

**ICBC (Asia) Sponsored the Finale Performance of
the Hong Kong Arts Festival *Viva Verdi***

25 March 2013, Hong Kong – With its persistent commitment to the development of cultural and arts activities, ICBC (Asia) recently sponsored the finale performance of the 41st Hong Kong Arts Festival *Viva Verdi*. The performance was completed on 22 March 2013.

The superb concert, exclusively sponsored by ICBC (Asia), was to commemorate the great opera composer Giuseppe Verdi, whose brilliant talent and unceasing composing works created a new climax of classical opera. These synchronize with ICBC (Asia)'s remarkable strength and vigorous business strategies. Mr. Chen Aiping, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ICBC (Asia), stated “Being the overseas business flagship of ICBC, the largest bank in terms of market capitalization, ICBC (Asia) persists in innovation to enhance our competitive edge and advances our internet banking and high-end cross-border customer services. Our Bank is now one of the leading financial institutions in Hong Kong.”

ICBC (Asia) invited its distinguished customers to enjoy the Festival finale, which enabled closer communication with the customers and also expressed appreciation for customers' long-term support. The guests including major government official, representatives of the Hong Kong Arts Festival and customers also enjoyed a cocktail reception hosted Mr. Chen Aiping, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ICBC (Asia).

ICBC (Asia) has been supporting cultural and arts activities enthusiastically and sponsored a variety of Chinese orchestra, western orchestra and dance performances. By sponsoring this significant performance, ICBC (Asia) expected to collaborate with the Hong Kong Arts Festival to extend the time-honored culture of European opera to Hong Kong and to enrich the diversity of arts performance in local community. ICBC (Asia) will uphold its operation philosophy of growing with the society to realize the customers' achievements and to make contribution to the society. Meanwhile, ICBC (Asia)'s sponsorship to the Festival finale will be carried on, in order

to fulfill the corporate social responsibility and to keep promoting the cultural and arts activities in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Arts Festival is a major cultural event in Hong Kong and even Asia. Each year the Festival invites leading international and local artists to offer a broad spectrum of programmes, including opera, music, theater and dance performances. In 2013, the Hong Kong Arts Festival celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Italian theatre composer Giuseppe Verdi by introducing *Viva Verdi* as its finale performance. The world-renowned maestro Roberto Abbado conducted the orchestra and chorus of the Europe's oldest working theatre - San Carlo Theatre, in which Verdi published his first opera, to perform some of the best-loved selections of Verdi's operas.

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Photo caption:

Officiating guests of the toasting ceremony of the 41st Hong Kong Arts Festival finale: (from left to right) Mrs. Betty Fung – Director of the Leisure and Cultural Services, Mr. Chen Aiping – Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ICBC (Asia), Professor David Gwilt – Executive Committee Member and Chairman of the Programme Committee of the Hong Kong Arts Festival, The Honorable Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor – Chief Secretary for Administration of the HKSAR, Dr. Christopher Cheng – Steward of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, and Ms. Tisa Ho – Executive Director of the Hong Kong Arts Festival.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Asia) Limited

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