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HSBC HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
March 03, 2008

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a - 16 or 15d - 16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of March, 2008

HSBC Holdings plc

42nd Floor, 8 Canada
Square, London E14 5HQ, England

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F).

Form 20-F Form 40-F

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934).

Yes No

(If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION LIMITED
2007 CONSOLIDATED RESULTS - HIGHLIGHTS

- .. Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions up 37.6 per cent to HK\$127,009 million (HK\$92,325 million in 2006).
- .. Pre-tax profit up 51.4 per cent to HK\$78,761 million (HK\$52,016 million in 2006).
- .. Pre-tax profit excluding dilution gains up 42.3 per cent to HK\$74,026 million.
- .. Attributable profit up 53.9 per cent to HK\$58,028 million (HK\$37,709 million in 2006).
- .. Return on average shareholders' equity of 32.1 per cent (31.1 per cent in 2006).
- .. Assets up 25.4 per cent to HK\$3,952 billion (HK\$3,151 billion at the end of 2006).
- .. Capital adequacy ratio of 11.6 per cent; core capital ratio of 8.8 per

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cent. (Total capital ratio of 13.5 per cent and tier 1 capital ratio of 12.3 per cent at 31 December 2006).

.. Cost efficiency ratio of 37.1 per cent (41.4 per cent for 2006).

Within this document, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China has been referred to as 'Hong Kong'.

Comment by Vincent Cheng, Chairman

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited reported another year of record profit in 2007, driven by the successful execution of our strategy and robust economic conditions and markets. Profit before tax was up 42.3 per cent to HK\$74,026 million, excluding dilution gains arising from our strategic investments in mainland China. Profit before tax in Hong Kong was up 41.6 per cent to HK\$53,792 million and up 44.1 per cent in the Rest of Asia-Pacific to HK\$20,166 million, excluding the dilution gains noted above of HK\$4,735 million.

We continue to implement our core strategies of building an emerging markets-led and financing-focused Global Banking and Markets business, a wealth management and consumer banking focused Personal Financial Services operation and a Commercial Banking business that capitalises on Asia's growing trade and investment flows. Our customer group business expansion is self funding and fully exploits the Group's unique reach to capture geographic and cross-customer group opportunities.

HSBC continued investing for the future in 2007. In Taiwan we agreed to acquire selected businesses and operations of The Chinese Bank, increasing our presence on the island from eight to 47 outlets. We also acquired the factoring company Chailease Credit Services, which gave us a leading position in this key regional market segment. We increased our own branch network in mainland China by almost 100 per cent to 62 outlets. We remain the leading foreign bank in China and were one of the first foreign banks to locally incorporate on the Mainland. The bank was also the first international bank to launch a rural bank in mainland China.

We continued to grow our physical network in other parts of the region as well, with the number of our own branded outlets in the Rest of Asia-Pacific (excluding China) growing by just over 25 per cent from 218 to 276.

In South Korea, HSBC entered into an agreement with Lone Star to acquire 51.02 per cent of Korea Exchange Bank. The transaction, with a consideration of approximately US\$6,450 million, is subject to regulatory approvals and other conditions being met.

We made significant progress growing our regional insurance platform to complement existing operations in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. HSBC formed a joint life insurance company in India with Canara Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce with access to 40 million customers through 3,600 outlets. Recently the bank purchased just under 50 per cent of Hana Life from Hana Financial Group of Korea for a consideration of US\$58.4 million. In Vietnam, HSBC took a 10 per cent stake in BaoViet Holdings (formerly Vietnam Insurance Corporation), the country's leading insurer, for a consideration of US\$255 million with rights to take up to 25 per cent of the company, subject to certain limitations and conditions. In China the bank received approval to set up a joint venture insurance company under the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. In Taiwan the bank launched an insurance operation upon receiving an insurance branch licence.

The group's strategic investments, Bank of Communications, Ping An Insurance, Bank of Shanghai, and Industrial Bank through our subsidiary Hang Seng Bank, continue to progress well. Hang Seng Bank recently agreed to subscribe for 20 per cent of the enlarged share capital of Yantai City Commercial Bank for a consideration of US\$103 million. In Vietnam, we raised our stake in Vietnam

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Technological and Commercial Joint-Stock Bank (Techcombank) from 10 per cent to 15 per cent which was subsequently diluted by the issue of additional shares to 14.44 per cent.

Personal Financial Services reported exceptional profit before tax growth, up 49.8 per cent to HK\$32,786 million. This was driven by strong performance in net interest income, up 19.8 per cent due to a rise in deposits. In addition, fee income rose 85.3 per cent as a result of significant growth in wealth management sales in Hong Kong with contributions from key markets in the region. Fee income from stockbroking and custody services increased on the back of buoyant equity market conditions. Retail securities volume was up 160 per cent with more than 80 per cent of the transactions performed online. During the year HSBC launched our global Premier offering, aimed at the internationally mobile mass affluent. Of our 10.9 million HSBC PFS customers in the region, up 10 per cent in 2007, more than 546,000 are Premier, which is up 25 per cent on a year ago.

Commercial Banking reported pre-tax profit of HK\$18,754 million, up 25.5 per cent. Net interest income rose 21.9 per cent on strong balance sheet growth resulting from customer acquisition, up by more than 34,000 to 403,800 across Asia. Net fee income was up 18.5 per cent, boosted by increasing sales of wealth management and insurance products to existing customers. The cross-border Global Links referral system generated over HK\$32.1 billion in deals in 2007.

Global Banking and Markets enjoyed an exceptional year with pre-tax profit up 62.7 per cent to HK\$24,804 million, supported by strong equity market conditions and a significant improvement in net interest income driven by better investment returns. In Hong Kong we continue to lead in key activities, including foreign exchange, debt capital markets, structured products, payments and cash management and securities services. Debt underwriting enjoyed a record year as the business focused on meeting existing clients' expanding capital needs. Our investment banking and equity capital markets businesses made significant progress, advancing to No.1 in the targeted Hong Kong High Yield Bond league table.

The global economic outlook remains uncertain with expectations of a continued slowdown in the United States. Further fallout from the US sub-prime lending situation and turbulent market conditions are bound to affect the economic prospects of Asia's dynamic economies. Our strong capital base and liquidity position us well in the current environment. The flight to quality has benefited HSBC amid the recent economic and market uncertainty. We will continue to invest in our business expansion in the region during 2008 to ensure we fully exploit the medium and long-term opportunities arising from Asia's economic development.

Results by Customer Group

| Figures in HK\$m | Personal Financial Services | Commercial Banking | Global Banking and Markets^ | Private Banking | Other | Intr segme eliminati |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Year ended 31Dec07 | | | | | | |
| Net interest income/(expense) | 36,039 | 17,075 | 15,348 | 47 | (4,536) | (1,2 |
| Net fee income | 19,474 | 5,948 | 9,294 | 105 | 120 | |
| Net trading income | 1,761 | 1,033 | 11,547 | 62 | 950 | 7 |
| Net income/(loss) from financial | | | | | | |

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|--|-----------|---------|----------|-------|---------|------|
| instruments designated at fair value | 6,966 | (72) | 31 | - | (1,233) | 5 |
| Gains less losses from financial investments | 23 | 1 | 427 | - | 441 | |
| Gains arising from dilution of investments in associates | - | - | - | - | 4,735 | |
| Dividend income | 16 | 6 | 134 | - | 537 | |
| Net earned insurance premiums | 22,363 | 1,200 | 132 | - | - | |
| Other operating income | 1,323 | 249 | 714 | 20 | 7,137 | (5,3 |
| Total operating income | 87,965 | 25,440 | 37,627 | 234 | 8,151 | (5,3 |
| Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities | (26,217) | (703) | (101) | - | - | |
| Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | 61,748 | 24,737 | 37,526 | 234 | 8,151 | (5,3 |
| Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | (4,770) | (784) | (248) | - | (3) | |
| Net operating income | 56,978 | 23,953 | 37,278 | 234 | 8,148 | (5,3 |
| Operating expenses | (24,698) | (7,946) | (13,718) | (241) | (5,962) | 5,3 |
| Operating profit/(loss) | 32,280 | 16,007 | 23,560 | (7) | 2,186 | |
| Share of profit in associates and joint ventures | 506 | 2,747 | 1,244 | - | 238 | |
| Profit/(loss) before tax | 32,786 | 18,754 | 24,804 | (7) | 2,424 | |
| Share of profit/(loss) before tax | 41.6% | 23.8% | 31.5% | - | 3.1% | |
| Advances to customers | 495,964 | 347,219 | 347,761 | 4,002 | 17,140 | |
| Customer accounts | 1,263,290 | 576,078 | 629,528 | 9,660 | 7,550 | |
| Year ended 31Dec06 | | | | | | |
| Net interest income/(expense) | 30,090 | 14,006 | 9,104 | 45 | (4,201) | 2,0 |
| Net fee income/ (expense) | 10,512 | 5,018 | 6,937 | 101 | (164) | |
| Net trading income/(loss) | 889 | 796 | 8,682 | 14 | 825 | (2,2 |
| Net income/(loss) from financial instruments designated at fair value | 3,364 | (384) | 74 | (1) | (616) | 2 |
| Gains less losses from financial investments | 108 | - | 226 | - | 1,132 | |
| Dividend income | 9 | 10 | 55 | - | 675 | |

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|--|-----------|---------|----------|-------|---------|------|
| Net earned insurance premiums | 20,741 | 972 | 133 | - | - | |
| Other operating income | 2,262 | 348 | 430 | 14 | 7,005 | (4,4 |
| Total operating income | 67,975 | 20,766 | 25,641 | 173 | 4,656 | (4,4 |
| Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities | (21,902) | (478) | (100) | - | - | |
| Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | 46,073 | 20,288 | 25,541 | 173 | 4,656 | (4,4 |
| Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | (4,528) | (446) | 250 | - | (85) | |
| Net operating income | 41,545 | 19,842 | 25,791 | 173 | 4,571 | (4,4 |
| Operating expenses | (19,913) | (6,531) | (11,219) | (167) | (4,815) | 4,4 |
| Operating profit/(loss) | 21,632 | 13,311 | 14,572 | 6 | (244) | |
| Share of profit in associates and joint ventures | 257 | 1,634 | 671 | - | 177 | |
| Profit/(loss) before tax | 21,889 | 14,945 | 15,243 | 6 | (67) | |
| Share of profit/(loss) before tax | 42.1% | 28.7% | 29.3% | - | (0.1%) | |
| Advances to customers | 446,990 | 276,172 | 301,069 | 3,312 | 16,239 | |
| Customer accounts | 1,121,286 | 438,943 | 417,335 | 7,253 | 4,650 | |

^ Global Banking and Markets was previously referred to as Corporate Investment Banking and Markets

Personal Financial Services reported a profit before tax of HK\$32,786 million, an increase of 49.8 per cent over 2006. This was driven by strong growth in operating income, partly offset by investment in continued business expansion in the rest of the Asia-Pacific region.

