



For Immediate Release

Further Strengthening of Solidarity amongst Brokers seen as the Hong Kong Association of Online Brokers celebrates its 5th Anniversary

HONG KONG, 11 May 2006 – Ten members of the Hong Kong Association of Online Brokers (HKAOB) get together for a joint promotion as part of its celebration for the Association's 5th anniversary. Collaboration on business promotion of such magnitude among so many securities firms in Hong Kong is unheard of.

This promotion allows new customers, who upon successful opening of their accounts from 11 May to 30 September 2006 with any of the ten HKAOB members will be awarded three free executed trades on or before 31 December 2006.

“While the promotion of giving three free trades may seem to be just a token of appreciation for supporters of the Association's members, the spirit of solidarity among the members underlying this promotion carries more significant importance. This driving force ensures that the Association will live up to its objectives with lasting success,” said Mr. Steve Chan, chairman of the HKAOB.

As part of HKAOB's initiatives to build up industry awareness, some interesting figures of the Association were produced. They revealed that members of HKAOB have collectively amassed a work force of 3,619 staff and 319 years of industry experience. Total net asset value and aggregate value of client assets as at 31 December 2005 amounted to around HK\$4.1 billion and HK\$76.5 billion respectively. The state-of-the-art online trading platforms of our members inspired confidence of investors and generated about 2.3 million transactions in 2005. While the total value of round trip online brokerage transactions in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 2005 added up to HK\$180.8 billion, the value of single trip online brokerage transaction via HKAOB members in 2005 amounted to HK\$136.6 billion. This figure means that online brokerage transactions done through HKAOB members in the Hong Kong market in 2005 achieved an aggregate market share of around 38%.

“Given the extensive experience, solid financial background coupled with the significant market share that HKAOB members have collectively attained in 2005, I am confident that the Association will continue to grow from strength to strength and strive for service excellence for investors, improved operating environment for the long-term benefit of the industry as a whole,” Mr. Chan concluded.

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About HKAOB

The Hong Kong Association of Online Brokers (HKAOB) is a collaborative effort amongst Hong Kong's leading online brokers. It strives to promote affable relationships within its industry and also provides a forum for discussion on issues related to the online securities and futures industry at large.