

UOB survey reveals Singapore to be Chinese companies' favourite business expansion destination in Asia

One-third intends to expand into Singapore in the next three to five years

Shanghai, China, 17 November 2016 – According to the *United Overseas Bank (UOB) Asian Enterprise Survey 2016*¹, Singapore has retained its top spot as Chinese enterprises' favourite expansion destination this year. One-third of Chinese enterprises surveyed also chose the city-state as the market that they would expand into in the next three to five years.

Aided by the Belt and Road (B&R) initiative, Chinese companies are quickening their pace on regional expansion to tap on the increasing opportunities in Singapore. They are drawn to Singapore's stable political and economic climate (43 per cent), its favourable tax and regulatory environment (40 per cent) and large and growing customer demand (39 per cent).

Of all the Chinese companies which UOB's Foreign Direct Investment Advisory Unit² had helped expand in the region in 2016 to-date, 60 per cent of them expanded into Singapore. The Unit was first set up in Singapore in 2011 and in China in 2013, to offer companies assistance ranging from incorporation to business expansion.

Mr Frederick Chin, Head of Group Wholesale Banking at UOB, said that the findings from the *UOB Asian Enterprise Survey 2016* reaffirmed Chinese enterprises' entrepreneurial spirit as they continue to seek new markets for growth.

"As Singapore strives to become a global hub for research and innovation, it is attracting more Chinese companies from high-value industries, such as the information technology and telecommunications sectors, as well as the professional services sector," said Mr Chin.

¹ This survey was conducted by UOB in May and June 2016 among 2,500 Asian enterprises across China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. The objective was to explore how Asian enterprises are capitalising on business opportunities amid global and regional economic trends and trade flows.

² The Foreign Direct Investment Advisory Unit also provides access to the Bank's full suite of corporate and personal banking products, and borderless financial services through UOB's long established regional network.

According to the survey results, China also remains the top destination market for Singapore enterprises, even as 56 per cent of them are already doing business or operating in China.

To help boost bilateral trade and investment, UOB and the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), under which both parties will help companies expand from China to Singapore and vice versa.

UOB (China) also signed a MOU with the Financial Affairs Office of the Chongqing Municipal People's Government to promote cross-border trade and investment between Chongqing and Singapore.

The *UOB Asian Enterprise Reports 2016* can be found on www.UOBAsianEnterprises.com.

- Ends -

About United Overseas Bank (China)

United Overseas Bank (China) Limited (UOB (China)) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB), a leading bank in Asia. Headquartered in Shanghai, UOB (China) was incorporated in the People's Republic of China on 18 December 2007 and commenced operations on 2 January 2008.

With a stable and far-sighted approach, UOB (China) has grown its network to 16 branches and sub-branches in the major cities across China. As UOB (China) continues to grow its business, it is also committed to its people and the community. Since 2012, UOB (China) has participated in the annual UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk to raise funds for underprivileged children and to support various education initiatives in China.

For more information about UOB (China), please visit www.UOBChina.com.cn

For media queries, please contact:

Chloe Yao
Strategic Communications and Customer Advocacy
Email: Chloe.YaoLJ@UOBgroup.com
Tel: 86216061 8646