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**Media Release: Knowledge transfer in Funds Management to the fore - Melbourne Centre welcomes Janus Capital Asia as sponsor; AAMI and CBA renew as corporate sponsors**

Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies is pleased to announce that Janus Capital Asia Ltd will be the sponsor of its Funds Management Forum Series of events. The innovative Denver-based asset management company has become the inaugural sponsor of the Centre's regular Finance Forums in Melbourne that feature local and international funds management practitioners and researchers.

Centre director Professor Kevin Davis thanked Janus Capital for its far-sighted support as the first sponsor to commit to an annual presentation series and noted that it "will assist the Melbourne Centre to promote the flow of ideas between academe and industry".

Since 2005, Melbourne Centre has conducted over a dozen forums directly related to investment practice, and funds operation and governance. Via these events and introductions to industry, the Centre has facilitated research in an under-researched sector in which Australia, and Melbourne in particular, has taken a global leadership position. (Australia's \$1 trillion plus funds management industry is the fourth largest globally.)

The first Forum in the 2008 series to be held in the second week of March, will be presented by Janus Capital Group Vice President Investments and Client Portfolio Manager Adam Schor from the firm's Denver headquarters on the topic *'The Optimal Structure of a Team-Led Portfolio: Manager Behaviour Under Tracking Error Constraints'*.

At this time, Melbourne Centre is also pleased to announce that its two primary sponsors - AAMI and Commonwealth Bank - have confirmed the extension of their corporate sponsorship of the Centre. In November 2005, AAMI became the inaugural corporate sponsor of the Centre. It was joined in 2006 by Commonwealth Bank which agreed to transfer the longtime sponsorship of the Chair in Finance held by Professor Davis to the Centre.

Finsia's Executive General Manager and Melbourne Centre chairman, John Unkles stated that "Cumulatively these decisions from a cross-section of finance organizations amount to a significant vote of confidence in Centre's achievements to date, its current program and its future directions". Unkles also noted that "In the longer term it is vital that the finance industry get behind the work of the Centre. The strengthened linkage to academe provides an ideal means for the local industry to replicate some of the synergies for which financial capitals such as London, Boston, Edinburgh and Zurich are well known."

Professor Davis added that the Universities see the Centre with its industry network as a forum for further validation of research work and hence an important element in the drive to attract and retain talented academic finance researchers. Moreover, "the best way to ensure quality teaching is have a strong institutional reputation for research. In the war for talent, both in academe and industry the Melbourne Centre will play a small but important role in ensuring that necessary research is conducted while fostering quality teaching and better prepared graduates."

**END**

*Melbourne Centre for Financial Studies* is a partnership between public and private sectors, and between industry and academe. Seed funding was provided by the Victorian Government as part of its Financial Services Strategy. Members of the consortium are Melbourne, Monash and RMIT Universities, and Finsia. They have joined together to enhance Melbourne's national and international reputation for excellence in financial practice, research and education. The Centre facilitates knowledge transfer between, and builds research synergies between, industry and academe by undertaking finance research, and organizing research focused conferences, workshops, public lectures and other educational activities. Financial Regulation is a core research area for the Melbourne Centre.

For more information:

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