



中國工商銀行(亞洲)

ICBC (Asia)



HKMEX

Hong Kong Mercantile Exchange
香港商品交易所

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL BANK OF CHINA (ASIA) LIMITED INVESTS IN HONG KONG MERCANTILE EXCHANGE

Builds Key Mainland Connection for Asia's Exchange

HONG KONG, 14 December 2009 – Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited (“ICBC (Asia)”) has become a founding shareholder in the Hong Kong Mercantile Exchange (“HKMEX”). ICBC (Asia) acquired a 10% equity interest in HKMEX and agreed to participate extensively in the Exchange’s operations as a Trading Member, Clearing Member and Settlement Bank.

ICBC (Asia) joins China Ocean Shipping (Group) Company, operator of China’s largest shipping container line, as a keystone investor in the Hong Kong Mercantile Exchange.

ICBC (Asia) Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Chen Aiping said the investment is a strategic development for ICBC (Asia). “At this stage in the growth of ICBC (Asia), such an investment is an appropriate step as we are specialized in providing cross-border financial services for the Mainland and Hong Kong while China is a very important importer and trader of commodities,” he said.

As a Trading Member, ICBC (Asia) will trade on the Exchange on its own behalf and on behalf of clients. The bank’s Clearing Membership will enable it to offer clearing services for HKMEX trades.

“We’re delighted to have ICBC (Asia) as a founding shareholder. Being the largest bank in the world in terms of market capitalization, ICBC Group’s participation will contribute to building the bridge between the international and Chinese trading communities,” said Barry Cheung, Chairman of the Hong Kong Mercantile Exchange. “Going forward, we expect to develop a range of synergistic opportunities between ICBC (Asia) and HKMEX.”

-Ends-

About the Hong Kong Mercantile Exchange

As a bridge between the Chinese mainland and international commodities markets, the Hong Kong Mercantile Exchange aims to provide the premier price discovery platform for commodities to traders, intermediaries and end-users in the Asian time zone. HKMEX will deliver standardised exchange-traded products on a transparent USD pricing platform, thereby ensuring the full advantages of dollar clearing and settlement. The Exchange is well positioned to provide counterparty risk mitigation with all transactions cleared through LCH.Clearnet, the leading independent central counterparty group. Trades will be conducted on HKMEX's *Pearl*® and *Pearl Plus*® trading platforms, based on Cinnober's TRADExpress trading system. In terms of regulatory compliance and oversight, HKMEX is in the process of obtaining authorization from the Securities and Futures Commission to become an Automated Trading Services provider.

For more about HKMEX, visit www.hkmerc.com.

About ICBC (Asia)

ICBC (Asia) is a licensed bank incorporated in Hong Kong with its shares listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (Stock Code: 349). It has 43 branches, 9 "Elite Club" Wealth Management Centres, 4 commercial business centers and 1 Investment Service Centre in Hong Kong. It is principally engaged in banking, financial and other financial related services with focus on retail banking, commercial banking as well as corporate banking business. ICBC (Asia) is the flagship of Hong Kong banking business of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Limited, the largest commercial bank in the Mainland China (in terms of total assets). On 3 June 2009, ICBC (Asia) was assigned A2/Prime-1 long-term/short-term deposit ratings and C- Bank Financial Strength Rating (BFSR) by Moody's Investors Service.

For more about ICBC (Asia), visit www.icbcasia.com.