NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these accounts are set out below:

(a) Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong and comply with accounting standards issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants ("HKSA"). They have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

In the current year, the group adopted Statement of Standard Accounting Practice ("SSAP") 12 "Income Taxes" issued by the HKSA which is effective for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 January 2003.

(b) Group accounting

(i) Consolidation

The consolidated accounts include the accounts of the company and its subsidiaries made up to 31 December. Subsidiaries are those entities in which the company, directly or indirectly, controls the composition of the board of directors, controls more than half the voting power or holds more than half of the issued share capital.

The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are included in the consolidated profit and loss account from the effective date of acquisition or up to the effective date of disposal, as appropriate.

All significant intercompany transactions and balances within the group are eliminated on consolidation.

The gain or loss on the disposal of a subsidiary represents the difference between the proceeds of the sale and the group's share of its net assets together with any unamortised goodwill or negative goodwill or goodwill/negative goodwill taken to reserves and which was not previously charged or recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account and any related accumulated foreign currency translation reserve.

Minority interests represent the interests of outside shareholders in the operating results and net asset value of subsidiaries.

In the company's balance sheet the investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less provision for impairment losses. The results of subsidiaries are accounted for by the company on the basis of dividends received and receivable.

(ii) Jointly controlled entities

A jointly controlled entity is under a contractual arrangement whereby the group and other parties undertake an economic activity which is subject to joint control and none of the participating parties has unilateral control over the economic activity.

The consolidated profit and loss account includes the group's share of the results of jointly controlled entities for the year, and the consolidated balance sheet includes the group's share of the net assets of the jointly controlled entities and goodwill/negative goodwill (net of accumulated amortisation) on acquisition.

(iii) Associated companies

An associated company is a company, not being a subsidiary or a jointly controlled entity, in which an equity interest is held for the long term and significant influence is exercised in its management.

1 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

The consolidated profit and loss account includes the group's share of the results of associated companies for the year, and the consolidated balance sheet includes the group's share of the net assets of the associated companies and goodwill/negative goodwill (net of accumulated amortisation) on acquisition.

Equity accounting is discontinued when the carrying amount of the investment in an associated company reaches zero, unless the group has incurred obligations or guaranteed obligations in respect of the associated company.

(iv) Translation of foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at exchange rates ruling at the transaction dates. Monetary assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated at rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences arising in these cases are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

The balance sheet of subsidiaries, jointly controlled entities and associated companies expressed in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date whilst the profit and loss is translated at an average rate. Exchange differences arising from the translation of the net investment in subsidiaries, jointly controlled entities and associated companies and of intra-group balances of equity nature are dealt with as a movement in reserves.

(c) Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the fair value of the group's share of the net assets of the acquired subsidiary, jointly controlled entity and associated company at the date of acquisition.

Goodwill on acquisitions occurring on or after 1 January 2001 is included in intangible assets and is amortised using the straight-line method over its estimated useful life. For all acquisitions goodwill is amortised over 5-10 years.

Goodwill on acquisitions that occurred prior to 1 January 2001 was written off against reserves. Any impairment arising on such goodwill is accounted for in the profit and loss account.

(d) Fixed assets

(i) Construction in progress

Construction in progress was carried at cost, which includes development and construction expenditure incurred and interest and direct costs attributable to the development less any accumulated impairment losses as considered necessary by the directors. No depreciation was provided for construction in progress. On completion, the associated costs were transferred to land and buildings and furniture, fixtures and equipment.

(ii) Other fixed assets

Other fixed assets, comprising buildings, leasehold improvements, studio, broadcasting and transmitting equipment, furniture and fixtures and motor vehicles are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Freehold land is not depreciated. Other fixed assets are depreciated at rates sufficient to write off their costs less accumulated impairment losses over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis. The principal annual rates are as follows:

1 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Buildings	2.5% - 5%
Leasehold improvements	Over the unexpired term of the lease
Studio, broadcasting and transmitting equipment	7% - 20%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	5% - 33.3%
Motor vehicles	10% - 25%

Improvements are capitalised and depreciated over their expected useful lives to the group.