Net interest income increased by HK\$5,949 million, or 19.8 per cent, compared with 2006. In Hong Kong, net interest income rose by HK\$3,659 million, or 16.3 per cent, as average customer account balances grew following a series of deposit campaigns and rate offers to address customers' demand for short-term products amid the buoyant stock market and during IPO subscription periods. In addition, the relaunch of our global HSBC Premier attracted new funds, and spreads improved as a result of tactical deposit pricing and higher foreign currency interest rates. An active property market was underpinned by strong economic conditions, supported by stable domestic interest rates throughout the year. However, customer appetite for higher mortgage borrowing remained muted and intense competition led to a tightening of spreads.

In the rest of Asia-Pacific, net interest income rose by HK\$2,290 million, or 29.7 per cent, driven by strong deposit growth across the region. As a result of the group's focus on growing the mass-affluent HSBC Premier customer base, deposits increased in a number of countries, particularly Singapore, mainland China and India, and deposit spreads improved on the back of higher interest rates.

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Several Mainland branches were granted approval to offer certain renminbi deposit products to local residents in late 2006 and since local incorporation in March 2007, we have been gradually rolling out our renminbi services to local residents. Following regulatory inspection and confirmation, branches in 11 priority cities have commenced renminbi business to local residents. Additional branches were added in the key economic zones of the Pearl River Delta, the Yangtze River Delta and the Bohai Rim, leading to significant deposit growth. HSBC's own branded network has 18 branches and 44 sub-branches. HSBC has the largest branch network among foreign banks and remains focused on offering Premier services.

HSBC Direct was launched in South Korea in February 2007 following the launch in Taiwan in the third quarter of 2006, and both areas have progressed well, with over 240,000 customers generating deposits of more than HK\$9 billion since launch. Interest earned on credit cards was higher in India, the Philippines and Thailand, reflecting growth in the number of cards in circulation and higher levels of receivables as the relationships mature. In India, HSBC has 2.6 million credit cards in circulation. Income from consumer lending also rose, notably from personal instalment loans in India and Indonesia, and spreads widened as a result of higher pricing.

Net fee income of HK\$19,474 million was 85.3 per cent higher than in 2006, driven by strong business growth and favourable investment market sentiment in Hong Kong. Fee income from stockbroking and custody services rose as transaction volumes were significantly higher, reflecting buoyant stock market conditions and a large number of IPOs in Hong Kong in 2007. The retail securities volume registered over 160 per cent growth with over 80 per cent of transactions performed online. The growth rate slowed in the last few months of the year, when US sub-prime concerns and contractionary monetary policy in mainland China led to equity market falls.

Throughout 2007, sales of unit trusts and structured investment products increased significantly as investors were encouraged by informative and targeted campaigns to boost investment awareness, and by the launch of new funds, particularly those comprising China stocks. Strong investment sales were recorded in mainland China, India, South Korea and Taiwan. HSBC was granted permission to offer residents of mainland China renminbi-denominated products through its 'Qualified Domestic Institutional Investor' offerings.

Net fee income from credit cards was HK\$274 million, or 20 per cent higher than in 2006. The group maintained its leadership position in Hong Kong and now has more than 4.9 million cards in circulation throughout the territory. This was augmented by a 15 per cent rise in cardholder spending as retail sales growth remained high. In the rest of Asia-Pacific, expansion of the cards business continued, particularly in India and the Philippines. The number of cards in circulation rose by 14 per cent to a total of 7.7 million, and reward programmes helped drive a 30.2 per cent increase in cardholder spending.

Income from insurance business (included within 'Net interest income', 'Net fee income', 'Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value', 'Net earned insurance premiums', the change in present value of in-force business within 'Other operating income', and after deducting 'Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities'), increased by 37%, with continued focus on retirement planning services. The launch of new investment-linked insurance products contributed to growth in life assurance premium income. Sales of general insurance products also grew, supported by more efficient usage of alternative distribution channels such as the internet.

The charge for loan impairment increased by HK\$242 million to HK\$4,770 million, mainly due to the rapid expansion in the credit card business and changes in collection methods and regulatory restrictions on collections in India. In Hong

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Kong, higher loan impairment charges, mainly against credit card lending, were largely volume-driven but were partly offset by higher collective impairment releases. In the rest of Asia-Pacific, impairment charges rose in line with volume growth in cards and personal loans in India, Thailand and Australia. Delinquency rates also rose in Thailand as a result of higher minimum repayment rules for cards, coupled with a deterioration in credit conditions.

In Taiwan, impairment charges against credit card lending were lower on account of improved delinquency rates whereas prior year impairment levels were severely affected by the imposition of a mandatory government debt negotiation scheme which led to market-wide credit losses. However, conditions continue to be monitored closely in light of proposed legislation in respect of personal bankruptcy arrangements due to be introduced in 2008. In Indonesia higher recoveries were a result of improved collection efforts. The reduction in the impairment charges also benefited from greater collection efforts.

Operating expenses were HK\$4,785 million, or 24 per cent, higher than in 2006, principally driven by continued investment in organic growth across the rest of the Asia-Pacific region. In Hong Kong, operating expenses rose by 15.8 per cent. Staff costs were higher primarily as a result of sales incentives and other performance-related pay, in addition to salary rises. Premises costs were higher, comprising branch refurbishments along with rises in commercial rentals. Marketing expenses rose as a result of ongoing promotion of the HSBC brand and campaigns to boost business activities, particularly for wealth management products and credit cards. In the rest of Asia-Pacific, costs increased by HK\$3,055 million, or 34.0 per cent, notably in India, mainland China, Indonesia and the Philippines. Headcount rose by 18.6 per cent as sales and support functions were strengthened to support business growth. Premises costs rose as new outlets were opened in Indonesia, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and mainland China. Following the launch of the consumer finance business in the region last year, India and Indonesia continued to incur investment costs to strengthen their market presence. South Korea increased staff, infrastructure and marketing expenditure related to the launch of HSBC Direct.

Income from associates of HK\$506 million includes improved results from Bank of Communications and Industrial Bank.

HSBC was the recipient of four major awards from The Asian Banker this year: Best Retail Bank in Hong Kong, Best Regional Retail Business in Asia, Excellence in Bancassurance and Excellence in Internet Banking (Channel), affirming the group's leading position in personal banking in the region.

Commercial Banking reported profit before tax of HK\$18,754 million, an increase of 25.5 per cent over 2006, driven by strong balance sheet growth.

Net interest income increased by HK\$3,069 million, or 21.9 per cent, compared with 2006. This reflected growth in advances and deposits from SME customers, particularly from mainland China, resulting from product development and active marketing efforts, coupled with improvements in deposit spreads.

In Hong Kong, net interest income rose by HK\$1,540 million, or 14.8 per cent. Stable domestic interest rates persisted through most of 2007, followed by cuts in the latter part of the year. As a result, margins were higher than in 2006, despite competitive pressures. Foreign currency deposits achieved significant growth on the back of rises in global interest rates and spreads improved as a result of active management of savings rates offered to customers. Promotional activities and continued emphasis on the SME segment contributed to the growth of 'BusinessVantage' accounts. Non-trade lending balances increased as the economy continued to grow and demand for credit remained strong. Cross-border lending to manufacturers with operations in mainland China continued to be strong as intra-Asia trade accelerated. However, asset spreads were generally

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tighter as a result of market competition, particularly for corporate and mid-market business customers.

In the rest of Asia-Pacific, net interest income grew by 42.8 per cent. The opening of new branches, increased commercial presence through call centres and enhancement of Business Internet Banking across the region contributed to customer acquisition. These factors helped deliver deposit and loan growth, coupled with the widening of spreads, notably in India and mainland China. Efforts were made to increase liability balances by conducting various deposit garnering campaigns in Taiwan, mainland China and Australia. Trade balances grew in South Korea, mainland China, Vietnam and India, and the business was strengthened by the acquisition of Chailease Credit Services, a Taiwanese factoring company, in May 2007. The group continued to develop its cross-border capabilities and its cross-border referral system Global Links established combined business opportunities across different geographical boundaries. Country desks were established by South Korea and Taiwan in mainland China, and a new commercial banking unit was acquired in South Africa.

Net fee income rose by HK\$930 million, or 18.5 per cent, and was largely attributable to higher cash management, remittance and trade fees, particularly in Hong Kong and India, driven by increased trade flows and enhancements to customer service. Fees from sales of unit trusts and structured investment products rose as the robust Hong Kong stock market boosted investment appetite and demand for investment products. Earnings from customer foreign exchange trades also rose, reflecting an increase in cross-border payments. Remittance income was boosted by an enhanced billing system and introduction of same-day processing.

The net charge for loan impairment was HK\$338 million higher than in 2006 primarily due to fewer corporate releases in Hong Kong, mainland China, Australia and Indonesia, coupled with new specific charges against a number of customers in Thailand. These increases were partly offset by a release of collective impairment provisions in Hong Kong. Credit quality generally remained stable in Hong Kong and elsewhere in the region, and there were recoveries in Mauritius and Singapore.

