

UOB provides small business customers with pre-approved, collateral-free loans of up to S\$200,000 to ease COVID-19 liquidity concerns

Eligible customers will be contacted this week and can access funds in two business days

Singapore, 21 April 2020 – United Overseas Bank (UOB) today announced that it will be offering pre-approved loans of up to S\$200,000 to help ease the short-term liquidity woes of its small business customers¹ impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

With small businesses making up two in three of all small- and medium-sized enterprises in Singapore², UOB's collateral-free loans will help many of these companies, especially those from hard-hit sectors such as retail and food and beverage, gain access to much-needed funds quickly.

The Bank has also been active in helping customers understand and apply for the government-assisted financing schemes administered by Enterprise Singapore.

The pre-approved loans will be offered to UOB's small business customers with a good repayment track record and at least a 12-month borrowing relationship with the Bank. UOB will contact all of its small business customers which are eligible for the pre-approved loan by the end of the week. To receive their funds as quickly as in two business days, UOB customers only need to authenticate their company information through MyInfo Business or to submit details such as their company name and their contact number.

Mr Lawrence Loh, Head of Group Business Banking, UOB, said, "As the impact of COVID-19 on business operations continues to weigh heavily on small businesses, we have seen more customers seeking loans in order to provide their businesses with a much-needed cashflow injection. For example, we have approved three times more loans to small businesses in March as compared with January this year, when the outbreak first started in Singapore.

¹ Defined as companies with a turnover of less than S\$20 million.

² According to UOB data and the Singapore Department of Statistics.

“The reality is that small businesses already operate on tight cashflow and do not have the liquidity to withstand the prolonged economic shock that is expected from the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, they require urgent access to funding in order to stay afloat. This is why we are proactively providing pre-approved loans for our customers to tap this source of funds as needed. We hope that through this relief measure, our customers will have one less thing to worry about as they try to minimise the disruption to their businesses,” Mr Loh said.

Small businesses which take up the pre-approved loan will also have the option to service only the interest on their loan until 31 December 2020.

– Ends –

About United Overseas Bank

United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is a leading bank in Asia with a global network of more than 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. UOB is rated among the world’s top banks: Aa1 by Moody’s Investors Service and AA- by both S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings. In Asia, UOB operates through its head office in Singapore and banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as branches and representative offices across the region.

Over more than eight decades, generations of UOB employees have carried through the entrepreneurial spirit, the focus on long-term value creation and an unwavering commitment to do what is right for our customers and our colleagues.

We believe in being a responsible financial services provider and we are committed to making a difference in the lives of our stakeholders and in the communities in which we operate. Just as we are dedicated to helping our customers manage their finances wisely and to grow their businesses, UOB is steadfast in our support of social development, particularly in the areas of art, children and education.

For media queries, please contact:

Eunice Seow
Group Strategic Communications and Customer Advocacy
Email: Eunice.SeowHW@UOBGroup.com
DID: 6539 3986 / 8432 8388

Leong Jie Xiang
Group Strategic Communications and Customer Advocacy
Email: Leong.JieXiang@UOBGroup.com
DID: 6539 5661 / 9151 0012