

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS

(June to August 2004)

3 June 2004	The HKMA announces that the Financial Secretary, following the advice of the Remuneration and Finance Sub-Committee of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee, has approved the appointments of Mr Peter Pang as Deputy Chief Executive and of Mr Arthur Yuen as Executive Director (Banking Development) with effect from 1 July 2004.
8 June 2004	The HKMA issues a revised Supplement to the Guideline on Prevention of Money Laundering and a set of Interpretative Notes. The Supplement sets out the latest "Know-Your-Customer" principles. It covers the account opening process for various types of new customers and the on-going monitoring process for existing customers. It also incorporates the latest requirements relating to terrorist financing.
29 June 2004	The monthly survey of residential mortgage lending indicates that new loans drawn down during May decreased by 9.4% to HK\$10.4 billion. New approvals also declined in May, by 6.3% in value terms to HK\$11.6 billion; and by 6.4% in number terms to 7,642 cases.
30 June 2004	The HKMA announces that the Chief Executive of the HKSAR has appointed the Chairman and Members of the Hong Kong Deposit Protection Board. The Board is chaired by Professor Andrew Chan Chi-fai (Chairman and Member) and has six other Members (including two ex officio Members - the Monetary Authority and Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury).
2 July 2004	The Legislative Council passes the Clearing and Settlement Systems Ordinance. The Ordinance establishes a statutory regime for the Monetary Authority to designate and oversee clearing and settlement systems which are material to the monetary or financial stability of Hong Kong or to the functioning of Hong Kong as an international financial centre.
5 July 2004	The HKMA and the three note-issuing banks announces the issue and unveils the designs of the remaining three denominations of the new series of Hong Kong banknotes. The three denominations, \$20, \$50 and \$1,000, will go into circulation in October 2004.
20 July 2004	The HKMA publishes the statistics on renminbi deposits for May 2004. Total renminbi deposits with authorized institutions stood at RMB 6,298 million yuan at the end of May. A total of 37 licensed banks were engaged in the business of renminbi deposit taking, currency exchange and remittance at the end of May.
28 July 2004	The monthly survey of residential mortgage lending indicates that new loans drawn down during June rose by 0.4% to HK\$10.5 billion. New approvals also increased by 1.4% in value terms to HK\$11.8 million and by 3.1% in number terms to 7,880 cases.
29 July 2004	The HKMA publishes the unaudited balance sheet of the Exchange Fund for the end of June 2004. The Exchange Fund recorded investment income of HK\$9.6 billion in the first half of 2004. The Accumulated Surplus increased by HK\$5.1 billion to HK\$389.9 billion at the end of June 2004.

3 August 2004	The survey on residential mortgage loans (RMLs) in negative equity shows that the number of RMLs in negative equity reduced by almost 30% over the three-month period to end-June to about 28,200 cases with an aggregate value of HK\$48 billion. The overall loan-to-value ratio on negative equity loans declined to 121% from 125% at the end of March.
18 August 2004	The survey on credit card lending for the second quarter of 2004 shows that the amount charged off in the second quarter decreased for the seventh consecutive quarter to HK\$0.72 billion or 1.34% of average receivables during the quarter. The “annualised” ratio was 5.37% compared with 6.34% in the previous quarter, the lowest level since the third quarter of 2001.
27 August 2004	The monthly survey of residential mortgage lending shows a small increase in new loans drawn down during July, by 3.1% to HK\$10.80 billion. New loans approved during July, on the other hand, fell slightly, by 0.4% to HK\$11.74 billion.

Four press releases relating to the Exchange Fund’s data are issued by the HKMA each month. Three of these releases are issued to disseminate monetary data in accordance with the International Monetary Fund’s Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS). The fourth press release, on the Exchange Fund’s Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account, is made in accordance with the HKMA’s policy of maintaining a high level of transparency. The order of issue of the press releases each month is as follows:

- SDDS International Reserves (Hong Kong’s Latest Foreign Currency Reserve Assets Figures)
- SDDS Analytical Accounts of the Central Bank (Exchange Fund Balance Sheet Data)
- Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet and Currency Board Account
- SDDS Template on International Reserves and Foreign Currency Liquidity

The above press releases on the Exchange Fund data may be found on the HKMA’s website at www.info.gov.hk/hkma/eng/press/category/exchange_index.htm

Other latest press releases may also be found at www.info.gov.hk/hkma/eng/press/index.htm