tung Street Branch	42-48 Shan Tung Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon	2332 5461
Shanghai Street (Prince Edward) Branch	689-693 Shanghai Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon	2391 0502
Prince Edward Branch	774 Nathan Road, Kowloon	2399 3000
Tsim Sha Tsui Branch	24-28 Carnarvon Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2721 6242
Tsim Sha Tsui East Branch	Shop G02-03, Inter-Continental Plaza, 94 Granville Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2739 0308
Jordan Branch	328-330 Nathan Road, Kowloon	2928 6111
Woosung Street Branch	149-151 Woosung Street, Kowloon	2730 0883
Shanghai Street (Mong Kok) Branch	611-617 Shanghai Street, Mong Kok, Kowloon	2394 4181
Mong Kok Branch	589 Nathan Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon	2332 0111
Prince Edward Road West (Mong Kok) Branch	116-118 Prince Edward Road West, Mong Kok, Kowloon	2928 4138
Mong Kok Road Branch	50-52 Mong Kok Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon	2395 3263
Mong Kok (Silvercorp Int'l Tower) Branch	Shop B, 707-713 Nathan Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon	2391 6677
Mong Kok (President Commercial Centre) Branch	608 Nathan Road, Mong Kok, Kowloon	2384 7191
Shanghai Street (Yau Ma Tei) Branch	364-366 Shanghai Street, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon	2782 2071
Yau Ma Tei Branch	471 Nathan Road, Yau Ma Tei, Kowloon	2780 2307
Kimberley Road Branch	37 Kimberley Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2739 1886
Cameron Road Wealth Management Centre	30 Cameron Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2312 0010
Humphrey's Avenue Branch	2-2A Carnarvon Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2311 3822
Olympian City Branch	Shop 133, 1/F, Olympian City 2, 18 Hoi Ting Road, Kowloon	2749 2110
Fuk Tsun Street Branch	32-40 Fuk Tsun Street, Tai Kok Tsui, Kowloon	2391 8468
Canton Road Branch	60 Canton Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2730 0688
Lock Road Branch	19 Lock Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	2367 6164

Branch	Address	Telephone
Sham Shui Po District		
Kowloon Plaza Branch	Unit 1, Kowloon Plaza, 485 Castle Peak Road, Kowloon	2370 8928
Festival Walk Branch	Unit LG149, Festival Walk, Kowloon Tong, Kowloon	2265 7288
42 Yu Chau Street Branch	42-46 Yu Chau Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2397 1123
Lei Cheng Uk Estate Branch	Shop 108, Lei Cheng Uk Commercial Centre, Lei Cheng Uk Estate, Kowloon	2729 8251
Castle Peak Road (Cheung Sha Wan) Branch	365-371 Castle Peak Road, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon	2728 3311
108 Cheung Sha Wan Road Branch	108 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2779 0157
194 Cheung Sha Wan Road Branch	194-196 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2728 9389
Cheung Sha Wan Plaza Branch	Shop G08, Cheung Sha Wan Plaza, 833 Cheung Sha Wan Road, Kowloon	2745 7088
248 Castle Peak Road Branch	244-248 Castle Peak Road, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon	2386 1233
412 Castle Peak Road Branch	412-420 Castle Peak Road, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon	2743 8010
188 Nam Cheong Street Branch	Shop 8-9, G/F Welland Plaza, 188 Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2788 3238
223 Nam Cheong Street Branch	223 Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2928 2088
Stage 7 Mei Foo Sun Chuen Branch	17-B Mount Sterling Mall, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Kowloon	2742 6611
Stage 2 Mei Foo Sun Chuen Branch	19 Glee Path, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Kowloon	2370 8382
Stage 6 Mei Foo Sun Chuen Branch	Shop N47-49, Mount Sterling Mall, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Kowloon	2743 4013
Lai Chi Kok (Hong Kong Industrial Centre) Branch	A2, G/F Hong Kong Industrial Centre, 491 Castle Peak Road, Kowloon	2745 1491
Lai Chi Kok Road Branch	282-284 Lai Chi Kok Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2728 7216
Sham Shui Po Branch	207-211 Nam Cheong Street, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2777 0171
Sham Shui Po (On Ning Building) Branch	147-149 Castle Peak Road, Sham Shui Po, Kowloon	2708 3678

