STUDENTS GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH EMERGING MARKETS, ALTERNATIVE INSTRUMENTS AND ASSET CLASSES

On the morning of 12 May 2007, the SMU Conference Hall was abuzz with lively chatter as over 300 tertiary and polytechnic students waited excitedly for the start of the I-Cube Investment Summit 2007. Formed by the student investment clubs from the three local universities in Singapore, I-Cube was officially launched on 1 February 2006 with the aim to raise financial literacy among young investors in Singapore. It provides student investors with opportunities to learn and build their knowledge through financial and investment seminars, games, competitions and forums. Last year, the club organised four nation-wide events that were focused on educating students on the fundamentals of investing. These include the Investment Summit 2006, Weakest Link In Dollars & Sense, Financial Treasure Hunt 2006 and the I-Cube OCBC Securities Online Stock Challenge 2006. I-Cube had worked closely with its key corporate sponsor, OCBC Securities, as well as other supporting entities, such as Singapore Exchange (SGX), to organise these events.

The Investment Summit is a major highlight of the club’s annual calendar of events. In line with the students’ strong interest in increasingly sophisticated financial and investment options, the investment summit this year focused on the opportunities and risks of emerging markets as well as alternative investment instruments such as warrants and exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

Guest of Honour for the Opening Ceremony, Mr Seck Wai Kwong, Senior Executive Vice President, SGX, said, “Financial literacy and investor education is a key focus area for SGX, and we are pleased to support this initiative. I am pleased to hear that I-Cube has been working actively with corporate sponsors like OCBC Securities to provide young investors with the opportunity to extend their investment knowledge and skills. The insights provided by the subject experts through this event will be enriching and invaluable.”

The Investment Summit featured quizzes, talks by industry experts, as well as a panel discussion among guest speakers. Among the guest speakers were Ms. Sandra Lee, Managing Director of Societe Generale Corporate and Investment Bank, Mr. Barnaby Matthews, Associate Director from Macquarie Securities, and Ms. Selina Ling, Head of Treasury Research and Strategy from OCBC Bank.

“In the past two years, OCBC Securities has been playing a leading role in raising the level of financial literacy within the student community through our sponsorship of I-Cube. This year, we are excited to have the opportunity to further guide young investors in their journey beyond the fundamentals of investing to attain a broader knowledge base and skill sets,” said Mr Hui Yew Ping, Managing Director of OCBC Securities.

“At OCBC Securities, we offer a wide range of alternative investment solutions such as warrants, exchange-traded funds, retail notes and equity-linked instruments among others. We have a dedicated team of alternative investment specialists whose aim is to help investors to diversify, grow and enhance their portfolio returns. As such, we are more than happy to share our expertise and experience with the young investors so that they would be able to make wise investment decisions in line with their risk appetites going forward,” added Mr Hui.

Lam Zhao Bin, President of SMU E,y,E Investment Interactive Club and the organizer of this event, said: “One year ago, a typical student would ask questions such as how do I open an account and what are bonds. However, things today are quite different. Students are being exposed to increasingly sophisticated topics like alternative investment vehicles and how emerging markets around the world are performing. This is the reason we have chosen our theme for this year’s Investment Summit, “Emerging Markets, Alternative Instruments and Different Asset Classes”. Our aim is to equip participants with better insights into the current investment environment and hopefully become more savvy investors.”

This year also marks I-Cube’s first anniversary. To commemorate this occasion and in giving back to society, I-Cube donated all proceeds from the event’s ticket sales to Club Rainbow, a charity organization that provides support to chronically-ill children and their families. Including the dollar-for-dollar match by OCBC Securities, the total amount donated was S$3,000.

Nick Wee, a participant from SMU commented, “I am very glad that I decided to attend this summit. Overall, the content has been informative and useful. I can definitely better appreciate the risk and rewards inherent in investing beyond traditional markets and instruments. This will come in handy in managing my own portfolio.”