

RESULTS

Net profit attributable to shareholders for the year ended 31 December 2001 was HK\$7.3 million, as compared to HK\$20.6 million for 2000. The operating profit for the year under review including share of profit of a jointly controlled entity but before other revenue and gains was HK\$31.2 million compared to HK\$30.3 million for the previous year. The basic earnings per share for the year was 1.79 cents (2000: 5.03 cents).

EQUITY

The number of issued shares of HK\$0.10 each as at 31 December 2001 was 409,113,021. There was no movement in the share capital of the Company in the year under review. During the year, the 81,451,743 warrants carrying rights to subscribe for an aggregate of 81,451,743 new shares of HK\$0.10 each in the Company expired. As at the year end date, there were outstanding share options granted to the certain eligible employees, entitling them to subscribe for an aggregate of 23,492,677 shares of the Company.

LIQUIDITY AND GEARING

As at the balance sheet date, the Group's current ratio was 1.01 (2000: 1.07). The Group's total borrowings less cash and cash equivalents amount to HK\$272 million (2000: HK\$337 million). The net interest expense for the year was HK\$23 million (2000: HK\$33 million).

As at 31 December 2001, the Group's gearing ratio (expressed as a percentage of long term bank borrowings over shareholders' funds and long term bank borrowings) was 22% (2000: 27%).

The Group's bank borrowings are denominated in Hong Kong dollars, US dollars and Renminbi. It is the Group's policy to hedge foreign currency liabilities with foreign currency assets.

REMUNERATION POLICIES AND SHARE OPTION SCHEME

Remuneration packages comprised salary and bonuses based on individual merits. The total remuneration paid to the employees (including pension costs and the directors' emoluments) of the Group in 2001 was HK\$47 million (2000: HK\$51 million). As at 31 December 2001, the Group has 593 (2000: 582) employees.

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Details of the contingent liabilities are set out in note 32 to the financial statements.

PLEDGE OF ASSETS

Details of pledge of assets are set out in note 29 to the financial statements.

SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Group continued to develop its business based on the Group's core skills. In the year under review, the Group's edible oil business in Mainland China continued to account for a substantial proportion of the Group's turnover. The decrease in bulk oil activities contributed to the fluctuation of Group's turnover as compared with last year.

The net profit for last year included a holding gain on investments in listed securities.

Details of the segment information are set out in note 4 to the financial statements.