

For Immediate Release

**FTSE/Xinhua Launch First Tradable Chinese Index for
International Investors**

LONDON, April 19, 2001 – FTSE/Xinhua Index Ltd (FXI), the joint venture company set up by FTSE and Xinhua Financial Network (XFN), today announces the launch of the FTSE/Xinhua China 25 Index, a capped, tradable index featuring the largest, most liquid Chinese equities available to international investors. The index is designed for use by fund managers and investment banks to create index based investment products, such as index-linked funds, derivatives and exchange traded funds, for overseas investors who want to invest in China.

The index is designed to meet regulatory requirements worldwide and subject to USA regulatory approvals, an exchange traded fund on the new index will list on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). Other index linked products will follow.

“As China prepares to enter the WTO, international investors demand more financial indices that adopt global standards such as the FTSE/Xinhua China 25 Index. We are confident that the individual strengths of the two partners will combine to create unique expertise on the Chinese market that has previously not existed,” said Fredy Bush, Chairman of FXI and COO of Xinhua Financial Network.

“The FTSE/Xinhua China 25 combines FTSE’s global index experience with XFN’s knowledge of the Chinese financial markets to provide international investors with innovative opportunities to trade in Chinese stocks. Today we are launching the first FTSE/Xinhua index for China-focused investments,” said Mark Makepeace, FXI Director and FTSE Chief Executive. “Further Chinese indices for domestic and overseas investors will be announced in the coming months.”

The FTSE/Xinhua China 25 Index goes live today with dissemination of real-time valuations during local hours 9:30 am to 4:15 pm via Reuters.

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Notes to Editors

About FTSE/Xinhua Index Limited (FXI)

FTSE/Xinhua Index Limited (FXI) is a Hong Kong incorporated, joint venture company between FTSE, the global index provider, and Xinhua Financial Network. The company was created to facilitate the development of real-time indices for the Chinese market that can be used as performance benchmarks and as a basis for derivative trading and index tracking funds.

About FTSE

FTSE is a world-leading expert in the creation and management of equity indices. It is jointly owned by the London Stock Exchange and the Financial Times, but operates as a wholly autonomous company. With offices in London, New York, Paris, Frankfurt and Hong Kong, FTSE services clients in 77 countries worldwide. It manages and develops globally recognised indices ranging from the FTSE All-World Index to the real time FTSE Eurotop series and the FTSE 100. The company has collaborative arrangements with the London, Amsterdam, Brussels, Norex, Cyprus, Euronext, Athens, Luxembourg and Madrid stock exchanges, as well as with Nikkei of Japan (Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Inc).

All FTSE indices follow the FTSE Global Classification System and are used extensively by investors worldwide for investment analysis, performance measurement, asset allocation and for creating a wide range of index tracking funds. Committees of senior fund managers, derivatives experts, actuaries and experienced practitioners independently review all changes to the indices ensuring that they are accurate, timely and without bias. Real time FTSE indices are calculated on systems managed by Reuters. Prices and FX rates used are supplied by Reuters.

About Xinhua Financial Network

Xinhua Financial Network (XFN) is an independent financial information provider with unique access into China's markets. Founded in 2000, the company is backed by a select group of international investors and partners and is managed by a team of international business professionals recognized for their industry knowledge and proven leadership. XFN is based in Hong Kong and Beijing.

XFN's strong presence in China allows the company to deliver an integrated platform of indices, objective and balanced real-time financial news feeds, and corporate data products. XFN delivers its product suite to global financial institutions and re-distributors via leased line, Internet and satellite technologies.

XFN is helping create a secure, transparent and robust infrastructure for China's financial information markets. This infrastructure will help form the foundation to a financial information pipeline from China to the West. XFN's comprehensive approach will help international investors streamline their investment decisions and analyse new opportunities in China.