



## PRESS RELEASE

### QBE RE APPOINTS NEW HEAD FOR JAPAN OFFICE

LONDON, 13 MAY 2009

QBE is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Takashi Sato as Chief Representative, QBE Japan, with effect from July 1 2009. The appointment follows the retirement of Mr Kenji Kohara, who has run the QBE Japanese representative office since 1998.

Takashi started his insurance career in 1976, and from 2000 to 2005 was General Manager of the Reinsurance Department of a leading Japanese insurance company. While in this role, he played a major part in improving their portfolio management, and expanding inward business through their reinsurance subsidiaries and run-off portfolio management. In 2005, he transferred to the Claims Department as General Manager, where he served until early 2009.

He was appointed as a Secretary General of IUMI Tokyo annual Conference in 2006 and has worked for IUMI as a special committee member of the Loss Presentation Committee for four years.

*Jonathan Parry, Managing Director for Reinsurance at QBE commented:* "Kenji Kohara has helped build a solid reinsurance business for QBE in Japan, and we are deeply grateful to him for his years of service. We wish him well in retirement.

"Our new Chief Representative Takashi Sato has spent 33 years in the non-life insurance industry and has an in-depth knowledge of marine and non-marine insurance with a global view of overseas markets. We are delighted that he will now bring those years of experience to bear on QBE's business in Japan, and wish him well in this new role."

*Mr Takashi Sato commented:* "It is my personal wish to see the continuation and further intensification of business ties and personal and professional relationships that exist between Japanese Insurance companies and QBE. I am honoured to follow in Mr Kenji Kohara's footsteps, and thank him for all his support during this transition."

*Mr Kenji Kohara commented:* "During my eleven years at QBE, including setting up the business under the name of Sydney Re, I have endeavoured to build a strong bridge between Tokyo and the other QBE offices and to promote our mutual understanding across the different business cultures.

"I feel proud that in this time we have succeeded in strengthening the QBE presence here in Japan and that we now enjoy an excellent reputation with our clients as one of the markets's most trusted and valued reinsurers."

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**Notes to editors**

**ABOUT QBE**

QBE Insurance Group is Standard & Poor's 'A+' rated and is one of the world's leading international insurers and reinsurers, headquartered in Sydney, Australia. We operate out of 45 countries across the globe, with a presence in all key insurance markets, and are lead underwriters within our chosen markets, setting rates and conditions. For the year ended 31 December 2008, the company underwrote gross written premium totalling £6,025 million and held shareholders' funds of £5,364 million.

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