

## **OCBC ROLLS OUT DEPOSIT PRODUCT THAT BANKS ON GLOBAL WATER STOCKS**

### **Principal-protected three-year *Precious Water FRNID* offers potentially higher returns than regular deposit products**

Kuala Lumpur, 18 January 2007 – OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad has launched a unique, principal-protected, floating rate negotiable instrument of deposit (FRNID) whose key distinctiveness lies in the Bank's bullish view of global water-related stocks.

For a minimum deposit of RM100,000, a customer may now take up OCBC Bank's three-year *Precious Water FRNID*, which is 100% principal-protected if held to maturity, guaranteeing the customer he or she gets back whatever has been put in, if not more. The maximum amount per NID certificate is RM10 million.

Revealing this today, OCBC Bank's Senior Vice-President & Head of Treasury, Mr Gan Kok Kim said *Precious Water FRNID* is the first of its kind in Malaysia and features a basket of five global water-related stocks comprising Suez SA, Danaher Corp, Severn Trent, ITT Corp and Veolia Environment, which each has a market capitalisation of between about USD\$6 billion and USD\$64 billion. Suez and Veolia Environment are listed on the Euronext Paris Exchange; Danaher and ITT on the New York Stock Exchange; and Severn Trent on the London Stock Exchange.

"Why water-related stocks? Because the demand for water, and thus the services of those related to this utility, is great and expected to be greater in years to come. The statistics from reliable research are telling – 1.1 billion people worldwide lack access to clean drinking water; 2.6 billion people lack access to sanitation; 80 countries experienced serious water shortages during the mid-1990s; and global water usage is expected to increase by 40% by 2020.

"Two-thirds of the global population is expected to be living in water stressed conditions in less than 25 years; and the projected cost per year of bringing to poor people universal access to water by 2015 is USD\$30 billion.

"With this scenario before us, we believe water-related stocks have something unique to offer to the depositor," he said.

Suez supplies, among other things, sustainable solutions for essential environmental services such as water, sanitation and waste management services; Danaher is a global leader in water quality analysis and treatment; Severn Trent offers a range of

water purification, sewage treatment and disposal and recycling services, in addition to IT services and solutions, and engineering consultancy services; ITT produces pumps, systems, and services to measure and control water and other fluids; and Veolia Environment supplies drinking water and provides waste management services.

“Our move to make available the *Precious Water FRNID* to the banking public in Malaysia represents an invitation to depositors to share in our optimism over global water stocks and take a similar stand by participating in this unique opportunity.

“With *Precious Water FRNID*, the depositor stands to potentially earn attractive returns if the underlying shares are at or above a particular barrier level of their initial asset valuation at specified quarterly observation dates,” Gan added.

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### **About OCBC Bank**

Singapore's longest established local bank, OCBC Bank, currently has assets of S\$144 billion and a network of over 370 branches and representative offices in 15 countries and territories including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong SAR, Brunei, Japan, Australia, UK and USA. This network includes more than 250 branches and offices in Indonesia operated by OCBC Bank's subsidiary, PT Bank NISP. OCBC Bank and its banking subsidiaries offer a wide range of specialist financial services, from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to global treasury and stockbroking services to meet the needs of its customers across communities.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the largest insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia, in terms of assets and market share, and its asset management subsidiary, Lion Capital Management, is one of the largest asset management companies in Southeast Asia. Additional information may be found at [www.ocbc.com](http://www.ocbc.com).

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