

**Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet
as at 31 December 2015
(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)**

	Notes	31 December 2015	30 November 2015
ASSETS			
Foreign currency assets	1	3,272,988	3,279,886
Hong Kong dollar assets	2	<u>155,924</u>	<u>174,811</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>3,428,912</u></u>	<u><u>3,454,697</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY			
Certificates of Indebtedness	3, 7	357,863	348,286
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	3, 5, 7	11,335	11,296
Balance of the banking system	3	391,343	405,308
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	3, 6	827,792	813,713
Placements by banks and other financial institutions		66,907	60,664
Placements by Fiscal Reserves		833,548	831,708
Placements by HKSAR government funds and statutory bodies		280,846	278,101
Other liabilities	4	<u>114,091</u>	<u>147,436</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>2,883,725</u>	<u>2,896,512</u>
Accumulated Surplus		<u>545,187</u>	<u>558,185</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity		<u><u>3,428,912</u></u>	<u><u>3,454,697</u></u>

Notes:

1. These include US dollar assets for backing the Monetary Base as presented in the Currency Board Account separately released.
2. These include lending collateralised by Exchange Fund paper under the Discount Window. There were no such advances at the end of December 2015 and November 2015.
3. A component of the Monetary Base.
4. These include interest payable on Exchange Fund paper and accounts payable under Currency Board operations.
5. Commencing September 2002, ten dollar currency notes issued by the Government are included in this item.
6. In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong, for the purpose of balance sheet presentation, Exchange Fund Bills and Notes held as assets of the Exchange Fund are applied to offset the corresponding liabilities. As a result, the amount of Exchange Fund Bills and Notes in this Abridged Balance Sheet is smaller than that shown in the Currency Board Account by the amount offset.
7. In accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong, for the purpose of balance sheet presentation, Certificates of Indebtedness and Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation are stated at cost, which are the Hong Kong dollars equivalent of the US dollars required for their redemption at the exchange rate ruling at the balance sheet date. As a result, the figures for the Certificates of Indebtedness and Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation in the Abridged Balance Sheet are different from those shown in the Currency Board Account, which represent the Hong Kong dollar face value.

**Exchange Fund
Currency Board Account
as at 31 December 2015
(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)**

	Notes	31 December 2015 (Market Value)	30 November 2015 (Market Value)
MONETARY BASE			
Certificates of Indebtedness		360,165	350,445
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation		11,408	11,366
Balance of the banking system		391,343	405,308
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	3,4	829,791	815,713
Interest payable on Exchange Fund Notes		145	338
Net accounts (receivable)/payable	3,5,7	(1,128)	(1,190)
Total	1,3	1,591,724	1,581,980 (a)
BACKING ASSETS			
Investment in designated US dollar assets		1,695,018	1,715,590
Interest receivable on designated US dollar assets		1,310	1,087
Net accounts receivable/(payable)	6	(3,872)	(33,278)
Total	2	1,692,456	1,683,399 (b)
BACKING RATIO [(b) / (a)] * 100%	8	106.33%	106.41%

Notes :

1. Movements in the Monetary Base during the period were as follows:

	<u>HK\$ million</u>
Balance brought forward	1,581,980
Increase/(decrease) in Certificates of Indebtedness	9,720
Increase/(decrease) in Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	42
Net issue/(net redemption) of Exchange Fund Bills and Notes	14,177
Accrued interest on Exchange Fund Notes	74
Settlement of accrued interest on Exchange Fund Notes	(267)
Amortised discount/(premium) on Exchange Fund Bills and Notes	12
Revaluation losses/(gains) relating to Exchange Fund Bills and Notes	(111)
Settlement of accrued interest income/(expenses) on interest rate swaps	55
Net interest expense/(income) on interest rate swaps	(36)
Revaluation losses/(gains) relating to interest rate swaps	43
Increase/(decrease) in balance of the banking system other than due to Discount Window Operations	(13,965)
Balance carried forward	<u>1,591,724</u>

2. Movements in the Backing Assets during the period were as follows:

	<u>HK\$ million</u>
Balance brought forward	1,683,399
Increase/(decrease) on issue/(redemption) of Certificates of Indebtedness	9,720
Increase/(decrease) on issue/(redemption) of Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	42
Interest from investments	723
Revaluation gains/(losses) relating to investments	(1,428)
Balance carried forward	<u><u>1,692,456</u></u>

3. Discount Window Operations:

- (i) Discount Window Operations involve Hong Kong dollar overnight advances made to banks by way of crediting their accounts maintained with the HKMA (which is part of the balance of the banking system) on discounting Exchange Fund Bills and Notes. In accordance with generally accepted accounting practice, the Exchange Fund Bills and Notes discounted with the HKMA are not accounted for as reductions in the liabilities of the HKMA but are regarded as securities held against the advances so made.
- (ii) For the purpose of this Account, the advances to banks secured on Exchange Fund Bills and Notes are shown as deductions in arriving at the Monetary Base. There were no such advances at 31 December and 30 November 2015.

4. Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued:

- (i) Starting from 1 April 1999, interest payments on Exchange Fund Bills and Notes have been allowed to increase the amount of outstanding Exchange Fund paper.
 - (ii) Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued include Exchange Fund Bills and Notes held as assets of the Exchange Fund.
5. In accordance with the accounting policies adopted by the Exchange Fund, Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued on tender date but not yet settled are included in "Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued". For the purpose of this Account, the corresponding accounts receivable are shown as deduction in arriving at the Monetary Base. There were no such receivables at 31 December and 30 November 2015.
6. This represents the net amount of receivable and payable for unsettled transactions of investments and issuance/redemption of Certificates of Indebtedness.
7. Starting from June 2001, Hong Kong dollar interest rate swaps have been used as a means to manage the cost of issuing Exchange Fund Notes. For the purpose of this Account, interest payable/(receivable) and revaluation losses/(gains) on these interest rate swaps are shown as a component of the Monetary Base and are included in "Net accounts (receivable)/payable".
8. It should be noted that the whole of the Exchange Fund assets, not just the Backing Assets, are available for the purpose of defending the linked exchange rate.