



ARCHIVED
MEDIA RELEASE

OCBC GROUP OUTLINES RELIEF MEASURES TO ASSIST RETRENCHED EMPLOYEES

Singapore, 6 March 2002 - Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited ("OCBC Group") today announces a series of relief measures to assist the 229 employees who were retrenched today as a result of the recent integration of the OCBC Group and Keppel Capital Holdings and its subsidiaries, including Keppel TatLee Bank.

In addition to the severance package for retrenched employees, the Group has arranged to extend to them the preferential rates for any outstanding staff loans, as well as Group Term Life Insurance, for the next 12 months. Eligible executives will also be given up to a year to exercise their share options, and the OCBC Group will continue to honor bursaries and scholarships that have been awarded to children of the retrenched employees.

Arrangements will be in place to allow affected staff to continue to use their computers, without compromising data security. "Buddies" have also been assigned to support affected staff emotionally, as well as to assist them to pack their personal belongings and arrange for these to be sent to their homes. The Bank has also arranged with outplacement services to provide counselling service, as well as transition workshops to help affected employees cope with the transition to other employment, including interviews, job search and resume writing courses. In preparation, external consultants have been engaged to specifically train managers to handle the notifications with tact and sensitivity, as well as to manage any concerns of remaining staff through change mastery programmes.

Ms Cynthia Tan, Head Group Human Resources, noted: "It is not easy for someone to be told that he or she no longer has a role to play in the organisation. It is important to the Bank that they are treated with fairness and with dignity."

Mr Alex Au, Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of OCBC Group, said: "Retrenchment was a last resort, with every effort made by management to review employees' skills and suitability for vacant positions within the Bank. Through these efforts, we have managed to retrain and re-deploy about 60 staff made redundant due to job overlaps. In implementing the inevitable reduction in headcount, the Group will continue to act with sensitivity and compassion. In addition to an equitable severance package, we have also conscientiously assisted affected employees to make the transition as humane and painless as possible."

About OCBC Bank

OCBC Bank is a Singapore-based financial services group offering a broad range of financial services, including consumer, corporate and international banking, investment management, global treasury, stockbroking and eFinancial services.

In August 2001, OCBC Bank acquired Keppel Capital Holdings Ltd and all its subsidiaries, including Keppel TatLee Bank Limited, Keppel Securities Private Limited and Keppel TatLee Finance Limited. On 25 February 2002, OCBC Bank and Keppel TatLee Bank were operationally and legally integrated, representing an important step forward in OCBC Bank's mission to be a world-class financial institution in Asia Pacific.

The OCBC Group has total assets of S\$85 billion. The Bank has branches and representative offices in 14 countries, including Malaysia, China, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Australia, UK and USA. In Asia, it has one of the most extensive networks among regional banks. For the financial year ended 31 December 2001, OCBC Bank achieved a profit attributable to shareholders of S\$785 million.

A leading eCommerce financial services provider, OCBC Bank is being transformed into a 'click-and-mortar' bank, and is well positioned to pursue global innovative eCommerce initiatives. By leveraging on its rich heritage, innovative spirit and entrepreneurial management outlook, OCBC Bank is committed to helping its customers, shareholders and staff grow from strength to strength.