

EMBARGOED MIDNIGHT 12 MARCH

FTSE ALL-WORLD ASIA PACIFIC INDEX REVIEW
Esprit and KMB Holdings added to index

Hong Kong, 13 March 2003, – The FTSE Asia Pacific Regional Committee conducted its first collective review of the FTSE All-World Asia Pacific ex Japan Index on Tuesday, 11 March 2003. The index covers 13 Asia Pacific markets. The constituent changes will become effective after the close of business on Friday, 21 March 2003 (ie. on Monday 24 March 2003).

The review covers the developed markets of Australia, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Singapore, the Advanced Emerging Markets of Korea and Taiwan; as well as the Emerging Markets of China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia the Philippines, Pakistan and Thailand.

Mr Graham Colbourne, Chairman, FTSE Asia Pacific, said that the transparent methodology, free float weightings and consequent predictability of FTSE Indices would ensure no surprises when the indices are reviewed. “FTSE provides an independent and transparent service that enables our clients to make better decisions,” Mr Colbourne said.

Changes to the developed markets are minimal, reflecting market stability in the region. The FTSE All-World Index for Hong Kong sees the addition of Esprit Holdings Ltd and three local companies: Kowloon Motor Bus Holdings Ltd, Tingyi Holding Corp and Denway Motors Ltd.

Singapore telecommunication service provider MobileOne, which earlier this year reported earnings of S\$128.4 million for 2002, was added to the FTSE All-World Index for Singapore, together with Great Eastern Holdings.

India, Korea and Taiwan saw the most activity, with the addition of 15, 18 and 69 companies respectively. In Taiwan, the computer hardware and financial sectors dominated the list of new constituents, reflecting the industrial make-up of Taiwan. EVA Airways and Chunghwa Telecom will also be added.

The FTSE All-World Index for China will include three Hong Kong listed state-owned enterprises, also known as H-Share companies, Byd, Tsingtao Brewery and Anhui Conch Cement. Three Mainland-listed B-Share companies will also be added.

This is the first review under FTSE's new review structure, which replaces the former practice of conducting quarterly meetings resulting in annual and biennial constituent changes for developed markets and emerging markets respectively.

According to Mr Colbourne, this new structure will be more cost-effective for FTSE clients and benchmark users, while heightening the indices' transparency. "FTSE's commitment to providing an accurate reflection of investment opportunities is supported by this new structure," said Mr Colbourne.

The FTSE Asia Pacific Regional Committee meets twice a year, in March to review Asia Pacific ex Japan and in September to review Japan. .

All new constituents to FTSE indices will be weighted in accordance with the Ground Rules located on the same site.

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Notes to Editors

About FTSE Group

FTSE Group is a world-leader in the creation and management of indices. With offices in London, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Madrid, Paris, New York, San Francisco and Tokyo, FTSE Group services clients in 77 countries worldwide. It manages and develops globally recognised indices ranging from the FTSE All-World Index to the FTSE 100, the FTSE4Good indices and the recently launched FTSE Global Style Index Series. The company has collaborative arrangements with the AMEX, Athens, Cyprus, Euronext, Johannesburg, London, Luxembourg, and Madrid exchanges, as well as with Nikkei of Japan (Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc) and Xinhua Financial Network of China.

FTSE indices are used extensively by investors world-wide for investment analysis, performance measurement, asset allocation, portfolio hedging and for creating a wide range of index tracking funds. Independent committees of senior fund managers, derivatives experts, actuaries and other experienced practitioners review all changes to the indices to ensure that they are made objectively and without bias. Real-time FTSE indices are calculated on systems managed by Reuters. Prices and FX rates used are supplied by Reuters.

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