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For Immediate Release

EMTA SURVEY: EMERGING MARKETS DEBT TRADING AT US$1.228 TRILLION IN FIRST QUARTER

Local Instruments at 69% of Turnover; Volume at Lowest Quarterly Level in Almost Four Years

NEW YORK, May 22, 2008—Trading in Emerging Markets debt instruments declined for the third consecutive quarter, according to EMTA's First Quarter 2008 Emerging Markets Debt Trading Volume Survey released today. Participants in the Survey reported turnover of US$1.228 trillion in EM debt volume, a 28% decrease compared to the US$1.697 trillion reported in the first quarter of 2007 and a 10% decline compared to fourth quarter 2007 volume of US$1.366 trillion.

EMTA noted that EM trading volumes in the first quarter, which represented the lowest quarterly volume in almost four years, was generally consistent with the reduced level of financing activity attributable to the continuing effects of the credit crunch that began in mid-2007. While the results are affected by the absence of several regular contributors (including Bear Stearns), EMTA believes that the overall trends reflected in the report are still broadly representative of the EM asset class.

Jerome Booth, Head of Research at Ashmore Investment Management commented "Trading volumes have declined as a result of speculative and non-core investors pulling out of the asset class and less investment bank activity." Booth argued that this, in fact, augured well for the asset class. "Strategic investor appetite is in our view increased as a direct result of the credit crunch--long term strategic investors including Central Banks are buying Emerging Markets debt now to reduce risk and in particular to diversify away from US dollar and US Treasury risk," he stated, stressing that such investors are long-term holders, rather than traders, of EM debt.

Local Market Instrument Trades Represent 69% of Volume

Local markets trading stood at US$850 billion in the first quarter. This represents a 17% decrease from US$1.025 trillion in the first quarter of 2007, and a 9% decline compared to US$933 billion in the fourth quarter. Trading in local markets instruments represented 69% of total reported trading, compared with a 60% share in the same quarter in 2007.

The most frequently traded local markets instruments were from Brazil (US$155 billion), Mexico (US$95 billion), Hong Kong (US$86 billion), Turkey (US$74 billion) and South Africa (US$70 billion).

Sovereign Eurobond Trading at US$236 Billion; Corporates at US$114 Billion

Sovereign Eurobond trading stood at US$236 billion in the first quarter of 2008, representing a 50% drop from US$475 billion one year ago, but was up 3% from the most recent quarter (US$228 billion). Sovereign Eurobonds accounted for 19% of total reported volume, compared to 28% in the first quarter of 2007 and 17% in the fourth quarter.

Corporate Eurobond trading was down 24% on a year-on-year basis, at US$114 billion vs. US$150 billion, and down 31% on a quarter-on-quarter basis (US$165 billion in the fourth quarter). Corporate Eurobonds accounted for 9% of Survey volume, the same as in the first quarter of 2007 but down from a 12% share in the previous quarter.

The most frequently traded Eurobonds were those from Brazil (US$79 billion), Russia (US$41 billion), Mexico (US$31 billion), Argentina (US$30 billion) and Venezuela (US$27 billion).

In addition to local markets bonds, sovereign and corporate Eurobonds, the Survey also includes turnover in options, loans and Brady bonds. Survey participants reported US$14 billion in option trades (1% of volume), US$3 billion in loan assignments (less than 1% of volume) and US$500 million in Brady bond transactions (also less than 1% of Survey turnover).

Brazil, Mexico and Turkey Lead Volumes

Brazilian instruments were the most frequently traded instruments according to Survey participants, at US$238 billion in turnover. This compares with US$277 billion reported in the first quarter of 2007 (down 14%) and US$250 billion in the fourth quarter (down 5%). Brazil's 2040 bond remained the most frequently traded industry instrument, accounting for US$29 billion of Survey turnover. 19% of Survey trades included Brazilian instruments.

Mexican securities stood second, at US$126 billion in turnover. This compares to US$407 billion in the first quarter of 2007 (down 69%) and US$293 billion in the fourth quarter (down 57%). 10% of Survey volumes included Mexican fixed income products.

Turkish instruments moved to the third most frequently traded instruments in the first quarter (from sixth place in the previous quarter). Volume in Turkish debt securities stood at US$96 billion, a 38% decrease on a year-on-year basis (US$153 billion) while representing a 29% increase from the fourth quarter's US$74 billion.

Other frequently traded instruments were securities from Hong Kong (US$90 billion), Argentina (US$81 billion), South Africa (US$77 billion), India (US$64 billion), Russia (US$53 billion), Singapore (US$44 billion) and the People's Republic of China (US$41 billion).

EMTA's Survey includes trading on volumes in debt instruments from over 90 Emerging Market countries. For a copy of EMTA's First Quarter 2008 Debt Trading Volume Survey, please contact Jonathan Murno at jmurno@emta.org or +1 (212) 313-1005.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

Founded in 1990, EMTA (formerly the Emerging Markets Traders Association) is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to promoting the orderly development of fair, efficient and transparent trading markets for Emerging Markets instruments, and the integration of the Emerging Markets into the global financial marketplace. EMTA, with over 150 member firms worldwide, has published its Annual Volume Surveys since 1992 and Quarterly Surveys since the first quarter of 1997.

Participants in the EMTA Survey are asked to report trades based on aggregate principal amount (face value) rather than the consideration paid in order that results are not influenced by price fluctuations.