New Territories & Outlying Islands

Branch	Address	Telephone
Sha Tin District		
Jat Min Chuen Branch	Shop 1, G/F Ming Yiu Lau, Jat Min Chuen, Sha Tin, New Territories	2647 8784
41 Tai Wai Road Branch	41-45 Tai Wai Road, Sha Tin, New Territories	2929 4288
74 Tai Wai Road Branch	74-76 Tai Wai Road, Sha Tin, New Territories	2699 9523
Fo Tan Branch	No 2, 1/F Shatin Galleria, 18-24 Shan Mei Street, Fo Tan, New Territories	2691 7193
Lucky Plaza Branch	Lucky Plaza, Wang Pok Street, Sha Tin, New Territories	2605 6556
City One Sha Tin Branch	Shop A, 16-20 Ngan Shing Commercial Centre, City One, Sha Tin, New Territories	2648 8083
Shatin Plaza Branch	Shop 6C, 18A-C & 19, L1, Shatin Plaza, Sha Tin, New Territories	2606 6163
Sha Kok Estate Branch	Shop 39, Sha Kok Shopping Centre, Sha Kok Estate, Sha Tin, New Territories	2648 0302
Heng On Estate Branch	Shop 203, Commercial Centre, Heng On Estate, Ma On Shan, New Territories	2642 0111
Ma On Shan Centre Branch	Shop A2, G/F Ma On Shan Centre, Sai Sha Road, Ma On Shan, New Territories	2631 0063
Lung Hang Estate Branch	103 Lung Hang Commercial Centre, Sha Tin, New Territories	2605 8618
Sunshine City Branch	Shop 16, Blocks C & D, Sunshine City, Ma On Shan, New Territories	2631 1011
Lek Yuen Branch	No 1, Fook Hoi House, Lek Yuen Estate, Sha Tin, New Territories	2605 3021
Tai Po District		
Tai Kwong Lane Branch	16-22 Tai Kwong Lane, Tai Po Market, New Territories	2652 2133
Tai Po Branch	68-70 Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market, New Territories	2657 2121
Tai Po Plaza Branch	Unit 4, Level 1 Tai Po Plaza, 1 On Tai Road, Tai Po, New Territories	2665 5890
On Chee Road Branch	Shop 10-11, Jade Plaza, 3 On Chee Road, Tai Po, New Territories	2665 1966
Fu Heng Estate Branch	Shop 1-2, Fu Heng Shopping Centre, Tai Po, New Territories	2661 6278
Fu Shin Estate Branch	Shop G11, Fu Shin Shopping Centre, Tai Po, New Territories	2663 2788
Kwong Fuk Road Branch	40-50 Kwong Fuk Road, Tai Po Market, New Territories	2658 2268

BANK OF CHINA (HONG KONG) – BRANCH NETWORK (continued)

