



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Financial Planning Standards Board Congratulates IFPHK on Increase in CFP Professionals in Hong Kong

-- IFPHK Adds 225 CFP Professionals in 2012, Achieving Annual Growth of 5 Percent --

(Hong Kong – 5 February, 2013) – Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB), owner of the international CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER certification program, congratulated IFPHK, an FPSB Member since 2000, for adding 225 CFP professionals in 2012 and contributing to an overall increase of more than 8,000 (a growth rate of 5.7 percent) in the number of CFP professionals globally. With its 24 member organizations around the world, FPSB reported that the total number of CFP professionals increased from 139,818 at year-end 2011 to 147,822 as of 31 December 2012.

“Apart from being the 6th runner up in the global CFP professional count, the growth in 2012 shows the increasing needs of financial planning from Hong Kong’s public. Our CFP professional, who has gone through a stringent examination with low pass rate, is a proof of their competency in providing financial planning to the public.” said Dennis Lau, IFPHK CEO.

“The Institute will continue to uphold the highest standard of financial planning and is set to serve the public in the coming year. In 2013, the Institute is looking forward to host April FPSB Council Meeting which provides affiliate members from 24 countries an opportunity to share valuable ideas and set a milestone for furthering financial planning.” Lau stressed.

“Financial Planning Standards Board is pleased to have a partner of the caliber of IFPHK benefiting the public by establishing, promoting and upholding professional standards in financial planning in Hong Kong,” said Noel Maye, FPSB Ltd. CEO. “Over the past year, IFPHK has done a great job of creating awareness and understanding of the benefit and value of financial planning. That effort is recognized by the addition of 225 CFP professionals in 2012, bringing the total number in the territory to 4,700. Globally, support for the CFP certification program remained strong last year, and CFP professional numbers are on track to exceed 150,000 in 2013.”

In North and South America, the number of CFP professionals increased by 3.7 percent in 2012, bringing the total number of CFP professionals in Brazil, Canada and the U.S. to 85,516, representing approximately 58 percent of the total number of CFP professionals worldwide. Among FPSB’s 12 member organizations in the Asia-Pacific region, the number of CFP professionals increased by 4,394 to 53,353, representing 36 percent of the global CFP professional community. FPSB’s European member organizations showed a growth rate of 4.6 percent, for a total of 4,617 or 3 percent of the global total. In South Africa, FPSB’s member added 346 CFP professionals, for a total number of 4,335 CFP professionals, or almost 3 percent of the world’s CFP professional population.

“As regulators seek increased levels of competency from financial services practitioners and consumers seek qualified advisers, CFP certification has emerged as the symbol of excellence for those seeking competent and ethical financial planners globally,” said Maye. “FPSB and its member organizations are committed to working with regulators, firms, educators and others to promote consumer awareness of financial planning, and to benefiting the public by establishing, upholding and promoting worldwide professional standards in financial planning.”



FPSB's vision is to establish financial planning as a global profession, with the CFP marks as its symbol of excellence. Together with its member organizations, FPSB creates internationally relevant professional standards for financial planning practitioners, enabling consumers to identify and access trusted professionals who have met rigorous competency, ethics and professional practice standards.

A complete list of the number of CFP professionals by territory can be found at fpsb.org.

About IFPHK

IFPHK was established in June 2000 as a non-profit organization for the fast-growing financial services industry. It aims to be recognized in the region as the premier professional body representing financial planners dedicated to upholding the highest professional standards.

The Institute is the sole licensing body in Hong Kong authorized by Financial Planning Standards Board Limited to grant the much-coveted and internationally-recognized CFP^{CM} certification and AFPTM certification to qualified financial planning professionals in Hong Kong and Macau.

It represents more than 7,500 financial planning practitioners in Hong Kong from such diverse professional backgrounds as banking, insurance, independent financial advisory, stock broking, accounting, and legal services.

Currently there are more than 147,000 CFP certificants in 24 countries/regions; the majority of these professionals are in the U.S., Canada, China, Australia and Japan, with more than 4,700 CFP certificants in Hong Kong.

About FPSB

FPSB manages, develops and operates certification, education and related programs for financial planning organizations to benefit the global community by establishing, upholding and promoting worldwide professional standards in financial planning. FPSB demonstrates its commitment to excellence with the marks of professional distinction – CFP, Certified Financial Planner and CFP Logo Mark. FPSB has a nonprofit member organization in the following 24 territories: Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Colombia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States. At the end of 2012, there were 147,822 CFP professionals worldwide. For more, visit fpsb.org. Follow FPSB at twitter.com/fpsb or facebook.com/fpsb1.

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