

(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)

Interim Report 2005

I世带资任元

3660

\* for identification purpose only

## **CORPORATE INFORMATION**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Executive Directors**

Mr. Lai Leong *(Chairman)* Mr. Wang Hao Mr. Clive William Oxley

Non-executive Directors

Mr. Li Siu Lok, Albert Ms. Wan Choi Ha, Noven

#### Independent Non-Executive Directors

Dr. Chow King Wai Mr. Chu Kar Wing Mr. Wong Kwok Tai

### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Dr. Chow King Wai Mr. Chu Kar Wing Mr. Wong Kwok Tai

### **REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**

Dr. Chow King Wai Mr. Chu Kar Wing Mr. Wong Kwok Tai

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Lai Leong *(Chairman)* Mr. Wang Hao Mr. Clive William Oxley

### **COMPANY SECRETARY**

Mr. Chiang Chi Kin, Stephen

#### **QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT**

Mr. Ho Yau Hong, Alfred

#### **AUDITORS**

HLB Hodgson Impey Cheng Certified Public Accountants 31/F., Gloucester Tower The Landmark 11 Pedder Street Central Hong Kong

#### HONG KONG SHARE REGISTRARS

Tengis Limited Level 25, Three Pacific Place 1 Queen's Road East Hong Kong

### **PRINCIPAL BANKER**

The Standard Chartered Bank Limited

#### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

Clarendon House 2 Church Street Hamilton HM 11 Bermuda

#### HEAD OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

Room 904-5 Great Eagle Centre 23 Harbour Road Wanchai Hong Kong

#### **STOCK CODE**

0735

# 2 ORIENTAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

## **INTERIM RESULTS**

The Board of Directors of Oriental Investment Corporation Limited (the "Company") is pleased to present the unaudited consolidated interim results of the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group") for the six months ended 31 October 2005, together with the unaudited comparative figures for the six months ended 31 October 2004. These unaudited interim results have been reviewed by the Company's audit committee.

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

For the six months ended 31 October 2005

		Unau Six mont 31 Oc	hs ended tober
	Notes	2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	2004 <i>HK\$'000</i>
TURNOVER Cost of sales	2	24,205 (8,149)	35,869 (11,299)
GROSS PROFIT		16,056	24,570
Other revenue Selling and distribution costs Administrative expenses Other operating expenses	3	4,144 (10,704) (12,736)	12,031 (4,467) (14,694) (12,141)
PROFIT/(LOSS) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	4	(3,240)	5,299
Finance costs		(1,539)	(1,316)
PROFIT/(LOSS) BEFORE TAX		(4,779)	3,983
Тах	5	(608)	
PROFIT/(LOSS) BEFORE MINORITY INTERESTS Minority interests		(5,387) 1,565	3,983 113
NET PROFIT/(LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE SHAREHOLDERS	то	(3,822)	4,096
EARNINGS/(LOSS) PER SHARE Basic	6	HK(0.19) cents	HK0.21 cents
Diluted		<u>N/A</u>	N/A

# **CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET** *As at 31 October 2005*

	Notes	(Unaudited) 31 October 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	(Audited) 30 April 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investment properties Fixed assets Goodwill Deposit on property under	7	146,981 1,881 4,632	146,981 2,365 4,632
development Investment in securities Rental and utility deposits	8	32,899 38,000 901	32,899 39,200 966
		225,294	227,043
CURRENT ASSETS Inventories Due from related companies Trade receivables	9 10	1,796 1,141 4,307	1,061 1,141 1,382
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables Rental and utility deposits Pledged bank deposits		3,022 759 1,256	13,636 1,049 –
Cash and bank balances		71,158	3,190
		83,439	21,459
CURRENT LIABILITIES Trade payables Accrued liabilities and other	11	3,064	3,382
payables	12	6,887	6,909
Other loan, secured Short-term bank loan, secured	12 13	50,000 50,000	50,000 50,000
Deposit received	15	4,110	3,073
Coupon liabilities		4,470	5,068
Due to a minority shareholder Tax payable		26,572 858	19,262 250
		145,961	137,944
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSET	5	(62,522)	(116,485)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIAE	BILITIES	162,772	110,558
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Deferred tax liabilities	14	(15,935)	(15,935)
MINORITY INTERESTS		20,468	18,904
		167,305	113,527
CAPITAL AND RESERVES Share capital Reserves	15 16	249,602 (82,297)	192,002 (78,475)
		167,305	113,527



## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT

For the six months ended 31 October 2005

	Unaudited Six months ended 31 October		
	2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	2004 <i>HK\$'000</i>	
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	547	3,178	
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from investing activities	5,306	(56,080)	
Net cash inflow from financing activities	63,371	55,655	
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	69,224	2,753	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	3,190	587	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF THE PERIOD	72,414	3,340	
ANALYSIS OF BALANCES OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
Pledged bank deposits Cash and bank balances	1,256 71,158	- 3,340	
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END			
OF THE PERIOD	72,414	3,340	

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the six months ended 31 October 2005

			Unaudited	
		Issued capital	Reserves	Total
		HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
At 1 May 2005		192,002	(78,475)	113,527
Issue of shares	(Note)	57,600	-	57,600
Net loss for the period			(3,822)	(3,822)
At 31 October 2005		249,602	82,297	167,305
At 1 May 2004		192,002	(99,641)	92,361
Net profit for the period			4,096	4,096
At 31 October 2004		192,002	(95,545)	96,457

Note: During the period under review, the Company raised approximately HK\$57.6 million, before expenses, by issuing 576,005,400 new shares by way of a rights issue at a price of HK\$0.10 per rights shares on the basis of three rights shares for every ten existing shares held by shareholders. The said rights issue was completed on 28 September 2005, resulting in the issue of 576,005,400 new shares of HK\$0.1 each.

## NOTES TO CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the six months ended 31 October 2005

#### (1) Basis of presentation and accounting policies

The unaudited condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Hong Kong Accounting Standard ("HKAS") No. 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Appendix 16 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Listing Rules").

These condensed financial statements should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2005.

The accounting policies and basis of preparation used in the preparation of these condensed financial statements are consistent with those used in the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2005, except that the Group has changed its accounting policies following its adoption of the new and revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") and HKAS which are effective for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 May 2005.

The following new and revised HKFRSs are relevant to the Group's financial statements and have been adopted for the preparation of the current year's financial statements.

HKAS 1	Presentation of Financial Statements				
HKAS 2	Inventories				
HKAS 7	Cash Flow Statements				
HKAS 8	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors				
HKAS 10	Events after Balance Sheet Date				
HKAS 12	Income Taxes				
HKAS 14	Segment Reporting				
HKAS 16	Property, Plant and Equipment				
HKAS 17	Leases				
HKAS 18	Revenue				
HKAS 19	Employee Benefits				
HKAS 21	The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates				
HKAS 23	Borrowing Costs				
HKAS 24	Related Party Disclosures				
HKAS 28	Investments in Associates				
HKAS 33	Earnings per Share				
HKAS 36	Impairment of Assets				
HKAS 37	Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets				
HKAS 40	Investment Properties				
HKFRS 2	Share-bases Payment				
HKFRS 3	Business Combinations				

The adoption of the above new HKFRSs has the following impact on the Group's accounting policies:

- HKAS 1 affects certain presentation and disclosures in the financial statements;
- HKAS 8 affects certain disclosure of the financial statements;
- HKASs 2, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 28, 33, 37, 40 and HKFRS 2 do not significant impact on the Group's accounting policies.

With effect from 1 May, 2005 in accordance with HKFRS3 and HKAS 36, the Group no longer amortises goodwill. Such goodwill is tested annually for impairment including the year of its initial recognition, as well as when there are indications of impairment. Impairment losses are recognised when the carrying amount of the cash generating unit to which the goodwill has been allocated exceeds its recoverable amount.

The new policy in respect of goodwill has been applied prospectively in accordance with the transitional arrangements under HKFRS 3. As a result, comparative amounts have not been restated, the cumulative amount of amortisation as at 1 May, 2005 has been offset against the cost of the goodwill and no amortisation charge for goodwill has been recognised in the profit and loss account for the six months ended 31 October, 2005. This has decreased the Group's loss after taxation for the six months ended 31 October, 2005 by HK \$121,900.

#### (2) Segmental information

The Group's turnover and contribution to profit after finance costs analyzed by principal activity and geographical area of operations, are as follows:

