

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (AUGUST - OCTOBER 2000)

1 August 2000	The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announces that it will conduct a comprehensive review of retail payments services in Hong Kong. The review will examine in detail the various channels through which retail payments are made, consider what risks may arise in the operation of these services, and examine their efficiency, pricing and costs, degree of market access, and level of competition.
7 August 2000	The HKMA announces that the official foreign currency reserve assets of Hong Kong amounted to US\$98.9 billion at the end of July 2000.
14 August 2000	The HKMA releases key data on the balance sheet of the Exchange Fund in accordance with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). At the end of July 2000, foreign assets amounted to HK\$738.4 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$207.6 billion, and claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$53.8 billion.
16 August 2000	The Financial Secretary appoints Mr Simon Topping to succeed Mr Raymond Li Ling-cheung as the Executive Director in charge of the Banking Policy Department of the HKMA. Mr Raymond Li Ling-cheung will take up the new post of Executive Director (Corporate Services). Both appointments take effect on 11 September 2000.
17 August 2000	The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited (HKMC) announces the new product that provides insurance cover for mortgage loans with loan-to-value (LTV) ratio of up to 90% is formally launched on 18 August 2000.
17 August 2000	The HKMA announces that Hong Kong will process its first transaction through the new US dollar clearing system on 21 August. The system was commissioned by the HKMA in March, with The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited appointed as the Settlement Institution. The new service allows local financial institutions to settle US dollar transactions real time in the Asian time zone instead of 12 hours later in the New York time zone.
28 August 2000	The HKMA publishes the Abridged Exchange Fund Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account as at 31 July 2000. At the end of July 2000, the total assets of the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$982.8 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$207.6 billion.
7 September 2000	The HKMA announces that the official foreign currency reserve assets of Hong Kong amounted to US\$100.4 billion at the end of August 2000.
14 September 2000	The HKMA releases key data on the balance sheet of the Exchange Fund in accordance with the IMF's SDDS. At the end of August 2000, foreign assets amounted to HK\$746.9 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$206.8 billion and claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$49.3 billion.

15 September 2000	The HKMA advises State Street Global Advisors Asia Limited, the Manager of TraHK, that the maximum number of units for which Hang Seng Index Shares will be made available under the Tap Facility for the period from 1 October 2000 to 31 December 2000 will be 728 million units.
24 September 2000	The Financial Secretary welcomes the establishment of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Sub-Office in Hong Kong, following the formal signing on 23 September of a Memorandum of Understanding between the People's Bank of China (PBoC) and the IMF during the IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings in Prague.
25 September 2000	The HKMA announces that agreement has been reached with the Guangzhou Branch of the PBoC on a new Joint Clearing Facility to speed up the processing of Hong Kong dollar cheques issued by banks in Hong Kong and presented in Guangdong. The new facility is effective from 1 October 2000.
25 September 2000	The HKMA publishes the Abridged Exchange Fund Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account as at 31 August 2000. At the end of August 2000, the total assets of the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$990 billion. The monetary base amounted to HK\$206.8 billion.
25 September 2000	The HKMA announces completion of phase two of the implementation of Hong Kong's US dollar payment system. The Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) payment system for US dollars launched on 21 August is linked up with the RTGS payment system for Hong Kong dollars to provide payment versus payment (PvP) settlement for foreign exchange transactions between the US dollar and Hong Kong dollar.
26 September 2000	The International Finance Corporation (IFC) announces that the World Bank Group has opened a joint IFC/World Bank regional management office in Hong Kong as part of its strategy of decentralisation to build tight relationships with clients and governments. The hub office will bring IFC closer to its clients, sponsors, financial participants, and banking partners as well as handling new business in the area.
26 September 2000	The HKMA issues a Guidance Note on Independent Assessment of Security Aspects of Transactional E-banking Services. To demonstrate that security risks in transactional e-banking services have been properly managed, institutions are expected to submit the independent assessment reports to the HKMA for reference.
4 October 2000	The HKMA releases a set of proposals aimed at improving the business practices of authorised institutions (AIs) in relation to the provision of credit card services for consultation with the banking industry and the Consumer Council. The proposals have been formulated by an Informal Working Group (IWG) on review of the Code of Banking Practice convened by the HKMA and comprising representatives of the Hong Kong Association of Banks and Deposit Taking Companies Association.

5 October 2000	The HKMA announces the results of its quarterly survey on authorised institutions' exposure to non-bank Chinese entities. At the end of June 2000, the total exposure of the banking sector to non-bank Chinese entities at end-June 2000 amounted to HK\$215.2 billion. On-balance sheet exposure amounted to HK\$186.5 billion and off-balance sheet exposure amounted to HK\$28.7 billion. The local banks' total exposure to non-bank Chinese entities amounted to HK\$70.1 billion.
9 October 2000	The HKMA announces that the official foreign currency reserve assets of Hong Kong amounted to US\$101.5 billion at the end of September 2000.
16 October 2000	The HKMA releases key data on the balance sheet of the Exchange Fund in accordance with the IMF's SDDS. At the end of September 2000, foreign assets amounted to HK\$751.2 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$209.9 billion and claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$55 billion.
24 October 2000	The HKMA releases a consultation paper on enhancing deposit protection in Hong Kong following the completion in July 2000 of an independent consultancy study on this subject. The Study was commissioned by the HKMA in April and was aimed at making a fair and objective assessment of deposit protection in Hong Kong based on independent evaluation with due regard to international practices and local conditions. The consultation period will end on 17 January 2001.
27 October 2000	The HKMA publishes the Abridged Exchange Fund Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account as at 30 September 2000. At the end of September 2000, the total assets of the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$988.9 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$209.9 billion.