Commonwealth Bank

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Dear Sir

Commonwealth Bank announces divestment of Hong Kong insurance business

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia advises that it has entered into an agreement to sell its Hong Kong based life insurance, pensions administration and financial planning businesses to Sun Life Financial for a price of approximately A\$600 million. These businesses constitute CMG Asia, CommServe and Financial Solutions. The transaction, targeted for completion within three months, is subject to regulatory approvals.

The Commonwealth Bank was approached by Sun Life Financial which was seeking to expand its market presence in Asia. Both parties are working together to deliver a smooth transition.

With the exception of around twenty employees who will be redeployed by the Commonwealth Bank to assist with the development of the Bank's other businesses in the region, the staff and sales force will move with the business.

Sun Life Financial has operated in Hong Kong for more than a century and has ambitions to expand its life insurance operations in Asia.

The Commonwealth Bank will retain its banking and funds management businesses in Hong Kong together with its joint venture with the Cheung Kong Group. Following recent investments in Jinan City Commercial Bank and Hangzhou City Commercial Bank, the Bank remains committed to the development of its strategic initiatives in Asia.

Yours sincerely

J D Hatton