



PRESS RELEASE

August 16, 2006

Philippe DONNET, member of the AXA Group executive committee, is appointed Group regional CEO of the Japan & Asia-Pacific region
Andrew PENN is appointed Group Chief Executive of AXA Asia Pacific Holdings to succeed Les Owen

Andrew PENN joins the AXA Group executive committee

Philippe DONNET:

On March 31, 2006, AXA announced that Philippe Donnet was appointed chairman of AXA Japan Holding and that he would assume a wider role within the AXA Group.

Today, AXA appoints Philippe Donnet to the position of AXA Group Regional CEO – based in Singapore – to oversee AXA's principal insurance businesses in the Japan & Asia-Pacific region, a region with high growth potential for AXA's Financial Protection business. This appointment is effective October 1, 2006.

The AXA Japan & Asia Pacific region includes the following countries and insurance operations (both life and P&C):

- Japan: AXA Japan Holding, AXA Life Japan and AXA Direct (P&C)
- All other regional P&C operations (with operations in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong and Indonesia)
- China: AXA China, 51% owned by AXA and 49% owned by AXA Asia Pacific Holdings (AXA APH)
- All other regional life insurance operations under the supervision of AXA APH – based in Melbourne (with operations in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, China and India)

Andrew PENN:

- On August 3, 2006, Les Owen, Group CEO of AXA APH, announced his decision to retire from his role as CEO.
- Following a review process conducted by the AXA APH Board, AXA APH announced today that Andrew Penn, CEO of AXA Australia & New Zealand, is appointed to the position of Group Chief Executive of AXA APH as of October 1, 2006.
- Andrew Penn will join the AXA Group executive committee in replacement of Les Owen.

- Les Owen will be appointed non-executive director of AXA UK, the holding company for British and Irish businesses of AXA.
- AXA APH is 51.6%-owned by AXA.

Henri de Castries, President of the AXA management board said: “Philippe Donnet has proven over his years at AXA his ability to manage international teams with a vision. I am therefore very confident that his leadership skills and thorough knowledge of the insurance business will add strength and energy to our growing and already successful operations throughout the Japan Asia Pacific region. I am delighted to welcome Andrew Penn to the AXA Group executive committee as new Group Chief Executive of AXA APH. His many talents and recognized track record as CEO of AXA Australia & New Zealand are a valuable addition to our international executive team, as the Group moves forward toward its “Ambition 2012” company-wide project of becoming “the preferred company in its industry”.

“After 35 years of outstanding contributions to Sun Life, AXA APH, and AXA, Les Owen has decided to retire from his executive duties. On behalf of myself, the AXA Management Board and all members of AXA's Executive Committee, I would like to express to Les our sincere thanks and gratitude for his many valuable contributions over the years. For over three decades, Les has been both a highly respected figure in the industry and a decisive builder of AXA's franchise worldwide. We are very happy that we will continue to benefit from his wealth of experience and many insights in his capacity as a non executive director of AXA UK.”

Philippe Donnet (46 years old)

Philippe Donnet has held various positions within the AXA Group since he joined the company in 1985 with a first position at AXA Canada. He then held various executive positions at AXA Assurances and AXA Conseil (as deputy CEO), two units of AXA France (with respectively tied agents and salaried sales forces). In 1999, he was appointed CEO of AXA Italy to restructure AXA's Italian operations following the merger with UAP (1997). In 2001, Philippe was appointed CEO of the newly-formed AXA Mediterranean Region & Canada. In early 2002, he was appointed CEO of AXA RE (reinsurance) and chairman of AXA Corporate Solutions (large industrial business of the AXA Group). He successfully streamlined the reinsurance business of AXA to bring it back to profitability. In 2003, he was appointed CEO of AXA Japan where he led the company to outstanding growth through the expansion of its distribution networks along with the launch of highly profitable new products.

Philippe is a Fellow of the French Ecole Polytechnique and a member of the French Actuaries Association.

Andrew Penn (43 years old)

Andrew Penn is CEO of AXA Australia & New Zealand, a unit of AXA APH. AXA APH is majority owned by AXA SA and is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. Andrew has held a number of senior roles at AXA APH including CFO and international chief executive, responsible for operations in North and South East Asia.

Andrew is a Fellow of The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants in the UK and has an MBA from Kingston University in London. He is also a graduate from the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

In addition to his role at AXA, Andrew is also chairman and foundation board member of “Very Special Kids”, a Victorian charity which provides palliative respite and hospice services for terminally-ill children and their families. He is also an ambassador for the Australian Amy Gillett foundation promoting a safe and harmonious relationship between cyclists and motorists.

About AXA

AXA Group is a worldwide leader in Financial Protection. AXA's operations are diverse geographically, with major operations in Western Europe, North America and the Asia/Pacific area. AXA had Euro 1,077 billion in assets under management as of June 30, 2006, and reported total revenues of Euro 41 billion and underlying earnings of Euro 2,090 million for the first half of 2006.

The AXA ordinary share is listed and trades under the symbol AXA on the Paris Stock Exchange. The AXA American Depository Share is also listed on the NYSE under the ticker symbol AXA.

About AXA Asia Pacific Holdings

AXA APH is 51.6% owned by the global AXA Group. AXA APH is responsible for the global AXA Group's life insurance and wealth management businesses in the Asia-Pacific region. It has operations in Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

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This press release is available on the AXA Group web site: www.axa.com

AXA Investor Relations:

Etienne Bouas-Laurent: +33.1.40.75.46.85
Sophie Bourlanges: +33.1.40.75.56.07
Emmanuel Touzeau: +33.1.40.75.49.05
Kevin Molloy: +1.212.314.2893

AXA Media Relations:

Christophe Dufraux: +33.1.40.75.46.74
Clara Rodrigo: +33.1.40.75.47.22
Armelle Vercken: +33.1.40.75.46.42
Mary Taylor: +1.212.314.5845

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