



EARNEST Partners Signs Cooperation Agreement with China Merchant Fund

October 30, 2009

EARNEST Partners is pleased to announce a formal partnership with China Merchants Fund, a subsidiary of China Merchants Bank and China Merchants Securities. China Merchants Bank is the largest independent bank in China; and China Merchants Securities is one of the country's top comprehensive securities firms.

Among the first investment managers to be granted QDII (Qualified Domestic Institutional Investor) status by Chinese regulators, China Merchants Fund has selected EARNEST Partners to advise on its international investments. China Merchants Fund is one of only two firms to be awarded QDII status in 2009; and EARNEST Partners is the only firm to have partnered with China Merchants Fund in this venture.

Baoliang Cheng, Director and General Manager of China Merchants Fund, remarked that he is proud to be affiliated with EARNEST Partners and views the partnership as a critical component of CMF's long-term growth strategy. The cooperation of the two firms creates a highly demanded opportunity for Chinese investors who have heretofore faced significant hurdles in deploying assets abroad.

EARNEST Partners CEO Paul Viera commented that the combined expertise of the two firms yields a competitive advantage for each. EARNEST Partners is pleased to leverage the judgment and expertise of the China Merchants Bank family as it considers potential investments in China. Similarly, the firm looks forward to sharing its own successful experience and process with CMF's substantial client base.

The agreement was formalized in a signing ceremony held in the China Merchants Fund Beijing headquarters October 30, 2009.

EARNEST Partners is an independent, employee-owned asset management firm currently advising on over \$15 billion in institutional assets for clients around the world. The firm is the largest independent investment manager in the Southeastern United States, and manages portfolios for more than 300 clients including corporations, government pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, jointly-trusted plans, endowments and foundations. EARNEST Partners is headquartered in Atlanta, GA, with a satellite office in Beijing China.

Contact: Trey Greer, Partner
404-815-8772