Branch	Address	Telephone
Sai Kung District		
Sai Kung Branch	7-11 Wan King Path, Sai Kung, New Territories	2792 1465
East Point City Branch	Shop 187A, East Point City, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories	2628 7238
Hau Tak Estate Branch	Shop 7, Hau Tak Shopping Centre, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories	2703 5203
HKUST Branch	The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology, Clear Water Bay Road, New Territories	2358 2345
Tsui Lam Estate Branch	Shop 101, Tsui Lam Shopping Centre, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories	2702 0282
Po Lam Estate Branch	Shop 207, Po Lam Shopping Centre, Po Lam Estate, Tseung Kwan O, New Territories	2701 4962
Tsuen Wan District		
Tai Wo Hau Branch	5-9 Tai Ha Street, Tai Wo Hau, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2429 0304
407 Castle Peak Road Branch	407-411 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2920 3211
Clague Garden Branch	Shop 1-3, Commercial Complex, Clague Garden Estate, 24 Hoi Shing Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2412 2202
Tsuen Wan VIP Centre	31-33 Chung On Street, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2406 8908
Tsuen Wan Branch	297-299 Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2411 1321
Castle Peak Road (Tsuen Wan) Branch	201-207 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2416 6577
Sham Tseng Branch	Shop G1 & G2, Rhine Garden, Sham Tseng, New Territories	2491 0038
Fuk Loi Estate Branch	129-135 Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2499 0755
Texaco Road Branch	Shop A112, East Asia Gardens, 36 Texaco Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories	2414 4287
Kwai Tsing District		
Ha Kwai Chung Branch	192-194 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2424 9823
Sheung Kwai Chung Branch	7-11 Shek Yi Road, Sheung Kwai Chung, New Territories	2480 6161
Cheung Hong Estate Branch	201-202 Commercial Centre No 2, Cheung Hong Estate, Tsing Yi, New Territories	2497 7718
Cheung Fat Estate Branch	Shop 317, Cheung Fat Shopping Centre, Tsing Yi, New Territories	2433 1689
Cheung Hong Estate Commercial Centre Branch	2 G/F, Commercial Centre, Cheung Hong Estate, Tsing Yi, New Territories	2497 0325
Maritime Square Branch	Shop 115, Maritime Square, Tsing Yi, New Territories	2436 9298
Lei Muk Shue Branch	Shop 1-2, Pak Shue House, Lei Muk Shue Estate, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2428 5731
Metropiazza Branch	Shop 260-265, Metropiazza, 223 Hing Fong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2420 2686
Kwai Cheong Road Branch	40 Kwai Cheong Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2480 3311
Kwai Chung Branch	432-436 Castle Peak Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2410 9133
Kwai Chung Road Branch	1009 Kwai Chung Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2424 3021
Kwai Chung Plaza Branch	A18-20, G/F Kwai Chung Plaza, 7-11 Kwai Foo Road, Kwai Chung, New Territories	2920 2468
Tuen Mun District		
Tuen Mun Town Plaza Branch	Shop 2, Tuen Mun Town Plaza Phase II, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2450 8877
Tuen Mun Fa Yuen Branch	Shop G & H, 6 Tsing Hoi Circuit, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2458 1033
Tuen Mun San Hui Branch	G13-G14 Eldo Court, Heung Sze Wui Road, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2457 3501
Siu Hong Court Branch	226 Commercial Centre, Siu Hong Court, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2466 6703
Leung King Estate Branch	Shop 211, Leung King Shopping Centre, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2463 3855
Kin Wing Street Branch	24-30 Kin Wing Street, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2465 2212
Venice Gardens Branch	Shop13-15, G/F Venice Gardens, Leung Tak Street, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2455 1288
Butterfly Estate Branch	Shop 127-134, Tip Ling House, Butterfly Estate, Tuen Mun, New Territories	2920 5188

Branch	Address	Telephone
Yuen Long District		
Tai Tong Road Branch	Shop A135, 1/F Hop Yick Plaza, 23 Tai Tong Road, Yuen Long, New Territories	2479 2113
Yuen Long Branch	102-108 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, New Territories	2474 2211
Castle Peak Road (Yuen Long) Branch	162 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, New Territories	2476 2193
Yuen Long (Hang Fat Mansion) Branch	8-18 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, New Territories	2475 3777
Tin Shui Estate Branch	Shop 108-109, Tin Shui Shopping Centre, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	2445 8728
Hung Shui Kiu Branch	17-19 Tak Cheung Building, Hung Shui Kiu, Yuen Long, New Territories	2447 0248
Kau Yuk Road Branch	18-24 Kau Yuk Road, Yuen Long, New Territories	2473 2833
Kingswood Villas Branch	A189 Kingswood Richly Plaza, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	2448 3313
Kingswood Ginza Branch	Shop G73, Phase 1 Kingswood Ginza, Tin Shui Wai, New Territories	2616 4233
North District		
Sheung Shui Branch	61 San Fung Avenue, Sheung Shui, New Territories	2671 0155
Landmark North Branch	Shop 351, Landmark North, Sheung Shui, New Territories	2670 3131
Sha Tau Kok Branch	Block 16-18, Sha Tau Kok Chuen, Sha Tau Kok, New Territories	2674 4011
Flora Plaza Branch	Shop 28, Flora Plaza, 88 Pak Wo Road, Fanling, New Territories	2675 6683
Fanling Centre Branch	Shop 2D-E & H, Fanling Centre, Fanling, New Territories	2669 7899
Choi Yuen Estate Branch	Shop 4, F3 level Commercial Centre, Choi Yuen Estate, Sheung Shui, New Territories	2671 6783
136 San Fung Ave Branch	136 San Fung Avenue, Sheung Shui, New Territories	2670 6138
Luen Wo Market Branch	17-19 Wo Fung Street, Luen Wo Market, Fanling, New Territories	2675 5113
Luen Shing Street Branch	Shop B, 10-16 Luen Shing Street, Luen Wo Market, Fanling, New Territories	2675 6113
Outlying Island District		
Cheung Chau Branch	53-55 Tai Sun Street, Cheung Chau, New Territories	2981 0021
Hong Kong International Airport Branch	Unit 7T075, Passenger Terminal Building, Hong Kong International Airport	2326 1883

