



**| Enhance profit potential**  
**Broaden business spectrum |**

## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT



### Dear Shareholders,

In 2002, the Group recorded a delightful result. Though the global economy was clouded with uncertainties and anxieties, the Group's consolidated net profit for the year increased by 30%, to HK\$312.8 million. Earnings per share was HK55 cents, an increase of 37%.

Riding on China's soaring economy and the continuing growth in GDP, vehicle ownership in China surges tremendously. The Group's highway projects have recorded encouraging increases in toll revenue and traffic volume in 2002. Various analyses and researches indicate that this substantial increase will continue in the coming years, bringing benefit to the Group's business.

With its dedicated work in the past years, the Group's business is in a healthy operating environment which provides a steady inflow of cash. In 2002, the Group received HK\$590 million in cash from its highway projects. As at December 31, 2002, the Group's cash and bank balances were HK\$1,088 million while net gearing dropped to historical low of 1%. The Group's financial position is presently at the best level.

The Board of Directors has recommended a final dividend of HK8 cents per share. Together with the interim dividend, the total dividend per ordinary share for 2002 is HK24 cents, representing an increase of 52% over that of 2001. Under such healthy operation and financial situation, the Group expects to maintain a high dividend pay-out policy in the coming years, bringing shareholders with high cash return.

China's economic development is presently out-performing the rest of the world. It has been rapidly growing from a comparatively low level. Toll road infrastructure facilities are gradually generating economic benefits, and are rolling forward together with economic developments. The Group will more pro-actively develop its core business - toll road investment, development and management, aiming to expand its operational size and to excel its professional team. The Group has built a solid foundation in this business. With extensive experience, a team of professionals, strong financial position and good reputation in the industry, the Group is striving towards more encouraging developments and will achieve its goals.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my hearty gratitude to our shareholders, our business partners, and loyal and dedicated colleagues.

**Zen Wei Pao, William**

*Chairman*

Hong Kong, 27 March 2003