



30 June, 2006

**HSBC PRESENTS CITY OF YOKOHAMA WITH DONATION IN  
COMMEMORATION OF THE 140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
JAPAN'S OLDEST BANK**

**- DONATION TO BE USED FOR THE PRESERVATION AND  
RESTORATION OF HISTORICAL BUILDINGS IN THE CITY -**

HSBC today presented Hiroshi Nakada, Mayor, City of Yokohama, with a JPY1 million donation in aid of the preservation and restoration of historical buildings in the City. HSBC is making the donation to commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the establishment of the HSBC Group in Japan. The founding member of the HSBC Group, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, began operations in Yokohama in 1866, making HSBC the oldest bank operating in Japan today.

HSBC's first Yokohama branch office was established 140 years ago at 62 Yamashitacho, before moving to Nibancho in 1888. Following the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, the branch was totally destroyed before being rebuilt in 1934. The rebuilt branch stood at the present day site of the Sangyo Boeki Center Building (2 Yamashitacho, Naka-ku, Yokohama) until 1973.

Following the establishment of the Yokohama branch, HSBC served as a model of modern banking. Japan's largest overseas bank at the time, the Yokohama Specie Bank, is said to have modeled its constitution on that of HSBC. In addition to financing trade, HSBC also provided the Japanese government with assistance and advice on the introduction and adoption of the yen as the national currency and supported bullion operations for the mint at Osaka.

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Principal members of HSBC in Japan are:  
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited  
HSBC Securities (Japan) Limited  
HSBC Investments(Japan) KK

## **HSBC City of Yokohama Donation/2**

Following the presentation of the donation to the City, Mayor Nakada and Graham Macnaughton, Country Manager, The HSBC Group in Japan, unveiled a monument at the former site of the Yokohama Branch to commemorate the founding of Japan's oldest bank.

Mayor Nakada said, "Throughout its history, Yokohama has served as a vital gateway into Japan. In the mid and late 19<sup>th</sup> century HSBC and other foreign financial institutions set-up operations here firmly establishing the City as the birthplace of modern-day banking and finance in Japan. Through this donation and monument, HSBC is paying tribute to its roots."

Graham Macnaughton commented, "We are proud of our 140 years heritage in Japan. The City of Yokohama holds a very special place in the history of the HSBC Group and played a crucial role in the early development of the Group.

"This donation serves as an acknowledgment to the City of Yokohama for the part it has played over the past 140 years. While Yokohama is very much a forward looking City, it has retained a strong sense of its past by achieving a good balance between the old and the new. The donation will help support the future preservation and restoration of the City's historic buildings."

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### **Notes to editors:**

#### **HSBC Group**

The HSBC Group is one of the largest banking and financial services organizations in the world. The Group has over 9,500 offices in 76 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa, serves over 125 million customers and has assets of US\$1,502 billion at 31 December 2005.

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