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Thai Depository announces plans for 2007

Thailand Securities Depository Co., Ltd. (TSD) will continue to develop its infrastructure and systems in 2007 as it moves towards being an all-embracing center for depository services, clearing and settlement, and securities and mutual funds registration. It will also provide comprehensive back office services for equity, debt, and derivatives instruments. Members and stakeholders have been very positive about TSD's progress in 2006.

TSD will be ready for clearing and settlement and back office services for ETF (exchange-traded funds) and SET50 Index Options, which are scheduled for Q2 and Q3 this year, TSD Chief Executive Officer Ms. Sopawadee Lertmanaschai announced.

"Our new services will include cross-collateral management, private repos, securities borrowing and lending for equity, and employees' choice service for provident funds. These help both members and the Thai capital market overall," Ms. Sopawadee said.

In 2007 TSD aims to have 85% of total securities deposited with it, increase to 150,000 the number of e-dividend service users, and maintain customer satisfaction at its current level of 78.5 on a scale of 100.

As well as positive customer impact, 2006 was successful consolidating core businesses-- securities depository, clearing and registration. Transactions in these services amounted to THB 660 million, an increase of THB 14 million or 2.6% on 2005.

The total value of deposited securities as at December 31, 2006, spiked 67% from THB 2.20 trillion as at end-2005 to THB 5.51 trillion (approx. USD 153.06 billion) a year later, after the integration of equity and debt instrument depository services in May 2006. TSD supplies depository services for about 74% of all listed equities, or 363,687 million shares worth THB 3.36 trillion.

Public sector bonds from 460 issues, worth THB 2.15 trillion, are with TSD, representing about 65% of the total issues previously registered with the Bank of Thailand.

Five hundred twenty seven issuers have accounts with TSD to receive shareholders' direct deposits. The value of these deposits totals THB 86,468 million.

Turning to its clearinghouse business, in 2006 TSD cleared and settled securities worth THB 695,059 million, or 17.57% of total trading turnover (THB 39.6 trillion). The depository cleared and settled about 15.7%, or THB 4,306 million, of total turnover (THB 27,414 million) on Market for Alternative Investment (mai). In supporting the derivatives market (which opened in April 2006), the company served 198,737 contracts on SET50 Index Futures totaling THB 97,898.96 million.

As securities registrar, TSD provided services to 590 companies, of which 518 were listed. These securities are worth THB 5.1 trillion. Also provided were bond registrar services for 58 issues worth THB 133,912 million, and THB 16,100 million in baht-denominated bonds or 'BahtBonds'.

The depository processed more than 1.1 million dividend and interest payments worth THB 256,819 million. Of this amount, 65%, or 730,000 transactions, were automatic transfers to shareholders' bank accounts (e-dividends), an increase of 57% over 2005. TSD has provided an 'Issuer Portal' for issuers or listed companies to access the shareholder database and better manage their share registration.

The depository provided 152 funds with registration services in 2006, up from 63 in 2005, with increased participation by provident funds from 46 to 99, worth THB 113,371 million, a rise of THB 31,208 million or 38% on the previous year. In addition, TSD provided comprehensive back office services to securities firms, covering equity, debt and derivatives products.

The company's new services in 2006 include collateral management, private repo, bond lending and e-IPO.

TSD is a subsidiary of The Stock Exchange of Thailand providing post-trade services including securities depository, securities clearing and settlement, securities and fund registration, and back office service bureau. The company launched its new logo and brand "Your Partner in Success" in 2006 to indicating service excellence, pro-activity in customer relations and continuing client support.

TSD has 638 members in securities depository service, 84 in clearinghouse, and 591 in securities registration.

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