

# REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

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The Directors have pleasure in submitting their annual report together with the audited statement of accounts for the year ended 31st March, 2001.

## **PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

The principal activity of the Company is investment holding and the principal activities of the subsidiaries are the printing and manufacture of high quality multi-colour packaging products, carton boxes, books, brochures and other paper products.

The analysis of the geographical locations of the turnover of the Company and its subsidiaries during the year are set out in note 3 on the accounts.

## **ACCOUNTS**

The profit of the Group for the year ended 31st March, 2001 and the state of affairs of the Company and the Group at that date are set out in the accounts on pages 17 to 44.

An interim dividend of HK2.0 cents (2000: HK1.0 cent) per share was paid on 23rd December, 2000. The Directors now recommend the payment of a final dividend of HK1.5 cents (2000: HK2.5 cents) per share in respect of the year ended 31st March, 2001.

## **RESERVES**

Movements in reserves during the year are set out in note 23 on the accounts.

## **SUBSIDIARIES**

Particulars of the Company's subsidiaries at 31st March, 2001 are set out in note 13 on the accounts.

## **FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

A summary of the results and of the assets and liabilities of the Group for the last five financial years is set out on pages 45 to 46.

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## MAJOR SUPPLIERS AND CUSTOMERS

The information in respect of the Group's sales and purchases attributable to the major customers and suppliers during the financial year is as follows:

	%
Sales	
Five largest customers in aggregate	46
The largest customer	19
Purchases	
Five largest suppliers in aggregate	32
The largest supplier	8

At no time during the year, have the Directors, their associates or any shareholder of the Company (which to the knowledge of the Directors, owns more than 5 per cent. of the Company's share capital) had any interests (as defined in the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Listing Rules")) in these major customers and suppliers.

## FIXED ASSETS

Movements in fixed assets during the year are set out in note 12 on the accounts.

## BANK LOANS, OVERDRAFTS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER FINANCE LEASES

Particulars of bank loans, overdrafts and obligations under finance leases of the Group at 31st March, 2001 are set out in note 17 on the accounts.

## DIRECTORS

The Directors during the financial year and up to the date of this report were:

Madam So Chau Yim Ping, JP (*Chairman and Managing Director*)

Mrs Cheong So Ka Wai, Patsy

Mrs Fung So Ka Wah, Karen

Mr So Wah Sum, Conrad

Madam Shea Chau Hung Ping

Mr Hui Yin Fat, O.B.E., JP\*

The Hon. Ting Woo Shou, Kenneth, JP\*

The Hon. Wong Wang Fat, Andrew, O.B.E. (Hon), JP\*

\* *Independent Non-Executive Directors*

In accordance with the bye-laws of the Company, Mrs Fung So Ka Wah, Karen and Mr So Wah Sum, Conrad retire from office at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

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## DIRECTORS' SERVICE CONTRACTS

Madam So Chau Yim Ping, JP, Mrs Cheong So Ka Wai, Patsy, Mrs Fung So Ka Wah, Karen, Mr So Wah Sum, Conrad and Madam Shea Chau Hung Ping have entered into service agreements with the Company which may be terminated by either party giving to the other six months written notice.

## CODE OF BEST PRACTICE

The Company has complied with the Code of Best Practice, as set out in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules, throughout the year ended 31st March, 2001, except that Independent Non-Executive Directors are not appointed for a specific term as they are subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at Annual General Meetings in accordance with the Company's Bye-law.

## DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN SHARES

As at 31st March, 2001, the beneficial interests of the Directors in the issued share capital of the Company and its subsidiaries within the meaning of the Securities (Disclosure of Interests) Ordinance ("SDI Ordinance") as recorded in the register required to be kept under section 29 of that Ordinance were as follows:

### (a) Interests in the Company

Name of Director	Number of ordinary shares		
	Personal	Corporate (Note)	Total
Madam So Chau Yim Ping, JP	19,800,000	132,000,000	151,800,000
Mrs Cheong So Ka Wai, Patsy	3,300,000	—	3,300,000
Mrs Fung So Ka Wah, Karen	3,300,000	—	3,300,000
Mr So Wah Sum, Conrad	3,300,000	—	3,300,000
Madam Shea Chau Hung Ping	3,300,000	—	3,300,000
The Hon. Ting Woo Shou, Kenneth, JP	105,000	—	105,000

No family interests in shares are held by any of the Directors.