#### (a) Business segments

	Investme	nt holding	Genera	trading	Property	investment	Bakery	and food	Consu	ultancy	Conso	lidated
	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
	Unaudited HK\$'000	Unaudited I HK\$'000	Unaudited HK\$'000	Unaudited HK\$'000		Unaudited HK\$'000	Unaudited HK\$'000	Unaudited HK\$'000	Unaudited HK\$'000	Unaudited I HK\$'000	Unaudited HK\$'000	Unaudited HK\$'000
-	HK\$ 000	ΠΚΦ 000	HK3 000	ΠΚΦ ΟΟΟ	HK\$ 000	ΠΚΦ 000	HK3 000	ΠΚΦ ΟΟΟ	HK\$ 000	ΠΚΦ 000	HK\$ 000	
Turnover		7,797	2,662	1,747	3,964	3,353	13,304	22,972	4,275	-	24,205	35,869
Other revenue	3,909	11,983	10		29	11	196	37			4,144	12,031
	3,909	19,780	2,672	1,747	3,993	3,364	13,500	23,009	4,275		28,349	47,900
Segment results	(2,033)	3,340	(166)	(29)	3,035	2,162	(3,110)	(174)	2,109		(165)	5,299
Unallocated other revenue											241	_
Unallocated expenses											(3,316)	-
Profit/(loss) from operating activities											(3,240)	5,299
And the state of the second												
Finance cost											(1,539)	(1,316)
Profit/(loss) before tax											(4,779)	3,983
Tax											(608)	_
Profit/(loss) before minority											(5 207)	2 002
interest											(5,387)	3,983
Minority interest											1,565	113
Net profit/(loss) attributable to shareholders											(3,822)	4,096

#### (b) Geographical segments

Taiw	an	PRO	C	Hong I	Kong	Consol	idated
2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004
							Unaudited
HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	1,747	7,128	8,774	17,077	25,348	24,205	35,869
-	(29)	3,086	8,705	(3,251)	(3,377)	(165)	5,299
	2005 Unaudited HK\$'000	Unaudited Unaudited HK\$'000 HK\$'000 - 1,747	2005  2004  2005    Unaudited  Unaudited  Unaudited  Unaudited    HK\$'000  HK\$'000  HK\$'000  HK\$'000	2005  2004  2005  2004    Unaudited  Unaudited  Unaudited  Unaudited  Unaudited    HK\$'000  HK\$'000  HK\$'000  HK\$'000  HK\$'000	2005  2004  2005  2004  2005    Unaudited  Unaudited  Unaudited  Unaudited  Unaudited    HK\$'000  HK\$'000  HK\$'000  HK\$'000  HK\$'000    -  1,747  7,128  8,774  17,077	2005  2004  2005  2004  2005  2004    Unaudited  Unaudited	2005  2004  2005  2004  2005  2004  2005    Unaudited  Unaudited

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#### (3) Other revenue

	Six months ended 31 October		
	2005 Unaudited <i>HK\$'000</i>	2004 Unaudited <i>HK\$'000</i>	
Amortisation of negative goodwill Provision for doubtful debts written back Gain on acquisition of a loan due to	3,700	124 5,000	
a minority shareholder Sundry	444	6,859 	
	4,144	12,031	

#### (4) Profit/(loss) from operating activities

The profit/(loss) from operating activities is arrived at after charging:

	Six months ended 31 October		
	2005 Unaudited <i>HK\$'000</i>	2004 Unaudited <i>HK\$'000</i>	
Depreciation	600	2,025	
Interest on bank loans Interest on other loan	675 864	352 964	
Loss on disposal of fixed assets Impairment of goodwill	2	63 10,634	
Loss on written off of fixed assets Provision for bad debts		500 944	

#### (5) Tax

31 October
2005 2004 <i>HK\$'000 HK\$'000</i>

provided for the period

No provision for Hong Kong profits tax has been made as the Group had no estimated assessable profits in Hong Kong during the six months ended 31 October 2005 (2004: Nil). Taxation arising in other jurisdictions is calculated at the rates prevailing in the relevant jurisdictions.

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#### (6) Earnings/(loss) per share

The calculation of the basic earnings/(loss) per share is based on the following data:

	Six months ended 31 October		
	2005 HK\$'000	2004 <i>HK\$'000</i>	
Earnings/(loss)	(3,822)	4,096	
	Six montl 31 Oc		
	2005	2004	
Number of shares Weighted average number of shares	2,026,453,780	1,920,018,000	

The denominator for the purposes of calculating basic earnings/(loss) per share for the six months ended 31 October 2005 has been adjusted to reflect the rights issue of shares in September 2005.

No diluted earnings per share for the six months ended 31 October 2005 has been disclosed as the Company had no dilutive share options outstanding during the period.

