

20 December 2016

**BOCHK Brunei Branch celebrates its grand opening
Deepening ASEAN integrated services and expediting regional transformation**

On 20 December, Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited Brunei Branch (“BOCHK Brunei Branch”) celebrates its grand opening, making it the first Chinese financial institution to establish a presence in Brunei Darussalam (“Brunei”). Including the BOCHK Brunei Branch, Bank of China (“BOC”)’s overseas offices, branches and subsidiaries now cover 49 countries and regions across six continents, having the most extensive global network among the Mainland financial institutions.

The grand opening ceremony of the BOCHK Brunei Branch was held in the prestigious Empire Hotel & Country Club in Brunei. Honourable guests including Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Home Affairs of Brunei; Yang Mulia Awang Yusof bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Managing Director of Authoriti Monetary Brunei Darussalam; Her Excellency Madam Yang Jian, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam; Mr Xu Luode, Executive Vice President of BOC and Mr Lin Jingzhen, Deputy Chief Executive of Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited (“BOCHK”) attended.

Pehin Abu Bakar, Minister of Home Affairs of Brunei, said in the ceremony, “Both Brunei Darussalam and China has a long tradition of friendship. In line with Brunei’s Vision 2035 and China’s Belt and Road Initiative, there are many areas of cooperation and common goals between the two countries. Today marks the start of the first Chinese financial institution in Brunei. BOC is well known as one of the leading banking groups globally and provides comprehensive and professional banking services to customers from corporates to individuals. I believe BOC will help Brunei to satisfy its demand for achieving Vision 2035. I am also glad to know that BOC is implementing its strategy to transform BOCHK into a competitive regional bank. I look forward to BOCHK’s great success by providing more choices to Brunei financial markets and customers, as well as its unique contribution to the development and prosperity of this beautiful country.”

Her Excellency Madam Yang Jian, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam, said, “BOC’s presence in Brunei marks a new stage of cooperation between China and Brunei. On the back of the continuous upgrading of China’s relations with ASEAN countries, BOC is expanding its business in Southeast Asia. The relationship between China and Brunei is excellent and the bilateral cooperation is expanding in many fields. I believe that BOCHK Brunei Branch will provide quality financial services to Bruneian as well as Chinese enterprises, serve the local society, and promote the economic and trade cooperation between China and Brunei.”

Mr Xu Luode, Executive Vice President of BOC, said, “The establishment of the Brunei Branch is meaningful and far-reaching. First, it rides on the trend of deepening cooperation between our two countries and will be instrumental in driving further bilateral economic, trade and financial cooperation. Second, it enables BOC Group to extend its service coverage to all ten ASEAN countries with a more comprehensive and convenient suite of financial services to customers in this region. Looking forward, BOCHK Brunei Branch will capitalise on its unique characteristics and strengths to serve as an ambassador between our two countries. Leveraging BOC Group’s competitive edges, Brunei Branch will provide customers in Brunei, ASEAN, Asia and around the world with onshore and offshore financial services, especially RMB, trade finance and private banking services. It endeavours to become a mainstream bank in the local market. While providing financial services, we will also focus on effective risk control and building up good corporate image. We will strive to become a role model in compliance with the financial regulatory requirements for market practitioners.”

Mr Lin Jingzhen, Deputy Chief Executive of BOCHK, said, “BOCHK Brunei Branch is the first overseas institution established under the BOCHK brand. It is an important milestone in BOCHK’s overseas expansion and will facilitate BOCHK’s transformation from a local bank in Hong Kong into a regional bank in Southeast Asia. The year 2017 will mark the centenary of BOC’s presence in Hong Kong. Leveraging its profound overseas experience, solid foundation and strong capital position, BOCHK will tap into the opportunities arising from the establishment of the Brunei Branch. We will further ride on our strengths in cross-border services to offer comprehensive financial services to corporates in both countries, multinational companies, government and financial institutions, as well as personal customers. We are always here to fully support the business development of the Group’s ASEAN institutions along the Belt and Road.”

Located in the heart of ASEAN, Brunei is an important country along the Belt and Road. With a strategic geographic position, it is rich in oil and gas resources. Brunei is politically and economically stable, with favourable investment environment and well-developed infrastructure. In recent years, the Brunei Government is actively diversifying its economy and has introduced a number of measures to attract foreign investments, bringing increasingly more Chinese companies to Brunei.

Setting up a branch in Brunei, BOCHK will leverage its mature financial products, expertise and high-end services capabilities to develop its ASEAN business. We endeavour to provide customers with quality and professional financial services to help them better capture the business opportunities. BOCHK will adopt an integrated regional management approach in BOCHK Brunei Branch and other ASEAN institutions to enhance the BOC Group’s overall business strength and competitiveness in the ASEAN region.

BOCHK Brunei Branch, with Mr Wang Xiaolin as the CEO, provides financial services including corporate banking, syndicated loan, RMB services, cash management, trade finance, non-bank financial institution and public sector services as well as personal banking. BOCHK Brunei Branch is located in Kiarong Jaya Komplek, Lot No. 56244, Simpang 22, Jalan Dato

Ratna, Kampong Kiarong, Bandar Seri Begawan BE1318, Brunei Darussalam. For customer enquiries, please contact + 673 2459888.

Banking services commence at 8:45 am until 4:00 pm from Monday to Thursday. On Friday the branch opens from 8:45 am to 12:00 pm, and from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The branch is closed on Saturday, Sunday, public holiday and from 3:00 pm onwards during Ramadan.

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About Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited (BOCHK) is a leading listed commercial banking group in Hong Kong with strong market positions in all major businesses. It has the most extensive local branch network and diverse service platforms, including about 220 branches, efficient e-channels of over 1,000 self-service machines, as well as Internet and mobile banking services. It offers a comprehensive range of financial, investment and wealth management services to personal, corporate and institutional customers. BOCHK is one of the three note-issuing banks and the Clearing Bank for Renminbi business in Hong Kong. With its strong RMB franchise, BOCHK is the first choice for customers in this business. Through the deep collaboration with its parent bank, BOC, it provides a full range of high quality cross-border services to multinationals, cross-border customers, Mainland enterprises going global, central banks and super-sovereign organisations.

BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited, BOCHK's holding company, is listed on the main board of the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, with stock code "2388", ADR OTC Symbol "BHKLY".