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HSBC TOPS SURVEY OF WORLD'S LEADING BANKS

HSBC has jumped from third to first place in the latest annual Banker magazine survey of the world's top one thousand banks (Top 1000¹). HSBC is the first non-US company in nine years to lead the survey and tops the rankings by virtue of its Tier 1 capital and profit before tax, which last year reached a new high.

The survey found that US banks now account for just 14 per cent of aggregate Top 1000 pre-tax profits, down from 24 per cent last year, while Asian banks rose to 19 per cent from 12 per cent. European bank profits remained flat at 41 per cent of the total.

In April, HSBC also topped the Forbes 2000 list of world's largest companies - the first non-US company to do so, having delivered 26 percent growth in annual revenue and 31 per cent in net income over the past five years.

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¹For further information please go to: www.thebanker.com

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Note to editors

HSBC Holdings plc

HSBC Holdings plc serves over 128 million customers worldwide through around 10,000 offices in 83 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of some US\$2,354 billion at 31 December 2007, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'The world's local bank'.

HSBC Bank (Cayman) Limited

HSBC Bank (Cayman) Limited is a class A licensed bank regulated by the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority which carries out fund administration, captive insurance management, corporate trust and private trust services. In 2007, HSBC announced plans to expand its offering in the Cayman Islands with the anticipated roll out of additional services in the latter half of 2008. Prior to the launch of the new services, HSBC Bank (Cayman) Limited has been actively recruiting in the local market. Currently approximately 70% of HSBC Cayman's employees are Caymanian, significantly above the country's average of 49%. HSBC Bank (Cayman) Limited is committed to education and training of staff and has launched a major training initiative to ensure that staff deliver first class service to clients.