#### (7) Fixed assets

	НК\$'000
Opening net book value Acquisition Depreciation	2,365 116 (600)
Closing net book value	1,881

#### (8) Investment in securities

	Group		Company		
	31 October 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30 April 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	31 October 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30 April 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	
Investment securities Listed shares in Hong Kong,					
at cost	_	2,000	_	2,000	
Unlisted shares, at cost	7,533	7,533			
	7,533	9,533	-	2,000	
Less: Provision for impairment	-	(800)	-	(800)	
	7,533	8,733		1,200	
Due from an investee company	30,467	30,467	-	-	
	38,000	39,200		1,200	
Market value of listed investment	ts <u> </u>	1,200	_	1,200	

#### Due from related companies (9)

	31 October 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30 April 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>
At beginning of the period - Hong Thai Travel Services Ltd. - 東莞新聯食品有限公司 - EIL Property Management Limited	 	
At end of the period	1,141	
- Hong Thai Travel Services Ltd. - 東莞新聯食品有限公司 - EIL Property Management Limited	100 305 1,141	 1,141
	1,546	1,141
Maximum debit balance during the period – Hong Thai Travel Services Ltd.	100	100
- 東莞新聯食品有限公司	305	1,360
– EIL Property Management Limited	1,141	1,141

The amounts were unsecured, interest-free and had no fixed terms of repayment.

#### (10) Trade receivables

The aged analysis of the trade receivables is as follows:

	31 October 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30 April 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Current to 3 months 4 to 6 months	3,226 1,081	1,303 78
7 to 12 months Over one year		- 1
	4,307	1,382

#### (11) Trade payables

The aging analysis of the trade payables is as follows:

	31 October 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30 April 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Current to 3 months 4 to 6 months	1,495 1,192	1,056 158
7 to 12 months Over one year	377	266 1,902
	3,064	3,382

#### (12) Other loan, secured

The other loan is a revolving loan bearing interest at 3% per annum, secured by legal charges over the shares and shareholder's loan of State Empire and Harbour Wealth, both are wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Group and repayable by 30 May 2006.

#### (13) Short-term bank loan, secured

As at 30 April 2005 and 31 October 2005, the short-term bank loan was secured by investment properties with net book value of approximately HK\$130,000,000 and a personal guarantee given by a connected party. (For details, please refer to note 19(d))

#### (14) Deferred tax liabilities

#### (a) Deferred tax liabilities recognised

		erated ciation		ation of t properties	Тах	losses	Т	otal
	2005 HK\$'000	2004 HK\$'000	2005 HK\$'000	2004 HK\$'000	2005 HK\$'000	2004 HK\$'000	2005 HK\$'000	2004 HK\$'000
At 1 May Acquisition of	1,920	-	14,582	-	(567)	-	15,935	-
subsidiary Charged to	-	1,737	-	-	-	(446)	-	1,291
income statement								
At 31 October	1,920	1,737	14,582	-	(567)	(446)	15,935	1,291

#### (b) Deferred tax assets not recognised

The Group has losses arising in Hong Kong of approximately HK\$40,585,705 (30 April 2005: HK\$39,294,000) that are available indefinitely for offsetting against future taxable profits. Deferred tax assets have not been recognised in respect of these losses as the directors considered that it is not probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available against which unused tax losses can be utilized by the Group.

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#### (15) **Share capital**

		31 October 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30 April 2005 <i>HK\$′000</i>
Authorised: 3,000,000,000 ordinary shares			
of HK\$0.10 each		300,000	300,000
Issued and fully paid: 1,920,018,000 ordinary shares			
of HK\$0.10 each 576,005,400 ordinary shares		192,002	192,002
of HK\$0.10 each	(Note)	57,600	
		249,602	192,002

Note: During the period under review, the Company raised approximately HK\$57.6 million, before expenses, by issuing 576,005,400 new shares by way of a rights issue at a price of HK\$0.10 per rights shares on the basis of three rights shares for every ten existing shares held by shareholders. The said rights issue was completed on 28 September 2005, resulting in the issue of 576,005,400 new shares of HK\$0.1 each.

#### (16) Reserves

	Investment property		
	revaluation	Accumulated	
	reserve	losses	Total
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
At 1 May 2004	646	(100,287)	(99,641)
Profit for the period		4,096	4,096
At 31 October 2004	646	(96,191)	(95,545)
At 1 May 2005	_	(78,475)	(78,475)
Loss for the period		(3,822)	(3,822)
At 31 October 2005		(82,297)	(82,297)

#### (17) **Capital commitments**

The Company had no significant commitments as at 30 April 2005 and 31 October 2005.

