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OCBC BANK SEEKS BUYERS FOR NON-CORE PROPERTIES AND COMMENCES ACTIVE SHARE BUY-BACK PROGRAM

Singapore, 9 April 2001 - In view of rising expectations on the proposed course of action for Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited's ("OCBC Bank") non-core properties, OCBC Bank announces today that it has been in discussions with a number of parties, with Goldman Sachs as advisors, over the past six months, with a view to arranging a disposal of all non-core properties as a single, structured transaction.

Unfortunately, the recent changes in market conditions, notably the further softening of the Singapore property market and the weakness in global equity markets, have rendered the structured approach unfeasible.

Mr Alex Au, Vice-Chairman and CEO of OCBC Bank, said "The most important task is to ensure that we realise the maximum possible value from these properties on behalf of our shareholders. It transpired during the final stage of negotiations that a structured approach was no longer possible in the current market conditions."

OCBC Bank is now considering a direct sale approach which would represent a change in strategy for the Bank. The total portfolio of non-core property holdings was valued at S\$1.4 billion as of 30 September 2000, of which nine major properties accounted for approximately 84% of the total valuation. OCBC Bank's Chief Financial Officer, Chris Matten, cautioned that it would be difficult to realise these values in current market conditions. The book value of the total portfolio of non-core property holdings is S\$302 million.

OCBC Bank will keep the market informed as the sale process develops.

In the meantime, OCBC Bank is pressing ahead with the commencement of an active capital management program, by announcing the re-purchase of S\$500 million worth of ordinary shares over the next 12 months. The re-purchase will take the form of an on-market buy-back program, under an existing mandate which will allow the Bank to re-purchase up to 5% of its shares over a 12-month period. The shareholders will be asked at the Bank's Annual General Meeting on 17 May 2001 to renew this mandate for the subsequent 12 months.

Mr Au emphasised that the Bank intends to bring its capital ratios down to levels more consistent with global competitors. OCBC Bank intends to lower its capital levels significantly over the next two years, via a combination of capital management, organic growth and strategic acquisitions (provided that these are consistent with the Bank's strategic goals and demonstrably, add value for shareholders).

About OCBC Bank

With total assets of S\$60 billion, and a staff force of 6,400 in 89 branches and representative offices in 13 countries, OCBC Bank (which was founded in 1932) now ranks as one of the largest banks incorporated in Singapore. In 2000, it reported a profit attributable to shareholders of S\$840 million.

OCBC Bank's mission is to be a world-class financial institution in Asia Pacific. This it seeks to achieve by the provision of superior customer service, particularly through the use of technology. A leading eCommerce financial player, OCBC Bank owns Bank of Singapore Limited (BOS), which is positioned to pursue global innovative eCommerce initiatives in the buyer-advocate space. BOS comprises finatq.com, the consumer division; finixis.com, a financial and business solutions hub; and eVentures, a venture investment arm.