

## Report of the Directors

The directors have pleasure in submitting their report together with the audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001.

### **Principal Activities**

The principal activity of the company is investment holding. The principal activities of its subsidiaries include property investment and development, investment holding and property management and are more particularly set out in note 28 to the accounts.

### **Results and Appropriations**

The results of the group for the year ended 31st March 2001 are set out in the consolidated profit and loss account on page 13.

The directors have declared an interim dividend of 2 cents per ordinary share totalling HK\$12.4 million which was paid on 23rd February 2001.

The directors do not recommend the payment of a final dividend.

### **Reserves**

Movements in the reserves of the group and the company during the year are shown in note 19 to the accounts.

### **Fixed Assets**

Details of the movements in fixed assets of the group are shown in note 10 to the accounts.

### **Financial Summary**

A five years financial summary of the group is set out on page 38.

### **Long Term Liabilities**

Details of the long term liabilities of the group are shown in note 20 to the accounts.

### **Properties**

Particulars of major properties of the group are set out on page 37.

### **Directors**

The directors in office during the year and at the date of this report are Messrs David Pun Chan, Karl Chi Leung Kwok, Wing Sau Li, Chan Sum Woo (retired on 8th September 2000), Benedict Cho Hung Woo (appointed on 1st August 2000) and Ms Ivy Sau Ching Chan.

## Report of the Directors

In accordance with Bye-law 84 of the company's Bye-laws, Mr Wing Sau Li retires from the board by rotation and, being eligible, offers himself for re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

None of the directors has a service contract with the company which is not determinable within one year without payment of compensation.

### Biography of Directors and Senior Management

The biographical details of the directors and senior management are set out on pages 5 and 6.

### Directors' Interests

At 31st March 2001, the interests of the directors and chief executive in the shares of the company as recorded in the register maintained under section 29 of the Securities (Disclosure of Interests) Ordinance were as follows:

Name	Number of shares				Total
	Personal interests	Family interests	Corporate interests	Other interests	
David Pun Chan	101,147,971	–	*61,335,074	–	<b>162,483,045</b>
Ivy Sau Ching Chan	20,132,706	–	–	–	<b>20,132,706</b>
Karl Chi Leung Kwok	221,212	–	–	–	<b>221,212</b>
Wing Sau Li	37,000	–	–	–	<b>37,000</b>

\*Note: Such shares were held through a corporation wholly owned by Mr David Pun Chan.

During the year, the company did not grant to the directors or chief executive any right to subscribe for shares of the company.

No contracts of significance in relation to the group's business to which the company or its subsidiaries was a party and in which a director of the company had a material interest, whether directly or indirectly, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

At no time during the year was the company or its subsidiaries a party to any arrangements to enable the directors of the company to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of shares in, or debentures of, the company or any other body corporate.

## Report of the Directors

### Substantial Shareholders

At 31st March 2001, the register of substantial shareholders maintained under section 16(1) of the Securities (Disclosure of Interests) Ordinance showed that the company has been notified of the following interest, being 10% or more in the company's issued share capital. This interest is in addition to those disclosed above in respect of the directors and chief executive:

Name	Number of shares beneficially held
Chan Poon Wai Kuen	96,185,380

### Purchase, Sale or Redemption of Shares

The company has not redeemed any of its shares during the year. Neither the company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased or sold any of the company's shares during the year.

### Pre-emptive Rights

No pre-emptive rights exist under Bermuda law in relation to issues of new shares by the company.

### Management Contracts

No contracts concerning the management and administration of the whole or any substantial part of the business of the company were entered into or existed during the year.

### Major Suppliers and Customers

For the year ended 31st March 2001, the five largest suppliers and the largest supplier of the group accounted for approximately 38% and 11% respectively of the group's total purchases and the five largest customers and the largest customer of the group accounted for approximately 49% and 14% respectively of the group's turnover.

At 31st March 2001, none of the directors, their associates or any shareholder (which to the knowledge of the directors owned more than 5% of the company's share capital) had any beneficial interest in the group's five largest suppliers or five largest customers.

## Operational Review

### Liquidity and Financial Resources

The group's funding requirements are met with cash on hand, internally generated cash and, to the extent required, by external floating rate bank borrowings. Other sources of funds include dividends received from associated companies.

At 31st March 2001, the group's borrowings net of cash, was HK\$390.2 million as compared with HK\$451.0 million last year. The group's borrowings were secured by certain investment properties and other properties held by the group with a total carrying value of HK\$1,188.0 million. In addition, the group's borrowings were denominated in Hong Kong dollars and were payable within one year.

The gearing ratio, which is calculated as the ratio of the bank borrowings to shareholders' funds, maintained at a low level of 10.3% at 31st March 2001, when compared to 12.2% last year.

Committed borrowing facilities available to the group, but not drawn at 31st March 2001, amounted to HK\$247.0 million. Together with the receipts over the next twelve months from purchasers of the group's properties, the liquid funds of the group is adequate to meet the anticipated working capital requirement in the coming year.

### Treasury Policies

The group's overall treasury and funding policy is that of risk management and control. The assets and liabilities of the group are denominated either in Hong Kong or United States dollars. Accordingly, the group has minimal exposure to foreign exchange fluctuation. However, the group will closely monitor the overall currency and interest rate exposures and, when considered appropriate, the group will hedge against currency exposure as well as to assist in managing the group's interest rate exposure.

### Employees

The group, excluding associated companies, employs a total of 242 people in Hong Kong and the United States. Employees' costs, excluding directors' emoluments, amounted to HK\$49.8 million for the year ended 31st March 2001. Remuneration packages are reviewed annually with other employee benefits including medical subsidies, a non-contributory provident fund scheme and mandatory provident fund scheme.

## Report of the Directors

### Corporate Governance

During the year, the company was in compliance with the Code of Best Practice as set out in Appendix 14 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited except that the independent non-executive directors of the company are not appointed for a specific term as they are subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at the annual general meeting of the company in accordance with the company's Bye-laws.

### Audit Committee

An audit committee of the Board of Directors was established on 15th January 1999 with written terms of reference which set out the authorities and duties of the audit committee. The function of the audit committee is to assist the board in providing an independent review of the financial reporting processes and internal controls. The audit committee comprises of three non-executive directors, namely Messrs Karl Chi Leung Kwok, Benedit Cho Hung Woo and Ms Ivy Sau Ching Chan. Two meetings were held during the current financial year.

### Auditors

The accounts have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers who retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment.

On behalf of the Board

**David P. Chan**

*Chairman*

Hong Kong, 28th June 2001

*Nerine Cove  
The commercial and residential  
development at the junction of  
Hang Kwai Street and  
Hang Fu Street, Tuen Mun.*

