



Media Release

Corporate Communications
100 Queen Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
www.anz.com

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ANZ gains regulatory approval for talks with Malaysia's AMMB Holdings Berhad

ANZ this evening announced it had received approval from Malaysia's central bank, Bank Negara Malaysia, to undertake talks with Malaysia's fifth largest financial services group, AMMB Holdings Berhad (AMMB) and its principal shareholder, regarding the potential for a strategic partnership supported by a minority investment by ANZ.

ANZ Senior Managing Director Dr. Bob Edgar said: "AMMB is one of Malaysia's largest financial institutions with strong growth potential, particularly in retail and small business banking.

"ANZ's interest in developing strategic partnerships by contributing banking expertise to assist partners accelerate growth over the long term, means it makes sense to explore the potential for an alliance with AMMB.

"While discussions are ongoing, the partnership would involve ANZ taking a significant minority stake in AMMB. ANZ would also contribute expertise in technology, risk management and retail banking and small business banking to assist AMMB to reach its growth potential," Dr Edgar said.

AMMB has total assets of US\$19.9 billion*, 173 branches and approximately 3.5 million retail customers. It currently has leading positions in consumer finance, credit cards and investment banking. AMMB has recently increased its focus on retail and small to medium business customers.

Under Malaysia's Banking and Financial Institutions Act, approval from Bank Negara Malaysia is required for any discussions concerning a potential investment.

No commitment regarding the outcome of discussions can be made at this stage.

For media enquiries contact:

Paul Edwards
Head of Corporate Communications
Tel: +61-3-9273 6955 or +61-409-655 550
email: paul.edwards@anz.com

For analyst enquiries contact:

Stephen Higgins
Head of Investor Relations
Tel: +61-3-9273 4185 or +61-417-379 170
Email: higgins@anz.com

* As at 31 March 2006.