

# New Hong Kong banknotes

by the Banking Development Department

Following the issue of new \$100 and \$500 banknotes in 2003, Hong Kong's three note-issuing banks<sup>1</sup> and the HKMA jointly announced on 5 July 2004 that the remaining \$20, \$50 and \$1,000 new banknotes in the series will be put into circulation in October 2004.

The colour of the new series banknote has been standardised: yellowish gold for \$1,000 note, brown for \$500 note, red for \$100 note, green for \$50 note and blue for \$20 note. The range of colours will provide the widest possible colour differentiation among the different denominations.

A number of advanced security features are included in the new series banknotes:

## Denomination Numeral in Optical Variable Ink

The colour of the denomination numeral shifts between gold and green when the banknote is viewed at different angles.

## Fluorescent Machine Readable Barcode

Machine readable barcode visible under ultraviolet light.

## Holographic Windowed Thread

A 4mm-wide metallic thread with holographic images woven in the paper.

## Iridescent Images

Shimmering iridescent image showing bauhinia flowers when the banknote is tilted under a bright light.

The designs of the new Hong Kong banknotes for all five denominations of the three note-issuing banks and illustrations of the security features of the new \$1,000 notes are found on the following pages.

In addition to the new security features, the standard features used in the old series of banknotes are also included in the new series:

## Concealed Image / Denomination

Visible when the banknote is tilted.

## Intaglio Printing

Giving an embossed feel.

## Invisible Fluorescent Fibres

Red, blue and green fibres (randomly embedded in the paper) visible under ultraviolet light.

## Multitone and Highlight Watermarks

Can be seen when the note is held up to the light.

## Security Thread

Visible from both sides.

## See-Through Feature

The patterns on the front and back align perfectly when the banknote is held up to the light.

## Serial Numbers

Novel vertical serial number on the left and horizontal serial number on the right.

The security features for all denominations and the colour scheme for each denomination have been standardised to aid recognition. The size of banknotes remains the same.

The old series banknotes will remain legal tender and will circulate along with the new series. They will be gradually replaced by the new series through natural wastage. The HKMA has published an explanatory leaflet and has organised seminars and other activities to inform the public about the designs and security features of the new banknotes. Details of these educational programmes can be found on the HKMA website.

Banknote measurement templates were distributed to the organisations for the visually impaired. A dedicated telephone line has been set up to provide guidance for people with visual impairments.

<sup>1</sup> The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited and Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited.

## The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited



## Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

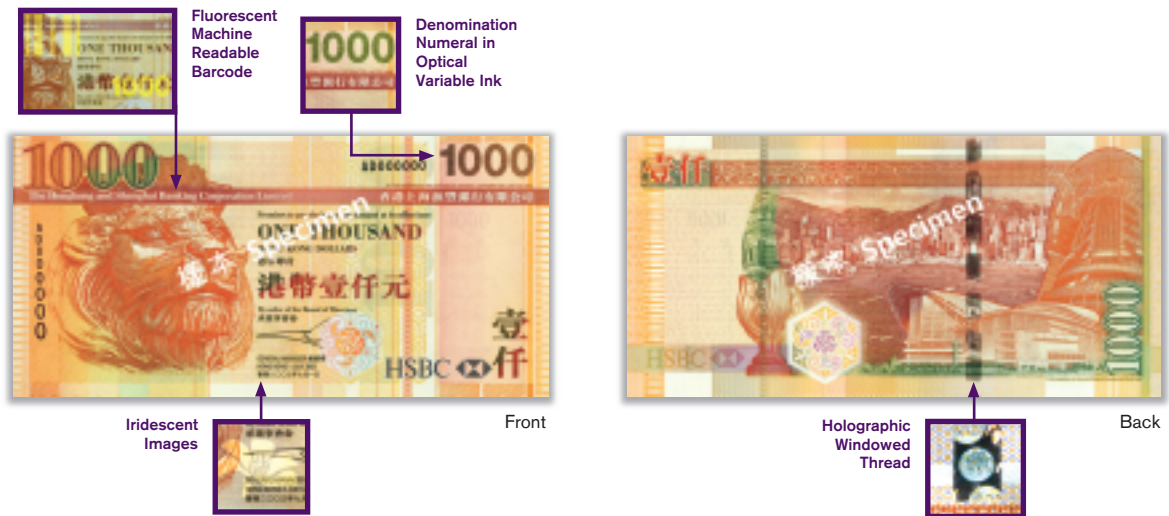


## Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited

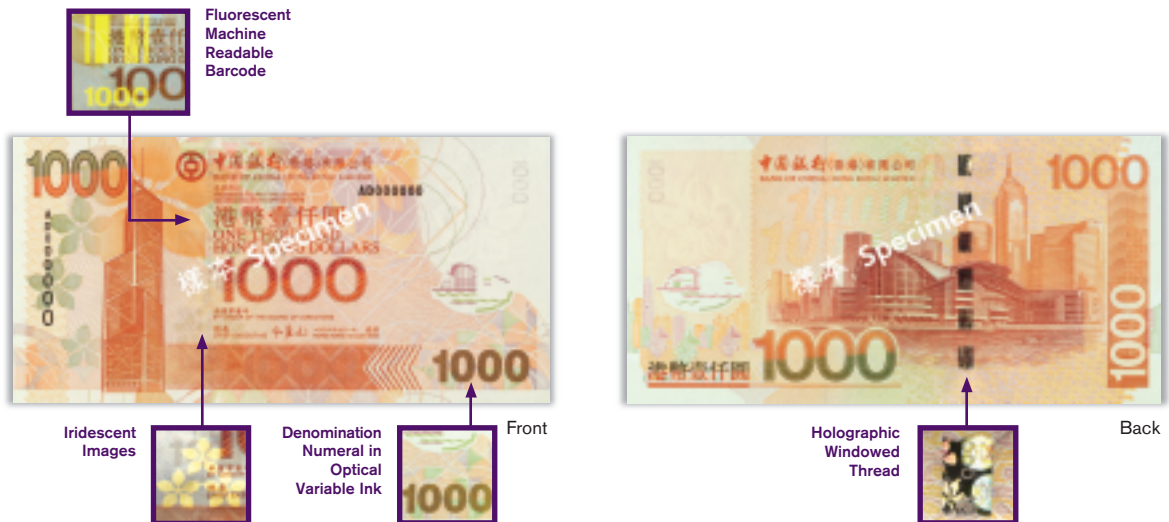


## New Security Features for the \$1000 Note

### The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited



### Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited



### Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong) Limited

