

Roles and Responsibilities of the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee (“AC”) has the authority to review all matters related to financial statements and disclosure, audit work performed by internal and external auditors, internal control systems, risk management system and compliance for the whole Group. The AC reports to the Board following each AC meeting, drawing the Board’s attention to significant issues or matters of which the Board should be aware, identifying any matters in respect of which it considers that action or improvement is needed, and making relevant recommendations.

The AC meets at least 4 times a year with the presence of the Bank’s executives including the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Group Chief Financial Officer, Group Financial Controller, Group Chief Risk Officer and Group Head of Risk Management, Group Chief Credit Officer, Group Head of Internal Audit, and representatives from the Bank’s external auditor. Special meetings of the AC are held when necessary.

The AC was established with written terms of reference and its major roles and functions are as follows:

- To ensure the objectivity and credibility of financial reporting
- To review the internal control system and compliance with regulatory requirements
- To make recommendation to the Board on the appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditor and to approve the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external auditor
- To review and monitor the external auditors’ independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process in accordance with applicable standards
- To approve the appointment, resignation or dismissal of the head of internal audit
- To approve audit plans
- To review the effectiveness of the internal audit function
- To review findings and reports of the internal and external auditors
- To review and monitor the integrity of the Bank’s annual and interim financial statements, including significant financial reporting judgements used in producing the financial statements
- To review the Bank’s internal controls and reports its major findings and comments to the Board