



ABOUT THE HONG KONG DEPOSIT PROTECTION BOARD

OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Board is a statutory body established under section 3 of the Deposit Protection Scheme Ordinance (DPSO) to oversee the operations of the DPS. The DPS has been a key building block in Hong Kong's financial safety net since its launch in September 2006, and the provision of deposit protection has contributed to the stability of the banking system. The Board is a member of the International Association of Deposit Insurers and contributes to the efforts of the Association in promoting effective deposit insurance systems.

Mission and Functions of the Board

The Board's mission is to ensure that an efficient and effective DPS is in place in accordance with the DPSO and in line with international best practice. Under section 5 of the DPSO, the Board's functions include

- maintaining the DPS;
- collecting contributions payable by Scheme members;
- managing the DPS Fund;
- making payments to depositors in the event of the failure of a Scheme member; and
- recovering payments made to depositors from the assets of the failed Scheme member.



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Composition of the Board

Members of the Board are appointed by the Financial Secretary (FS) in his exercise of power delegated from the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (CE/ HKSAR). The Members are selected from different professions, such as accounting, banking, legal practice, consumer protection, investment, information technology and public administration, and have rich experience in public service. The Board currently comprises nine members, including two ex officio members representing the HKMA and the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the HKSAR Government. Except for the ex officio members, all other members are appointed for a fixed renewable term not exceeding six years in total under normal circumstances. See pages 8 to 9 for the composition of the Board.

Committee and Advisory Panel of the Board

Under the DPSO, the Board may appoint committees and advisory panels to assist in performing its functions. Currently, an Investment Committee and an Advisory Panel on Communication and Public Education are assisting the Board. Their objectives and composition are set out on pages 10 and 11.



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Executive Management

Pursuant to section 6 of the DPSO, the Board shall perform its functions through the HKMA unless indicated otherwise by the FS. Hence, the HKMA acts as an executive arm of the Board in administering the DPS. Against this background, the HKMA has assigned a team of professional and support staff to assist the Board in discharging its functions. The team is headed by an Executive Director of the HKMA, who is designated as the Chief Executive Officer of the Board to oversee all day-to-day functions of the DPS. The HKMA also provides administrative support to the Board, including accounting, administration, human resources and information technology, under detailed arrangements set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two organisations. The Board reimburses costs incurred by the HKMA for such purposes on a cost-recovery basis in accordance with provisions set out in the DPSO.

The powers that the Board can exercise in administering the DPS are specified in the DPSO. The Board has clear guidelines on the division of responsibilities among the Board, the management team and supporting divisions of the HKMA, and on the division of responsibilities between the Chairman of the Board and the Chief Executive Officer, which have been devised in line with good corporate governance practice. In general, the Board takes strategic decisions relating to the operations and development of the DPS and those decisions that require an exercise of the Board's powers under the DPSO. The management team, on the other hand, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the DPS according to the principles and policies endorsed by the Board.



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THE BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY PANEL

Members of the Board

Chairman



Professor HUI King-man, Michael, MH

Vice Rector (Academic Affairs)
Chair Professor of Marketing
University of Macau

Members



Mr CHAN Kam-man, Lawrence

Partner
Wilkinson & Grist



Professor CHAN Koon-hung

Professor of Business and Hospitality Management
Caritas Institute of Higher Education
Emeritus Professor of Department of Accountancy
Lingnan University



Ms GIDUMAL, Anita

Director – Finance & Strategy
Abercorn Trading Co. Ltd.



Professor LEE Kwok-on, Matthew

Vice President (Development and External Relations)
Chair Professor of Information Systems and Electronic Commerce
City University of Hong Kong



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Members



Mr LO Chi-wai, Peter

Former Chief Country Officer, Hong Kong
Deutsche Bank



Ms ZEE, Helen

Former Deputy Chief Executive and Managing Director
Haitong International Capital Limited



**Ms YAN Mei-mei, Salina, JP
(since August 2020)**

Permanent Secretary for Financial Services
and the Treasury (Financial Services)

Ex officio member of the Board representing
the Secretary for Financial Services
and the Treasury



Mr YUEN Kwok-hang, Arthur, JP

Deputy Chief Executive
Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Ex officio member of the Board
representing the Monetary Authority



**Ms LI Mei-sheung, Michelle, JP
(until August 2020)**

Former Permanent Secretary for Financial Services and
the Treasury (Financial Services)

Ex officio member of the Board representing
the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury



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Investment Committee of the Board

The Investment Committee is established in accordance with section 7 of Schedule 2 to the DPSO to advise the Board on the investment of the DPS Fund. It is responsible for

- making recommendations on the investment policy and strategy in respect of the DPS Fund;
- monitoring the investment performance of the DPS Fund and establishing proper risk management controls for the investment activities of the Board; and
- working on any other investment-related matters as determined from time to time by the Board.

