

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (FEBRUARY – APRIL 2002)

5 February 2002	An International Monetary Fund (IMF) Staff Mission to Hong Kong supports the government's policy framework to deal with the challenges ahead, and expects a moderate recovery for Hong Kong in the near-term, depending on an upturn in external demand. It notes that the longer-term outlook depends on Hong Kong's success in capitalising on the opportunities arising from growing integration with the Mainland. The assessment was made by the IMF Mission in its Concluding Statement for the annual Article IV Consultation with China in respect of Hong Kong.
7 February 2002	The HKMA announces that the official foreign currency reserve assets of Hong Kong amounted to US\$111.3 billion at the end of January 2002.
15 February 2002	The HKMA releases key data on the balance sheet of the Exchange Fund in accordance with International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). At the end of January 2002, foreign assets amounted to HK\$832.6 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$236.0 billion and claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$58.7 billion.
28 February 2002	The HKMA publishes the Abridged Exchange Fund Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account as at 31 January 2002. At the end of January 2002, the total assets of the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$991.5 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$236.0 billion.
7 March 2002	The HKMA announces that the official foreign currency reserve assets of Hong Kong amounted to US\$111.3 billion at the end of February 2002.
11 March 2002	The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited (HKMC) announces the successful closing of the debut MBS issue launched under the US\$3 billion multi-currency Mortgage-Backed Securitisation Programme of Bauhinia MBS Limited. The well-received HK\$2 billion Issue (series 2002-1) is the largest-ever Hong Kong dollar denominated residential MBS transaction in Hong Kong.
14 March 2002	The HKMA releases key data on the balance sheet of the Exchange Fund in accordance with the IMF's SDDS. At the end of February 2002, foreign assets amounted to HK\$829.5 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$237.8 billion and claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted HK\$53.6 billion.

14 March 2002	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 April 2002 to 30 June 2002 will be 530 million units.
18 March 2002	The HKMA announces that it has reached an agreement with the Guangzhou Branch of the People's Bank of China on a new Joint Clearing Facility to speed up the processing of Hong Kong dollar cheques issued by banks in Guangdong and presented in Hong Kong.
18 March 2002	The HKMA announces the results of an updated survey on residential mortgage loans (RMLs) in negative equity with a number of banks active in mortgage financing for the position of December 2001. It is estimated that the total number of RMLs in negative equity was about 73,000 or 16% of total mortgage borrowers at the end of December 2001. The total value of RMLs in negative equity is estimated to be around HK\$125 billion, or 23% of total outstanding RMLs.
27 March 2002	The HKMA releases a second consultation paper on the proposed introduction of deposit insurance. The paper sets out the HKMA's detailed proposals on how the deposit insurance scheme in Hong Kong should be structured. Recommended features include the establishment of an independent Deposit Insurance Board to operate the scheme, compulsory participation for full licensed banks, and coverage limit at HK\$100,000 per depositor per bank.
28 March 2002	The HKMA announces that the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee has determined a reduction of 40% in the Variable Pay budget for HKMA staff in 2002.
28 March 2002	The HKMA publishes the Abridged Exchange Fund Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account as at 28 February 2002. At the end of February 2002, total assets of the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$982.0 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$237.8 billion.
8 April 2002	The HKMA announces that the official foreign currency reserve assets of Hong Kong amounted to US\$110.2 billion at the end of March 2002.
15 April 2002	The HKMC announces its operating profit after tax for 2001 was HK\$255.5 million, an increase of HK\$22.4 million or 9.6% over the previous year. Return on shareholder's equity was 9.4% (2000: 9.4%). The capital-to-assets ratio remained strong at 11.6% (2000: 13.5%).

15 April 2002	The HKMA releases key data on the balance sheet of the Exchange Fund in accordance with IMF's SDDS. At the end of March 2002, foreign assets amounted to HK\$822.1 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$238.8 billion and claims on the private sector in Hong Kong amounted to HK\$42.7 billion.
26 April 2002	The HKMA publishes the Abridged Exchange Fund Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account as at 31 March 2002. At the end of March 2002, total assets of the Exchange Fund amounted to HK\$979.7 billion. The Monetary Base amounted to HK\$238.8 billion.
30 April 2002	The HKMA publishes its Annual Report for 2001. The Report explains the HKMA's work and achievements over the past year and set out the challenges and objectives for the year ahead.