#### (18) Operating lease commitments

#### (a) The Group as lessor

The Group leases its investment properties under operating lease arrangements with a lease term of three years. The terms of the leases generally require the tenants to pay security deposits. As at the balance sheet date, the Group had future minimum lease receivables under non-cancellable operating leases with its tenants falling due as follows:

	31 October 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30 April 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Not later than one year Later than one year but not later than	5,303	5,770
five years	4,419	3,614
	9,722	9,384

#### (b) The Group as lessee

The Group leases its properties under operating lease arrangements with lease terms up to fifteen years. The minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating lease agreements are analysed as follows:

	31 October 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30 April 2005 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Not later than one year Later than one year but not later than	3,089	7,656
five years	1,726	3,473
	4,815	11,129

#### (19) Related party transactions

Particulars of the significant related party transactions between the Group and the related parties during the period are summarized as follows:

(a) On 30 March 2004, Sincere Vantage Limited ("Sincere Vantage"), a whollyowned subsidiary of the Group entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with Praise Value Group Limited ("Praise Value") to acquire the entire issued share capital and the shareholder's loan of State Empire Limited ("State Empire") for an aggregate consideration of HK\$100 million (the "State Empire Acquisition"). State Empire holds through Harbour Wealth Investment Company Limited ("Harbour Wealth"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of State Empire, the Right Emperor Commercial Building, a 24-storey commercial building located in Central, Hong Kong. On 31 May 2004, the Group paid the consideration for the State Empire Acquisition through a loan of HK\$100 million bearing interest at 3 percent per annum for a period of 12 months from A.A. Finance Limited (the "State Empire Loan"). On 8 June 2004, Harbour Wealth drew down a bank loan of HK\$50,000,000 for partial repayment of the State Empire Loan. The shares of the Company held by Wealth Success Limited, the substantial shareholder of the Company, were pledged to Emperor Securities Limited ("ESL") for a loan unrelated to the above transaction granted to Wealth Success Limited. ESL, A.A. Finance Limited and Praise Value are subsidiaries of a discretionary trust set up by Mr. Yeung Sau Shing, Albert ("Mr. Yeung"). Therefore, Mr. Yeung is deemed to be a connected person of the Company and the State Empire Acquisition and the State Empire Loan constituted connected transactions, the details of which were set out in the circular issued by the Company dated 19 November 2004. The consideration was arrived at after arm's length negotiations among the parties. The State Empire Acquisition and State Empire Loan had been approved in the special general meeting of the shareholders of the Company held on 7 December 2004, therefore, State Empire became a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Group effective from 31 May 2004.

On 25 April 2005, the Group entered into a new loan agreement to renew the loan for a further year to 30 May 2006. During the period, loan interest of approximately HK\$1,539,000 (2004: nil) was paid.

- (b) EIL Property Management Limited ("EIL") was appointed to provide building management services for the investment property, the Right Emperor Commercial Building. Mr. Yeung has control over and is deemed to be interested indirectly in EIL. The building management service fee paid by the Group for the period was approximately HK\$670,000 (2004: HK\$56,000). The building management service fee was determined after arm's length negotiations between the parties concerned.
- (c) Emperor Investment (Management) Limited ("EIML") provided accounting, secretarial and professional services for the handling of tenancy agreements to Harbour Wealth during the period. Mr. Yeung has control over and is deemed to be interested indirectly in EIML. The Group paid service fees of approximately HK\$60,000 for the period (2004: HK\$60,000). In the opinion of the directors, the fees were charged on normal commercial terms and were fair and reasonable.
- (d) During the period, Mr. Yeung provided a personal guarantee of HK\$100,000,000 in favour of a bank for a banking facility of HK\$50,000,000 granted to Harbour Wealth. As at 31 October 2005, the facilities utilized by Harbour Wealth amounted to HK\$50,000,000. Pursuant to the terms of a loan agreement entered into between Harbour Wealth and A.A. Finance Limited on 25 April 2005 (details of which are set out in note 19(a) above), utilization of the banking facility shall be made at the sole discretion of A.A. Finance Limited as the banking facility is guaranteed by Mr. Yeung. Harbour Wealth is required to seek consent from A.A. Finance Limited to utilize the banking facility.
- (e) During the period, Kamboat Bakery purchased moon cake and bakery products from 東莞新聯食品有限公司 (Dongguan Xin Lian Food Products Company Limited) ("Dongguan Xin Lian") for approximately HK\$5,357,000 (2004: HK\$4,696,000) and HK\$122,000 (2004: HK\$142,000) respectively. Dongguan Xin Lian is a subsidiary of a minority shareholder. The purchase price was mutually agreed between the parties concerned.

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#### (20) Post balance sheet events

On 10 November 2005, the Company entered into a conditional agreement for the acquisition of 51% of the issued share capital of Rich Crown Enterprises Limited (the "Rich Crown Acquisition") for an aggregate consideration, subject to adjustment, of about HK\$168 million. The properties to be acquired under the Rich Crown Acquisition comprise commercial and office units with a gross floor area of approximately 13,000 square meters and 135 car parks in the Hoi Tung Securities Building which is located at the Huangpu District, Shanghai, PRC and a large scale residential property development project known as the "Great Garden" to be developed on a parcel of land with a site area of about 76,000 square meters and located at the Bao Shan District, Shanghai, PRC.