Operating expenses increased by 21.7 per cent over 2006, largely attributable to higher staff costs as the number of client-facing staff increased in Hong Kong, India and mainland China to support SME initiatives, insurance business expansion and product development. This included staffing of commercial-only banking branches in Hong Kong. Performance-related costs also rose significantly, in line with the improved results. The group continued to place strong emphasis in leveraging its direct channel capabilities and the number of internet-based transactions increased, contributing to efficiencies that mitigated the increased cost of processing higher volumes. There are now over 100,000 customers registered as Business Internet Banking users in Hong Kong. The Business Internet Banking site was enhanced in the first quarter, leading to processing cost efficiencies. Call centres were also re-engineered to improve their ability to promote the sale of packaged products. Direct channels constituted 47 per cent of the total number of transactions. In the rest of the Asia-Pacific region, higher costs reflected the increased sales force to support initiatives and business expansion. Higher IT and infrastructure costs and marketing expenditure were incurred in these countries and territories as a result of branch expansion.

Income from associates of HK\$2,747 million includes improved results from Bank of Communications and Industrial Bank.

Commercial Banking was presented with a number of awards for its SME business including the Best SME Partner from the Hong Kong Chamber of Small and Medium Business.

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Global Banking and Markets reported profit before tax of HK\$24,804 million, 62.7 per cent higher than in 2006. Significant growth was recorded in Global Markets trading businesses and fees from securities services.

Net interest income increased by HK\$6,244 million, or 68.6 per cent, compared with 2006. Balance sheet management revenues rose significantly, reflecting the replacement of maturing low-yield assets at higher yields, as well as falling US dollar interest rates in the second half of 2007, leading to lower cost of funds. Global Banking also contributed to the increase as deposit balances in payments and cash management grew on new client acquisition and organic business growth, and margin spreads improved in a number of Asian countries. This compensated for the drop in interest income from corporate lending, largely on account of margin compression in Hong Kong which was principally due to surplus liquidity in the market. Strong growth in income was recorded in India and mainland China with increased focus on emerging markets activities.

Net fee income increased by HK\$2,357 million, or 34.0 per cent compared with 2006. In Hong Kong, higher revenues in the securities and fund services business reflected increased client volumes, driven by continuing investor confidence in the local stock markets and high IPO activity. In addition, there were strong performances from South Korea, Australia, and Singapore, and capabilities in the region were strengthened by the acquisition of Westpac's sub-custody business in Australia and New Zealand last year. Investment banking benefited from strong capital markets, and underwriting revenues from IPO activities in Hong Kong grew significantly. Fee income from asset management increased by 41 per cent due to the successful launch of a number of funds, notably in China. Structured finance reported lower fees, reflecting lower transaction volumes over the same period last year.

Net trading income rose by 33.0 per cent to HK\$11,547 million. Foreign exchange and interest rate derivatives profits were higher as market volatility provided good trading opportunities and higher sales volumes, particularly in Hong Kong, India and Thailand, reflecting increasing inward investment into Asia and a growing demand for risk management and investment products from customers. The equities and equity derivatives businesses in Hong Kong, which have been built up significantly over the past two years, capitalised on the strong regional stock market performances and returned excellent results. In particular, there was significant growth in structured equity derivatives, attributable to cross-sales to personal and private banking customers.

There was a net charge for loan impairment of HK\$248 million compared with a net release of HK\$250 million in 2006. Although the corporate credit environment throughout the region generally remained benign, there were lower releases, and a new specific allowance was made against a mainland China exposure.

Operating expenses increased by 22.3 per cent compared with 2006, reflecting headcount increases to support business expansion in all areas and higher performance-related remuneration. IT costs also rose to support business growth.

Income from associates of HK\$1,244 million includes improved results from Bank of Communications and Industrial Bank.

Other includes income and expenses relating to certain funding, investment, property and other activities that are not allocated to the customer groups.

Gains of HK\$4,735 million were made on the dilution of the group's interests in Bank of Communications, Industrial Bank and Techcombank. These three associates raised new capital during 2007, but the group did not subscribe for any additional shares issued under these offers and, as a result, its percentage shareholdings decreased. However, the assets of all three increased substantially as a result of the new issues, and consequently the group's share of the associates' underlying net assets increased by HK\$4,735 million. This

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one-off increase was regarded as a gain arising from deemed disposals of part of the group's interests in associates, and has been recognised in the income statement.

These gains were slightly offset by lower gains from financial investments as 2006 included profit on the disposal of part of the group's stake in UTI Bank. In addition, there were lower profits made on property sales in 2007 compared with 2006.

Consolidated Income Statement

| Figures in HK\$m | Year ended 31Dec07 | Year ended 31Dec06 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Interest income | 144,153 | 115,928 |
| Interest expense | (81,392) | (64,829) |
| Net interest income | 62,761 | 51,099 |
| Fee income | 41,149 | 26,554 |
| Fee expense | (6,208) | (4,150) |
| Net fee income | 34,941 | 22,404 |
| Net trading income | 16,056 | 8,918 |
| Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value | 6,201 | 2,670 |
| Gains less losses from financial investments | 892 | 1,466 |
| Gains arising from dilution of investments in associates | 4,735 | - |
| Dividend income | 693 | 749 |
| Net earned insurance premiums | 23,695 | 21,846 |
| Other operating income | 4,056 | 5,653 |
| Total operating income | 154,030 | 114,805 |
| Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities | (27,021) | (22,480) |
| Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | 127,009 | 92,325 |
| Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | (5,805) | (4,809) |
| Net operating income | 121,204 | 87,516 |
| Employee compensation and benefits | (26,431) | (21,042) |
| General and administrative expenses | (18,039) | (14,949) |
| Depreciation of property, plant and equipment | (2,096) | (1,905) |
| Amortisation of intangible assets | (612) | (343) |
| Total operating expenses | (47,178) | (38,239) |
| Operating profit | 74,026 | 49,277 |
| Share of profit in associates and joint ventures | 4,735 | 2,739 |
| Profit before tax | 78,761 | 52,016 |
| Tax expense | (13,456) | (9,411) |
| Profit for the year | 65,305 | 42,605 |
| Profit attributable to shareholders | 58,028 | 37,709 |
| Profit attributable to minority interests | 7,277 | 4,896 |

Extract from the Consolidated Balance Sheet

| Figures in HK\$m | At 31Dec07 | At 31Dec06 |
|---|------------|------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and short-term funds | 794,923 | 518,022 |
| Items in the course of collection from other banks | 20,357 | 46,519 |
| Placings with banks maturing after one month | 60,328 | 104,037 |
| Certificates of deposit | 97,358 | 73,200 |
| Hong Kong SAR Government certificates of indebtedness | 108,344 | 102,374 |

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| Trading assets | 360,704 | 338,792 |
| Financial assets designated at fair value | 63,152 | 50,514 |
| Derivatives | 180,440 | 99,167 |
| Advances to customers | 1,212,086 | 1,043,782 |
| Financial investments | 532,243 | 484,841 |
| Amounts due from Group companies | 364,724 | 161,118 |
| Investments in associates and joint ventures | 39,832 | 25,534 |
| Goodwill and intangible assets | 12,309 | 10,428 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 33,356 | 29,159 |
| Deferred tax assets | 1,566 | 1,245 |
| Retirement benefit assets | 123 | 2,191 |
| Other assets | 70,094 | 59,917 |
| Total assets | 3,951,939 | 3,150,840 |

LIABILITIES

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Hong Kong SAR currency notes in circulation | 108,344 | 102,374 |
| Items in the course of transmission to other banks | 31,586 | 57,226 |
| Deposits by banks | 169,177 | 108,125 |
| Customer accounts | 2,486,106 | 1,989,467 |
| Trading liabilities | 265,675 | 272,545 |
| Financial liabilities designated at fair value | 38,147 | 36,554 |
| Derivatives | 173,322 | 98,659 |
| Debt securities in issue | 84,523 | 69,195 |
| Retirement benefit liabilities | 1,537 | 465 |
| Amounts due to Group companies | 65,846 | 31,356 |
| Other liabilities | 70,203 | 56,478 |
| Liabilities under insurance contracts issued | 91,730 | 61,350 |
| Current tax liabilities | 5,833 | 4,500 |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 5,148 | 4,284 |
| Subordinated liabilities | 18,500 | 16,353 |
| Preference shares | 90,328 | 76,464 |
| Total liabilities | 3,706,005 | 2,985,395 |

EQUITY

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Share capital | 22,494 | 22,494 |
| Other reserves | 83,952 | 35,514 |
| Retained profits | 107,908 | 80,942 |
| Proposed fourth interim dividend | 6,500 | 6,500 |
| Total shareholders' equity | 220,854 | 145,450 |
| Minority interests | 25,080 | 19,995 |
| | 245,934 | 165,445 |
| Total equity and liabilities | 3,951,939 | 3,150,840 |

Consolidated Statement of Recognised Income and Expense

| Figures in HK\$m | Year ended 31Dec07 | Year ended 31Dec06 |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Available-for-sale investments: | | |
| - fair value changes taken to equity | 35,801 | 25,115 |
| - fair value changes transferred to the income statement on disposal or impairment | (959) | (1,464) |
| - fair value changes transferred to the income statement on hedged items due to hedged risk | (594) | (105) |
| Cash flow hedges: | | |
| - fair value changes taken to equity | 555 | (165) |
| - fair value changes transferred to the income statement | 632 | 2,277 |
| Property revaluation: | | |
| - fair value changes taken to equity | 3,291 | 1,977 |

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| | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| Share of changes in equity of associates and joint ventures | 14 | (186) |
| Exchange differences | 6,292 | 2,779 |
| Actuarial (losses)/gains on post-employment benefits | (3,568) | 93 |
| | 41,464 | 30,321 |
| Net deferred tax on items taken directly to equity | 45 | (738) |
| Total income and expense taken to equity during the year | 41,509 | 29,583 |
| Profit for the year | 65,305 | 42,605 |
| Total recognised income and expense for the year | 106,814 | 72,188 |

| | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| Total recognised income and expense for the year attributable to: | | |
| - shareholders | 98,085 | 66,448 |
| - minority interests | 8,729 | 5,740 |
| | 106,814 | 72,188 |

