

# Notes To The Accounts

## 1 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these accounts are set out below:

### (a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong and comply with accounting standards issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants ("HKSA"). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

In the current year, the group adopted the following Statements of Standard Accounting Practice ("SSAPs") issued by the HKSA which are effective for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2001:

SSAP 9 (revised)	:	Events after the balance sheet date
SSAP 14 (revised)	:	Leases (effective for periods commencing on or after 1 July 2000)
SSAP 26	:	Segment reporting
SSAP 28	:	Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets
SSAP 30	:	Business combinations
SSAP 31	:	Impairment of assets
SSAP 32	:	Consolidated financial statements and accounting for investments in subsidiaries

The effect of adopting SSAP 9 (revised) is set out in the accounting policy note 1(q) below.

The disclosure changes under SSAP 14 (revised) have resulted in changes to the information disclosed for commitments under operating leases, as further detailed in note 29 to the financial statements.

The principal impact of SSAP 26 is the inclusion of additional segment reporting disclosures, which are included in note 2 to the financial statements.

The adoption of SSAP 28, SSAP 30, SSAP 31 and SSAP 32 did not have a material impact on the financial statements.

### (b) Group accounting

#### (i) Consolidation

The consolidated accounts include the accounts of the company and its subsidiaries made up to 31 December. Subsidiaries are those entities in which the group controls the composition of the board of directors, controls more than half the voting power or holds more than half of the issued share capital.

The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are included in the consolidated profit and loss account from the effective date of acquisition or up to the effective date of disposal, as appropriate.

All significant intercompany transactions and balances within the group are eliminated on consolidation.

The gain or loss on the disposal of a subsidiary represents the difference between the proceeds of the sale and the group's share of its net assets together with any unamortised goodwill or negative goodwill or goodwill/negative goodwill taken to reserves and which was not previously charged or recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account.

Minority interests represent the interests of outside shareholders in the operating results and net asset value of subsidiaries.

In the company's balance sheet the investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment losses. The results of subsidiaries are accounted for by the company on the basis of dividends received and receivable.

(ii) Jointly controlled entities

A jointly controlled entity is under a contractual arrangement whereby the group and other parties undertake an economic activity which is subject to joint control and none of the participating parties has unilateral control over the economic activity.

The consolidated profit and loss account includes the group's share of the results of jointly controlled entities for the year, and the consolidated balance sheet includes the group's share of the net assets of the jointly controlled entities and goodwill/negative goodwill (net of accumulated amortisation) on acquisition.

(iii) Associated companies

An associated company is a company, not being a subsidiary, in which an equity interest is held for the long-term and significant influence is exercised in its management.

The consolidated profit and loss account includes the group's share of the results of associated companies for the year, and the consolidated balance sheet includes the group's share of the net assets of the associated companies and also goodwill/negative goodwill (net of accumulated amortisation) on acquisition.

Equity accounting is discontinued when the carrying amount of the investment in an associated company reaches zero, unless the group has

incurred obligations or guaranteed obligations in respect of the associated company.

- (iv) **Translation of foreign currencies**  
Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at exchange rates ruling at the transaction dates. Monetary assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising in these cases are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

The accounts of subsidiaries, jointly controlled entities and associated companies expressed in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising from the translation of the net investment in subsidiaries, jointly controlled entities and associated companies and of intra-group balances of equity nature are dealt with as a movement in reserves.

(c) **Goodwill**

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the fair value of the group's share of the net assets of the acquired subsidiary, jointly controlled entity and associated company at the date of acquisition.

Goodwill on acquisitions that occurred prior to 1 January 2001 was written off against reserves. The group has taken advantage of the transitional provision 1(a) in SSAP 30 and goodwill previously written off against reserves has not been restated.

The gain or loss on disposal of an entity includes the unamortised balance of goodwill relating to the entity disposed of or, for pre 1 January 2001 acquisitions, the related goodwill written off against reserves to the extent it has not previously been realised in the profit and loss account.

