

**OCBC BANK IS FIRST TO DISTRIBUTE A NEW INSURANCE
PLAN THAT PROVIDES CUSTOMERS WITH
COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROTECTION
UNDER ONE SINGLE POLICY**

Singapore, 7 August 2006 – OCBC Bank has taken the lead to distribute a new holistic insurance plan that promises comprehensive health protection for customers, helping them be better financially prepared for unexpected health and medical costs in the event of hospitalisation, critical illness or long-term injury.

The new OCBC Bank **MaxHealth Vantage** by OCBC Bank will include Hospital & Surgical Benefits (H&S), Critical Illness Protection (CI), Disability Income (DI) or Long-Term Care (LTC) options for customers under a single policy, matching their liabilities with sufficient coverage.

With conventional 'Shield' plans available today designed only to assist patients pay for catastrophic hospitalisation bills, usually involving a co-payment scheme, many today do not have sufficient insurance coverage when faced with unexpected medical contingencies, resulting in harsh changes to their lifestyle or hardships to them and their family.

"In the event of illnesses and other diseases or injuries, patients may undergo surgery and be subjected to prolonged hospitalisation, resulting in the loss of income and possibly the ability to care for themselves and provide for their family," said Mr Nicholas Tan, Head of Group Wealth Management, Group Consumer Financial Services, OCBC Bank. "And from our observations, we have found that there is no single insurance plan available in Singapore today that offers customers total assurance during those difficult times."

Although similar H&S protection plans are currently available in the market, those plans still require customers to purchase separate packages or rely on riders to their existing policies for additional coverage such as disability income and long-term care benefits to ensure complete protection. However, with **MaxHealth Vantage**, they can be assured that all their protection needs are taken care of with one simple plan.

"This new plan was created as an all-encompassing policy that will provide comprehensive protection for customers and their children. Few of us know the extent to which we are protected where health and medical insurance is concerned, much less put together a complete medical and health insurance plan. With medical costs expected to increase over time, a simple, one-stop solution that gives a base level of comfort is lacking in the market today. This is where **MaxHealth Vantage** comes in," added Mr Tan.

The full range of benefits offered under this new and unique plan includes reimbursements for all hospital and surgical expenses, lump sum payment upon diagnosis of any 30 critical illnesses and replacement of income in the event that the patient is unable to perform the duties of his or her last occupation. And upon retirement, Disability Income benefits will automatically be switched to Long-term Care benefits. This will address a customer's health and medical concerns, giving him or her a peace of mind.

Customers can also enjoy Junior Critical Illness Benefits for their children aged below 18. This provides coverage on 10 additional critical illnesses which children are at risk to, in addition to hospitalisation benefits for Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD). As such, anyone aged between 15 days and 60 years old is eligible for coverage under **MaxHealth Vantage**, with guaranteed renewal of up to 70 years old.

"Not all medical contingencies that require hospital stay will be financially covered by 'Shield' plans. By the same token, there are many common but non-critical illnesses that may require hospitalisation. This is especially true when it comes to childhood illnesses. In both instances, the inevitable result is a hospital bill that has to be settled mostly with hard cash. Things may get worse if the medical condition requires long term treatment or results in a drastic change in lifestyle. **MaxHealth Vantage** was designed primarily to address these concerns so that customers can have more comprehensive protection in a single solution," added Mr Tan.

About OCBC Bank

Singapore's longest established local bank, OCBC Bank, currently has assets of S\$134 billion and a network of over 310 branches and representative offices in 15 countries and territories including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong SAR, Brunei, Japan, Australia, UK and USA. This network includes more than 200 branches and offices in Indonesia operated by OCBC Bank's subsidiary, PT Bank NISP. OCBC Bank and its banking subsidiaries offer a wide range of specialist financial services, from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to global treasury and stockbroking services to meet the needs of its customers across communities.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the largest insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia, in terms of assets and market share, and its asset management subsidiary, Lion Capital Management, is one of the largest asset management companies in Southeast Asia.

In 2005, OCBC Bank was named *Global Finance* magazine's Best Trade Finance Bank and *FinanceAsia*'s Best Bond House. Additional information may be found at www.ocbc.com.