Completion of the Rich Crown Acquisition will be subject to fulfillment of certain conditions and shareholders' approval at a shareholders' meeting expected to be convened by the Company during the first quarter of 2006.

On 23 December 2005, Sincere Vantage Limited ("Sincere Vantage"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, entered into a conditional agreement (the "Agreement") with Lion Castle Limited (the "Purchaser"), pursuant to which Sincere Vantage has, subject to the terms and conditions as therein set out, agreed to sell and the Purchaser has, subject to the terms and conditions as therein set out, agreed to purchase the entire issued share capital of State Empire Limited ("State Empire") and the loan outstanding from State Empire and its subsidiaries to Sincere Vantage as at completion (the "Sale Loan") at a consideration (the "Consideration") equivalent to the face value of the Sale Loan plus the consolidated net asset value of State Empire as at completion (the "State Empire Disposal").

State Empire is an investment holding company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands on 3 July 2003. Save that it is and was at all material times hereto holding the entire issued share capital of Harbour Wealth Investment Company Limited ("Harbour Wealth"), State Empire does not have any other assets and neither has it carried on any other business since its incorporation

Harbour Wealth is an investment holding company incorporated in Hong Kong on 15 July 1986, the sole asset of which is its entire interest in "Right Emperor Commercial Building" (the "Property"), a property situated at No. 122, 124 and 126 Wellington Street in Central, Hong Kong, together with the messuages erected thereon being a 24-storey commercial building with a total gross floor area of approximately 41,950 sq. ft. and has been available for use as offices and shops since 1991.

Pursuant to the Agreement, Sincere Vantage and the Purchaser have agreed with each other that the value of the Property shall be fixed at HK\$112 million for the purposes of calculating the Consideration.

Completion of the State Empire Disposal will be subject to the fulfillment of certain conditions and shareholders' approval at a shareholders' meeting expected to be convened by the Company during the first quarter of 2006.

## **MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

For the six months ended 31 October 2005, the Group recorded a turnover of approximately HK\$24,205,000 (six months ended 31 October 2004: HK\$35,869,000). The turnover was attributable to the property investment, hotel consultancy, bakery and trading businesses of the Group. Loss attributable to shareholders amounted to approximately HK\$3,822,000 (six months ended 31 October 2004: profit HK\$4,096,000). Loss per share was HK0.19 cents (six months ended 31 October 2004: profit per share HK0.21 cents).

### **BUSINESS REVIEW**

Trading in the Company's shares was suspended on 2 February 2004 pending the demonstration to the satisfaction of the Stock Exchange by the Company that the continued listing of the shares of the Company was warranted pursuant to Rule 13.24 of the Listing Rules. After careful restructuring of the Group's business, trading in the shares of the Company through the facilities of the Stock Exchange resumed with effect from Monday, 15 August 2005.

Upon resumption of trading of its shares, the Company, in furtherance of its business plan as submitted to the Stock Exchange in support of its application to resume trading of the Company's shares, proposed a rights issue on the basis of three rights shares for every ten shares held by shareholders. The rights issue was completed on 28 September 2005 and raised approximately HK\$55 million for the Company.

For the six months under review, the Group's investment property in Shanghai has generated steady rental income. The Right Emperor Commercial Building (the "Right Emperor Building") in Central, Hong Kong, an investment property, has also contributed steady rental income during the period under review. However, in view of the fact that interest rates continue to escalate, the Group considers that the Hong Kong property market may be adversely affected, and accordingly has decided to dispose of the Right Emperor Building subsequent to the period under review. The proposed disposal will be subject to shareholders' approval at a shareholders' meeting expected to be convened by the Company during the first quarter of 2006.

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During the period under review, the Company has concluded two consultancy agreements with hotels in the Shanghai area with a view to advising and assisting each of these hotels to achieve 5 star status. The consultancy business is not capital intensive and generated steady income for the Group during the period under review. The Group will continue to develop its consultancy business with a view to concluding further consultancy agreements.

Since completion of the acquisition of Kamboat Bakery Limited on 16 June 2004, the Group produces and distributes bakery products under the brandname of "Kamboat Bakery". The Group's operating results in respect of this segment of business has shown improvement since the Group took over the control of the operation. However due to escalating rents and fierce competition, during the six months under review, the bakery business of the Group was further trimmed down in order to reduce losses suffered from the business.

