The Group's earnings before interest and tax increased by 18% to HK\$911 million from HK\$769 million of the last corresponding period, mainly due to the robust growth in toll revenue and benefits from Renminbi appreciation under the Renminbi exchange rate regime since late July 2005, including an exchange gain on retranslation of the United States dollar bank loans borrowed by a PRC jointly controlled entity.

The net profit attributable to equity holders of the Company, benefiting from an exchange gain of HK\$86 million arising from Renminbi appreciation, grew 21% to HK\$682 million from HK\$564 million despite a 20% increase in finance costs to HK\$161 million from HK\$134 million. The increase in finance costs was due to interest rate hikes of the United States dollar bank loans.

## **INTERIM DIVIDEND**

The Board of Directors has declared an interim dividend of HK15.00 cents per ordinary share in respect of the financial year ending 30th June, 2007 (30th June, 2006: HK11.50 cents). The dividend will be paid on or about 23rd March, 2007 to those shareholders as registered at the close of business on 22nd March, 2007.

## **CLOSURE OF REGISTER**

The Register of Members of the Company will be closed from Monday, 19th March, 2007 to Thursday, 22nd March, 2007, both days inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares will be effected. In order to qualify for the interim dividend, all transfers accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's Hong Kong Share Registrar, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, at Shops 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong not later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 16th March, 2007.