Mainland Branches

Branch	Address	Telephone
Shenzhen Branch	G/F, The Kwangtung Provincial Bank Building, 1013 Ren Min Nan Road, Shenzhen, China	(755) 8233 0230
Shenzhen Luohu Sub-Branch	Rm.804-5, Development Centre Building, 2010 Ren Min Nan Road, Shenzhen, China	(755) 8228 0177
Shenzhen Futian Sub-Branch	1/F, Shen Ye Garden Club House, Caitian Road, Shenzhen, China	(755) 8294 2929
Shantou Branch	G/F, 3 Yingbin Road, Shantou, China	(754) 826 8266
Shanghai Branch	G/F, Po Sang Bank Tower, 668 Beijing Road East, Shanghai, China	(21) 5308 8888
Qingdao Branch	G/F, 6 Yun Xiao Road, Qingdao, China	(532) 573 2828

CORPORATE BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT

Centre/Division	Address	Telephone
Financial Institutions Division	10/F, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Hong Kong	2826 6888
Corporate Division	10/F, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Hong Kong	2826 6888
Small & Medium Enterprises Division	9/F, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Hong Kong	2826 6888
Commercial Division	9/F, Bank of China Tower, 1 Garden Road, Hong Kong	2826 6888
Hong Kong East Commercial Centre	2-3/F, Eastern Commercial Centre, 393-407 Hennessy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong	2833 8790

CORPORATE BANKING & FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DEPARTMENT (continued)

Centre/Division	Address	Telephone
Kowloon East Commercial Centre	Room 607-610, 6/F, Telford House, 16 Wang Hoi Road, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon	3406 7300
Kowloon East Commercial Centre San Po Kong Office	Room 601, 6/F, Stelux House, 698 Prince Edward Road East, San Po Kong, Kowloon	2263 4900
Kowloon East Commercial Centre Hung Hom Office	Room 507, Block A, Hung Hom Commercial Centre, 37-39 Ma Tau Wai Road, Kowloon	2197 0188
Kowloon West Commercial Centre	3/F - 7/F & 9/F, 589 Nathan Road, The Kwangtung Provincial Bank Bldg., Mongkok, Kowloon	3412 1688
New Territories East Commercial Centre	3/F, 68-70 Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market, N.T.	2654 3222
New Territories East Commercial Centre Fo Tan Office	Room 8-11, 14/F, Shatin Galleria, 8-24 Shan Mei Street, Fo Tan, Shatin, N.T.	2687 5665
New Territories West Commercial Centre	Room 1720-1724, Nan Fung Centre, 264-298 Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan, N.T.	3412 7288
New Territories West Commercial Centre Yuen Long Office	4/F, The Kwangtung Provincial Bank Building, 102-108 Castle Peak Road, Yuen Long, N.T.	2442 8783
Trade Services Centre	3/F-10/F, Bank of China Centre, Olympian City, 11 Hoi Fai Road, Kowloon	3198 3388

