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HANG SENG INDEXES CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HANG SENG INDEX BASE DATE

Hang Seng Indexes Company Limited (Hang Seng Indexes), a wholly owned subsidiary of Hang Seng Bank and the leading compiler of indexes covering Hong Kong and mainland China, today held a cocktail reception to mark the 50th anniversary of the base date of its flagship index, the Hang Seng Index (HSI).

The HSI started at 100 points on its base date of 31 July 1964 and was launched to the public on 24 November 1969. On 31 July 2014, the Index closed at 24,756.85 – about 250 times higher than its base value.

Mr John Tsang, Financial Secretary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government; Ms Rose Lee, Chairman of Hang Seng Index Advisory Committee; and Mr Vincent Kwan, Director and General Manager of Hang Seng Indexes, officiated at the ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Tsang said: “Considered by many to be the leading barometer of the Hong Kong stock market, the Hang Seng Index provides a comprehensive picture of the Hong Kong economy. This important index is widely recognised by investors all over the world. The Hang Seng Index is comparable to other major international stock indexes such as the Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 in the US and the FTSE 100 in London, and is globally rated as an important reference index.”

Ms Lee said: “The valuable role played by the Hang Seng Index over the years reflects the vision of Hang Seng’s early pioneers – particularly former Chairman the late Dr Lee Quo-Wei, who initiated the establishment of the index. This in-house tool was so useful that it was shared with the general public.

“Fifty years on from the HSI’s base date, Hang Seng Indexes is actively developing indexes related to the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect for those with an interest in China’s markets. Initiatives such as the Qianhai Cooperation Zone and growing economic ties between Shenzhen and Hong Kong are also providing new opportunities for the compilation of new indexes,” added Ms Lee.

The 50th anniversary reception featured an exhibition of major milestones in HSI’s journey to its current position as the leading barometer of the performance of the Hong Kong stock market. Historical documents highlighting the Index’s development were also on display.

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Throughout its history, the HSI has continued to evolve in line with the changing needs of the market. The number of constituents has grown from 30 in 1964 to 50 today, and now includes Hong Kong ordinary shares, Red Chips, H-shares and other Hong Kong-listed Mainland companies. There are seven current HSI constituents whose stock performance has been continuously tracked for the past 50 years: CLP Holdings, The HK & China Gas, The Wharf (Holdings), HSBC Holdings, Power Assets Holdings, Hutchison Whampoa and Swire Pacific.

Hang Seng Indexes has grown beyond the compilation and management of the HSI to develop and manage a diverse range of indexes in five categories: Flagship Indexes, Benchmark Indexes, Thematic Indexes, Strategy Indexes and Bond Indexes. The Hang Seng Family of Indexes currently includes about 400 indexes. The number of exchange-traded products linked to these indexes is 28 – with listings on 18 different stock exchanges across the world and a total of more than US\$17 billion in assets under management.

About Hang Seng Indexes Company Limited

The Hang Seng Family of Indexes is managed and compiled by Hang Seng Indexes Company Limited (formerly HSI Services Limited), which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hang Seng Bank. The Hang Seng Family of Indexes comprises a wide range of Flagship, Benchmark, Thematic, Strategy and Bond indexes that cover stocks/bonds listed in Hong Kong/mainland China markets. For further information on the Hang Seng Family of Indexes, please visit the company's website at www.hsi.com.hk.

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