

13 SUBSIDIARIES

	Company	
	2000	1999
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Unlisted shares, at cost	443	20,443
Loan to a subsidiary (note a)	50,000	-
Amounts due from subsidiaries (note b)	616,768	497,478
Amount due to a subsidiary (note b)	(3,820)	(2,265)
	663,391	515,656

- (a) The company holds a promissory note issued by a non-wholly owned subsidiary, which will become payable on 8 March 2003 or upon any initial public offering of the shares of that subsidiary on any stock exchange, whichever occurs earlier, with interest on the principal amount payable on the last day of each calendar year at the rate of 9.25% per annum.
- (b) The amounts due from/to the subsidiaries are unsecured and interest free, and have no fixed terms of repayment.

Details of the subsidiaries are listed in note 34.

14 JOINTLY CONTROLLED ENTITIES

	Group	
	2000	1999
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Share of net assets	98,796	110,983
Loan to a jointly controlled entity	8,388	-
	107,184	110,983
Unlisted shares, at cost	147,765	146,400

The loan to a jointly controlled entity is unsecured and interest free, and has no fixed terms of repayment.

Details of the jointly controlled entities are listed below:

Name	Place of incorporation	Principal activities and place of operation	Percentage of interest in ownership
Hsin Chi Broadcast Co. Ltd.	Taiwan	Satellite digital television broadcasting services in Taiwan	40.00%
Shanghai Jade Pearl Internet Technologies Ltd.	The People's Republic of China	Internet web portal in Mainland China	38.89%

15 ASSOCIATED COMPANIES

	Group	
	2000	1999
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Share of net assets	15,847	10,444
Unlisted shares, at cost	32,634	32,634

Details of the associated companies are listed below:

Name	Place of incorporation and business	Particulars of issued shares held	Group equity interest	Principal activities
TVB3 Network Company Limited	Thailand	ordinary shares of Baht10 each	40.00%	Television production and programming service
Interface Company Limited	Taiwan	ordinary shares of NT\$10 each	30.00%	Magazine publications

16 INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

	Group		Company	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Held-to-maturity debt securities (note a)	46,415	70,612	46,415	70,612
Investment securities (note b)	1,541	1,541	-	-
	47,956	72,153	46,415	70,612

The analysis of the above is as follows:

(a) Held-to-maturity debt securities

Debt securities, at amortised cost				
Listed outside Hong Kong	107,820	85,566	107,820	85,566
Unlisted	-	49,915	-	49,915
	107,820	135,481	107,820	135,481
Debt securities maturing within one year included under current assets	(61,405)	(64,869)	(61,405)	(64,869)
	46,415	70,612	46,415	70,612
Market value of listed shares	105,922	86,472	105,922	86,472

(b) Investment securities

Equity securities, at cost				
Unlisted	16,983	16,929	-	-
Less : Provision for diminution in value	(15,442)	(15,388)	-	-
	1,541	1,541	-	-

Included in the investment in equity securities is an investee company, namely Fairchild Television Ltd., in which the group holds a 20% equity interest. The investee company is incorporated in Canada with an issued share capital of Canadian dollars 2,000 and is engaged in the operation of a cable television station in Canada. The group has no significant influence in the management of the investee company.

17 LOANS TO INVESTEE COMPANIES

	Group		Company	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Loans to investee companies	49,007	49,193	-	-
Less: Provision	(37,522)	(25,732)	-	-
	11,485	23,461	-	-

The loans to the investee companies are unsecured and non-interest bearing, and have no fixed terms of repayment, except for HK\$6,474,000 which carries interest at 2% per annum above the Canadian Prime Rate. The provision was made by the directors for the amounts considered irrecoverable.

18 STOCKS

At 31 December 2000, the carrying amount of stocks that are carried at net realisable value amounted to HK\$10,645,000 (1999: nil).

19 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES, PREPAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS

	Group		Company	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Due from :				
Jointly controlled entities	302	246	-	-
Associated companies	2,386	3,470	-	-
Investee company	3,415	4,296	-	-
Trade receivables (note)	967,354	948,422	634,363	643,236
Less : Provision for doubtful debts	(77,234)	(64,215)	(40,195)	(39,123)
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables	212,325	236,841	69,739	76,831
	1,108,548	1,129,060	663,907	680,944

Note:

The group operates a controlled credit policy and allows an average credit period of forty to sixty days to the majority of the group's customers who satisfy the credit evaluation. Cash on delivery, advance payments or bank guarantees are required from other customers of the group.

At 31 December 2000, the aging analysis of the trade receivables were as follows :

	Group		Company	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Current	455,173	473,264	272,136	321,140
1-2 months	234,081	234,477	179,126	171,548
2-3 months	139,715	117,580	106,320	90,048
3-4 months	48,337	42,497	26,531	21,929
4-5 months	37,552	46,929	11,799	11,938
Over 5 months	52,496	33,675	38,451	26,633
	967,354	948,422	634,363	643,236

20 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS

	Group		Company	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Due to :				
Jointly controlled entities	13,820	9,762	-	-
Associated companies	27,621	9,290	-	-
Trade payables (note)	180,309	143,427	71,319	44,010
Other accounts payables and accruals	505,362	367,753	211,338	172,204
	727,112	530,232	282,657	216,214

Note:

At 31 December 2000, the aging analysis of the trade payables were as follows :

	Group		Company	
	2000	1999	2000	1999
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Current	131,929	84,982	65,237	35,217
1-2 months	33,199	37,932	5,022	6,742
2-3 months	6,181	5,935	628	1,068
3-4 months	1,489	2,607	188	902
4-5 months	1,410	2,419	141	12
Over 5 months	6,101	9,552	103	69
	180,309	143,427	71,319	44,010

21 BANK DEPOSITS AND OVERDRAFTS

(a) At 31 December 2000, the group has pledged bank deposits of HK\$5,850,000 (1999: nil) to secure certain banking facilities granted to the group.

(b) Bank overdrafts of HK\$43,824,000 (1999: HK\$43,941,000) are secured by the current assets of HK\$1,543,000 (1999: HK\$4,469,000) and fixed assets with net book value of HK\$16,915,000 (1999: HK\$18,217,000).

22 SHARE CAPITAL

	Number of ordinary shares of HK\$0.05 each	Nominal value HK\$'000
Authorised:		
At 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2000	1,300,000,000	65,000
Issued and fully paid:		
At 1 January 1999	417,645,000	20,882
Issue of shares (note)	20,355,000	1,018
At 31 December 1999	438,000,000	21,900
At 1 January 2000 and 31 December 2000	438,000,000	21,900

Note:

On 4 May 1999, 20,355,000 ordinary shares of HK\$0.05 each were issued for cash at a premium of HK\$30.25 each for funding of new headquarters at Tseung Kwan O. These shares rank pari passu with the existing shares.