NANYANG COMMERCIAL BANK – BRANCH NETWORK

Branch	Address	Telephone
Head Office	151 Des Voeux Road, Central, Hong Kong	2852 0888
Hong Kong Island		
Western Branch	128 Bonham Strand, East, Hong Kong	2851 1100
Causeway Bay Branch	472 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong	2832 9888
Happy Valley Branch	29 Wong Nei Chung Road, Hong Kong	2893 3383
Kennedy Town Branch	86 Belcher's Street, Hong Kong	2817 1946
Quarry Bay Branch	1014 King's Road, Hong Kong	2563 2286
Des Voeux Rd, West Branch	334 Des Voeux Road West, Hong Kong	2540 4532
Aberdeen Branch	171 Aberdeen Main Road, Hong Kong	2553 4115
North Point Branch	351 King's Road, Hong Kong	2566 8116
Sheung Wan Branch	21 Connaught Road, West, Hong Kong	2559 0888
Sai Wan Ho Branch	63 Shaukeiwan Road, Hong Kong	2567 0315
Wanchai Branch	123 Johnston Road, Hong Kong	2574 8118
Causeway Centre Branch	Shop 16, Causeway Centre, 28 Harbour Road, Hong Kong	2827 6338
Central District Branch	56-58 Wellington Street, Hong Kong	2522 5011
Sunning Road Branch	8 Sunning Road, Hong Kong	2882 7668
Kowloon		
Mongkok Branch	727 Nathan Road, Kowloon	2394 8206
Yaumati Branch	309 Nathan Road, Kowloon	2782 9888
Ferry Point Branch	Offices B,C,D, 10/F and Shops D, E, F, G/F Best-O-Best Commercial Centre, 32-36 Ferry Street, Kowloon	2332 0738
Homantin Branch	71A Waterloo Road, Kowloon	2715 7518
Nathan Road Branch	570 Nathan Road, Kowloon	2780 0166
Laichikok Road Branch	236 Laichikok Road, Kowloon	2396 4164
Jordan Road Branch	20 Jordan Road, Kowloon	2735 3301
Tokwawan Branch	62 Tokwawan Road, Kowloon	2764 6666
Kwun Tong Branch	410 Kwun Tong Road, Kowloon	2389 6266
Tsimshatsui Branch	Shop A, 1/F, HK Pacific Centre, 28 Hankow Road, Kowloon	2376 3988
Hunghom Branch	69A Wuhu Street, Kowloon	2362 2301
Shamshui Po Branch	198-200 Tai Po Road, Kowloon	2777 0147
Tsun Yip Street Branch	48 Tsun Yip Street, Kowloon	2790 6688
Peninsula Centre Branch	Shop G48 Peninsula Centre, 67 Mody Road, Kowloon	2722 0823
San Po Kong Branch	41-45, Yin Hing Street, Kowloon	2328 5555
Kowloon City Branch	86 Nga Tsin Wai Road, Kowloon	2716 6033
Laguna City Branch	Shop No. 26, Phase 1 Laguna City, Kowloon	2772 3336
New Territories		
Kwai Chung Branch	100 Lei Muk Road, N.T.	2480 1118
Tai Po Branch	71 Po Heung Street, Tai Po Market, N.T.	2656 5201
Yuen Long Branch	G/F Tung Yik Building, Tai Tong Road, N.T.	2479 0231
Ha Kwai Chung Branch	180 Hing Fong Road, N.T.	2429 4242
Tsuen Wan Branch	78 Chung On Street, N.T.	2492 0243
Sheung Shui Branch	31 Fu Hing Street, N.T.	2679 4333
Tuen Mun Branch	Forward Mansion, Yan Ching Circuit, N.T.	2459 8181