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

| Figures in HK\$m | Year ended 31Dec07 | Year ended 31Dec06 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Operating activities | | |
| Cash generated from operations | 292,331 | 88,942 |
| Interest received on financial investments | 21,393 | 17,527 |
| Dividends received on financial investments | 585 | 711 |
| Dividends received from associates | 1,208 | 766 |
| Taxation paid | (11,942) | (6,159) |
| Net cash inflow from operating activities | 303,575 | 101,787 |
| Investing activities | | |
| Purchase of financial investments | (436,191) | (402,459) |
| Proceeds from sale or redemption of financial investments | 443,128 | 361,794 |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (3,197) | (2,085) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and assets held for sale | 1,214 | 4,176 |
| Purchase of other intangible assets | (1,271) | (1,142) |
| Net cash outflow in respect of the acquisition of and increased shareholding in subsidiary companies | (134) | (22) |
| Net cash inflow in respect of the sale of subsidiary companies | 111 | 409 |
| Net cash inflow/(outflow) in respect of the purchase of interests in business portfolios | 1,999 | (775) |
| Net cash outflow in respect of the purchase of interests in associates and joint ventures | (3,628) | (462) |
| Proceeds from the sale of interests in business portfolios | 1,948 | 16,501 |
| Proceeds from the sale of interests in associates | 238 | - |
| Net cash inflow/ (outflow) from investing activities | 4,217 | (24,065) |
| Net cash inflow before financing | 307,792 | 77,722 |
| Financing | | |
| Issue of preference share capital | 13,587 | 4,277 |
| Change in minority interests | 688 | 976 |
| Repayment of subordinated liabilities | (463) | (1,018) |
| Issue of subordinated liabilities | 2,345 | 4,661 |
| Ordinary dividends paid | (23,000) | (18,757) |
| Dividends paid to minority interests | (5,153) | (3,841) |
| Interest paid on preference shares | (5,144) | (3,935) |
| Interest paid on subordinated liabilities | (1,166) | (946) |

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| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Net cash outflow from financing | (18,306) | (18,583) |
| Increase in cash and cash equivalents | 289,486 | 59,139 |

Additional Information

1. Net interest income

| Figures in HK\$m | Year ended 31Dec07 | Year ended 31Dec06 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Net interest income | 62,761 | 51,099 |
| Average interest-earning assets | 2,649,116 | 2,212,521 |
| Net interest spread | 2.05% | 1.92% |
| Net interest margin | 2.37% | 2.31% |

Included in the above is interest income accrued on impaired financial assets of HK\$400 million (2006: HK\$309 million), including unwinding of discounts on loan impairment losses of HK\$308 million (2006: HK\$196 million).

Net interest income of HK\$62,761 million was HK\$11,662 million, or 22.8 per cent, higher than in 2006. Higher income was attributable to strong balance sheet growth and improved deposit spreads throughout the region, coupled with higher balance sheet management income.

Net interest income in Personal Financial Services rose by HK\$5,949 million, or 19.8 per cent, partly due to strong growth in the deposit base in Hong Kong and in the region. Lending growth also contributed to the increase in interest income, particularly personal instalment loans in India, South Korea, Thailand and at Hang Seng Bank, and credit cards in the Philippines, India, Singapore, Australia and at Hang Seng Bank. In addition, strong returns were generated on investments held by the group's insurance companies, benefiting from higher yields and growth in portfolio size. Net interest income in Commercial Banking was HK\$3,069 million, or 21.9 per cent higher than in 2006, mainly due to balance sheet growth, notably in Hong Kong, India and mainland China, and the widening of deposit spreads. In Global Banking and Markets, net interest income increased significantly as a result of strong balance sheet management income, reflecting the replacement of maturing assets at higher yields. This was coupled with business growth in the payments and cash management and securities services businesses and improved deposit spreads, notably in mainland China, India, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Average interest-earning assets rose by HK\$436.6 billion, or 19.7 per cent, to HK\$2,649.1 billion. Average advances to customers grew by HK\$95.4 billion, or 9.1 per cent, with strong increases in corporate loans in India, mainland China and at Hang Seng Bank, and a small rise in average mortgage balances in Hong Kong, coupled with stronger growth in India and Singapore. These were partly offset by the disposal of the broker-originated mortgage businesses in Australia. Average credit card balances rose in most areas, notably Hong Kong, India, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore, and personal instalment loans grew, most significantly in India, South Korea and Thailand. Average placements with banks were HK\$174.3 billion higher, and holdings of available-for-sale securities rose by HK\$85.8 billion, reflecting the deployment

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of the commercial surplus.

The group's net interest margin of 2.37 per cent for 2007 was six basis points higher than in 2006. Net interest spread improved by 13 basis points, while the contribution from net free funds declined by seven basis points, reflecting the deployment of funds into trading assets.

For the bank in Hong Kong, net interest margin increased by one basis point to 2.27 per cent. Spread rose by 11 basis points, benefiting from higher yields on money market placements, debt securities and term lending, and improved deposit spreads in current and savings accounts, but was partly offset by lower spread on mortgages as the Hong Kong dollar Best Lending Rate decreased. The contribution from net free funds decreased by 10 basis points, primarily due to the reduction of free funds as a result of redeployment of surplus funds into trading assets.

At Hang Seng Bank, net interest margin improved by 12 basis points to 2.54 per cent, benefiting from wider deposit spreads and better yields on the balance sheet management portfolio. Balance sheet management income improved as lower yielding securities gradually matured and were replaced by higher yielding assets. Net interest spread rose by 15 basis points to 1.98 per cent, whilst the contribution from net free funds decreased by three basis points. Higher net interest spread was attributable to the increase of average customer deposits, mainly in lower cost savings balances, and wider deposit spreads. However, the pricing of residential mortgages and corporate lending remained under pressure due to intense market competition.

In the rest of Asia-Pacific, net interest margin at 2.25 per cent was nine basis points higher than in 2006, and spread increased by 12 basis points to 2.06 per cent. In mainland China, spread improved as the increase in lending rates outweighed the rise in deposit rates, supported by an increase in low cost customer deposits. Spread improved in Indonesia as funding costs decreased following interest rate cuts. In the Philippines, local interest rates dropped but strong growth in high yielding credit card receivables more than offset the decline in yields for other lending products. Taiwan benefited from improved spreads on customer accounts, whereas Singapore saw higher spreads on mortgages and cards as funding costs decreased. The contribution from net free funds dropped by three basis points mainly due to an increase in the redeployment of funding to trading assets in Australia, South Korea and mainland China, which was partly offset by a rise in both market interest rate and non-interest bearing account balances in India.

2. Net fee income

| Figures in HK\$m | 2007 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| Account services | 1,625 | 1,501 |
| Credit facilities | 1,471 | 1,245 |
| Import/export | 3,360 | 2,956 |
| Remittances | 1,653 | 1,437 |
| Securities/stockbroking | 11,874 | 5,267 |
| Cards | 4,321 | 4,335 |
| Insurance | 889 | 315 |
| Unit trusts | 4,714 | 2,326 |
| Funds under management | 4,833 | 2,974 |
| Other | 6,409 | 4,198 |
| Fee income | 41,149 | 26,554 |

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| | | |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| Fee expense | (6,208) | (4,150) |
| | 34,941 | 22,404 |

Net fee income was HK\$12,537 million, or 56.0 per cent, higher than in 2006.

Securities broking and custody fees rose by 125 per cent, reflecting significantly higher stock market turnover in Hong Kong. The buoyant stock markets also stimulated demand for unit trusts and investment funds in Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and India, and fee income increased by 80.1 per cent.

Trade finance income was 13.7 per cent higher, notably in India, mainland China and Hong Kong, and in part due to the transfer into the group of HSBC's South African banking operations in the second quarter of 2007. Remittance and other account fees grew, reflecting the group's strong transactional capabilities.

Card fees were in line with the disposal of the card acquiring business and the decline in card fees in Taiwan as a result of the 2006 credit crisis largely was offset by strong growth in issuing fees elsewhere in the region, notably India, Hong Kong and the Philippines due to an increase in the number of cards in circulation and higher cardholder spending.

'Other' includes investment banking fees. These fees were higher than the previous year as the group won several notable IPO mandates in Hong Kong, and there was an increase in commissions from fellow HSBC Group companies in respect of treasury business.

3. Net trading income

| Figures in HK\$m | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|--------|---------|
| Dealing profits | 12,831 | 10,001 |
| Net gain from hedging activities | 63 | 16 |
| Net interest income/(expense) | 2,678 | (1,307) |
| Dividend income from trading securities | 484 | 208 |
| | 16,056 | 8,918 |

Trading income rose by 80 per cent to HK\$16,056 million. Foreign exchange profits benefited from an increase in trading activity against a backdrop of increasing demand for local currency assets as foreign investors sought to participate in local stock markets, coupled with favourable positioning as the US dollar weakened. Revenues grew strongly in the equities and equity derivatives business, reflecting previous investment in business expansion and buoyant stock markets.

4. Gains less losses from financial investments

| Figures in HK\$m | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|------|-------|
| Gains on disposal of available-for-sale securities | 892 | 1,466 |

The profit on the disposal of available-for-sale securities in 2007 largely comprises gains on the sale of equity shares and further disposals of Philippine

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government securities. Prior year gains include the profits made on the sale of part of the group's stake in UTI Bank in India, and also on Philippine government securities.

5. Other operating income

| Figures in HK\$m | 2007 | 2006 |
|---|-------|-------|
| Rental income from investment properties | 151 | 196 |
| Movement in present value of in-force insurance business | 950 | 1,124 |
| Gains on investment properties | 564 | 475 |
| Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment, and assets held for sale | 64 | 981 |
| Profit on disposal of subsidiaries, associates and business portfolios | 96 | 904 |
| Surplus arising on property revaluation | 122 | 70 |
| Other | 2,109 | 1,903 |
| | 4,056 | 5,653 |

Profit on the disposal of property, plant and equipment was lower than in 2006 due to the non-recurrence of gains made on the sale of a property in Japan and lower gains from the disposal of Hang Seng Bank properties.

Profit on disposal of subsidiaries, associates and business portfolios was lower than 2006 due to the non-recurrence of gains made on the disposal of the stockbroking, margin lending and broker originated mortgage businesses in Australia.

