



中國工商銀行(亞洲)
I C B C (Asia)



華比銀行
Belgian Bank

A wholly-owned subsidiary of ICBC (Asia)

To: Business/Finance/General News Editor

For immediate release

Second Study Tour Reaffirms Commitment to Student Development

Hong Kong, 25 July 2005 - ICBC (Asia) and Belgian Bank announced the successful completion of their second study tour to China. The tour, entitled “The Development of Finance and Culture – Shanghai and Shanxi” was held between 29 June and 6 July 2005. The tour reaffirms the Banks’ commitment to social welfare activities and support for the local community.

“The tour was a great success, and we’ll continue to be dedicated to student education and supporting students who are keen to pursue a career in the area of finance,” said Stanley Wong, Director & Deputy General Manager of ICBC (Asia).

Attended by 60 participants, including 45 secondary school students (Form 4 to Form 6) and their teachers, social workers, as well as customers and representatives from the Banks, the tour was an invaluable opportunity to gain insight into China’s financial development. This year, the Banks and its business partners sponsored 37 students, who were recommended by their schools or Social Work Services of Caritas–Hong Kong.

The tour included Shanghai, the modern financial hub of China, where participants visited The Bund, described as “Island of Adventure”. Other highlights were Pingyao, the ancient city listed as a World Cultural Heritage site, and Rishenchang Draft Bank, which has historical significance from the Qing Dynasty. Students were able to gain a deeper understanding of the past, present and future development of the Chinese financial market. They also visited ICBC branches in Shanghai city and Shanxi province, and were joined by students from the Shanghai Student Reporter Program to tour the group’s Bank Museum and Phone Banking Centre, where participants gained an insight into the extensive network of the bank.

“We are very grateful to have the support of our parent bank and believe that the participants have had a unique opportunity to broaden their horizons and enhance their knowledge of China,” Stanley Wong added.

Furthermore, participants were given an opportunity to exchange experiences and interact with students from the Senior High School Attached to Shanghai Teachers University. Small group activities and tutorials were led by the social workers and teachers so that students were able to develop their leadership skills and learn more about team spirit. Upon completion of all these activities, each student was awarded a certificate for leadership skills from Caritas-Hong Kong.

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About Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited

ICBC (Asia) is a full licensed bank incorporated in Hong Kong with its shares listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (stock code: 0349). ICBC (Asia) has 20 branches and one wealth management center in Hong Kong. It is principally engaged in banking, financial and financial related services with focus on commercial, retail banking business as well as corporate banking business. ICBC (Asia) is the flagship of ICBC Group’s banking business in Hong Kong. It became the sixth largest bank (in terms of total assets) among listed banks operation in Hong Kong, after its acquisition of Belgian Bank (formerly Fortis Bank Asia HK). On 16 April 2004, ICBC (Asia) was assigned A2/Prime-1 long-term/short-term deposit ratings and D Bank Financial Strength Rating (BFSR) by Moody’s Investors Service.

About Belgian Bank

Belgian Bank, formerly known as Fortis Bank Asia HK, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ICBC (Asia). Belgian Bank established its first branch in Hong Kong in 1935 and today, it has a network of 22 retail branches and five dedicated commercial business centres.

Belgian Bank provides a wide range of products and services, including general banking, credit card, consumer finance, investment and insurance services. Belgian Bank also puts a strong focus on providing one-stop financial advisory services. Its Personal Banking service offers professional financial planning services to customers through a dedicated team of advisors and investment strategists.