# report of the directors

The Directors submit their Report and the Audited Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2003.

# PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND TRADING OPERATIONS

The principal activities of the Company are investment holding and provision of management services to Group companies and those of its principal subsidiaries are set out on page 87.

An analysis of the principal activities and geographical locations of trading operations of the Company and its subsidiaries during the financial year is set out in Note 2 to the Accounts on pages 69 to 72.

## RESULTS, APPROPRIATIONS AND RESERVES

The results of the Group and appropriations of losses for the financial year ended 31 March 2003 are set out in the Consolidated Profit and Loss Account on page 54.

Movements in reserves during the financial year are set out in Note 18 to the Accounts on page 84.

#### DIVIDENDS

The Directors do not recommend the payment of any dividend in respect of the financial year.

## FIXED ASSETS

Movements in fixed assets during the financial year are set out in Note 10 to the Accounts on pages 78 and 79.

### BANK LOANS, OVERDRAFTS AND OTHER BORROWINGS

Particulars of all bank loans, overdrafts and/or other borrowings (if any) of the Group as at 31 March 2003, all being borrowings by subsidiaries of the Company and repayable on demand or within a period not exceeding one year, are set out in Note 16 to the Accounts on page 82.

#### DIRECTORS

The Directors of the Company during the financial year were Mr. Walter K. W. Ma, Mrs. Joyce E. Ma, Ms. Adrienne M. Ma, Mr. Michael E. Brillhart, Mr. Michael C. Kalyk, Mr. Eric F. C. Li, Mr. Gonzaga W. J. Li, Mr. K. K. Lo, Ms. Yvette T. Ma, Mr. Stephen T. H. Ng, Mr. T. Y. Ng, Mr. Paul Y. C. Tsui and Mr. Harry S. S. Wong.

In accordance with the Company's bye-laws, all Directors will retire and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

None of the retiring Directors proposed for re-election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting has a service contract with the Company which is not determinable by the employer within one year without payment of compensation (other than statutory compensation).

#### INTERESTS IN CONTRACTS

Save as disclosed in Note 21 to the Accounts, no contract of significance in relation to the Company's business to which the Company, any subsidiary or holding company of the Company or any subsidiary of the Company's holding company was a party and in which a Director had a material interest, whether directly or indirectly, subsisted at the end of the financial year or at any time during the financial year.

#### MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

No contracts for the management and administration of the whole or any substantial part of any business of the Company were entered into or existed during the financial year.

#### ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE SHARES OR DEBENTURES

At no time during the financial year was the Company, any of its subsidiaries or its holding company or any subsidiary of that holding company a party to any arrangement to enable the Directors of the Company to acquire benefits by means of acquisition of shares in or debentures of the Company or any other body corporate, with the exception of the options to subscribe for ordinary shares of the Company previously

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granted under the Company's Share Option Scheme (the "Scheme") to, *inter alia*, certain employees of the Company or its subsidiaries, some of whom were Directors of the Company during the financial year.

Under the rules of the Scheme, subject to such restrictions or alterations as are prescribed or provided under the Listing Rules of the Stock Exchange from time to time in force, shares of the Company may be issued to employees of the Company and its subsidiaries, including Directors of the Company, at such prices (not to be less than 80% of the average closing price on the Stock Exchange for the five trading days immediately preceding the date of offer of the options) and the relevant options may be exercisable during such periods (not to exceed the expiration of five years from the date of offer) as determined by the Board of Directors of the Company. During the financial year, no share of the Company was issued to any Director of the Company under the Scheme.

## AUDITORS

The Accounts now presented have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers, Certified Public Accountants, who retire and being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment.

PricewaterhouseCoopers was appointed Auditors of the Company to fill the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Ernst & Young on 30 August 2001.

By Order of the Board Wilson W. S. Chan Secretary Hong Kong, 12 June 2003