

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Bank Receives 100% Foreign-Owned Bank Licence In Vietnam

Public Bank Berhad (PBB) has on 24 March 2016 received the 100% foreign-owned bank licence from the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) in relation to PBB's acquisition of the remaining 50% equity capital in VID Public Bank (VPB), the 50:50 joint venture bank with Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV).

Effective 1 April 2016, VPB will become a 100% wholly-owned subsidiary of PBB and will be renamed as Public Bank Vietnam Limited (PBVN). Under the terms of the foreign-owned bank licence, PBVN has been granted a term of operations of 99 years.

Founder and Chairman of Public Bank Group, Tan Sri Dato' Sri Dr. Teh Hong Piow said that, "The 100% foreign-owned bank licence granted to Public Bank is a significant milestone in VPB's 24-year banking journey in Vietnam. PBB was one of the first to set-up a joint venture bank in Vietnam in 1992, and VPB has been operating profitably since its incorporation. Currently, VPB has 7 branches in Vietnam located in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Danang, Binh Duong, Hai Phong, Cho Lon and Dong Nai."

Tan Sri Teh further added that, "The Vietnamese economy has recorded commendable growth, with the GDP growth in 2015 at 6.68%, the highest in recent years. Public Bank is committed to continuing its support of the efforts and initiatives of the Government of Vietnam in the economic growth and financial development of Vietnam. Public Bank Vietnam will continue to focus on retail banking business in order to serve a wider reach and spectrum of customers in Vietnam, especially SMEs lending which is the engine of growth for the country. In addition, Public Bank Vietnam will provide a convenient platform for the Malaysian business community to conduct business operations in Vietnam."

Tan Sri Teh said that, “The issuance of the 100% foreign-owned bank licence to PBVN will strengthen PBB’s regional presence in Indo-China. Cambodian Public Bank, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PBB is currently the third largest bank in Cambodia with a network of 28 branches, whilst Public Bank has 4 branches in Laos PDR. The inclusion of PBVN as a wholly-owned subsidiary of PBB augurs well for the Group to maximise the synergy within Indo-China and to leverage on the strength of the PB Brand.”

Tan Sri Teh reiterated that, “Public Bank remains committed to expanding its overseas operations through organic growth strategy in Indo-China, as well as in Hong Kong, China and Sri Lanka where the Group has banking presence.”

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