

Press Release For Immediate Release

Industry Conference to Address Key Leadership and Talent Issues in an Evolving Financial Industry Landscape

Singapore, 24 June 2010 – Leaders from the central bank, financial institutions and academia convene at the Shangri-La Hotel today as part of The Institute of Banking and Finance’s (IBF) 4th Annual Conference entitled - “Enhancing Competitive Advantage – Key Talent and Leadership Strategies.” The theme reflects the pressing need for business leaders to not only build a competitive advantage while adjusting to increasingly complex financial markets with tighter regulation, but also develop and manage top talent, against a backdrop of a tightening talent market.

This year, the IBF Annual Conference features Professor Adrian Furnham, Professor of Psychology, University College London and Visiting Professor of Management, Henley Management College; and Professor Ron Collard, Partner, Financial Services Industry Practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers Singapore.

Using case studies from both the financial and other sectors, Professors Adrian Furnham and Ron Collard discuss the fundamental issues of talent management, derailment patterns of leaders and top performing employees, and how to motivate and reward top talent.

To further expound on talent management and leadership issues, the Conference also features a plenary discussion comprising the following four industry veterans: Mr David Conner, Director and Chief Executive Officer, OCBC Bank Ltd; Mr Ray Ferguson, Regional Chief Executive Officer, Singapore and South East Asia, Standard Chartered Bank; and Mr Seck Wai Kwong, Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Singapore Exchange Limited and Vice Chairman of the FICS¹ Steering Committee; and Mr Peter Douglas, Principal, GFIA Pte Ltd and Distinguished FICP² 2009. The panelists share their insights on the following issues:

- Significant leadership challenges in the industry - key leadership approaches and strategies in response to leadership challenges.
- How financial institutions in Asia had fared compared to their Western counterparts in addressing these challenges.
- How to prevent leadership derailment in Asia.

¹ FICS refers to the Financial Industry Competency Standards, a competency framework developed to enhance the standards of the financial workforce.

² FICP refers to Financial Industry Certified Professional, a designation accorded to professionals in the financial industry who embody professional competence and commitment to excellence, and serve as a beacon of excellence for our financial services industry.

As financial institutions seek to enhance competitive advantage, the spotlight focuses on the business critical need to invest in the professional development and competencies of industry practitioners. The Financial Industry Competency Standards (FICS) is a national initiative that addresses this need. A comprehensive quality assurance framework with a certification and accreditation system, FICS provides a compelling roadmap for professional development of professionals in the industry. Up to the 1st quarter of this year, about 4,000 financial practitioners have been trained and 1,500 financial practitioners assessed to be competent under FICS, more than 2-fold increase compared to about 1,700 trained and 650 assessed at the same time last year. Over 160 financial institutions have sponsored their staff for these programmes, doubling the number last year.

Alongside the IBF Annual Conference is the Financial Industry Competency Standards (FICS) Training Fair, featuring the latest FICS programmes offered by IBF's five lead providers – Financial Training Institute @ Singapore Management University, International Compliance Association, Risk Management Institute @ National University of Singapore, Singapore College of Insurance and Wealth Management Institute.

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About IBF

The Institute of Banking & Finance (IBF) was established in November 1974 to upgrade expertise in the financial industry in Singapore. Since then, IBF's focus has shifted from providing training to developing a responsive, forward-looking financial sector training-infrastructure that positions Singapore as a world class training hub. IBF now administers part of the Capital Markets and Financial Advisory Services (CMFAS) examination series on behalf of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). It is the national accreditation and certification agency for financial competency under the Financial Industry Competency Standards (FICS) framework.

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