

Press release

Wing Lung Bank's consolidated profit amounting to HKD1,371,514,000 for 2007 and a final dividend of HKD1.50 per share approved at its AGM on 26 April _____

At the AGM of Wing Lung Bank held at its head office on the 26th, the Board of Directors' proposal to pay a final dividend of HKD1.50 per share was approved. The final dividend, together with the interim dividend of HKD0.90 per share already paid last year, make a total dividend of HKD2.40 per share for the year 2007.

The Bank's consolidated net profit for the year 2007 amounted to HKD1,371,514,000, representing a decrease of 14.6% over last year. The Bank's core businesses grew solidly in 2007, with both net interest income and non-interest income recording satisfactory growth. Nevertheless, the impairment allowance made for structured investments and a lower revaluation surplus on investment properties adversely affected the Bank's profit performance.

Total deposits, including structured deposits, grew by 13.2% to HKD71.1 billion. Certificates of deposit of HKD3.3 billion were issued. Total advances grew by 8.1% to HKD41.9 billion. Consolidated total assets amounted to HKD93 billion, representing an increase of 9.5%. Net interest margin dropped by 7 basis points under fierce competition, and the Bank registered a loan-to-deposit ratio of 56.1%.

As pointed out in the Bank's 2007 Annual Report, the US sub-prime turmoil has brought about increased uncertainties to the global economy since the second half of 2007. However, the growing Mainland economy, continuing capital inflows, weakening US Dollar and falling local interest rates to track the US rate cuts helped reinforce domestic investment impetus and energize the local stock and property markets.

The Bank is optimistic about the economy's outlook this year, and will continue to expand its non-interest income businesses, focusing on securities brokerage and wealth management businesses. The Bank will carefully identify strategic locations for new branches in order to service potential customers in different communities.

Looking into 2008, China's economic growth will gradually slow down under its tighter macro control measures. Nevertheless, China will remain a key driving force for economic development of the Asia-Pacific region, and Hong Kong will certainly benefit from Mainland's expanding economy. The Bank has strengthened its strategic focus on further developing mainland businesses to capitalize on the vast business opportunities in the Mainland.