

Report of the Auditors

→ Annual Report 2003

Certified Public Accountants
Member of
Grant Thornton International

Grant Thornton 
均富會計師行

To the members of South Sea Holding Company Limited *(incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)*

We have audited the financial statements on pages 24 to 69 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 financial statements and to report our opinion solely to you, as a body, in accordance with Section 90 of the Bermuda Companies Act, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

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 judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's and the Group'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.

Fundamental uncertainty relating to the going concern basis of the financial statements

In forming our opinion, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosures made in the financial statements concerning the adoption of the going concern basis for the preparation of the financial statements. As set out in note 2 to the financial statements, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, the validity of which is dependent on the continuing financial support from the Group's bankers. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that would result from a failure of the Group to operate as a going concern. Had the going concern basis not been used, adjustments would have to be made to the financial statements to reduce the value of the Group's assets to their recoverable amounts, to provide for any further liabilities which might arise, and to reclassify non-current assets and non-current liabilities as current assets and current liabilities respectively. We consider that appropriate disclosures relating to this fundamental uncertainty have been made and our opinion is not qualified in this respect.

Report of the Auditors

→ Annual Report 2003

Grant Thornton 
均富會計師行

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the Group as at 31 December 2003 and of the Group's profit and cash flows for the period from 1 April 2003 to 31 December 2003 and have been properly prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

Grant Thornton
Certified Public Accountants
Hong Kong

29 April 2004