

## REPORT OF THE AUDITORS



Chartered Accountants  
Certified Public Accountants

6/F, Wheelock House  
20 Pedder Street  
Central  
Hong Kong

### TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF EARNEST INVESTMENTS HOLDINGS LIMITED

*(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)*

We have audited the financial statements on pages 18 to 40 which have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong.

#### **Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors**

The Company's directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which give a true and fair view. In preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view it is fundamental that appropriate accounting policies are selected and applied consistently.

It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those statements and to report our opinion to you.

#### **Basis of opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Statements of Auditing Standards issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at 31 December 2002 and of its loss and cash flows for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

#### **HLB Hodgson Impey Cheng**

Chartered Accountants  
Certified Public Accountants

Hong Kong, 23 April 2003