(iii) Impairment and gain or loss on sale

At each balance sheet date, both internal and external sources of information are considered to assess whether there is any indication that assets included in other fixed assets are impaired. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and where relevant, an impairment loss is recognised to reduce the asset to its recoverable amount. Such impairment losses are recognised in the profit and loss account.

The gain or loss on disposal of a fixed asset is the difference between the net sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the relevant asset, and is recognised in the profit and loss account.

(iv) Assets under finance leases

Leases that substantially transfer to the group all the risks and rewards of ownership of assets are accounted for as finance leases. Finance leases are capitalised at the inception of the leases at the lower of the fair value of the leased assets or the present value of the minimum lease payments. Each lease payment is allocated between the capital and finance charges so as to achieve a constant rate on the capital balances outstanding. The corresponding rental obligations, net of finance charges, are included in long term liabilities. The finance charges are charged to the profit and loss account over the lease periods.

Assets held under finance leases are depreciated over the shorter of their estimated useful lives or the lease periods.

(e) Investment securities

Investment securities are stated at cost less any provision for impairment losses.

The carrying amounts of individual investments are reviewed at each balance sheet date to assess whether the fair values have declined below the carrying amounts. When a decline other than temporary has occurred, the carrying amount of such securities will be reduced to its fair value. The impairment loss is recognised as an expense in the profit and loss account. This impairment loss is written back to profit and loss when the circumstances and events that led to the write-downs or write-offs cease to exist and there is persuasive evidence that the new circumstances and events will persist for the foreseeable future.

(f) Programmes and film rights

Programmes are stated at cost less amounts expensed and any provision considered necessary by the directors. Cost comprises direct expenditure and an appropriate proportion of production overheads. Cost of programmes is apportioned between domestic terrestrial market and overseas licensing and distribution market. In the case of former, the cost is expensed on first transmission, which in the latter, the cost is expensed on first distribution to licensees. Cost of programmes for satellite channels, where considered appropriate by the directors, is expensed in accordance with a formula computed to write off the cost over a maximum of three transmissions.

Film rights are stated at cost less amounts expensed and any provision considered necessary by the directors. Film rights are expensed in accordance with a formula computed to write off the cost over the contracted number of transmissions.

1 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

(g) Stocks

Stocks, comprising decoders, tapes, video compact discs and consumable supplies, are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost of video compact disc is calculated on a weighted average basis whereas the cost of other stocks is calculated on a first in first out basis. Net realisable value is determined on the basis of anticipated sales proceeds less estimated selling expenses.

(h) Trade receivables

Provision is made against trade receivables to the extent they are considered to be doubtful. Trade receivables in the balance sheet are stated net of such provision.

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are carried in the balance sheet at cost. For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, cash investments with a maturity of three months or less from the date of investment and bank overdrafts and short term loans repayable within three months.

(j) Provisions for onerous contracts

The group recognises a provision for onerous contracts when the expected benefits to be derived from a contract are less than the unavoidable costs of meeting the obligations under the contract.

(k) Employee benefits

(i) Employee leave entitlements

Employee entitlements to annual leave are recognised when they accrue to employees. A provision is made for the estimated liability for annual leave as a result of services rendered by employees up to the balance sheet date.

Employee entitlements to sick leave and maternity or paternity leave are not recognised until the time of leave.

(ii) Pension obligations

The group operates a number of defined benefit and defined contribution plans throughout the world, the assets of which are generally held in separate trustee - administered funds.

