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7 March 2014

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To: Chief Executives of all authorized insurers
carrying on long term business

Dear Sirs,

Statements issued by the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (“FATF”)

Further to our letter of 8 November 2013, we are writing to inform you of the following developments:

(1) FATF Public Statement

The FATF issued an updated statement on 14 February 2014 concerning a number of jurisdictions that have been identified as posing substantial risks to the international financial system. The statement can be found on the website of FATF (<http://www.fatf-gafi.org/topics/high-riskandnon-cooperativejurisdictions/documents/public-statement-feb-2014.html>).

Iran

The FATF remains particularly and exceptionally concerned about Iran's failure to address the risk of terrorist financing and the serious threat this poses to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF reaffirms its call on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures to protect their financial sectors from money laundering and financing of terrorism (“ML/FT”) risks emanating from Iran.

You should continue to apply the measures specified in our circular of 26 March 2009 when handling transactions related to Iran.

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Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The FATF remains concerned by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's failure to address the significant deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism ("AML/CFT") regime and the serious threat this poses to the integrity of the international financial system. The FATF further calls on its members and urges all jurisdictions to apply effective counter-measures to protect their financial sectors from ML/FT risks emanating from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

You should follow the guidance specified in the FATF Statement and subject the transactions associated with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to increased scrutiny and enhanced due diligence.

Algeria, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen

The FATF calls on its members to consider the risks arising from the strategic AML/CFT deficiencies associated with Algeria, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Syria, Turkey and Yemen. These jurisdictions have not made sufficient progress in addressing the deficiencies or have not committed to an action plan developed with the FATF to address the deficiencies.

You should consider applying increased scrutiny and enhanced due diligence to transactions associated with these jurisdictions.

(2) FATF Statement on Improving Global AML/CFT Compliance: On-going Process

In addition, the FATF issued a separate statement on 14 February 2014 identifying jurisdictions that have strategic AML/CFT deficiencies for which they have developed an action plan with the FATF and provided a written high level political commitment to address the identified deficiencies.

The FATF and FATF-style regional bodies will continue to work with these jurisdictions and to report on the progress made in addressing the identified deficiencies. The statement can be found on the website of FATF (<http://www.fatf-gafi.org/topics/high-riskandnon-cooperativejurisdictions/documents/fatf-compliance-feb-2014.html>).

Meanwhile, the FATF welcomes Antigua and Barbuda's, Bangladesh's and Vietnam's significant progress in improving their AML/CFT regime and notes that Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh and Vietnam have established the legal and regulatory framework to meet their commitments in their action plans regarding the strategic deficiencies that the FATF had identified. Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh and Vietnam are therefore no longer subject to FATF's monitoring process under its on-going global AML/CFT compliance process.

Should you have any enquiries regarding the above, please contact our Mr Dickson Chui at 2153 2755 or Mr Wilson Choy at 2153 2748.

Yours faithfully,

(Miss Nancy Chien)
for Commissioner of Insurance

c.c. Chairman, The Hong Kong Federation of Insurers