The Group's trading business, which include the distribution in Hong Kong of mobile telephones, the accessories thereto and code cards sourced within the Southeast Asia region by way of trading and the sole and exclusive distributorship in Hong Kong and Macau of cordless telephones and accessories thereof of a world-renowned manufacturer, continued to generate steady income for the Group during the period under review. However, the sole and exclusive distributorship was not renewed subsequent to the period under review.

In September 2005 the Company announced that it was exploring the possibility of entering into a joint venture with another company whereby they would pool their respective resources for the identification, development and operation of a new environmentally friendly energy-generating waste incineration plant in the PRC. The Company later that month stated that it was in doubt as to whether the proposed joint venture could eventuate. No further development has occurred up to the date of this interim report. However, the Company is reviving its interest in environment related projects and will identify and review projects in the environmental domain with a view to investing in such projects when they are considered to have good profit potential.

#### FUTURE PLANS AND PROSPECTS

On 10 November 2005, the Company entered into a conditional agreement for the acquisition of 51% of the issued share capital of Rich Crown Enterprises Limited (the "Rich Crown Acquisition") for an aggregate consideration, subject to adjustment, of about HK\$168 million. The properties to be acquired under the Rich Crown Acquisition comprise commercial and office units with a gross floor area of approximately 13,000 square meters and 135 car parks in the Hoi Tung Securities Building which is located at the Huangpu District, Shanghai, PRC, and a large scale residential property development project known as the "Great Garden" to be developed on a parcel of land with a site area of about 76,000 square meters and located at the Bao Shan District, Shanghai, PRC.

Upon completion, which will be subject to fulfillment of certain conditions and shareholders' approval at a shareholders' meeting expected to be convened by the Company during the first quarter of 2006, the Company expects the Rich Crown Acquisition to generate steady income, including rental and sale proceeds, for the Company.

The main focus of the Group's future businesses will be in property investment and development. However, the Group will continue with its consultancy, bakery and food and general trading businesses as long as they remain profitable. The Company will also continue to take action to improve the business portfolio of the Group and seek investment opportunities which are considered favorable to the Group's development.

### LIQUIDITY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

As at 31 October 2005, the Group had cash and cash equivalents of HK\$72.414 million and has borrowings of HK\$100 million. The Group's net current liabilities and shareholders' funds as at 31 October 2005 were HK\$62.52 million and HK\$167.30 million respectively. The current ratio was approximately 57% (2004: 20%). The gearing ratio of the Group, based on total borrowings to Shareholders' equity was 60% (2004: 105%) as at 31 October 2005.

The Directors believe that the Group's liquid asset value and future revenue will be sufficient to fund future expansion and existing working capital requirements.

## **EMPLOYEE AND REMUNERATION POLICIES**

As at 31 October 2005, the Group had 75 employees in Hong Kong and the PRC (2004: 125). Remuneration is determined by reference to market rates and the performance, qualifications and experience of individual employees.

## **DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN SHARES**

As at 31 October 2005, the interests of the directors of the Company in the shares of the Company as recorded in the register maintained by the Company pursuant to section 352 of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (the "SFO"), or as otherwise notified to the Company and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") pursuant to the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Companies (the "Model Code"), were as follows:

## LONG POSITION

Ordinary shares of HK\$0.1 each of the Company:

Director	Nature of interest	Number of shares interested or deemed to be interested	Percentage holdings of the Company's issued share capital as at 31 October 2005
Mr. Lai Leong	Corporate (Note)	1,274,026,000	51.04%

*Note:* These shares were held through Wealth Success Limited, a company beneficially owned by Mr. Zhu Yi Cai (a former executive director of the Company) and Mr. Lai Leong as to 52% and 48%, respectively.

Save as disclosed above, as at 31 October 2005, none of the directors or chief executives of the Company or their associates had any interests or short positions in the shares, underlying shares and debentures of the Company or any of its associated corporation(s) (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) which were required to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to Divisions 7 and 8 of Part XV of the SFO (including interests and short positions which they were taken or deemed to have under such provisions of the SFO), or which were required, pursuant to section 352 of the SFO, to be entered in the register referred to therein, or which were required, pursuant to the Model Code to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange.

## SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS

As at 31 October 2005, the following interests of 5% or more of the issued share capital of the Company were recorded in the register of interests required to be kept by the Company pursuant to section 336 of the SFO:

		Number of shares interested or deemed	
Name	Nature of interest	to be interested	Percentage
Wealth Success Limited	Beneficial owner	1,274,026,000 (Note)	51.04%
Mr. Zhu Yi Cai	Corporate	1,274,026,000 (Note)	51.04%
Mr. Lai Leong	Corporate	1,274,026,000 (Note)	51.04%

*Note:* These shares were held through Wealth Success Limited, a company beneficially owned by Mr. Zhu Yi Cai (a former executive director of the Company) and Mr. Lai Leong as to 52% and 48%, respectively.