*Note: Ka Chau Enterprises (B.V.I.) Limited ("Ka Chau") beneficially owned 132,000,000 shares as at 31st March, 2001. Madam So Chau Yim Ping, JP has a 60 per cent. interest in Ka Chau, and each of Mrs Cheong So Ka Wai, Patsy and Mrs Fung So Ka Wah, Karen has a 20 per cent. interest in Ka Chau.*

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## (b) Interests in subsidiaries

<b>Beneficial interests</b>	<b>Non-voting deferred shares of HK\$100 each in New Island Printing Company Limited</b>	<b>Non-voting deferred shares of HK\$100 each in Sonic Manufacturing Company Limited</b>
Madam So Chau Yim Ping, JP	6,700	500
Mrs Cheong So Ka Wai, Patsy	1,000	500
Mrs Fung So Ka Wah, Karen	1,000	—
Mr So Wah Sum, Conrad	1,000	—
Madam So Chau Yim Ping, JP and Mrs Cheong So Ka Wai, Patsy	150	—
Madam Shea Chau Hung Ping	150	—
	<b>10,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>

In addition to the above, certain Directors hold shares in subsidiaries on trust and as nominees for intermediate holding companies.

## SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS

Save for those shares referred to in the Directors' interests in shares above, no person or corporation had any interest in the share capital of the Company as recorded in the register required to be kept under section 16(1) of the SDI Ordinance.

## CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Group has entered into the following transactions as described below with persons who are "connected persons" for the purpose of Listing Rules.

The Group, in the ordinary course of business, entered into transactions with Kader Holdings Company Limited ("Kader") and its related companies from time to time on an arm's length basis and on normal commercial terms. The Hon. Ting Woo Shou, Kenneth, JP, an Independent Non-Executive Director of the Group is the managing director, chief executive officer and a controlling shareholder of Kader.

These transactions have been reviewed by the other Independent Non-Executive Directors (namely, Mr. Hui Yin Fat, O.B.E., JP and The Hon. Wong Wang Fat, Andrew, O.B.E. (Hon), JP) of the Company, who are satisfied that the above transactions have been concluded on normal commercial terms in the ordinary course of business and are fair and reasonable so far as the shareholders of the Company are concerned.

## **DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN SIGNIFICANT CONTRACTS**

Apart from the above, no contract of significance to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries was a party and in which a Director of the Company had a material interest subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

## **ARRANGEMENT TO PURCHASE SHARES**

Under the Company's Share Option Scheme, the Directors of the Company may, at their discretion, invite any employees, including directors, of any company in the Group, to take up options to subscribe for shares at a price to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Company, which will not be less than 80 per cent. of the average closing price of the shares on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited on the five trading days preceding the date of offer of the option or the nominal value of the shares if higher. The maximum number of shares in respect of which options may be granted may not exceed 10 per cent. of the issued share capital of the Company. The options are exercisable for a period of up to three years commencing on the expiry of six months after the date on which the option is accepted. The Share Option Scheme remains in force for a period of 10 years commencing on 25th March, 1993.

No option was granted or exercised during the year or outstanding at 31st March, 2001.

Save for the Company's Share Option Scheme, at no time during the year ended 31st March, 2001 was the Company or its subsidiaries a party to any arrangements to enable the Directors or the chief executives of the Company, or their spouses or children under the age of 18, to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of shares in, or debentures of, the Company or any other body corporate.

## **PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHTS**

There is no provision for pre-emptive rights under the Company's bye-laws, although there is no restriction against such rights under Bermuda Law.

## **PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF THE COMPANY'S SHARES**

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company's shares during the year.

## **RETIREMENT SCHEMES**

Particulars of retirement schemes of the Group are set out in note 26 on the accounts.

## **STAFF**

As at 31st March, 2001, the Group had a total staff of 2,440 (2000: 2,242) of which 2,153 (2000: 1,992) were employed in the PRC for the Group's manufacturing and distribution businesses.

The Group provides employee benefits such as staff insurance, retirement schemes and discretionary bonus and also provides in-house training programmes and external training sponsorship.

## **AUDITORS**

KPMG retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment. A resolution for the re-appointment of KPMG as auditors of the Company is to be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

By order of the Board

**Cheong So Ka Wai, Patsy**

*Secretary*

Hong Kong, 23rd July, 2001