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HSBC HOLDINGS PLC
Form 6-K
August 20, 2007

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer
Pursuant to Rule 13a - 16 or 15d - 16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of August, 2007

HSBC Holdings plc

42nd Floor, 8 Canada
Square, London E14 5HQ, England

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F).

Form 20-F Form 40-F

(Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934).

Yes No

(If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b): 82-))

HSBC IN TALKS TO ACQUIRE STAKE IN KOREA EXCHANGE BANK

HSBC Holdings plc confirms that its subsidiary, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, is in discussions about the possible acquisition of a majority stake in Korea Exchange Bank, Korea's sixth largest bank by total assets, from Lone Star.

The discussions are ongoing and, if agreement is reached, the transaction would be conditional, inter alia, on obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals in Korea and elsewhere.

A further announcement will be made as and when appropriate.

Note to editors:

HSBC Holdings plc serves over 125 million customers worldwide through around 10,000 offices in 83 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of some US\$2,150 billion at 30 June 2007, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

HSBC Holdings plc

By:

Name: P A Stafford

Title: Assistant Group Secretary

Date: 20 August, 2007