Save as disclosed above, as at 31 October 2005, no person, other than the directors of the Company whose interests are set out in the section headed "Directors' Interests in Shares" above, had registered an interest or a short position in the shares or underlying shares of the Company that was required to be recorded pursuant to section 336 of the SFO.

## PURCHASE, SALE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES

Neither the Company, nor any of its subsidiaries purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company's listed shares during the six months ended 31 October 2005.

## SHARE OPTION SCHEME

On 31 October 2002, a share option scheme which is in compliance with the amended Chapter 17 of the Listing Rules was adopted by the Company. As at 31 October 2005, no share options have been granted under the share option scheme.

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Company set up an audit committee (the "Audit Committee") in 2000 with written terms of reference. In accordance with the requirements of the Code on Corporate Governance Practices set out in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules (the "CG Code"), the terms of reference of the Audit Committee were revised on 25 August 2005 in terms substantially the same as the provisions set out in the CG Code.

The principal duties of the Audit Committee include the review and supervision of the Group's financial reporting system and internal control procedures, review of the Group's financial information. The Audit Committee comprises all three independent non-executive directors of the Company.

The Audit Committee has reviewed with the management of the Company the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group and discussed auditing, internal control and financial reporting issues in these interim financial statements which have not been audited by the auditors of the Company.

## **REMUNERATION COMMITTEE**

According to the CG Code, the Company established a remuneration committee (the "Remuneration Committee") on 25 August 2005 with specific written terms of reference in accordance with the CG Code. The Remuneration Committee comprises all three independent non-executive directors of the Company.

The principal responsibilities of the Remuneration Committee include making recommendations to the board of directors of the Company on the Company's policy and structure for the remuneration of directors and senior management of the Company and on the establishment of a formal and transparent procedure for developing such policy, and reviewing the specific remuneration packages of all executive directors and senior management of the Company by reference to corporate goals and objectives resolved by the board of directors of the Company from time to time.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Company established an executive committee (the "Executive Committee") on 25 August 2005 with specific written terms of reference. The Executive Committee comprises all the executive directors of the Company with Mr. Lai Leong acting as the Chairman.

The principal responsibilities of the Executive Committee include monitoring the execution of the Group's strategic plans and operations of all business units of the Group and making decisions on matters relating to the management and operations of the Group.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Company has complied with the provisions of the CG Code throughout the six months period ended 31 October 2005 except code provision C.2 on internal control (which will be implemented for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 July 2005) and for the following deviations:

- 1. Pursuant to code provision A.2.1, the roles of the chairman and chief executive officer should be separated and should not be performed by the same individual. The division of responsibilities between the chairman and chief executive officer should be clearly established and set out in writing. At present, the Company has not engaged any individual to hold the office of the chief executive officer. The Chairman of the Company is also responsible for overseeing the general operations and making decisions on matters relating to the management and operations of the Group. In view of the existing business operation and the size of the Group, the Board is of the view that the present arrangement is in the interests of the Company. However, the Board will review the present arrangement periodically in order to determine, if necessary, a suitable time to engage the services of a chief executive officer.
- 2. Pursuant to code provision A.4.1, the non-executive directors should be appointed for a specific term and subject to re-election. At present, the non-executive directors and independent non-executive directors of the Company are not appointed for any specific terms but will be subject to retirement by rotation in accordance with the Bye-laws of the Company. The Board will review the present arrangement and propose amendments, if necessary, to its existing Bye-laws to ensure compliance with the CG Code.

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## **DIRECTORS' SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS**

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers as set out in Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules (the "Model Code"), as the code of conduct regarding directors' securities transactions. Based on specific enquiry of the Company's directors, all directors of the Company confirmed that they have complied with the Model Code throughout the six months period ended 31 October 2005.

## **PUBLIC FLOAT**

Based on the information that is publicly available to the Company and to the best knowledge of the directors of the Company, there is sufficient public float of not less than 25% of the Company's issued shares as required under the Listing Rules throughout the six months ended 31 October 2005.

## **CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

As at 31 October 2005, the Group has no significant contingent liabilities.

## **INTERIM DIVIDEND**

The Board does not recommend the payment of an interim dividend in respect of the six months ended 31 October 2005 (six months ended 31 October 2004: Nil). No dividend was paid during the period under review.

By Order of the Board Lai Leong Chairman

Hong Kong, 24 January 2006