

**For Immediate Release**

**IFS and HKIB celebrate milestone as first cohort graduates from the Enhanced Competency Framework – Anti-Money Laundering/ Counter-Financing of Terrorism - Macao programme**

**6 December 2019, Macao** – The Macau Institute of Financial Services (IFS) and The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) today successfully held the Inaugural Enhanced Competency Framework – Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism Macao (ECF-AML/CFT Macao) Graduation Ceremony 2019, an occasion witnessing the first cohort of graduates completing the ECF-AML/CFT Macao course. The event, which also recognised graduates completing the Certified Financial Management Planner (CFMP™) programme, marked a major milestone for the two institutions in fostering cross-border professional development and talent mobility for the banking industry in Hong Kong and Macao.

Taking place in the auditorium of the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM), the event saw more than 40 graduates awarded their certificates of the ECF-AML/CFT Macao and CFMP™ programmes in recognition of their professional standing and commitment to continuing education. Officiating at the graduation ceremony were Guests of Honour including **Simon VONG, Executive Director of the AMCM; Arthur YUEN, Deputy Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and Deputy Chairperson, Executive Committee of HKIB; Dr António José Félix PONTES, Chairman of the Executive Board of IFS; and Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of HKIB.**

**Dr PONTES** congratulated the graduates and said, 'Macao is facing economic uncertainties and volatilities from international financial markets. With the launching of the CFMP™ programme in Macao and the ECF-AML/CFT Macao course, the IFS has taken an important step towards substantially enhancing professional knowledge among local banking practitioners in order to meet industry demand,' He then encouraged Macao's financial practitioners to maintain their high level of professional competence, and seize the opportunities brought about by the Greater Bay Area. Finally, he assured attendees that the IFS will continue in its endeavours to provide all kinds of training activities, aiming to help Macao's financial practitioners raise their professional standards so as to foster the sustainable development of Macao's financial industry.

**Carrie LEUNG** also congratulated the graduates, 'It is gratifying to witness the graduation of the first cohort of the ECF-AML/CFT Macao course, as well as those who successfully completed the CFMP™ programme. Macao and Hong Kong are both uniquely suited to playing a key role in the development of the Greater Bay Area, leveraging their strong economic and financial prowess. A strong talent pool will be critical to make sure both cities can harness the area's lucrative potential. The local banking community needs proactive talent development strategies to ensure industry professionals have the desired skill sets to thrive across markets in the region.'

The CFMP™ programme has been jointly organised by IFS and HKIB and widely welcomed by the industry since 2009. However, the ECF-AML/CFT Macao programme was the first localised professional training programme to be launched based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the HKMA and the AMCM in 2018 to jointly promote the mutual recognition of certifications and talent mobility in the banking industry in Hong Kong and Macao. In 2019, the

programme was integrated as one of the five modules in the Advanced Diploma Programme for Certified Banker Macao (Stage I).

Going forward, IFS and HKIB will continue to work closely to launch more programmes in other professional areas under the Enhanced Competency Framework and integrate them into the Certified Banker Macao curriculum, with the aim of upholding the professional standards of banking and finance practitioners in both jurisdictions using a common qualification benchmark.

\*\*\*Ends\*\*\*

**Photo caption:**



(From third left) Carrie LEUNG, Chief Executive Officer of HKIB, Simon VONG, Executive Director of AMCM; Arthur YUEN, Deputy Chief Executive of HKMA and Deputy Chairman, Executive Committee of HKIB; Dr António José Félix PONTES, Chairman of the Executive Board of IFS; and, congratulate the four top candidates among 60+ graduates at the event.

## **Notes to editors:**

### **About the Macau Institute of Financial Services**

The Macau Institute of Financial Services (IFS) was established in March 2002 as a non-profit organisation. Its founding members are the Monetary Authority of Macao, the Macao Association of Banks, the Macao Insurers' Association and the Macao Insurance Agents and Brokers Association. The objectives of the IFS are to promote overall performance and professional standard of Macao's financial practitioners by provision of professional training and qualifying examinations so as to foster the sustainable development of Macao's financial industry. In line with its objectives, the IFS is engaged in organising diversified training programs covering a wide range of topics, such as practical training courses, seminars with up-to-date information, internationally-recognised certification programs, etc. IFS training activities have provided Macao's financial practitioners with opportunities to carry on continuous learning.

Official website: <https://www.ifs.org.mo/>

### **About The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers**

The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) has been serving the local banking community as an independent organisation in the provision of education and professional training since 1963. The Institute also acts as an industry-recognised training and certifying hub for the local banking community. With an objective to maintain and further develop the territory's status as an international financial centre, the Institute works with the support of banks, regulators, financial institutions, academic institutions and various professional bodies to provide local banking practitioners with professional training and development opportunities. In view of the changing landscape of the banking and financial services industry in Hong Kong and mainland China as well as on a global scale, the importance of continuing to enhance the standards of professional development has gained increased attention. HKIB endeavours to provide and enhance its training and development products in order to equip its members with essential knowledge and skills that meet the industry's needs.

Official website: <https://www.hkib.org/>

LinkedIn: <https://hk.linkedin.com/company/the-hong-kong-institute-of-bankers>

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