

# Report of the Auditors



To the members

**Lai Sun Development Company Limited**

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

We have audited the financial statements on pages 40 to 113 which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong.

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS**

The Companies Ordinance requires the directors to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view. In preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view it is fundamental that appropriate accounting policies are selected and applied consistently. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

**BASIS OF OPINION**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Statements of Auditing Standards issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants. An audit includes an examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's and the Group's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

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We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

**FUNDAMENTAL UNCERTAINTIES RELATING TO THE GOING CONCERN BASIS**

As further explained in note 3 to the financial statements, the Group succeeded in obtaining agreements from the holders of the Exchangeable Bonds and Convertible Bonds 2002 and its principal lending banks to defer the principal repayment of indebtedness to 31st December, 2002. Note 3 also summarises the key highlights of the Group's measures to generate additional working capital for the purpose of reducing its indebtedness. In forming our opinion, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosures made in note 3 to the financial statements which explains the circumstances giving rise to concerns regarding the fundamental uncertainties relating to the adoption of the going concern basis of presentation. The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, the validity of which depends upon the successful outcome of the asset disposal programme. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result from the asset disposal programme not being able to be conducted as planned. We consider that appropriate disclosures and estimates have been made in the financial statements and our opinion is not qualified in this respect.

## Report of the Auditors

### OPINION

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the Group as at 31st July, 2000 and of the loss and cash flows of the Group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Ordinance.

### **Ernst & Young**

*Certified Public Accountants*

Hong Kong

20th November, 2000