

News Release

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HSBC RELEASES SHORT FILMS COMMEMORATING 150TH ANNIVERSARY

Personal stories of employees shed light on Bank's origins in Hong Kong

As part of its 150th anniversary HSBC has today announced the launch of '150 Years', a series of short films that bring to life the bank's journey from its origins in Hong Kong in 1865. Originally commissioned for employees the films in the '150 Years' series are now being released to external audiences.

The videos, which are being published to the HSBC NOW YouTube channel www.youtube.com/HSBCNOW, tell the story of some of the most compelling events and characters during the bank's 150-year history.

Peter Wong, HBAP Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, said, "We're incredibly proud of HSBC's history and its origins, not just in Hong Kong but on mainland China and internationally, and we wanted to be able to share that heritage with our colleagues across the world to give them a better understanding of the organisation that they're a part of."

"Employee feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, employees globally are intrigued and interested in learning more about our history – the characters and events that shaped the HSBC we know today."

Beginning in Hong Kong in 1865 with the story of how Thomas Jackson helped lay the foundations of one of the world's biggest banks, the films chart HSBC's international growth, follow the exploits of employees during the Second World War and chronicle the role that HSBC and its people played in the emergence of Hong Kong onto the world stage as a global trading hub.

In each of the films a current member of HSBC staff embarks on a voyage of discovery in an area relevant to their job or area of expertise.

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Chaker Zeraiki, Head of Business Banking, in the UAE, features in the first documentary in which he learns about the history of the entrepreneurs who founded HSBC. He said, “Opening the first HSBC ledger and seeing the names of our very first customers sent a shiver down my spine. It demonstrated to me how my story is part of a greater one, that started long before me and will continue long after me.”

Sandra Howes, a Schools Liaison Officer in the UK bank, learns about the heroic exploits of HSBC’s employees during the Second World War. Featured in the film are the Bank’s impressive archives from the era including correspondence, journals, duress bank notes and impressively a tiny smuggled note advising of the banks operations and employees health within Stanley Internment Camp in Hong Kong. She said, “I was moved by the bravery of the of the HSBC staff who decided to stay in Hong Kong to run the Bank despite being under threat from occupying forces. If it weren’t for their dedication the HSBC that we know today simply wouldn’t exist.”

The first two films are available now on the HSBC NOW Youtube channel, with the remaining documentaries to be released over the coming weeks.

For more details as the videos are published follow @HSBC_NOW on Twitter.



Helen Swinnerton (front), Senior Archives Manager, Asia Pacific and Chaker Zeraiki, Head of Business Banking in the UAE explore the HSBC archives in Hong Kong.

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Chapter One: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_qEYIv7gHk

Chapter Two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Chvh7hLJCUg>

Notes to editors:

About HSBC NOW

HSBC NOW is HSBC's weekly TV series broadcast to 260,000 employees each week on its global intranet and YouTube channels.

Launched in November 2013, HSBC NOW is about the people who work at HSBC. These are our stories: the passions that drive us, the challenges we set ourselves and our lives inside and outside work. Stories about ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

HSBC NOW has won 12 awards in its two years, including a Cannes Lion in 2014 for internal communication.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is the founding member of the HSBC Group, which serves around 48 million customers through four global businesses: Retail Banking and Wealth Management, Commercial Banking, Global Banking and Markets, and Global Private Banking. The Group serves customers worldwide from over 6,100 offices in 72 countries and territories in Asia, Europe, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of US\$2,572bn at 30 June 2015, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

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