'Other' mainly comprises recoveries of IT and other operating costs from fellow HSBC Group companies which were incurred on their behalf.

6. Gains arising from dilution of investments in associates

During the year, three associates of the group, Bank of Communications, Industrial Bank and Techcombank issued new shares. The group was not able to subscribe for any additional shares issued under these offers and, as a result, its interests in the associates' equity decreased from 19.90 per cent to 18.60 per cent, from 15.98 per cent to 12.78 per cent and from 15.0 per cent to 14.44 per cent respectively. The interest in Bank of Communications was subsequently increased to 19.01 per cent through additional share acquisitions.

The net assets of both Bank of Communications and Industrial Bank increased substantially when they received proceeds from their respective new share issues. After the new issues, the group's share of the net assets of the three associates increased by HK\$4,735 million compared with the share of the net assets immediately prior. This increase in the group's share of net assets was regarded as a gain arising from deemed disposals of part of its interests in the associates and is presented in the consolidated income statement.

The gains resulting from the dilution of the group's investments in the associates were: HK\$3,228 million for Bank of Communications; HK\$1,465 million for Industrial Bank; and HK\$42 million for Techcombank.

The dilution of the interests does not affect the classification of the group's investments as investments in associates.

7. Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions

| Figures in HK\$m | 2007 | 2006 |
|------------------|------|------|
|------------------|------|------|

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Net charge for impairment of customer advances

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| - Individually assessed impairment allowances: | | |
| New allowances | 1,884 | 1,314 |
| Releases | (646) | (869) |
| Recoveries | (197) | (212) |
| | 1,041 | 233 |
| | | |
| - Net charge for collectively assessed impairment allowances | 4,619 | 4,468 |
| | 5,660 | 4,701 |
| | | |
| Net charge for other credit risk provisions | 145 | 108 |
| | | |
| Net charge for loan impairment and other credit risk provisions | 5,805 | 4,809 |

The net charge for loan impairment and other credit risk provisions was HK\$996 million higher than in 2006.

The charge for new individually assessed allowances was higher, largely attributable to the downgrading of certain corporate customers with activities in Thailand, Hang Seng Bank, India and Sri Lanka. The increase was partly offset by lower corporate charges in Singapore, mainland China and Japan. Releases and recoveries were lower, mainly relating to companies in Hong Kong, mainland China, Australia and Indonesia.

The net charge for collectively assessed allowances increased. Charges increased in India, Hong Kong and Thailand, reflecting higher credit card and other personal lending volumes.

8. Employee compensation and benefits

| Figures in HK\$m | 2007 | 2006 |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Wages, salaries and other costs | 16,687 | 14,302 |
| Performance-related pay | 8,317 | 5,501 |
| Social security costs | 327 | 283 |
| Retirement benefit costs | 1,100 | 956 |
| | 26,431 | 21,042 |

Staff numbers by region[^]

| | At 31Dec07 | At 31Dec06 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Hong Kong | 26,169 | 26,496 |
| Rest of Asia-Pacific | 33,167 | 27,518 |
| Americas/Europe | 18 | 17 |
| Total | 59,354 | 54,031 |

[^] Full-time equivalent

Staff costs increased by HK\$5,389 million, or 25.6 per cent, compared with 2006. Wages and salaries rose by 16.7 per cent, in line with planned increases in headcount throughout the region, and due to annual salary rises notably in Hong Kong, mainland China, India, Singapore and South Korea. Staff numbers rose significantly in India reflecting the establishment of the consumer finance business and expansion of the sales force, and in mainland China to support new branch openings. Performance-related pay increased in line with improved operating revenues, higher dealing income and the increase in headcount.

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9. General and administrative expenses

| Figures in HK\$m | 2007 | 2006 |
|--|--------|--------|
| Premises and equipment | | |
| - Rental expenses | 1,957 | 1,557 |
| - Amortisation of prepaid operating lease payments | 59 | 58 |
| - Other premises and equipment | 2,750 | 2,463 |
| | 4,766 | 4,078 |
| Marketing and advertising expenses | 4,170 | 3,587 |
| Other administrative expenses | 9,537 | 7,268 |
| Litigation and other provisions | (434) | 16 |
| | 18,039 | 14,949 |

The increase in general and administrative expenses of HK\$3,090 million, or 20.7 per cent, reflected additional costs incurred in business expansion throughout the region. Premises and equipment costs rose due to new branch openings and rent increases. Marketing expenditure was higher due in part to increased credit card bonus point redemption costs in Hong Kong, brand advertising at airports in mainland China, and retail banking promotions at Hang Seng Bank. Technology costs also increased as the group continued to improve its customer relationship management systems and internet banking capabilities. Litigation and other provisions recognised an improvement in 2007 due to the release of two significant provisions.

10. Share of profit in associates and joint ventures

Share of profit in associates and joint ventures principally included the group's share of post-tax profits from Bank of Communications and Industrial Bank, and amortisation of intangible assets arising on acquisition.

11. Tax expense

The tax expense in the consolidated income statement comprises:

| Figures in HK\$m | 2007 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|
| Current income tax | | |
| - Hong Kong profits tax | 8,279 | 5,506 |
| - Overseas taxation | 4,651 | 3,955 |
| Deferred taxation | 526 | (50) |
| | 13,456 | 9,411 |

The effective rate of tax for 2007 was 17.1 per cent compared with 18.1 per cent in 2006. The decrease was mainly as a result of the HK\$4,735 million of dilution gains recognised in the year being non-taxable.

12. Dividends

2007

2006

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| | HK\$ per share | HK\$m | HK\$ per share | HK\$m |
|---|-------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
| Dividends paid on ordinary share capital | | | | |
| - In respect of the previous financial year, approved and paid during the year | 0.72 | 6,500 | 0.50 | 4,500 |
| - In respect of the current financial year | 1.84 | 16,500 | 1.58 | 14,257 |
| | 2.56 | 23,000 | 2.08 | 18,757 |

The Directors have declared a fourth interim dividend in respect of the financial year ended 31 December 2007 of HK\$6,500 million (HK\$0.72 per ordinary share).

13. Advances to customers

| Figures in HK\$m | At 31Dec07 | At 31Dec06 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Gross advances to customers | 1,219,346 | 1,050,625 |
| Impairment allowances | | |
| - Individually assessed | (2,182) | (2,118) |
| - Collectively assessed | (5,078) | (4,725) |
| | (7,260) | (6,843) |
| | 1,212,086 | 1,043,782 |
| Allowances as a percentage of gross advances to customers: | | |
| - Individually assessed | 0.18% | 0.20% |
| - Collectively assessed | 0.42% | 0.45% |
| Total allowances | 0.60% | 0.65% |

14. Impairment allowances against advances to customers

| Figures in HK\$m | Individually assessed allowances | Collectively assessed allowances | Total |
|---|--|--|---------|
| At 1Jan07 | 2,118 | 4,725 | 6,843 |
| Amounts written off | (1,301) | (4,885) | (6,186) |
| Recoveries of advances written off in previous years | 197 | 696 | 893 |
| Net charge to income statement (Note 7) | 1,041 | 4,619 | 5,660 |
| Unwinding of discount on loan impairment | (89) | (219) | (308) |
| Exchange and other adjustments | 216 | 142 | 358 |
| At 31Dec07 | 2,182 | 5,078 | 7,260 |

15. Impaired advances to customers and allowances

The geographical information shown below, and in notes 16, 17 and 18, has been classified by location of the principal operations of the subsidiary company or,

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in the case of the bank, by location of the branch responsible for advancing the funds.

| Figures in HK\$m | Hong Kong | Rest of Asia-Pacific | Total |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|---------|
| Year ended 31Dec07 | | | |
| Impairment allowance charge | 1,654 | 4,006 | 5,660 |
| At 31 December 2007 | | | |
| Advances to customers which are considered to be impaired are as follows: | | | |
| Gross impaired advances | 3,380 | 5,003 | 8,383 |
| Individually assessed allowances | (1,028) | (1,154) | (2,182) |
| | 2,352 | 3,849 | 6,201 |
| Individually assessed allowances as a percentage of gross impaired advances | 30.4% | 23.1% | 26.0% |
| Gross impaired advances as a percentage of gross advances to customers | 0.5% | 0.9% | 0.7% |

| | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Year ended 31Dec06 | | | |
| Impairment allowance charge | 1,228 | 3,473 | 4,701 |
| At 31 December 2006 | | | |
| Advances to customers which are considered to be impaired are as follows: | | | |
| Gross impaired advances | 3,530 | 5,071 | 8,601 |
| Individually assessed allowances | (1,016) | (1,102) | (2,118) |
| | 2,514 | 3,969 | 6,483 |
| Individually assessed allowances as a percentage of gross impaired advances | 28.8% | 21.7% | 24.6% |
| Gross impaired advances as a percentage of gross advances to customers | 0.6% | 1.2% | 0.8% |

Impaired advances to customers are those advances where objective evidence exists that full repayment of principal or interest is considered unlikely.

The individually assessed allowances are made after taking into account the value of collateral in respect of such advances.

16. Overdue advances to customers

| Figures in HK\$m | Hong Kong | Rest of Asia-Pacific | Total |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| At 31Dec07 | | | |

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Gross advances to customers which have been overdue with respect to either principal or interest for periods of:

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| - more than three months but not more than six months | 737 | 1,403 | 2,140 |
| - more than six months but not more than one year | 223 | 837 | 1,060 |
| - more than one year | 637 | 1,042 | 1,679 |
| | 1,597 | 3,282 | 4,879 |

Overdue advances to customers as a percentage of gross advances to customers:

| | | | |
|---|------|------|------|
| - more than three months but not more than six months | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.2% |
| - more than six months but not more than one year | 0.0% | 0.2% | 0.1% |
| - more than one year | 0.1% | 0.2% | 0.1% |
| | 0.2% | 0.7% | 0.4% |

At 31Dec06

Gross advances to customers which have been overdue with respect to either principal or interest for periods of:

| | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| - more than three months but not more than six months | 938 | 1,287 | 2,225 |
| - more than six months but not more than one year | 384 | 595 | 979 |
| - more than one year | 1,238 | 859 | 2,097 |
| | 2,560 | 2,741 | 5,301 |

Overdue advances to customers as a percentage of gross advances to customers:

| | | | |
|---|------|------|------|
| - more than three months but not more than six months | 0.1% | 0.3% | 0.2% |
| - more than six months but not more than one year | 0.1% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| - more than one year | 0.2% | 0.2% | 0.2% |
| | 0.4% | 0.6% | 0.5% |

As at 31 December 2007 and 31 December 2006, there were no advances to banks and other financial institutions that were overdue for more than three months.