There were no major strategic acquisitions by the group on or after 1 January 2001.

(d) **Fixed assets**

- (i) **Construction in progress**  
Construction in progress is carried at cost, which includes direct expenses capitalised less any accumulated impairment losses as considered necessary by the directors. No depreciation is provided for construction in progress.
- (ii) **Other fixed assets**  
Other fixed assets, comprising leasehold improvements, plant and machinery and furniture and fixtures are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Other fixed assets are depreciated at rates sufficient to write off their costs less accumulated impairment losses over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis. The principal annual rates are as follows:

Buildings	2.5% - 5%
Leasehold improvements	Over the unexpired term of the lease
Studio, broadcasting and transmitting equipment	7% - 20%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	10% - 33.3%
Motor vehicles	10% - 25%

Improvements are capitalised and depreciated over their expected useful lives to the group.

(iii) Impairment and gain or loss on sale

At each balance sheet date, both internal and external sources of information are considered to assess whether there is any indication that assets included in construction in progress and other fixed assets are impaired. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and where relevant, an impairment loss is recognised to reduce the asset to its recoverable amount. Such impairment losses are recognised in the profit and loss except where the asset is carried at valuation and the impairment loss does not exceed the revaluation surplus for that same asset, in which case it is treated as a revaluation decrease.

The gain or loss on disposal of a fixed asset other than construction in progress is the difference between the net sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the relevant asset, and is recognised in the profit and loss account. Any revaluation reserve balance remaining attributable to the relevant asset is transferred to retained earnings and is shown as a movement in reserves.

(iv) Assets under finance leases

Leases that substantially transfer to the group all the risks and rewards of ownership of assets are accounted for as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised at the inception of the leases at the lower of the fair value of the leased assets or the present value of the minimum lease payments. Each lease payment is allocated between the capital and finance charges so as to achieve a constant rate on the capital balances outstanding. The corresponding rental obligations, net of finance charges, are included in long term liabilities. The finance charges are charged to the profit and loss account over the lease periods.

Assets held under finance leases are depreciated over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease periods.

**(e) Investments in securities**

**(i) Held-to-maturity securities**

Held-to-maturity securities are stated in the balance sheet at cost plus/less any discount/premium amortised to date. The discount or premium is amortised over the period to maturity and included as interest income/expense in the profit and loss account. Provision is made when there is a diminution in value other than temporary.

The carrying amounts of individual held-to-maturity securities are reviewed at the balance sheet date in order to assess the credit risk and whether the carrying amounts are expected to be recovered. Provisions are made when carrying amounts are not expected to be recovered and are recognised in the profit and loss account as an expense.

**(ii) Investment securities**

Investment securities are stated at cost less any provision for impairment losses.

The carrying amounts of individual investments are reviewed at each balance sheet date to assess whether the fair values have declined below the carrying amounts. When a decline other than temporary has occurred, the carrying amount of such securities will be reduced to its fair value. The impairment loss is recognised as an expense in the profit and loss account. This impairment loss is written back to profit and loss when the circumstances and events that led to the write-downs or write-offs cease to exist and there is persuasive evidence that the new circumstances and events will persist for the foreseeable future.

**(f) Programmes and film rights**

Programmes are stated at cost less amounts expensed and any provision considered necessary by the directors. Cost comprises direct expenditure and an appropriate proportion of production overheads. Cost of programmes is fully expensed on first transmission except that for certain satellite channels which, where considered appropriate by the directors, is expensed in accordance with a formula computed to write off the cost over a maximum of three transmissions.

Film rights are stated at cost less amounts expensed and any provision considered necessary by the directors. Film rights are expensed in accordance with a formula computed to write off the cost over the contracted number of transmissions.

**(g) Stocks**

Stocks, comprising decoders, tapes, video compact discs and consumable supplies, are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of video compact disc is calculated on a weighted average basis whereas the cost of other stocks is calculated on a first in first out basis. Net realisable value is determined on the basis of anticipated sales proceeds less estimated selling expenses.