The Directors have pleasure in submitting their Report and the Audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2004.

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND TRADING OPERATIONS

The principal activity of the Company is investment holding and those of its principal subsidiaries are set out on page 55.

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 34 and 35.

#### RESULTS, APPROPRIATIONS AND RESERVES

The results of the Group for the financial year ended 31 March 2004 are set out in the Consolidated Profit and Loss Account on page 20.

Appropriations of profits and movements in reserves during the financial year are set out in Note 23 to the Accounts on pages 49 and 50.

#### **DIVIDENDS**

An interim dividend of 2.0 cents per share was paid on 30 December 2003. The Directors have now recommended for adoption at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 11 August 2004 the payment on 18 August 2004 to Shareholders on record as at 11 August 2004 of a final dividend of 5.0 cents per share in respect of the financial year ended 31 March 2004. This recommendation has been disclosed in the Accounts.

### **FIXED ASSETS**

Movements in fixed assets during the financial year are set out in Note 12 to the Accounts on page 42.

## BANK LOANS, OVERDRAFTS AND OTHER BORROWINGS

Particulars of all bank loans, overdrafts and/or other borrowings of the Company and of the Group as at 31 March 2004 which are repayable on demand or within a period not exceeding one year are set out in Note 20 to the Accounts on page 47. Those which would fall due for repayment after a period of one year are particularised in Note 24 to the Accounts on page 50.

#### **DONATIONS**

The Group made donations during the financial year totalling HK\$0.6 million.

## **DIRECTORS**

The Directors of the Company during the financial year were Messrs. G. W. J. Li, J. M. K. Chow (appointed on 6 May 2003), C. C. Haung (resigned on 20 August 2003), T. Y. Ng, C. L. Pan (retired on 20 August 2003) and G. S. Yee (appointed on 6 May 2003).

Mr. T. Y. Ng is due to retire from the Board by rotation in accordance with Article 103(A) of the Company's Articles of Association at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. Being eligible, he offers himself for re-election. The retiring Director proposed for re-election at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting does not have a service contract with the Company which is not determinable by the employer within one year without payment of compensation (other than statutory compensation).

Under the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association, the Chairman of the Company is not subject to retirement from the Board by rotation. As regards the other Directors (none of them holding any executive title of the Company), one of them will retire as a Director at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting to be held on 11 August 2004 as mentioned above, and the remaining two Directors will have their respective terms of office coming to an end by reason of retirement by rotation at the Annual General Meeting of the Company in 2005 or 2006 in accordance with Article 103(A) of the Company's Articles of Association.

## **INTERESTS IN CONTRACTS**

No contract of significance in relation to the Company's business to which the Company, its subsidiaries or its ultimate holding company or any subsidiary of that ultimate 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**

There was in existence during the financial year an agreement dated 31 March 1992 between the Company and Wheelock Corporate Services Limited (formerly known as Wheelock Properties Limited) ("WCSL"), whereby WCSL were appointed the General Managers of the Company. The said appointment has become effective since 31 March 1992 and shall continue in force until it is terminated by WCSL by the giving of six months' prior notice in writing. Messrs. G. W. J. Li and T. Y. Ng are directors of WCSL and are accordingly regarded as interested in the said agreement.

# ARRANGEMENTS TO PURCHASE SHARES OR DEBENTURES

At no time during the financial year was the Company, its subsidiaries or its ultimate holding company or any subsidiary of that ultimate 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.

# **AUDITORS**

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

By Order of the Board Wilson W. S. Chan Secretary

Hong Kong, 7 June 2004