



OVERSEA-CHINESE BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore)

SALE OF 49.8% STAKE IN RAFFLES INVESTMENTS LIMITED

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited (“**OCBC Bank**”) wishes to announce that its wholly-owned subsidiary, Select Securities Limited, has today entered into a sale and purchase agreement with Aequitas Pte Ltd (“**Aequitas**”), for the sale (the “**Sale**”) of 2,354,500 shares (“**Sale Shares**”) in the capital of Raffles Investments Limited (“**RIL**”) representing 49.8% of the issued share capital of RIL for a cash consideration of S\$121.7 million or S\$51.70 per share. The Sale is in line with OCBC Bank’s on-going initiatives to divest non core investments. Immediately upon the completion of the Sale, RIL will cease to be a subsidiary of OCBC Bank.

Great Eastern Holdings Limited, a subsidiary of OCBC Bank, holds approximately 0.7% of the issued share capital of RIL. Certain companies affiliated with Mr Lee Seng Wee and Dr Lee Tih Shih, Directors of OCBC Bank, hold in aggregate approximately 5.5% of the issued share capital of RIL.

RIL is incorporated in Singapore as a public limited company. The principal activities of RIL and subsidiaries (“**RIL Group**”) are that of investing holding and investment dealing.

The consideration was arrived at based on arm’s length negotiations on a willing-buyer willing-seller basis taking into consideration, *inter alia*, the net tangible assets of the RIL Group, the current estimated market value of the securities held by RIL Group and other factors.

In accordance with Rule 14 of The Singapore Code on Take-overs and Mergers, Aequitas will make a mandatory unconditional cash offer for RIL (“**Offer**”). For more information on the Offer, please visit the website of Aequitas at www.Aequitas.com.sg.

Financial Effects

The net book value of the Sale Shares (including the equity accounted reserves) as at 30 June 2004 is estimated to be S\$68.9 million. OCBC Bank is expected to realise a gain of approximately S\$52.8 million from the sale in the financial year ending 31 December 2004.

Interests

Datuk Fong Weng Phak, a Director of OCBC Bank, is a director of certain entities affiliated with Aequitas. Save as disclosed above, none of the Directors or substantial shareholders of OCBC Bank has any interest, direct or indirect, in the Sale.

Issued by

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited

Peter Yeoh

Company Secretary

12 July 2004