The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2002.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Company is an investment holding company. The principal activities of its subsidiaries are set out in note 27 to the financial statements.

# **RESULTS AND APPROPRIATIONS**

The results of the Group for the year ended 31st December, 2002 are set out in the consolidated income statement on page 21 of the annual report.

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend and propose that the profit for the year be retained.

#### SHARE CAPITAL

Details of the share capital of the Company are set out in note 20 to the financial statements.

# PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

During the year, the Group acquired property, plant and equipment at a cost of approximately HK\$27 million for the purpose of expanding its business. Details of these and other movements in the property, plant and equipment of the Group during the year are set out in note 12 to the financial statements.

# **DIRECTORS AND DIRECTORS' SERVICE CONTRACTS**

The directors of the Company during the year and up to the date of this report were:

Executive directors:

Liaw Yuan Chian ("Mr. Liaw") Chaiteerath Boonchai Shih Chian Fang

# **DIRECTORS AND DIRECTORS' SERVICE CONTRACTS (Cont'd)**

Independent non-executive directors:

Fu Heng Yang Yu Chi Jui

In accordance with Articles 99 and 116 of the Company's Articles of Association, Mr. Liaw, being the managing director of the Company, is not required to retire by rotation and Mr. Chaiteerath Boonchai and Mr. Shih Chian Fang retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

The terms of office of each of the independent non-executive directors is the period up to his retirement by rotation as required by the Company's Articles of Association.

Mr. Liaw and Mr. Chaiteerath Boonchai have each entered into a service contract with the Company for an initial term of three years commencing from 5th January, 2000, which will continue thereafter unless and until terminated by either party by giving to the other party not less than six months' prior written notice.

None of the directors being proposed for re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting has a service contract with the Company or any of its subsidiaries which is not determinable by the Group within one year without payment of compensation, other than statutory compensation.

### **DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN SECURITIES**

As at 31st December 2002, the interests of the directors in the ordinary shares in the Company as recorded in the register maintained by the Company pursuant to Section 29 of the Hong Kong Securities (Disclosure of Interests) Ordinance (the "SDI Ordinance") were as follows:

	Number of ordinary shares held			
	Personal	Family	Corporate	Other
Name of director	interests	interests	interests	interests
Mr. Liaw	_	_	363,500,039	_
Fu Heng Yang	2,700,000	_	_	_

### **DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN SECURITIES (Cont'd)**

The 363,500,039 ordinary shares in the Company were held by Joyce Services Limited, a company in which Mr. Liaw has a 62.59% beneficial interest.

As at 31st December, 2002, Mr. Liaw held 126,000 non-voting deferred shares in Hua Lien (Hong Kong) Company Limited, the Company's subsidiary. The rights and restrictions of such non-voting deferred shares are set out in note 27 to the financial statements.

Save as disclosed above and other than one nominee ordinary share in Hua Lien (Hong Kong) Company Limited held by Mr. Liaw in trust for Hua Lien Group (Holding) Company, Limited, the Company's subsidiary as at 31st December, 2002, none of the directors or any of their associates had any interest in the securities of the Company or any of its associated corporations as defined in the SDI Ordinance.

### **SHARE OPTION SCHEME**

Particulars of the Company's share option scheme are set out in note 24 to the financial statements.

#### ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE SHARES OR DEBENTURES

Other than the share option scheme as disclosed above, at no time during the year was the Company, its holding company or any of its subsidiaries a party to any arrangements to enable the directors of the Company to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of shares in, or debts securities (including debentures) of, the Company or any other body corporate and none of the directors, their spouses or children under the age of 18, had any rights to subscribe for securities in the Company, or had exercised any such rights.

#### SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS

As at 31st December, 2002, the register of substantial shareholders maintained by the Company pursuant to Section 16(1) of the SDI Ordinance showed that, other than the interests disclosed under the heading "Directors' interests in securities", the Company had not been notified of any interests representing 10% or more of the Company's issued share capital.

### **CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS**

Details of a discloseable connected transaction in respect of a lease agreement entered into between Xian Hua Lien Tannery Co., Ltd. ("Xian Hua Lien"), a subsidiary of the Company, and a minority shareholder of Xian Hua Lien are set out on note 26(a) to the financial statements. In the opinion of the independent non-executive directors, the transaction entered into by the Group was in the ordinary course of business and in accordance with the terms of the lease agreement.

Save as disclosed above, there were no other transactions which is required to be disclosed as connected transactions in accordance with the requirements of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Listing Rules").

#### **DIRECTORS' INTEREST IN CONTRACTS**

No contracts of significance to which the Company, its holding company or any of its subsidiaries was a party and in which a director of the Company had a material interest, whether directly or indirectly, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

# **MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS**

During the year, the aggregate sales attributable to the Group's five largest customers were less than 30% of the Group's total sales for the year.

The aggregate purchases attributable to the Group's five largest suppliers during the year accounted for approximately 38% of the Group's total purchases and the Group's largest supplier accounted for approximately 12% of the Group's total purchases.

None of the directors, their associates or any shareholder which, to the knowledge of the directors, owned more than 5% of the Company's issued share capital, had any interest in the share capital of any of the five largest suppliers of the Group.

# PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF THE COMPANY'S LISTED SECURITIES

During the year, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company's listed securities.

### **PRE-EMPTIVE RIGHTS**

There is no provision for pre-emptive rights under the Company's Articles of Association, or the laws in the Cayman Islands, which would oblige the Company to offer new shares on a pro-rata basis to existing shareholders.

# **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Company has complied throughout the year ended 31st December, 2002 with the Code of Best Practice as set out in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules.

# **AUDITORS**

A resolution will be submitted to the forthcoming annual general meeting of the Company to reappoint Messrs. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu as auditors of the Company.

On behalf of the Board

# Liaw Yuan Chian

Hong Kong, 29th April, 2003