

Entering into the year of the Rooster, Hantec will continue to strive for better and greater development based on our long-lasting principle: customer-oriented products and services and keeping up with time by constant realignment of business strategies. I see this year a promising one with enormous business opportunities for the Group. Following the introduction of Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (“CEPA”) between Mainland China and Hong Kong, and the relaxation of restrictions on individual travelers from different provinces of China, Hong Kong is gradually sailing out of economic distress, and has seen many of its key industries across the Territory, including the tourism, hospitality, retailing and the financial sectors recovering or even fostering dynamic growth. The economic recovery has stabilized the labor market and revitalized private consumption and investment activities, resulting in a favorable change that embodies more business opportunities than last year. As such, in the new year of unlimited business opportunities, we not only should focus our adamant spirit to meet the many challenges ahead, but should also constantly take initiatives and use our creativity to deepen and broaden the growth of our Group businesses.

The thriving market in the PRC has also strengthened my confidence in the prospect of the Group's business developments this year. According to the agreement signed by China for accession into WTO, China has undertaken to generally open up its banking and financial markets in 2006. This is indeed an unprecedented opportunity for us to explore the financial industry of China. The Group has progressively built its business presence in China since the beginning of 90's by participating in exhibitions and seminars in cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen, and by organizing various professional programs. We have also reinforced our business connections and networks with an aim to capitalizing on these relationships to take advantage of the opportunities that will present to us following the formal opening of China's financial markets. Meanwhile, China's state-owned enterprises, with the service and support provided by professionals in the financial, accounting, banking and legal industries have embarked on progressive structural transformation, operation and production reform and/or are seeking to raise capital through domestic and overseas listings (including listing of H shares in Hong Kong). Likewise, China's private enterprises in general have managed to grow and expand as a result of clear policy and better legal protection. All these will provide a dynamic business environment for the Group and with extensive China networks and a wide range of financial services and products in the Asia Pacific region, the Group will show its capabilities to ride on the crest of success in the years ahead.

Tang Yu Lap
Chairman

7th April, 2005