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HSBC

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC

GRANT OF SHARE OPTIONS

This announcement is made pursuant to rule 17.06A of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

On 21 April 2010 HSBC Holdings plc granted share options (“Options”) to employees to subscribe for a total of 22,017,216 ordinary shares of US\$0.50 each of the Company under the savings-related share option plans adopted on 27 May 2005. The following are the details of the grant:

| Price at which the Options granted | Option Period | Number of shares under Option |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| GBP5.4573 | 1 year | 4,855,376 |
| | 3 years | 6,042,388 |
| | 5 years | 2,871,133 |
| EUR6.0657 | 1 year | 216,485 |
| | 3 years | 249,136 |
| | 5 years | 90,182 |
| HKD62.9770 | 1 year | 3,017,668 |
| | 3 years | 1,573,724 |
| | 5 years | 565,737 |
| USD8.1232 | 1 year | 350,623 |
| | 3 years | 1,236,768 |
| | 5 years | 313,833 |
| USD8.6309 | 1 year | 634,163 |
| Total number of options granted | 1 year | 9,074,315 |
| | 3 years | 9,102,016 |
| | 5 years | <u>3,840,885</u> |
| | | 22,017,216 |
| Closing price of the ordinary shares on the date of grant | £6.82 | |
| Validity period of the Options | 1 year, exercisable from 1 August 2011 to 31 Oct 2011 3 years, exercisable from 1 August 2013 to 31 Jan 2014 5 years, exercisable from 1 August 2015 to 31 Jan 2016 | |

By Order of the Board
R G Barber
Group Company Secretary
26 April 2010

The Board of Directors of HSBC Holdings plc as at the date of this announcement are: S K Green, M F Geoghegan, S A Catz†, V H C Cheng, M K T Cheung†, J D Coombe†, J L Durán†, R A Fairhead†, D J Flint, A A Flockhart, W K L Fung*, S T Gulliver, J W J Hughes-Hallett†, W S H Laidlaw†, J R Lomax†, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart†, G Morgan†, N R N Murthy†, S M Robertson†, J L Thornton† and Sir Brian Williamson†.

* Non-executive Director

† Independent non-executive Director

Hong Kong Stock Code: 5