



MEDIA RELEASE

OCBC BANK IS THE FIRST LOCAL BANK TO LAUNCH SHARIAH-COMPLIANT TERM DEPOSIT IN SINGAPORE FOR MUSLIM ORGANISATIONS

The Shariah-Compliant Term Deposit is offered in local and foreign currencies

Singapore, 8 February 2006 - OCBC Bank continues its momentum in Islamic Banking in Singapore with the launch of the first Shariah-Compliant Term Deposit in Singapore targeted at Muslim organisations. This Term Deposit will be sold wholesale to Muslim corporates, financial institutions, mosques and non-profit organisations. The launch of this product also heralds one of the first Shariah-Compliant term deposits in the region that gives customers upfront information on the returns when they place their deposits.

Mr Ismail Bin Syed Ahmad, General Manager of OCBC Brunei Branch and Head of the Treasury Islamic Banking Unit in Singapore commented, "By offering the Shariah-Compliant Term Deposit to Muslim organisations, we are opening up new avenues for them to place their funds in Shariah-approved products that offer competitive returns."

"Since 2004, we have sold these deposits on a selective and targeted basis to Muslim financial institutions in the region. The response has been encouraging, demonstrating that there is strong demand for such Shariah-Compliant products. Therefore, we decided to offer the opportunity for other Muslim organisations such as corporates, mosques and non-profit organisations to access such products."

The Shariah-Compliant Term Deposit is offered in a range of currencies – the OCBC Islamic Treasury Facility (OITF) is denominated in Singapore Dollar whilst the OCBC Ijarah Participating Facility (OIPF) is denominated in major foreign currencies namely USD, EUR, AUD & GBP.

The minimum deposit for the OITF and OIPF is \$100,000 for each currency, with tenure period ranging from three to 12 months. The OITF and OIPF are approved by the Shariah Advisory Council and the funds are invested in Shariah-approved assets.

About OCBC Bank's focus on Islamic Banking

In recent years, OCBC Bank has made steady progress in expanding its offering of Islamic Banking products and services for various target segments. This is in line with the Bank's aspiration to be the forerunner in developing Shariah compliant products and services for the Muslim community.

In Singapore, OCBC Bank was the first bank to launch Islamic deposit products in the form of Al-Wadiah Savings and Al-Wadiah Current Accounts for individual and corporate customers in 1998. In 2004, OCBC Bank launched Singapore's first Zakat Auto-Deduction Facility, a valued-added service that provides Muslim customers with a convenient and disciplined way to pay their obligatory tithe to the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS).

In July 2005, OCBC Bank opened its first full-fledged Islamic Banking branch in Brunei Darussalam and is one of the first foreign banks to be granted a full International Islamic Banking Licence from the Brunei International Financial Centre, a government agency for the financial sector.

OCBC Bank is also the first bank to appoint a permanent Shariah Council in Singapore, who will advise and ensure that the operations as well as activities of the Bank comply with Shariah principles.

About OCBC Bank

Singapore's longest established local bank, OCBC Bank currently has assets of S\$134 billion and a network of 313 branches and representative offices in 15 countries and territories including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong SAR, Brunei, Japan, Australia, UK and USA. This network includes 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 Ltd. 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.