17. Rescheduled advances to customers

| Figures in HK\$m | Hong Kong | Rest of Asia-Pacific | Total |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|-------|
| At 31Dec07 | | | |
| Rescheduled advances to customers | 1,610 | 1,620 | 3,230 |
| Rescheduled advances to customers as a percentage of gross advances to customers | 0.2% | 0.3% | 0.3% |

At 31Dec06

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| | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Rescheduled advances to customers | 1,730 | 2,307 | 4,037 |
| Rescheduled advances to customers as a percentage of gross advances to customers | 0.3% | 0.6% | 0.4% |

As at 31 December 2007 and 31 December 2006, there were no rescheduled advances to banks and other financial institutions.

Rescheduled advances to customers are those advances which have been restructured or renegotiated because of a deterioration in the financial position of the borrower or because of the inability of the borrower to meet the original repayment schedule.

Rescheduled advances to customers are stated net of any advances which have subsequently become overdue for more than three months and which are included in 'Overdue advances to customers' (Note 16).

18. Analysis of advances to customers based on categories used by the HSBC Group

The following analysis of advances to customers is based on categories used by the HSBC Group, including The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and its subsidiary companies, to manage associated risks.

| Figures in HK\$m | Hong Kong | Rest of Asia-Pacific | Americas/ Europe | Total |
|---|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|---------|
| At 31Dec07 | | | | |
| Residential mortgages | 197,712 | 128,650 | 4 | 326,366 |
| Hong Kong SAR Government's Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme and Tenants Purchase Scheme mortgages | 30,738 | - | - | 30,738 |
| Credit card advances | 35,279 | 25,926 | - | 61,205 |
| Other personal | 41,567 | 40,115 | 1 | 81,683 |
| Total personal | 305,296 | 194,691 | 5 | 499,992 |
| Commercial, industrial and international trade | 138,331 | 200,475 | - | 338,806 |
| Commercial real estate | 94,748 | 46,391 | - | 141,139 |
| Other property-related lending | 63,697 | 20,936 | - | 84,633 |
| Government | 2,587 | 6,338 | - | 8,925 |
| Other commercial | 40,369 | 52,752 | - | 93,121 |
| Total corporate and commercial | 339,732 | 326,892 | - | 666,624 |
| Non-bank financial institutions | 19,363 | 29,344 | - | 48,707 |
| Settlement accounts | 3,798 | 225 | - | 4,023 |

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| | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---|-----------|
| Total financial | 23,161 | 29,569 | - | 52,730 |
| Gross advances to customers | 668,189 | 551,152 | 5 | 1,219,346 |
| Impairment allowances | (2,932) | (4,328) | - | (7,260) |
| Net advances to customers | 665,257 | 546,824 | 5 | 1,212,086 |
| At 31Dec06 | | | | |
| Residential mortgages | 191,522 | 112,900 | 5 | 304,427 |
| Hong Kong SAR Government's Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme and Tenants Purchase Scheme mortgages | 31,708 | - | - | 31,708 |
| Credit card advances | 31,315 | 19,999 | - | 51,314 |
| Other personal | 30,778 | 35,908 | 1 | 66,687 |
| Total personal | 285,323 | 168,807 | 6 | 454,136 |
| Commercial, industrial and international trade | 130,994 | 133,560 | - | 264,554 |
| Commercial real estate | 94,706 | 36,052 | - | 130,758 |
| Other property-related lending | 53,832 | 15,627 | - | 69,459 |
| Government | 4,283 | 6,727 | - | 11,010 |
| Other commercial | 43,186 | 38,781 | - | 81,967 |
| Total corporate and commercial | 327,001 | 230,747 | - | 557,748 |
| Non-bank financial institutions | 18,138 | 16,471 | - | 34,609 |
| Settlement accounts | 3,774 | 358 | - | 4,132 |
| Total financial | 21,912 | 16,829 | - | 38,741 |
| Gross advances to customers | 634,236 | 416,383 | 6 | 1,050,625 |
| Impairment allowances | (2,838) | (4,005) | - | (6,843) |
| Net advances to customers | 631,398 | 412,378 | 6 | 1,043,782 |

Net advances to customers increased by HK\$168 billion, or 16.1 per cent, since the end of 2006.

Net advances in Hong Kong grew by HK\$34 billion, or 5.4 per cent, since the end of 2006. Mortgage balances grew by 3.2 per cent underpinned by stable domestic interest rates. Credit card balances increased 12.7 per cent following the launch of a number of credit card programmes. Lending to corporate and commercial customers increased 3.9 per cent as lending to manufacturers who were expanding their operations in mainland China increased.

In the rest of Asia-Pacific, net advances rose by HK\$134 billion, or 32.6 per cent, since the end of 2006. Mortgage balances grew by 14.0 per cent with increases in Australia, India and Singapore. Credit card advances rose by 29.6 per cent, notably in Australia, India, Thailand and the Philippines, and the growth in other personal lending was attributable to continued business expansion in India. Lending to corporate and commercial customers rose by 41.7

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per cent, notably in mainland China, Vietnam, India and Mauritius.

19. Analysis of advances to customers by industry sector based on categories and definitions used by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ('HKMA')

The following analysis of advances to customers is based on the categories contained in the 'Quarterly Analysis of Loans and Advances and Provisions' return required to be submitted to the HKMA by branches of the bank and by banking subsidiary companies in Hong Kong.

| Figures in HK\$m | At 31Dec07 | At 31Dec06 |
|--|------------|------------|
| Gross advances to customers for use in Hong Kong | | |
| Industrial, commercial and financial | | |
| Property development | 47,217 | 46,352 |
| Property investment | 116,331 | 99,580 |
| Financial concerns | 10,731 | 10,136 |
| Stockbrokers | 2,669 | 964 |
| Wholesale and retail trade | 38,502 | 36,101 |
| Manufacturing | 21,526 | 17,331 |
| Transport and transport equipment | 26,381 | 27,408 |
| Recreational activities | 238 | 442 |
| Information technology | 2,504 | 2,494 |
| Others | 40,674 | 40,676 |
| | 306,773 | 281,484 |
| Individuals | | |
| Advances for the purchase of flats under the Hong Kong SAR Government's Home Ownership Scheme, Private Sector Participation Scheme and Tenants Purchase Scheme | 30,738 | 31,708 |
| Advances for the purchase of other residential properties | 176,591 | 171,014 |
| Credit card advances | 35,279 | 31,315 |
| Others | 37,188 | 26,966 |
| | 279,796 | 261,003 |
| Gross advances to customers for use in Hong Kong | 586,569 | 542,487 |
| Trade finance | 65,149 | 56,121 |
| Gross advances to customers for use outside Hong Kong made by branches of the bank and subsidiary companies in Hong Kong | 16,471 | 35,628 |
| Gross advances to customers made by branches of the bank and subsidiary companies in Hong Kong | 668,189 | 634,236 |
| Gross advances to customers made by branches of the bank and subsidiary companies outside Hong Kong: | | |
| - Rest of Asia-Pacific | 551,152 | 416,383 |
| - Americas/Europe | 5 | 6 |
| Gross advances to customers | 1,219,346 | 1,050,625 |

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20. Cross-border exposure

The country risk exposures in the tables below are prepared in accordance with the HKMA Return of External Positions Part II: Cross-Border Claims (MA(BS)9) guidelines.

Cross-border claims are on-balance sheet exposures to counterparties based on the location of the counterparties after taking into account the transfer of risk.

The tables show claims on individual countries and territories or areas, after risk transfer, amounting to 10 per cent or more of the aggregate cross-border claims.

Cross-border risk is controlled centrally through a well-developed system of country limits and is frequently reviewed to avoid concentration of transfer, economic or political risk.

| Figures in HK\$m | Banks and other financial institutions | Public sector entities | Other | Total |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| At 31Dec07 | | | | |
| Americas | | | | |
| United States | 53,963 | 63,624 | 62,638 | 180,225 |
| Other | 48,643 | 2,713 | 51,189 | 102,545 |
| | 102,606 | 66,337 | 113,827 | 282,770 |
| Europe | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 322,972 | 17 | 46,218 | 369,207 |
| Other | 450,375 | 1,651 | 48,113 | 500,139 |
| | 773,347 | 1,668 | 94,331 | 869,346 |
| Asia-Pacific excluding Hong Kong | 241,481 | 104,092 | 171,184 | 516,757 |
| At 31Dec06 | | | | |
| Americas | | | | |
| United States | 62,558 | 78,354 | 72,669 | 213,581 |
| Other | 38,585 | 6,568 | 47,393 | 92,546 |
| | 101,143 | 84,922 | 120,062 | 306,127 |
| Europe | | | | |
| United Kingdom | 138,625 | 17 | 24,324 | 162,966 |
| Other | 405,950 | 5,010 | 18,981 | 429,941 |
| | 544,575 | 5,027 | 43,305 | 592,907 |
| Asia-Pacific excluding Hong Kong | 213,292 | 93,968 | 116,242 | 423,502 |

21. Customer accounts

| Figures in HK\$m | At 31Dec07 | At 31Dec06 |
|------------------|------------|------------|
| Current accounts | 417,786 | 292,450 |
| Savings accounts | 983,874 | 785,659 |

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| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Other deposit accounts | 1,084,446 | 911,358 |
| | 2,486,106 | 1,989,467 |

Customer accounts increased by HK\$497 billion, or 25 per cent, compared with the end of 2006.