All permanent staff, temporary staff and full time artistes signed in individual names (excluding singers and serial artistes), whose employment period reaches 60 days or more (collectively as “eligible members”) located in Hong Kong are entitled to the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme (“MPF Scheme”). The contributions to the MPF Scheme made by the group for permanent staff joined prior to 1 June 2003 comprise mandatory contributions and voluntary contributions. The mandatory contribution is calculated at 5% of individual’s “relevant income” with a maximum amount of HK$1,000 per month and the voluntary contribution is calculated at 10% of individual’s basic salary less the mandatory contribution. The group’s contribution for permanent staff joined after 1 June 2003, full time artiste, temporary staff is 5% of individual’s “relevant income” with a maximum amount of HK$1,000 per month. “Relevant income” includes salaries, wages, paid leave, fees, commissions, bonuses, gratuities, and allowances (excluding housing allowance/benefits, any redeemed payment and long service payment). Employer’s voluntary contributions shall be refunded to the group according to the vesting scale when the eligible members leave employment prior to vesting fully in the MPF Scheme.

1 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

The retirement schemes which cover employees located in some overseas locations, except for Taiwan, are defined contribution schemes at various funding rates that are in accordance with the local practice and regulations. The employees located in Taiwan are members of a defined benefit retirement scheme. Pension costs are assessed using the projected unit credit method: the cost of providing pensions is charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the regular cost over the service lives of employees in accordance with the advice of the actuaries who carry out a full valuation of the plans each year whilst the employees are not required to contribute. The pension obligation is measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows using average market yields for high quality corporate bonds or securities. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised over the average remaining service lives of employees.

The cost of all these schemes are charged to the profit and loss account in the period to which the contributions relate.

(l) Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the accounts. Taxation rates enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date are used to determine deferred taxation.

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Deferred taxation is provided on temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiaries, jointly controlled entities and associated companies except where the timing of the reversal of the temporary difference can be controlled and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

In prior year, deferred taxation was accounted for at the current taxation rate in respect of timing differences between profit as computed for taxation purposes and profit as stated in the accounts to the extent that a liability or an asset was expected to be payable or recoverable in the foreseeable future. The adoption of the new SSAP 12 represents a change in accounting policy, however, the income taxes in prior years has not been restated as the effect of this change is not material to the current and prior years' results.

(m) Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the group. It can also be a present obligation arising from past events that is not recognised because it is not probable that outflow of economic resources will be required or the amount of obligation cannot be measured reliably.

A contingent liability is not recognised but is disclosed in the notes to the accounts. When a change in the probability of an outflow occurs so that outflow is probable, they will then be recognised as a provision.

(n) Revenue recognition

Advertising income net of agency deductions are recognised when the advertisements are telecast.

Income from licensing of programme rights are recognised evenly over the contract period or upon delivery of the programmes concerned in accordance with the terms of the contracts.

1 PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Subscription income from operation of satellite and subscription television networks are recognised on a straight line basis over the contract period which generally coincides with the timing when the services are rendered. Unearned subscription fees received from subscribers are recorded as subscriptions received in advance under trade and other payables and accruals in the balance sheet.

Income from video tape renting and sale of magazines are recognised on delivery of products. Income from sale of animation productions is recognised progressively in accordance with the stage of completion of the production. Income from provision of uplink and playback services and other services is recognised when the services are rendered.

Dividend income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

Interest income is recognised on a time proportion basis, taking into account the principal amounts outstanding and the interest rates applicable.

(o) Operating leases

Leases where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of assets remain with the leasing company are accounted for as operating leases. Payments made under operating leases net of any incentives received from the leasing company are charged to the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease periods.

(p) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of an asset that necessarily takes a substantial period of time to get ready for its intended use or sale are capitalised as part of the cost of that asset. All other borrowing costs are charged to the profit and loss account in the year in which they are incurred.

(q) Segment reporting

In accordance with the group's internal financial reporting the group has determined that business segments be presented as the primary reporting format and geographical as the secondary reporting format.

Segment assets consist primarily of intangible assets, fixed assets, stocks, receivables and operating cash, and mainly exclude investment securities. Segment liabilities comprise operating liabilities and exclude items such as taxation and borrowings. Capital expenditure comprises additions to fixed assets (note 13).

In respect of geographical segment reporting, sales are based on the country in which the customer is located. Total assets and capital expenditure are where the assets are located.