

## **INSTITUTE OF BANKING & FINANCE QUALIFIES FIRST GROUP OF FINANCIAL INDUSTRY CERTIFIED PROFESSIONALS**

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Singapore, 29 October 2007 – The Institute of Banking & Finance (IBF) celebrates the certification of the inaugural group of Financial Industry Certified Professionals (FICPs) today with a special award ceremony at The Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore.

The FICP certification was conferred to 11 highly respected individuals with distinguished careers in the financial industry. The FICP title is the highest certification mark for a financial practitioner in Singapore under the Financial Industry Competency Standards (FICS) framework, which is benchmarked to international standards in 52 job segments. Each of these distinguished individuals embodies professional competence and commitment to excellence, and serves as a role model for aspiring financial practitioners.

To qualify, each FICP underwent rigorous assessment by a panel made up of industry professionals and academics. Being awarded the title of FICP is a significant career milestone; it confers formal recognition of the high levels of professional competence and excellence they have attained and establishes them as industry role models and beacons of excellence.

The impressive portfolios of the 11 FICPs span the industry and include Compliance, Corporate Banking, Financial Markets, Fund Management, General Insurance, Life Insurance, Risk Management, Securities & Futures, as well as Wealth Management. This reflects the scope of FICS's extensive framework and reinforces the high quality of the benchmark it has set for training and recruitment standards across the industry.

“My colleagues and I on the FICS committee are delighted to welcome the first 11 FICPs. They have undergone stringent assessments to be accorded recognition as certified practitioners in the financial industry; these individuals have acquired deep skills and gained significant experiences to have reached top levels of competencies in the industry. They are well respected professionals who value and have a commitment to continuous professional and personal development. They are shining examples from whom all of us can learn and grow,” says Ms Euleen Goh, Chairperson of FICS Steering Committee.

“The FICS committee is much encouraged by the increasing interest of practitioners to use the competency framework as a road map for their career growth and skills development. As financial institutions strive to attract, develop and retain top class talent, I urge the use of the FICS framework as a core tool in their people investment. This initiative to grow the supply of talent in Singapore is a key pillar for the country to continue as a leading financial hub in Asia and beneficial to all stakeholders in the financial industry here.”

Launched in September 2005, FICS provides financial practitioners with a professionally recognised roadmap to improve their job skills and knowledge, and offers financial institutions a structured process to build talent and skills. Covering the entire spectrum of financial service through 52 job families, the FICS is developed by the industry for the industry, reflecting current skill requirements as well as anticipating skills needs of the future.

The FICP award ceremony is being held in conjunction with IBF's inaugural Distinguished Speaker Series. Guest-of-Honour and first invited Distinguished Speaker is Sir Brian Pitman, an inspirational banker who will also present the certificates to Singapore's first FICPs. Sir Brian has had an illustrious career in the banking industry, with almost 50 years of service at Lloyds TSB, and is widely acknowledged as one of the most influential bankers in the United Kingdom for his vision.

The following will be awarded FICP status today:

**Compliance - Wealth Management**

**Mrs Yvette Cheak-Yat Ying**

Regional Head of Ethics and Compliance for SE Asia & India  
BNP Paribas

**Corporate Banking - Relationship Management (Wholesale Corporate Banking)**

**Mr Christopher Hurd**

Managing Director  
Head of Corporate & Investment Banking  
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

**Financial Markets - Debt Origination and Syndication**

**Mr George Lee Lap Wah**

Executive Vice President  
Group Investment Banking  
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited

**Financial Markets – Trading**

**Mr David Wong S. H.**

Managing Director & Chief Executive, SEA  
ABN AMRO Bank N.V., Singapore

**Fund Management - Product Development**

**Mr Lester Gray**

Chief Executive Officer, Asia Pacific  
Schroder Investment Management (Singapore) Ltd

**General Insurance - Underwriting**

**Dr Michael Goodwin**

Chief Executive Officer - Asia Pacific  
QBE Insurance (International) Limited

**Life Insurance - Underwriting**

**Mr Tan Hak Leh**

Managing Director (Singapore)  
Great Eastern Holdings

**Risk Management - Market Risk Management**

**Mrs Chng Sok Hui**

Managing Director and Head, Group Risk Management  
DBS Bank

**Risk Management - Credit Risk Management (Corporate Banking)**

**Mr Bob Mainprize**

Managing Director and Head of Risk Asia Pacific  
Barclays Capital

**Securities & Futures - Stockbroking**

**Mr Loh Hoon Sun**

Managing Director  
Phillip Securities Pte Ltd

**Wealth Management - Relationship Management (High Net Worth)**

**Mr Tee Fong Seng**

Managing Director  
Head of Wealth Management International, Singapore  
UBS Wealth Management

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**About IBF**

The Institute of Banking & Finance (IBF) was established in November 1974 to upgrade expertise in the banking and finance 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. Its present charter has also been broadened to include non-bank sectors of the financial community such as insurance. 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.

**About FICS**

The Financial Industry Competency Standards (FICS) is developed by the industry for the industry. It has the strong support of leading financial institutions and industry associations, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA). FICS is a comprehensive quality assurance framework with a certification and accreditation system that aims to raise the quality of the financial workforce and training providers. The development of the training and certification process involved hundreds of leading financial practitioners across more than 90 financial institutions in Singapore and abroad. It was developed in conjunction with, and is aligned to, best practices found in other leading financial centres, and broadly integrates international best practice with WDA's Quality Assurance system under the Workforce Skills Qualification framework (WSQ).

FICS comprises a set of standards with associated curriculum guide that relates to the competencies required for practitioners in specific job roles in 52 job families. The framework covers the entire financial services industry, from high-end professionals to more operational, lower level employees, as well as retail and wholesale activities. It is forward-looking and aims to develop skills sets that meet today's needs and the challenges of tomorrow.

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