In Hong Kong, customer accounts rose by HK\$271 billion, or 18.8 per cent, largely in savings and other account balances, attributable to successful deposit campaigns and effective pricing which made savings products more attractive to customers. Deposits from personal customers increased by HK\$101 billion, or 12.2 per cent.

In the rest of Asia-Pacific, customer accounts increased HK\$226 billion, or 41.0 per cent, as the group continued to expand the deposit base throughout the region. The group's focus was on attracting mass affluent customers through HSBC Premier and increasing corporate balances by growing the payments and cash management business and the securities services business. Deposits from personal customers grew by HK\$54 billion, or 26.7 per cent, notably in India, Australia and mainland China. Customer account balances held by corporate customers in Commercial Banking and Global Banking and Markets rose by HK\$169 billion, or 49.5 per cent, largely in mainland China, India, Singapore and South Korea.

The group's advances-to-deposits ratio decreased to 48.8 per cent at 31 December 2007, from 52.5 per cent at 31 December 2006.

22. Reserves

| Figures in HK\$m | At 31Dec07 | At 31Dec06 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Other reserves | | |
| - Property revaluation reserve | 6,995 | 4,798 |
| - Available-for-sale investment reserve | 58,757 | 25,812 |
| - Cash flow hedge reserve | 677 | (166) |
| - Foreign exchange reserve | 8,887 | 2,805 |
| - Other | 8,636 | 2,265 |
| | 83,952 | 35,514 |
| Retained profits | 107,908 | 80,942 |
| Total reserves | 191,860 | 116,456 |

An amount of HK\$4,180 million (excluding an amount of HK\$555 million recognised in minority interests), being the amount of the gains arising from the dilution of investments in associates, has been transferred from retained profits to other reserves.

23. Contingent liabilities, commitments and derivatives

a Off-balance sheet contingent liabilities and commitments

| Figures in HK\$m | At 31Dec07 | At 31Dec06 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Contingent liabilities and financial guarantee contracts | | |
| - Guarantees and irrevocable letters of credit pledged as collateral security | 161,493 | 121,911 |
| - Other contingent liabilities | 122 | 34 |
| | 161,615 | 121,945 |

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Commitments

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| - Documentary credits and short-term trade-related transactions | 54,803 | 34,538 |
| - Forward asset purchases and forward deposits placed | 461 | 319 |
| - Undrawn note issuing and revolving underwriting facilities | - | 1,166 |
| - Undrawn formal standby facilities, credit lines and other commitments to lend: | | |
| - 1 year and under | 1,037,691 | 887,680 |
| - over 1 year | 93,111 | 93,970 |
| | 1,186,066 | 1,017,673 |

The above table discloses the nominal principal amounts of third party off-balance sheet transactions, the amounts relating to other contingent liabilities and the nominal principal amounts relating to financial guarantee contracts. Contingent liabilities and commitments are mainly credit-related instruments which include non-financial guarantees and commitments to extend credit. Contractual amounts represent the amounts at risk should contracts be fully drawn upon and clients default. Since a significant portion of guarantees and commitments are expected to expire without being drawn upon, the total of the contractual amounts is not representative of future liquidity requirements.

b Guarantees (including financial guarantee contracts)

The group provides guarantees and similar undertakings on behalf of both third party customers and other entities within the group. These guarantees are generally provided in the normal course of the banking business. The principal types of guarantees provided, and the maximum potential amount of future payments which the group could be required to make at 31 December 2007, were as follows:

| Figures in HK\$m | At 31Dec07 | Guarantees by the group in favour of other HSBC Group entities | At 31Dec06 | Guarantees by the group in favour of other HSBC Group entities |
|---|------------|--|------------|--|
| Guarantee type | | | | |
| Financial guarantee contracts [^] | 26,157 | 3,912 | 22,195 | |
| Standby letters of credit which are financial guarantee contracts ^{^^} | 25,366 | 28 | 17,734 | |
| Other direct credit substitutes ^{^^^} | 30,384 | 21 | 27,778 | |
| Performance bonds ^{^^^^} | 35,666 | 3,628 | 25,962 | |
| Bid bonds ^{^^^^} | 2,223 | 147 | 1,175 | |
| Standby letters of credit related to particular transactions ^{^^^^} | 4,942 | 137 | 1,703 | |
| Other transaction-related guarantees ^{^^^^} | 27,559 | 4,509 | 20,685 | |
| | 152,297 | 12,382 | 117,232 | |

[^] Financial guarantees are contracts that require the issuer to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss incurred because a specified debtor fails to make payment when due in accordance with the original or modified terms of a debt instrument. The amounts in the above table are nominal principal amounts.

^{^^} Standby letters of credit which are financial guarantee contracts are irrevocable obligations on the part of the group to pay third parties when

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customers fail to make payments when due.

^^^ Other direct credit substitutes include re-insurance letters of credit and trade-related letters of credit issued without provision for the issuing entity to retain title to the underlying shipment.

^^^ Performance bonds, bid bonds, standby letters of credit and other transaction-related guarantees are undertakings by which the obligation on the group to make payment depends on the outcome of a future event.

The amounts disclosed in the above table reflect the group's maximum exposure under a large number of individual guarantee undertakings. The risks and exposures from guarantees are captured and managed in accordance with HSBC's overall credit risk management policies and procedures. Approximately half of the above guarantees have a term of less than one year. Guarantees with terms of more than one year are subject to HSBC's annual credit review process.

c Contingencies

The group is named in and defending legal actions in a number of jurisdictions including Hong Kong, arising out of its normal business operations. None of the actions is regarded as material litigation, and none is expected to result in a significant adverse effect on the financial position of the group, either collectively or individually. Management believes that adequate provisions have been made in respect of such litigation.

24. Foreign exchange exposure

Foreign exchange exposures may be divided broadly into two categories: structural and non-structural. Structural exposures are normally long-term in nature and include those arising from investments in overseas subsidiaries, branches, associates and strategic investments as well as capital instruments denominated in currencies other than Hong Kong dollars. Non-structural exposures arise primarily from trading positions and balance sheet management activities. Non-structural exposures can arise and change rapidly. Foreign currency exposures are managed in accordance with the group's risk management policies and procedures.

The group had the following structural foreign currency exposures which exceeded 10 per cent of the total net structural exposure in all foreign currencies:

| Figures in HK\$m | Net structural position |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| At 31Dec07 | |
| Chinese renminbi | 104,825 |
| Indian rupee | 18,774 |
| At 31Dec06 | |
| Chinese renminbi | 54,960 |
| United States dollars | 15,886 |

The increase in the Chinese renminbi structural position during 2007 was principally due to an increase in the valuation of the group's strategic long-term foreign currency equity investments.

The group had the following non-structural foreign currency positions which exceeded 10 per cent of the group's net non-structural positions in all foreign currencies:

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| Figures in HK\$m | United States dollars | Singapore dollars | Brunei dollars | Chinese renminbi |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| At 31Dec07 | | | | |
| Spot assets | 2,754,883 | 35,820 | 65,053 | 222,368 |
| Spot liabilities | (2,700,125) | (81,235) | (26,586) | (201,629) |
| Forward purchases | 3,584,670 | 258,370 | 58 | 252,162 |
| Forward sales | (3,653,773) | (206,637) | (44,713) | (274,787) |
| Net options position | 18,068 | - | - | - |
| | 3,723 | 6,318 | (6,188) | (1,886) |
| At 31Dec06 | | | | |
| Spot assets | 1,205,314 | 118,964 | 27,665 | 78,111 |
| Spot liabilities | (1,222,334) | (140,566) | (107) | (69,689) |
| Forward purchases | 2,222,005 | 168,534 | 24,949 | 97,130 |
| Forward sales | (2,210,290) | (141,505) | (57,857) | (104,949) |
| Net options position | (132) | - | - | - |
| | (5,437) | 5,427 | (5,350) | 603 |

25. Segmental analysis

The allocation of earnings reflects the benefits of shareholders' funds to the extent that these are actually allocated to businesses in the segment by way of intra-group capital and funding structures. Interest is charged based on market rates. Common costs are included in segments on the basis of the actual recharges made. Geographical information has been classified by the location of the principal operations of the subsidiary company or, in the case of the bank, by the location of the branch responsible for reporting the results or advancing the funds. Due to the nature of the group structure, the analysis of profits shown below includes intra-group items between geographical regions with the elimination shown in a separate column.

Consolidated income statement

| Figures in HK\$m | Hong Kong | Rest of Asia-Pacific | Americas/ Europe | Intra- segment elimination | Total |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| Year ended 31Dec07 | | | | | |
| Interest income | 96,700 | 54,384 | 1,079 | (8,010) | 144,153 |
| Interest expense | (54,538) | (33,877) | (995) | 8,018 | (81,392) |
| Net interest income | 42,162 | 20,507 | 84 | 8 | 62,761 |
| Fee income | 27,644 | 14,355 | 1 | (851) | 41,149 |
| Fee expense | (3,930) | (3,116) | (13) | 851 | (6,208) |
| Net trading income/(loss) | 7,026 | 9,033 | 1 | (4) | 16,056 |
| Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value | 5,322 | 883 | - | (4) | 6,201 |
| Gains less losses from financial investments | 737 | 155 | - | - | 892 |
| Gains arising from dilution of investments in associates | - | 4,735 | - | - | 4,735 |
| Dividend income | 385 | 308 | - | - | 693 |
| Net earned insurance premiums | 21,934 | 1,761 | - | - | 23,695 |
| Other operating income | 6,580 | 597 | 22 | (3,143) | 4,056 |
| Total operating income | 107,860 | 49,218 | 95 | (3,143) | 154,030 |

