

## **INTERIM DIVIDEND AND CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

The Board was authorized by the shareholders to approve the distribution of an interim dividend for 2004 at the shareholders' meeting held on May 18, 2004. The Board has resolved to pay an interim dividend of RMB0.115919 (inclusive of applicable tax) for the six months ended June 30, 2004 on the basis of 45% of the net profit for the period. The interim dividend will be paid to shareholders whose names appear on the register of members of the Company at the close of business on September 16, 2004. The Company will suspend registration of transfer of shares from September 11, 2004 to September 16, 2004 (both days inclusive). In order to qualify for the interim dividend, all transfer documents must be lodged with the relevant share certificates at the Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited not later than 4 p.m. on 10 September 2004.

In accordance with Article 149 of its Articles of Association, the Company shall declare dividends payable to shareholders in Renminbi. Dividends payable in respect of State-owned shares shall be paid in Renminbi. Dividends payable in respect of H shares shall be paid in Hong Kong Dollar. The amount of Hong Kong Dollar payable shall be calculated on the basis of the average closing exchange rate between Renminbi and Hong Kong Dollar published by the People's Bank of China during the week before the Board declares the dividend on August 26, 2004, which is RMB1.0608=HK\$1.00. Accordingly, the amount of dividend payable per H share will be HK\$0.109275.

The interim dividend will be paid on or about October 8, 2004.