

**For Immediate Release
May 18, 2009**

Manulife-Sinochem further expands business in Liaoning Province with a new Branch in Shenyang

SHENYANG, CHINA – Manulife-Sinochem Life Insurance Co., Ltd. today received licensing approval to establish a new branch in Shenyang, Liaoning province. As the first Chinese-foreign joint venture life insurance company established in China, Manulife-Sinochem is now growing steadily in over 35 cities including Shanghai and Beijing, in provinces including Guangdong, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Shandong, Fujian and Chongqing. The approval of the Liaoning branch demonstrates Manulife-Sinochem's progress into northern China.

"Due to its advantageous location and rapid economic development, Liaoning is an important gateway to China's northeast. We are pleased to see this expansion of our insurance business into Liaoning and look forward to serving a new population of customers," said Mr. Marc Sterling, Chairman of Manulife-Sinochem. "Manulife-Sinochem is a successful joint venture between Manulife Financial and Sinochem Group. We are committed to providing our high standard of life insurance products and high-quality service to the companies and individuals in Liaoning."

Liaoning, located in northeast China, is an important gateway to the Eurasian Continental Bridge, and has a well-developed transportation and utility infrastructure. The Liaoning government has been firmly working for the past year to develop its industrial base rapidly, improving the province's economy and society. The province's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2008 was RMB 1,346.16 billion, an increase of 13.1% from the previous year. Insurance business has also developed rapidly, with premium income in 2008 reaching RMB 43.61 billion, an increase of 41.6% from the previous year.¹

"During our 12 years of operation, Manulife-Sinochem has developed more than 30 types of products, including participating insurance, retirement benefits, health insurance, non-juvenile insurance, universal products and single premium unit-linked products, that have successfully met our customers' insurance and financial needs," commented Mr. James Lin, President of Manulife-Sinochem. "Manulife-Sinochem is committed to being socially responsible in the communities in which we do business and we have contributed to many relief and charity programs across China. We are pleased to be joining the Liaoning community and expanding our strong community relationship there."

Manulife-Sinochem is one of the fastest-growing life insurance companies in China, attributable to more than a decade's worth of experience, professionalism, steady operation, excellent product and service.

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About Manulife-Sinochem

Manulife-Sinochem is a joint venture company between Manulife (International) Limited and China Foreign Economic and Trade Trust Company (a member of the Sinochem group). It was the first Chinese-foreign joint-venture life insurance company established in China. Manulife-Sinochem began operations in November 1996. To date it has over 11,000 professionally trained agents and employees, providing financial and insurance services to over 430,000 customers. The company is now developing steadily in over 35 cities including Shanghai and Beijing, and in provinces including Guangdong, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Shandong, Fujian and Chongqing. With more than ten years' successful experience, Manulife-Sinochem is committed to offering comprehensive insurance products combined with excellent customer service and professionalism.

Manulife-Sinochem can be found on the internet at www.manulife-sinochem.com

About Manulife Financial

Manulife Financial is a leading Canadian-based financial services group serving millions of customers in 19 countries and territories worldwide. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia, and primarily through John Hancock in the United States, the Company offers clients a diverse range of financial protection products and wealth management services through its extensive network of employees, agents and distribution partners. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were Cdn\$405 billion (approximately HK\$2,492.7 billion) as at March 31, 2009.

Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at www.manulife.com

About Sinochem

China Foreign Economic and Trade Trust Company (FOTC) is a core enterprise of Sinochem, an important state-owned enterprise in China, with main focus on the agriculture, energy, chemicals, finance and real estate sectors. It is also one of the four largest state-owned oil companies in China and the largest fertilizer provider that manufactures, distributes and markets all varieties of fertilizers. Sinochem has been listed among the Fortune Global 500 companies eighteen times and ranked 257th in 2008. In 2008, Sinochem International earned the annual "Best Corporate Governance of Listed Companies in China" award.

Sinochem can be found on the Internet at www.sinochem.com

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Notes to editors:

¹Sources: <http://www.ln.gov.cn/>

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