



Press Release

Standard & Poor's Voted Asia's Most Influential Credit Rating Agency

HONG KONG November 17, 2008 – Standard & Poor's, the world's foremost provider of financial market intelligence, has claimed the top spot, for the 8th consecutive year, as the rating agency that most influences investment decisions in the FinanceAsia Fixed Income Research Poll. The results were tabulated from the votes of about 380 investors and market participants across the Asia Pacific region.

In addition to its overall performance of 51% of votes, which gives it a lead of more than 20% over its closest competitor, Standard & Poor's again garnered the highest percentage of votes in the individual categories of corporates, sovereigns, banks and structured finance ratings. Since 2001, Standard & Poor's has consistently topped the poll, which is widely regarded as the definitive published ranking within the Asian fixed income industry.

“We are proud of the integrity and rigor of our rating process as well as our deep analytical network that is informed by local insights and grounded in a global framework,” said Yu-Tsung Chang, Executive Managing Director of Standard & Poor's Ratings Services in Asia Pacific. “We look forward to continuing to serve investors, issuers and other market participants as the leading rating agency in the Asia Pacific region. We will continue to focus on quality of execution, depth of coverage and transparency of our ratings operations and analytics.”

Since the mid-1970s, Standard & Poor's has built a strong presence in all key markets in the Asia Pacific region, employing over 4,000 people in 19 locations. In the past few years, Standard & Poor's significantly strengthened its coverage and reach through key domestic alliances in the region. In 2005, Standard & Poor's acquired majority ownerships in two of the region's influential domestic rating agencies, Taiwan Ratings Corp. in Taiwan and CRISIL in India. In August 2008, Standard & Poor's announced a technical services agreement with Shanghai Brilliance, one of the leading rating agencies in the People's Republic of China.

“This recognition is testament to Standard & Poor's strengths in the credit rating industry and our commitment to continued thought leadership, such as our recently launched quarterly Asia Pacific Economic Outlook publication,” said Tom Schiller, Executive Managing Director and Head of Standard & Poor's Asia-Pacific. “By offering solutions founded on our internationally recognized standards of quality and analytical rigor, we hope to continue to support the development of Asia-Pacific's economies and financial markets, including their greater integration regionally and globally.”

Media Contact:

Lisa Coory, Hong Kong, (852) 2533-3520; lisa_coory@standardandpoors.com

About Standard & Poor's

Standard & Poor's, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies (NYSE:MHP), is the world's foremost provider of financial market intelligence, including independent credit ratings, indices, risk evaluation, investment research and data. With approximately 8,500 employees, including wholly owned affiliates, located in 23 countries and markets, Standard & Poor's is an essential part of the world's financial

infrastructure and has played a leading role for more than 140 years in providing investors with the independent benchmarks they need to feel more confident about their investment and financial decisions. For more information, visit <http://www.standardandpoors.com>.