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Exhibition: 'Stories Behind Banknotes'

Organiser: The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Date : 16 July 2010 – 15 August 2010

Venue: Hong Kong Pavilion Atrium, Expo Park Zone A, Pudong

Opening hours: Hong Kong Pavilion - 9.30am – 10.30pm

Contents: A total of 56 banknotes will be featured in the format of display panels and projection

visuals with a video about the making of the 2003 banknote series issued in Hong Kong.

Description: The 'Stories Behind Banknotes' exhibition illustrates the monetary and economic history

of Hong Kong and mainland China through the evolution of paper money. Widely distributed throughout Hong Kong and the mainland, HSBC banknotes and their constantly shifting designs tell a story of trade and financial development and provide a valuable insight into the culture and character of the region. The display links with the broader theme of the Hong Kong Pavilion - 'Hong Kong – the Infinite City' - as a historical exploration of how the advancement of currency increased and strengthened

Hong Kong's 'connectivity' with mainland China in terms of finance and trade.

A comprehensive collection of banknotes reflecting the history of paper money in Hong Kong and the mainland has been carefully preserved by HSBC's Asia-Pacific Archives. The historical value of the collection provides a fascinating insight into the development of paper currency systems in Hong Kong and Shanghai since the 1860s. The exhibits featured in the exhibition represent examples of the finest collection of Hong Kong currency in the world and some of the rarest notes from Shanghai and other note-issuing branches across China. The preservation of such a comprehensive collection of historical notes is unique in the Far East and has ensured the survival of rare and fine quality banknote specimens.

Exhibition highlights: • A selection of HSBC's oldest surviving Hong Kong banknotes, dating to the 1860s.

• A selection of HSBC banknotes issued by the Bank's note-issuing branches in China.

Information prepared by HSBC

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香港館 - 「無限城市一香港」浦東園區,A片區,中國國家館旁 城市最佳實踐區香港展覽 - 「智能卡·智能城市·智能生活」浦西園區,E片區,B4-2展館