

News Release

29 January 2015

HSBC REOPENS MAIN BUILDING PLAZA

Refurbished space features heritage elements for the community to reflect upon and enjoy

HSBC today officially reopens the Ground Plaza area of its Main Building at 1 Queen's Road Central (1QRC).

The refurbished space, designed with the community's enjoyment in mind, will serve as a passageway that charts the evolution of Hong Kong as an international centre of trade, finance and commerce, and home of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited since 1865.

At the unveiling ceremony, HSBC Group Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said: "We are proud of our part in that story and we are proud of Hong Kong. That is why the Plaza that we are reopening today not only retraces HSBC's journey, but charts the rise of Hong Kong as one of the world's pre-eminent cities."

A centrepiece of the new installations is an engraved stone mosaic map of Central District that depicts how the area would have appeared around 1910, complete with the locations and names of heritage buildings, streets and public spaces that are long forgotten but were once important features of the civic heart of the area.

Running along the side of the mosaic map is a timeline of events over the past 150 years – important moments that helped shape Hong Kong's position as a major trading hub and the development of its financial and commercial strengths. Some of the events are milestones for the Bank as well.

Two granite lion's head sculptures have also been added to the new Plaza. Weighing 2.2 tonnes each and standing 1.4 metres high, the lion's heads are important and cherished artefacts from the Bank's own archive.

The pair of sculptures watched over Hong Kong from atop the third iteration of the Bank's building at 1QRC since 1935, when the building was completed. They were removed in 1981, when construction of the current HSBC Main Building began, and have now returned to the site to welcome the public at the Plaza's south-facing entryway.

To mark the reopening of the Plaza, the Bank is holding an exhibition to provide an interpretative account of how life in Hong Kong has changed, of its people, its trade and its landscape, from 1841 to the present day.

This information is issued by

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

Registered Office and Head Office:
1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong
Web: www.hsbc.com.hk
Incorporated in the Hong Kong SAR with limited liability



Displaying enduring imagery drawn from HSBC's own archive collection and from other collections on the history of Hong Kong, the exhibition explores not only the city's past but also HSBC's evolution from a small local bank founded to finance the trading needs of the local economy to a large international bank in a global financial centre.

The Bank would like to thank the community for its patience and understanding over the past few months while the renovation work was being conducted. It is hoped that this heritage space will provide the public with a focal point in Central, where they can spare a moment to reflect upon Hong Kong's rich history as they pass through.

ends/more

Notes to Editors:

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 52 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 more than 6,200 offices in 74 countries and territories in Europe, Asia, North and Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa. With assets of USD2,729bn at 30 September 2014, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

ends/all