



1 April 2008

HSBC APPOINTS YOSHIKAZU KATO AS HEAD OF CORPORATE BANKING IN JAPAN

HSBC, one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations, today announced the appointment of Yoshikazu Kato as Managing Director and Head of Corporate Banking in Japan for The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited effective from 1 April 2008.

In this role Mr. Kato will be responsible for Corporate, Commercial and Investment Banking, Bank Notes, Cash Management, Custody and Clearing, Project & Export Finance and Trade Services businesses in Japan. Locally, he will report to Stuart Milne, President and Chief Executive Officer, Country Manager, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Japan, and functionally to Ed Flanders, Managing Director, Head of Corporate Banking, Asia Pacific, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited.

Commenting on the appointment of Mr. Kato, Country Manager Stuart Milne said, "This appointment demonstrates our strong commitment to further building our corporate banking franchise, particularly among Japanese multinational clients who are increasingly requiring more sophisticated cross-border banking services to support their expanding global operations."

Mr. Kato joins HSBC after spending almost three decades with The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd. (former Bank of Tokyo) where he gained extensive commercial banking experience servicing both domestic and international corporate clients. He has broad overseas experience having spent time in the United States, the Middle East and Europe.

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Notes to editors

HSBC Group

The HSBC Group is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world. The Group has around 10,000 offices in 83 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa, serves over 128 million customers and has assets of US\$2,354 billion as 31 December 2007.

HSBC in Japan

Established in Hong Kong and Shanghai in 1865, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the founding and principal member of the HSBC Group. It opened its first branch in Japan in Yokohama in 1866, and today is the oldest bank operating in Japan. The bank provides corporate financial services to Japanese and multinational corporations and private banking services to high net worth individuals. In January 2008, it launched its wealth management service HSBC Premier, and as of 1 March 2008, this service is offered at two branches in Tokyo.

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