

# Report of the Auditors



## To The Shareholders of The Bank of East Asia, Limited

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

We have audited the accounts on pages 72 to 120 which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong.

### Respective Responsibilities of Directors and Auditors

The Hong Kong Companies Ordinance requires the Directors to prepare accounts which give a true and fair view. In preparing accounts which give a true and fair view it is fundamental that appropriate accounting policies are selected and applied consistently, that judgements and estimates are made which are prudent and reasonable and that the reasons for any significant departure from applicable accounting standards are stated.

It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion to you.

### Basis of Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Statements of Auditing Standards issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Directors in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Group's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance as to whether the accounts are free from material misstatement. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Bank and of the Group as at 31st December, 2000 and of the Group's profit and cash flows for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

**KPMG**

*Certified Public Accountants*

Hong Kong  
8th February, 2001