

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FINANCIAL SECTOR'S FLU PANDEMIC EXERCISE TO INVOLVE PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME

Singapore - The financial industry's flu pandemic exercise, codenamed "Exercise Raffles II" will involve the public for the first time. On Friday, 5 September 2008, participating institutions will conduct a practical drill at selected branches and customer counters mostly around the Raffles Place, Shenton Way and Marina Bay areas in the Central Business District.

Temperature screening stations will be set up at participating outlets from opening hours until 11 am when the drill ceases. Counter staff will also be wearing face masks.

The public is advised not to be alarmed as the practical drill aims to test the financial sector's preventive measures of their operational response plans collectively as an industry, create public awareness and assure the public of the sector's preparedness to handle a flu pandemic scenario.

ABS Director Mrs Ong-Ang Ai Boon: "This is the first test to show the domino effect of a flu pandemic on our financial services sector. By involving members of the public in a practical drill, we hope that they will appreciate the seriousness of such an occurrence in Singapore and be aware of the plan the financial sector is putting in place for such consequence. While we can expect some inconvenience to customers visiting the participating branches/counters, we would like to appeal to the public to cooperate with the financial institutions during the drill."

Exercise Raffles II is the second industry-wide business continuity exercise conducted by the financial sector. The Exercise, which kicks off today (28 August 2008) is expected to help each institution gauge its response to the major challenges posed by a flu pandemic and align financial sector plans and crisis responses with those of the Singapore Government's.

Spanning two weeks, the Exercise comprises three parts: the first is an interactive session where participating institutions respond to scenario injects; the second is the practical drill; and the third is a cluster discussion session in which participants collectively share

experiences, identify issues, solutions, best practices and action plans to strengthen the preparedness and resilience of the financial sector to a flu pandemic.

More than 140 participating institutions will test their internal response plans against scenarios of a flu pandemic outbreak. The participating institutions include banks and finance companies, insurance companies, securities and broking houses, financial utility providers, Monetary Authority of Singapore and Singapore Exchange Ltd.

The ABS would like to thank customers of the participating institutions in advance for their cooperation during the practical drill.

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About The Association of Banks in Singapore:

The Association of Banks in Singapore (ABS) plays an active role in promoting and representing the interests of the banking community in Singapore. In doing so, ABS works closely with the relevant government authorities towards the development of a sound financial system in Singapore. Since its establishment in 1973, ABS has promoted common understanding among its members and projected a unifying voice on banking issues. It has brought its members closer together through various guidelines and banking practices as well as the support of projects of mutual benefit to face the challenges of the financial and banking community in Singapore. Today, ABS has a membership of 107 local and foreign banks. Further information on ABS is available on the website: www.abs.org.sg.