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Hong Kong estate agents to obtain qualification to carry out estate agency work in Guangzhou

(29 August 2008) To promote professional and technical exchange in the estate agency trade between Hong Kong and Guangzhou, the Estate Agents Authority of Hong Kong (EAA) and the Guangzhou Real Estate Agent Service Administration Centre (the Centre) entered into an agreement today to facilitate Hong Kong estate agents' qualifying to practise estate agency work in Guangzhou after attending a specially designed course and examination in Hong Kong.

The EAA Chairman Mr Steven Poon and Head of the Centre Mr Shi Xiaoming signed the agreement in a ceremony held today. Speaking at the ceremony, Mr Poon said the new arrangement would enable those Hong Kong estate agency practitioners who intended to practice estate agency work in Guangzhou to get the required qualification certificate through some relatively simple steps. The signing of the agreement was a manifestation of mutual co-operation and the opening of the Hong Kong and the Mainland markets.

Mr Poon said he believed the agreement would foster professional and technical exchange in the estate agency trade between the two cities. "Hong Kong estate agency has a long history and a well established regulatory system. Through practising in Guangzhou, Hong Kong estate agency practitioners can help their Guangzhou counterparts to understand more about the professional practices and regulated operation of the estate agency trade in Hong Kong, and to learn more from each other," he said. "With the concerted efforts of both Guangzhou and Hong Kong practitioners, customers will surely be provided with higher quality estate agency services."

"I sincerely hope that both sides will strengthen communication and exchanges with each other," said Mr Shi. "I also expect Hong Kong estate agency practitioners, while developing their careers in Guangzhou, to bring their mature skills and practices to the city to promote competition and the development of the estate agency trade in Guangzhou, while at the same time learning more about the development of the Mainland and

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Guangzhou."

According to the agreement, a preparatory course and examination will be held in Hong Kong for local estate agency practitioners.

Eligible Hong Kong licensees, after participating in the two- to three-day special course and passing the examination, will be granted a qualification certificate to carry out estate agency work in Guangzhou.

Detailed arrangements for the first course and examination will be announced later.



The EAA Chairman Mr Steven Poon (left) and Head of the Guangzhou Real Estate Agent Service Administration Centre Mr Shi Xiaoming sign an agreement to facilitate Hong Kong estate agents' qualifying to practise estate agency work in Guangzhou. The signing is witnessed by (back row, from left) EAA Member Mr Lun Chi-yim, EAA Chief Executive Officer Ms Sandy Chan, Deputy to the 11th National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China and EAA Member Mr Ma Ho-fai, SBS, JP, EAA Vice-chairman Mrs Amy Liu, Deputy Secretary for Transport & Housing (Housing) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government Miss Mary Chow, JP, Deputy Director General of the Coordination Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong SAR Ms Sun Aqing, Permanent Honorary President of the Guangdong Real Estate Association Professor Chen Zhiquan, Director of the Bureau of Land Resources and House Management of Haizhu District of Guangzhou Ms Sun Xiaoxia, Professor Liao Junping of the Sun Yat-sen University and EAA Board-appointed Member Mrs Karen Wong.



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The EAA Chairman Mr Steven Poon (fifth from left, front row) and Head of the Guangzhou Real Estate Agent Service Administration Centre Mr Shi Xiaoming (fourth from left, front row) pose with witnessing guests and members of the estate agency trade after the signing ceremony.