Branch	Address	Telephone
Shatin Branch	Shop 7-8, Lucky Plaza, Shatin, N.T.	2605 9188
Luk Yeung Sun Chuen Branch	P2A-C, 1/F Luk Yeung Galleria, 22-26 Wai Tsuen Road, N.T.	2498 4411
Sai Kung Branch	Shop 11-12 Sai Kung Garden, Man Nin Street, N.T.	2791 1122
The Mainland of China		
Shenzhen Branch	Nanyang Mansion, 2002 Kin Chit Road, Shenzhen, China	(755) 2515 6333
Shekou Branch	Shekou Finance Centre, Taizi Road, Shenzhen, China	(755) 2682 8788
Haikou Branch	Room 702-703, 7/F, Haikou Nanyang Building, 81 Bin Hai Avenue, Haikou, Hainan Province, China	(898) 6851 2538
Guangzhou Branch	4th Floor, CITIC Plaza 233 Tianhe North Road, Guangzhou, China	(20) 3891 2668
Dalian Branch	1/F., Li Yuan Mansion, 16-18 Mingze Street, Dalian, Liaoning Province, China	(411) 8282 3636
Beijing Branch	Level 1A, Regent Court, No. 8B, Jian Guo Men Wai Da Jie, Beijing, China	(10) 6568 4728
Overseas		
San Francisco Branch	31/F., 50 California Street, San Francisco, CA94111, USA	(415) 398 8866

CHIYU BANKING CORPORATION – BRANCH NETWORK

Branch	Address	Telephone
Head Office	78, Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong	2843 0111
Hong Kong Island		
North Point Branch	390-394 King's Road, North Point, Hong Kong	2570 6381
Wanchai Branch	325 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong	2572 2823
Sheung Wan Branch	22-24 Bonham Strand West, Hong Kong	2544 1678
Western Branch	429-431 Queen's Road West, Hong Kong	2548 2298
Quarry Bay Branch	997 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong	2811 3131
Kowloon		
Hung Hom Branch	23-25 Gillies Avenue, Hung Hom, Kowloon	2362 0051
Kwun Tong Branch	42-44 Mut Wah Street, Kwun Tong, Kowloon	2343 4174
Sham Shui Po Branch	235-237 Laichikok Road, Kowloon	2789 8668
San Po Kong Branch	61-63 Hong Keung Street, San Po Kong, Kowloon	2328 5691
Yau Ma Tei Branch	117-119 Shanghai Street, Yauatei, Kowloon	2332 2533
Castle Peak Road Branch	226-228 Castle Peak Road, Kowloon	2720 5187
Kowloon Bay Branch	Shop No.10, G/F., Kai Lok House, Kai Yip Estate, Kowloon Bay, Kowloon	2796 8968
Tokwawan Branch	G/F, Shop Nos.11-13, 78 Tokwawan Road, Kowloon	2765 6118
Tsz Wan Shan Branch	Shop 202, 2/F., Tsz Wan Shan Shopping Centre, 23 Yuk Wah ST., Tsz Wan Shan, Kowloon	2322 3313
New Territories		
Tuen Mun Yau Oi Estate Branch	Shop No.103-104, G/F Restaurant Block, Yau Oi Estate, Tuen Mun, N.T.	2452 3666
Kwai Hing Estate Branch	Shop No.1, G/F, Hing Yat House, Kwai Hing Estate, Kwai Chung, N.T.	2487 3332
Tai Po Tai Wo Estate Branch	Shop No.112-114, G/F., On Wo House, Tai Wo Estate, Tai Po, N.T.	2656 3386
Belvedere Garden Branch	Shop No. 5A, G/F., Belvedere Square, Tsuen Wan, N.T.	2411 6789
Tsuen Wan Branch	Shop 1 & 1d, Level 2, Discovery Park Commercial Centre, Tsuen Wan, N.T.	2413 8111
Shatin Sui Wo Court Branch	Shop No. F7, Commercial Centre, Sui Wo Court, Shatin, N.T.	2601 5888
Ma On Shan Branch	Shop 313 Level 3, Ma On Shan Plaza Bayshore Tower, Ma On Shan, N.T.	2640 0733
Sheung Tak Estate Branch	Shop No.238, Sheung Tak Shopping Centre, Sheung Tak Est., Tseung Kwan O, N.T.	2178 2278
The Mainland of China		
Xiamen Branch	1/F, 859 Xiahe Road, Xiamen, Fujian Province, China	(86-592) 5851 691
Fuzhou Branch	1/F, International Bldg., 210 Wusi Road, Fuzhou Fujian Province, China	(86-591) 7810 078

