

TRANSLATION

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Superintendent of Banks

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 9 of Rule 1-2004 dated 29 December 2004,

ANNOUNCES:

1. That **HSBC ASIA HOLDINGS B.V.** has submitted a request to the Superintendency of Banks of the Republic of Panama through its Resident Agent for authorization to acquire all of the outstanding common shares of **GRUPO BANISTMO, S.A.** and, in consequence, its subsidiaries;
2. That **HSBC ASIA HOLDINGS B.V.** is a corporation established according to the laws of The Netherlands, a direct subsidiary of **HSBC ASIA HOLDINGS (UK)** and indirect subsidiary of **HSBC HOLDINGS, PLC**, and is the exclusive and sole owner of all issued and outstanding shares of **HSBC BANK (PANAMÁ), S.A.**;
3. That as shown in the documentation provided by the petitioner and issued by the Commercial Registry of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of Amsterdam, Holland, the principal Directors of **HSBC ASIA HOLDINGS, B.V.** are:

Name	Position
Willem Jan de Graaf	Director A
Douglas Jardine Flint	Director B
Christopher David Spooner	Director B
Johannes Mattheus van Kempen	Director A
Victoria Wendy De Alwis	Director A
Rajesh Swami	Director A
Edgar David Ancona	Director A

4. That **GRUPO BANISTMO, S.A.** is a corporation established according to the laws of the Republic of Panama, filed in Microjacket 490605, Document 788580 of the Microfilms Section of the Public Registry and the exclusive and sole owner of all issued and outstanding shares of **PRIMER BANCO DEL ISTMO, S.A.**;

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5. The as registered in the Public Registry of the Republic of Panama, the principal Directors, Dignitaries and Senior Executives of **GRUPO BANISTMO, S.A.** are:

Name	Position
Samuel Lewis Galindo	Legal Representative/Chairman/Director
Alberto Vallarino Clement	Vice Chairman/Director
Eric Antonio Del Valle Diaz	Treasurer/Director
Jaime AlemanHealy	Secretary/Director
Jose Raul Arias Garcia de Paredes	Deputy Secretary/Director
Ricardo Perez Martinis	Director
David Dayan Safdie	Director
Dennis T. Lindo Toledano	Director
Raul Orillac Arango	Director

Given in the city of Panama on the twenty-first (21st) day of August, two thousand six (2006).

(signed)
Olegario Barrelier
Superintendent