International Association of Insurance Supervisors

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Press Release

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Yoshihiro Kawai appointed IAIS Secretary General

At the General Meeting of the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) in Santiago de Chile on 11 October 2002 Manuel Aguilera-Verduzco, Chairman of the Executive Committee, announced that Yoshihiro Kawai, 42, had been chosen to succeed Knut Hohlfeld as the Association's Secretary General. The appointment is effective on 1 June 2003. Mr Hohlfeld, 64, who established the IAIS Secretariat in Basel, Switzerland, will retire.

Mr Kawai, a Japanese native, has been the IAIS Deputy Secretary General since 1998 where he has been active particularly in developing and promoting the implementation of standards for insurance supervisors. Mr Kawai has extensive experience advising developing countries on the legislative frameworks for insurance companies and supervisory authorities. He served as an advisor to the Polish Government and worked in the Secretariat of the OECD's Insurance Committee. Before leaving Japan in 1990, Mr Kawai worked for Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Company.

Also at the General Meeting IAIS members re-elected five members and elected seven new members to the Executive Committee. The new members are Peter Neville (Guernsey), Nambi Rangachary (India) Makoto Hosomi (Japan), Bassel Hindawi (Jordan), Victor Rod (Luxembourg), Bjørn Skogstad Aamo (Norway) and Jan Monkiewicz (Poland).

The IAIS was established in 1994 to develop international principles and standards for insurance supervision and to improve supervisory systems for the insurance industry through mutual assistance and cooperation. The IAIS coordinates its work with that of other financial regulators, especially the banking and securities sectors.