

**Exchange Fund Abridged Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2017
(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)**

	Notes	31 March 2017	28 February 2017
ASSETS			
Foreign currency assets	1	3,512,245	3,494,249
Hong Kong dollar assets	2	<u>252,570</u>	<u>330,796</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>3,764,815</u></u>	<u><u>3,825,045</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY			
Certificates of Indebtedness	3, 7	412,741	411,664
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	3, 5, 7	12,019	12,131
Balance of the banking system	3	259,519	259,608
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	3, 6	963,149	1,019,005
Placements by banks and other financial institutions		56,136	57,682
Placements by Fiscal Reserves		964,736	965,768
Placements by HKSAR government funds and statutory bodies		313,596	310,942
Other liabilities	4	<u>191,388</u>	<u>206,134</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>3,173,284</u>	<u>3,242,934</u>
Accumulated Surplus		<u>591,531</u>	<u>582,111</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity		<u><u>3,764,815</u></u>	<u><u>3,825,045</u></u>

Notes:

- These include US dollar assets for backing the Monetary Base as presented in the Currency Board Account separately released.
- These include lending collateralised by Exchange Fund paper under the Discount Window. There were no such advances at the end of March and February 2017.
- A component of the Monetary Base.
- These include interest payable on Exchange Fund paper and accounts payable under Currency Board operations.
- Commencing September 2002, ten dollar currency notes issued by the Government are included in this item.
- 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.
- 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 March 2017
(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)**

	Notes	31 March 2017 (Market Value)	28 February 2017 (Market Value)
MONETARY BASE			
Certificates of Indebtedness		414,255	413,655
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation		12,063	12,190
Balance of the banking system		259,519	259,608
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	3,4	965,148	1,020,603
Interest payable on Exchange Fund Notes		136	125
Net accounts (receivable)/payable	3,5,7	(526)	(56,843)
Total	1,3	1,650,595	1,649,338 (a)
BACKING ASSETS			
Investment in designated US dollar assets		1,777,918	1,797,677
Interest receivable on designated US dollar assets		1,603	1,414
Net accounts receivable/(payable)	6	(13,165)	(36,381)
Total	2	1,766,356	1,762,710 (b)
BACKING RATIO [(b) / (a)] * 100%	8	107.01%	106.87%

Notes :

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

	<u>HK\$ million</u>
Balance brought forward	1,649,338
Increase/(decrease) in Certificates of Indebtedness	600
Increase/(decrease) in Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	(127)
Net issue/(net redemption) of Exchange Fund Bills and Notes	(56,228)
(Increase)/decrease in Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued but not yet settled	56,320
Accrued interest on Exchange Fund Notes	58
Settlement of accrued interest on Exchange Fund Notes	(47)
Amortised discount/(premium) on Exchange Fund Bills and Notes	456
Revaluation losses/(gains) relating to Exchange Fund Bills and Notes	316
Settlement of accrued interest income/(expenses) on interest rate swaps	45
Net interest expense/(income) on interest rate swaps	(28)
Revaluation losses/(gains) relating to interest rate swaps	(19)
Increase/(decrease) in balance of the banking system other than due to Discount Window Operations	(89)
Balance carried forward	<u>1,650,595</u>

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

	<u>HK\$ million</u>
Balance brought forward	1,762,710
Increase/(decrease) on issue/(redemption) of Certificates of Indebtedness	600
Increase/(decrease) on issue/(redemption) of Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	(127)
Interest from investments	1,340
Revaluation gains/(losses) relating to investments	1,833
Balance carried forward	<u><u>1,766,356</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 March and 28 February 2017.

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 deductions in arriving at the Monetary Base. There were no such receivables at 31 March 2017 (HK\$56.3 billion at 28 February 2017).

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.