



Swiss Re makes Chinese and Japanese sigma available on web

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Zurich, 9 June 2003 - Swiss Re today made the Chinese and Japanese editions of its "sigma" insurance research, recognized worldwide as the leading voice on insurance industry trends, available for free download on its website, www.swissre.com. Swiss Re began producing "sigma" in Japanese in 1998 and in simplified Chinese from 1999. While the Japanese version has been available in soft copy, until now, primarily printed copies have been available to clients and industry partners in China.

By broadening the availability of sigma, we hope to help Chinese insurers and our clients to better manage the immense growth we foresee for the China insurance market, and the risks that come with that growth,' said Clarence Wong, Chief Economist for Swiss Re in Asia.

The sigma publication series provides comprehensive information on the international insurance markets and in-depth analyses of economic trends and strategic issues in insurance, reinsurance and financial services, covering life and non-life business. Swiss Re publishes sigma in seven languages (English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Chinese).

Among the most sought after sigma issues are the annual roundup of Natural catastrophes and man-made disasters in 2002 (sigma no. 2/2003); and the annual summary of insurance industry performance, the most recent being sigma no. 6/2002, 'World insurance in 2001'.

Other recently published issues of sigma covered issues including:

- The picture of ART (sigma no. 1/2003)
- Bancassurance development in Asia (sigma no. 7/2002)
- Global non-life insurance in a time of capacity shortage (sigma no. 4/2002)

Swiss Re makes it a policy to provide the results of its research and analysis to the market without charge. Said Mr. Wong, 'As a market leader, it is our responsibility to share important information and knowledge that will raise overall industry standards while contributing to the stability of company development and national economic growth through enlightened risk management.'

About Swiss Re

Swiss Re is a leading reinsurer and the world's largest life and health reinsurer. The company is global, operating from 70 offices in 30 countries. Since its foundation in 1863, Swiss Re has been in the reinsurance business. Swiss Re has three business groups: Property & Casualty, Life & Health and Financial Services. Swiss Re offers a wide range of traditional reinsurance products and related services, which are complemented by insurance-based corporate finance solutions and supplementary services. Swiss Re is rated "AA" by Standard & Poor's, "Aa1" by Moody's and "A+" by A.M. Best.

Swiss Re has operated in Hong Kong since 1956, and now has more than 200 staff in the Greater China region, and more than 600 in Asia Pacific. In July 2002, the company received branch approval from the Chinese Government, making it among the first foreign reinsurers to enter China after the country joined the WTO.