

## **Business Review**

For the year ended 31 December 2000, the Company and its subsidiaries produced 3.97 million tonnes of iron, 3.92 million tonnes of steel, 3.56 million tonnes of steel products, representing a 7.8%, 10.5% and 14.2% increase respectively from the previous year. The production-to-sales ratio reached 100.5%. Under the PRC accounting standards, sales of the Group for 2000 amounted to RMB8,186 million, up 22.8% from the previous year. Under the PRC accounting standards, profit from principal operating activities amounted to RMB1,192 million, up 97.9% from the previous year; net profit was RMB176 million, up 12.4 times from the previous year. Under the Hong Kong accounting standards, profit from principal operating activities amounted to RMB1,221 million, up 94.1% from the previous year; net profit was RMB102 million, up 6.8 times from the previous year.