

For immediate release

**The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers revitalises its Certified Banker (CB) Curriculum with
Future Banking, ESG, Green and Sustainable Finance-Related Elements
– Extends Admission Eligibility to Attract Tertiary Students**

Hong Kong, 3 May 2022 — The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB), which provides professional certification and training to the local banking and financial services industries, today announced a revamp of its well-recognised flagship programme, Certified Banker (CB), with new modules. It has also broadened entry requirements to attract more tertiary students to join the banking industry.

Since its launch, the CB programme has supported over 1,000 HKIB members in local banks and financial institutions to develop their careers by obtaining professional qualifications, while drawing greater attention to local talent development and professional qualifications. The HKIB will continue to enhance the CB programme's curriculum and plans to launch three new modules (please refer to the appendix).

Carrie Leung, Chief Executive Officer of the HKIB, stated, "We will further enrich the CB programme curriculum with the launch of the new modules. We are looking to launch the elements related to future banking and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), people management skills, and green finance and sustainable development in the second quarter of this year. In addition to the new modules, the existing curriculum will have expanded focus on the areas of Regtech, Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications, and data management. The Institute hopes that the CB programme can ultimately serve as a passport for individuals interested in working in the financial industry – locally and abroad. ."

In order to encourage more students to enrol, the HKIB is also introducing two new arrangements for enrolment eligibility. The first will allow tertiary students with at least a sub-degree or equivalent qualification in any discipline to begin the "Advanced Diploma for Certified Banker", while bachelor's degree holders with relevant qualifications in banking and finance-related disciplines may enrol directly in the "Professional Diploma for Certified Banker". Students can then acquire the professional qualifications of CB (Stage I) and CB (Stage II) by passing the examination and acquiring work experience, respectively. In addition, students who enrol in all modules in any stage of CB Programme can enjoy a bundle discount. Through this arrangement, the HKIB wishes to encourage fresh graduates and those who aspire to join the banking industry to enrol.

Carrie Leung added, "Since its launch, the CB has kept pace with industry trends, and we have continued to enrich the programme's curriculum to support our students to enhance their talent and strengthen their professional skills. The programme is particularly well-suited for talent interested in pursuing a career in banking but lacking an in-depth understanding of the industry. The revamped programme curriculum will enable them to efficiently obtain professional qualifications recognised by local regulators and industry. It will also accelerate the recruitment of young talent by the

Hong Kong banking industry, and ensure the sustainability of the talent pools of both the city and the wider Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, thereby enhancing the financial industry's longer-term development."

There is a growing demand for banking professionals to acquire both traditional knowledge and future skill sets. A comprehensive talent development strategy is therefore crucial to the future development of the local financial industry. As the sole assessment agency appointed by the Education Bureau (EDB) to issue banking professional qualifications in Hong Kong, HKIB hopes that by strengthening the CB's curriculum, it can further support more bank practitioners and university students who aspire to join the financial industry by equipping them with the right skills and helping them to capture career opportunities. Not only will the common professional qualifications help outline a clearer training path, but they will also help nurture the right talent for the industry.

To learn more about the CB's enrolment eligibility and information, please visit the HKIB's website: [\[link\]](#).

Ends

Appendix: CB's three new modules to be launched in Q2 2022

Module	Stage	Overview
Future Banking and ESG (FBESG)	CB (Stage I)	Offering fundamental banking skills, the revamped module will provide the essential knowledge on future banking trends and ESG, which includes basic concepts associated with Fintech applications and green finance in this foundational banking skills course.
Introduction to People Management Skills (IPMS)	CB (Stage I)	Soft skills have been identified as one of the major skills gaps in the banking industry. The key highlights in this enhanced module include people management skills, such as communication skills, leadership skills and engagement with a range of stakeholders.
Green Finance and Sustainability (GFS)	CB (Stage II)	This module aims to equip students with comprehensive knowledge, skills and understanding relating to the banking business in the digital age and the full spectrum of green and sustainable finance, including strategic management and climate-related risk mitigation as part of the transformation to a low-carbon and sustainable world.



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Notes to editors:

About The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers

The Hong Kong Institute of Bankers (HKIB) has been serving the local banking community in the provision of professional training and certification services since 1963. HKIB is the first not-for-profit institution in Hong Kong to issue banking qualifications and was appointed by the Education Bureau as a Professional Qualifications Assessment Agency in August 2020. 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. The 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>