The Committee comprises members with experience and expertise in banking and investment-related areas. The Chairperson and most of the members of the Committee are also members of the Board. The membership of the Committee is as follows:

Chairperson

Ms ZEE, Helen

Former Deputy Chief Executive and Managing Director
Haitong International Capital Limited

Members

Professor CHAN Koon-hung

Professor of Business and Hospitality Management
Caritas Institute of Higher Education
Emeritus Professor of Department of Accountancy
Lingnan University

Mr CHAN Shiu-lun, Christopher

Chief Investment Officer (Public Markets)
Exchange Fund Investment Office
Hong Kong Monetary Authority

Mr LO Chi-wai, Peter

Former Chief Country Officer, Hong Kong
Deutsche Bank



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Advisory Panel on Communication and Public Education

The Advisory Panel on Communication and Public Education is established in accordance with section 7 of the DPSO. Comprising the Chairman of the Board and experts with extensive experience in public relations, communication and community education strategies, the Advisory Panel advises the Board on related matters, such as the development and implementation of strategies in these areas.

The membership of the Advisory Panel is as follows:

Chairman

Professor HUI King-man, Michael, MH

Members

Ms CHAN Kwok-fai, Jenny

Mr CHIU Sung-kei, Josiah

Mr FUNG Lap-wing



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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board

The Board is an independent statutory body formed under the DPSO. In line with good corporate governance standards applicable to deposit insurers, only a minority of the members of the Board are representatives from the HKSAR Government and the HKMA. This arrangement is to facilitate a balanced contribution from the HKSAR Government, the HKMA (as the banking supervisor in Hong Kong) and external professionals, allowing for different perspectives in the management and operations of the DPS. At the same time, the Board's functions are insulated from the influence of the banking industry, as employees or directors of banks and bank-related companies are not eligible for appointment to the Board.

The Board is subject to the oversight of the FS, who is responsible for approving the estimates of income and expenditure of the DPS Fund, and tabling in the Legislative Council the Board's annual report covering its activities, the statement of accounts of the DPS Fund and the audit report of the statement. The proceedings of the Board are governed by provisions of the DPSO, and the Board meets about three times a year to discuss policy issues crucial to the operations and continuing development of the DPS. In 2020-2021, the Board met three times with a full attendance rate.

Risk Management and Audit

To manage the risks of the DPS, the Board ensures that appropriate and prudent risk management systems are adequately implemented and regularly reviewed. The Internal Audit Division (IAD) of the HKMA performs periodic reviews of the risks inherent in various operational areas of the Board. It also assesses whether appropriate and sufficient controls are in place to safeguard the Board against the potential risks identified. Audit findings and recommendations of the IAD are reported directly to the Board to ensure that any material issues identified are communicated independently and effectively to Board members. The IAD last conducted a review of the operations and internal controls of the Board in 2019 and identified no major issues.

The Board appoints an external auditor under the approval of the FS to audit the DPS Fund's annual statement of accounts. The appointee reports the results and any findings directly to the Board. The external auditor for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 was Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. To avoid any potential conflict of interest, the Board has a standing mechanism that preserves the independence of the financial audit undertaken by the appointed external auditor. If the appointed external auditor also participates in other engagements with the Board, the financial auditing work will be conducted by a separate team.



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Standards of Behaviour and Ethics

Clear guidelines and procedures, including requirements for declaration of interests, are set out in the DPSO and the Code of Conduct for members and staff of the Board to prevent any possible conflict of interest. Members are required to declare in writing their personal interests when they first join the Board or its committees, and then annually, to the secretary of the Board. The secretary keeps the Register of Members' Interests, which is available for public inspection upon request. Senior members of staff are required to make an annual declaration to the Chairman of the Board. Members and staff observe specific procedures to report their interests and, when applicable, to excuse themselves from the decision-making process.

Communication and Transparency

The Board is committed to open communication with the public and other stakeholders. It maintains a website to facilitate access to information on DPS operations, and its annual report is publicly available. In addition, the Board operates multiple channels to answer enquiries from the public. The Board also conducts consultations with banking industry associations on any policies and initiatives relating to the operations of the DPS that may affect the industry.

Appeal Mechanism

Certain decisions made by the Board and the HKMA under the DPSO can be the subject of an appeal to the Deposit Protection Appeals Tribunal. The CE/HKSAR has appointed a former Deputy Judge of the Court of First Instance of the High Court as Chairperson of the Tribunal, together with a panel of three persons who may be called upon as members of the Tribunal. The Tribunal convenes sittings only when required. To date, there have been no appeal cases reported to or reviewed by the Tribunal.

Review of the Corporate Governance Structure

The Board has a policy of reviewing its corporate governance structure regularly to ensure that it continues to adhere to sound governance standards regardless of any changes in the scope of the Board's operations driven by the development of the DPS. Refinements are made between individual reviews to help the Board keep up with local and international best practice. The IAD also conducts independent reviews of the Board's corporate governance practices against applicable local or international standards on a periodic basis. It last conducted a review in the second quarter of 2018 and concluded that the Board's corporate governance framework was in line with industry best practice. The next IAD reviews on the operations and internal controls of the Board as well as its corporate governance framework are expected to take place in 2022.



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ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

(as at 31 March 2021)

