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ANZ involvement in Bank Niaga bid

ANZ today confirmed that its involvement in the consortium bidding for PT Niaga Bank in Indonesia is indirectly as a shareholder of PT Panin Bank.

This follows an announcement by the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency yesterday evening that ANZ was a representative of a short-listed consortium bidding for Bank Niaga.

The extent of ANZ's involvement and assistance is still to be determined.

ANZ Managing Director Pacific and Personal Banking Asia, Mr Bob Lyon said: "As a shareholder of Panin Bank, ANZ is supportive of such a move, provided it can be purchased for reasonable value".

"The move is significant in the context of enhancing the value of our existing investments in Indonesia," he said.

"Panin Bank is well capitalized with a capital adequacy ratio of 36% as at 31 December 2001 and with this in mind we anticipate an acquisition could be funded from Panin's internal resources," Mr Lyon said.

ANZ has an 11% shareholding in PT Panin Bank and holds options to increase its shareholding to 29%.

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