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| | | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|-------|---------|----------|
| Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities | (25,044) | (1,977) | - | - | (27,021) |
| Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | 82,816 | 47,241 | 95 | (3,143) | 127,009 |
| Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | (1,799) | (4,006) | - | - | (5,805) |
| Net operating income | 81,017 | 43,235 | 95 | (3,143) | 121,204 |
| Operating expenses | (27,446) | (22,848) | (27) | 3,143 | (47,178) |
| Operating profit | 53,571 | 20,387 | 68 | - | 74,026 |
| Share of profit in associates and joint ventures | 221 | 4,514 | - | - | 4,735 |
| Profit before tax | 53,792 | 24,901 | 68 | - | 78,761 |
| Tax expense | (8,826) | (4,623) | (7) | - | (13,456) |
| Profit for the year | 44,966 | 20,278 | 61 | - | 65,305 |
| Profit attributable to shareholders | 38,605 | 19,362 | 61 | - | 58,028 |
| Profit attributable to minority interests | 6,361 | 916 | - | - | 7,277 |
| Year ended 31Dec06 | | | | | |
| Interest income | 82,301 | 40,151 | 884 | (7,408) | 115,928 |
| Interest expense | (46,490) | (24,960) | (804) | 7,425 | (64,829) |
| Net interest income | 35,811 | 15,191 | 80 | 17 | 51,099 |
| Fee income | 17,347 | 9,925 | - | (718) | 26,554 |
| Fee expense | (3,030) | (1,826) | (12) | 718 | (4,150) |
| Net trading income/(loss) | 3,077 | 5,871 | (13) | (17) | 8,918 |
| Net income from financial instruments designated at fair value | 2,048 | 622 | - | - | 2,670 |
| Gains less losses from financial investments | 1,245 | 221 | - | - | 1,466 |
| Dividend income | 525 | 224 | - | - | 749 |
| Net earned insurance premiums | 20,495 | 1,351 | - | - | 21,846 |
| Other operating income | 6,171 | 2,073 | 22 | (2,613) | 5,653 |
| Total operating income | 83,689 | 33,652 | 77 | (2,613) | 114,805 |
| Net insurance claims incurred and movement in policyholders' liabilities | (20,991) | (1,489) | - | - | (22,480) |
| Net operating income before loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | 62,698 | 32,163 | 77 | (2,613) | 92,325 |
| Loan impairment charges and other credit risk provisions | (1,336) | (3,473) | - | - | (4,809) |
| Net operating income | 61,362 | 28,690 | 77 | (2,613) | 87,516 |
| Operating expenses | (23,534) | (17,287) | (31) | 2,613 | (38,239) |
| Operating profit | 37,828 | 11,403 | 46 | - | 49,277 |
| Share of profit in associates and joint ventures | 150 | 2,589 | - | - | 2,739 |
| Profit before tax | 37,978 | 13,992 | 46 | - | 52,016 |
| Tax expense | (6,079) | (3,317) | (15) | - | (9,411) |
| Profit for the year | 31,899 | 10,675 | 31 | - | 42,605 |
| Profit attributable to shareholders | 27,206 | 10,472 | 31 | - | 37,709 |
| Profit attributable to minority interests | 4,693 | 203 | - | - | 4,896 |

26. Capital adequacy

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The following table shows the capital adequacy ratio and the components of the capital base contained in the 'Capital Adequacy Ratio' return required to be submitted to the HKMA by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited on a consolidated basis that is specified by the HKMA under the requirement of section 98(2) of the Banking Ordinance.

The Banking (Capital) Rules ('the Rules') came into effect on 1 January 2007. The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited uses the standardised (credit risk) approach and standardised (securitisation) approach to calculate its credit risk for non-securitisation exposures and credit risk for securitisation exposures respectively. It also uses the standardised (operational risk) approach and standardised (market risk) approach to calculate its operational risk and market risk respectively. However, an internal model approach is adopted for calculating the general market risk and a separate model is used for calculating the market risk relating to equity options. This basis is different from the basis used at 31 December 2006, and the numbers are therefore not strictly comparable.

Figures in HK\$m

At 31Dec07

Composition of capital

Core Capital:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Paid-up ordinary share capital | 21,040 |
| Paid-up irredeemable non-cumulative preference shares | 51,882 |
| Published reserves | 72,069 |
| Profit and loss account | 29,543 |
| Minority interests ^{^^^} | 21,318 |
| Less: Deduction from core capital | (11,111) |
| Less: 50% of total amount of deductible items (@50%) ^{^^^^} | (28,894) |
| Total core capital | 155,847 |

Supplementary Capital:

| | |
|--|----------|
| Property revaluation reserves [^] | 5,869 |
| Available-for-sale investments revaluation reserves ^{^^} | 4,434 |
| Unrealised fair value gains from financial instruments designated at fair value through profit or loss | 137 |
| Regulatory reserve ^{^^^} | 4,148 |
| Collective provisions | 5,078 |
| Perpetual subordinated debt | 9,415 |
| Paid-up irredeemable cumulative preference shares | 16,610 |
| Term subordinated debt | 11,970 |
| Paid-up term preference shares | 21,835 |
| Less: 50% of total amount of deductible items (@50%) ^{^^^^} | (28,894) |
| Total supplementary capital | 50,602 |
| Capital base | 206,449 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Total deductible items ^{^^^^} | 57,788 |
|--|--------|

There is no relevant capital shortfall in any of the group's subsidiaries which are not included in its consolidation group for regulatory purposes.

[^] Includes the revaluation surplus on investment properties which is reported as part of retained profits.

^{^^} Includes adjustments made in accordance with guidelines issued by the HKMA.

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^^^ The regulatory reserve is maintained for satisfying the Banking Ordinance for prudential supervision.

^^^^ After deduction of minority interests in unconsolidated subsidiary companies.

^^^^^ Total deductible items are deducted from institution's core capital and supplementary capital.

The capital ratios on a consolidated basis calculated in accordance with the Rules are as follows:

| | At 31Dec07 |
|------------------------|------------|
| Capital adequacy ratio | 11.6% |
| Core capital ratio | 8.8% |

The table below sets out an analysis of regulatory capital and capital adequacy ratios for the group. They are calculated in accordance with the Third Schedule of the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance.

This basis is different from the basis used at 31 December 2007, and the numbers are therefore not strictly comparable.

Figures in HK\$m

At 31Dec06

Composition of capital

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Tier 1: | |
| Total shareholders' equity | 145,450 |
| Less: proposed dividend | (6,500) |
| property revaluation reserves^ | (7,892) |
| available-for-sale investment reserve^^ | (26,028) |
| classified as regulatory reserve^^^ | (1,689) |
| goodwill | (4,182) |
| others | (138) |
| Irredeemable non-cumulative preference shares | 51,735 |
| Minority interests^^^^ | 17,483 |
| Total qualifying tier 1 capital | 168,239 |
| Tier 2: | |
| Property revaluation reserves (@70%) | 5,524 |
| Available-for-sale investment reserve (@70%) | 18,220 |
| Collective impairment provision and regulatory reser | 6,610 |
| Perpetual subordinated debt | 9,370 |
| Term subordinated debt | 9,849 |
| Term preference shares | 8,165 |
| Irredeemable cumulative preference shares | 16,563 |
| Total qualifying tier 2 capital | 74,301 |
| Deductions | (58,559) |
| Total capital | 183,981 |
| Risk-weighted assets | 1,367,607 |

^ Includes the revaluation surplus on investment properties, which is now reported as part of retained profits.

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^^ Includes adjustments made in accordance with guidelines issued by HKMA.

^^^ The regulatory reserve is maintained for the purpose of satisfying the Banking Ordinance for prudential supervision. Movements in this reserve are made in consultation with the HKMA.

^^^^ After deduction of minority interests in unconsolidated accounts of subsidiary companies.

The group's capital adequacy ratios adjusted for market risks calculated in accordance with the HKMA Guideline on 'Maintenance of Adequate Capital Against Market Risks' are as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| | At 31Dec06 |
| Total capital | 13.5% |
| Tier 1 capital | 12.3% |

The group's capital adequacy ratios calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Third Schedule of the Banking Ordinance, which does not take into account market risks, are as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| | At 31Dec06 |
| Total capital | 13.0% |
| Tier 1 capital | 11.8% |

27. Liquidity ratio

The Hong Kong Banking Ordinance requires banks operating in Hong Kong to maintain a minimum liquidity ratio of 25 per cent, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Fourth Schedule of the Banking Ordinance. This requirement applies separately to the Hong Kong branches of the bank and to those subsidiary companies which are Authorised Institutions under the Banking Ordinance in Hong Kong.

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| | 2007 | 2006 |
| The average liquidity ratio for the year was as follows: | | |
| Hong Kong branches of the bank | 57.0% | 49.3% |

28. Property revaluation

The group's premises and investment properties were revalued as at 30 September 2007 and updated for any material changes as at 31 December 2007. The basis of valuation was open market value or depreciated replacement cost.

Premises and investment properties in the Hong Kong SAR, the Macau SAR and mainland China, which represent 93 per cent by value of the group's properties subject to valuation, were valued by DTZ Debenham Tie Leung Limited. The valuations were carried out by qualified valuers who are members of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors. Properties in 11 other countries, which represent seven per cent by value of the group's properties, were valued by different independent professionally qualified valuers.

The September property revaluation, together with the revaluation of Hong Kong properties undertaken in June 2007, has resulted in an increase in the group's revaluation reserves of HK\$2,432 million, net of deferred taxation of HK\$658 million, and a credit to the income statement of HK\$384 million. Of the HK\$384 million credit to the income statement, HK\$262 million represents the surplus on the revaluation of investment properties and HK\$122 million relates to the

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reversal of previous revaluation deficits that had arisen when the value of certain premises fell below depreciated historical cost.

29. Accounting policies

The accounting policies applied in preparing this news release are the same as those applied in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2006, as disclosed in the Annual Report and Accounts for 2006.

30. Statutory accounts

The information in this news release is not audited and does not constitute statutory accounts.

Certain financial information in this news release is extracted from the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2007, which were approved by the Board of Directors on 3 March 2008 and will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and the HKMA. The Auditors expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements in their report dated 3 March 2008. The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2007, which include the financial statements, can be obtained on request from Group Communications, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong, and will be made available on our website: www.hsbc.com.hk. A further press release will be issued to announce the availability of this information.

31. Ultimate holding company

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited is an indirectly held, wholly-owned subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

HSBC Holdings plc

By:

Name: P A Stafford

Title: Assistant Group Secretary

Date: 03-03-2008