



PRESS RELEASE:

KASIKORNBANK believes that the new Financial Sector Master Plan provides the Bank with a number of value-enhancing strategic and growth opportunities in its existing businesses and potential new businesses which are consistent with its strategy to become a universal bank providing a full range of services allowed under the Master Plan. KASIKORNBANK also intends to proactively strengthen its capital base and provisioning to be more in line with international standards and Basel II.

Accordingly, KASIKORNBANK announced today that its Board of Directors has approved an increase of its authorized shares by 650 million shares. The Board believes that this will provide the Bank with greater flexibility to pursue various strategic and growth opportunities in the Thai financial sector and to proactively implement international capital and provisioning standards. The terms and conditions of any offering undertaken by the Bank will be subject to the discretion and approval of the Board, in accordance with applicable law.

In addition, KASIKORNBANK plans to seek shareholder approval during the upcoming annual general meeting in April to eliminate its retained loss in order to provide the Bank with the flexibility to pay dividends in the future.

KASIKORNBANK President Banthoon Lamsam commented that “these actions will enhance the ability of the Bank to take advantage of strategic and growth opportunities and enable the Bank to achieve greater performance and increase shareholder value over the long term.”

This press release is not an offer of securities for sale in the United States or elsewhere.

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