

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) *Statement of compliance*

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) which collective term includes all applicable individual Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, Hong Kong Accounting Standards (“HKASs”) and Interpretations issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”), accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong and the requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance. These financial statements also comply with the applicable disclosure provisions of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted by the Group is set out below.

The HKICPA has issued a number of new and revised HKFRSs that are effective or available for adoption for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2005. Information on the changes in accounting policies resulting from initial application of these new and revised HKFRSs for the current and prior accounting periods reflected in these financial statements is provided in note 10.

b) *Basis of preparation of the financial statements*

The consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2006 comprise the Company and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the “Group”) and the Group’s interest in associates.

The measurement basis used in the preparation of the financial statements is the historical cost basis except where stated otherwise in the accounting policies set out below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRSs requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgements made by management in the application of HKFRSs that have significant effect on the financial statements and estimates with a significant risk of material adjustment in the next year are discussed in note (y).

c) Basis of consolidation**(i) Subsidiaries and controlled companies**

A subsidiary, in accordance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, is a company in which the Group, directly or indirectly, holds more than half of the issued share capital, or controls more than half of the voting power or controls the composition of the board of directors. Subsidiaries are considered to be controlled if the Company has the power, directly or indirectly, to govern the financial and operating policies, so as to obtain benefits from their activities.

An investment in a controlled subsidiary is consolidated into the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

Intra-group balances and transactions, and any unrealised profits arising from intra-group transactions, are eliminated in full in preparing the consolidated financial statements. Unrealised losses resulting from intra-group transactions are eliminated in the same way as unrealised gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

Minority interests at the balance sheet date, being the portion of the net assets of subsidiaries attributable to equity interests that are not owned by the Company, whether directly or indirectly through subsidiaries, are presented in the consolidated balance sheet and statement of changes in equity within equity, separately from equity attributable to the equity shareholders of the Company. Minority interests in the results of the Group are presented on the face of the consolidated profit and loss account as an allocation of the total profit or loss for the year between minority interests and the equity shareholders of the Company.

Where losses applicable to the minority exceed the minority's interest in the equity of a subsidiary, the excess, and any further losses applicable to the minority, are charged against the Group's interest except to the extent that the minority has a binding obligation to, and is able to, make additional investment to cover the losses. If the subsidiary subsequently reports profits, the Group's interest is allocated all such profits until the minority's share of losses previously absorbed by the Group has been recovered.

In the Company's balance sheet, an investment in a subsidiary is stated at cost less impairment losses.

(ii) Associates

An associate is a company in which the Group has significant influence, but not control or joint control, over its management, including participation in the financial and operating policy decisions.

An investment in an associate is accounted for in the consolidated financial statements under the equity method and is initially recorded at cost and adjusted thereafter for the post acquisition change in the Group's share of the associate's net assets. The consolidated profit and loss account reflects the Group's share of the post-acquisition, post-tax results of the associates for the year, including any impairment of goodwill relating to the investment in associates recognised for the year.

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When the Group's share of losses exceeds its interest in the associate, the Group's interest is reduced to nil and recognition of further losses is discontinued except to the extent that the Group has incurred legal or constructive obligations or made payments on behalf of the associate. For this purpose, the Group's interest in the associate is the carrying amount of the investment under the equity method together with the Group's long-term interests that, in substance, form part of the Group's net investment in the associate.

Unrealised profits and losses resulting from transactions between the Group and its associates are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in the associates. If there is evidence of impairment in value of the assets transferred, the unrealised losses will be recognised immediately in the consolidated profit and loss account.

(iii) Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of a business combination or an investment in an associate over the Group's interest in the net fair value of the acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities.

Goodwill is stated at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units and is tested annually for impairment. In respect of associates, the carrying amount of goodwill is included in the carrying amount of the interest in the associate.

Any excess of the Group's interest in the fair value of the acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities over the cost of a business combination or an investment in an associate is recognised immediately in the consolidated profit and loss account.

On disposal of a cash-generating unit or an associate during the year, any attributable amount of purchased goodwill is included in the calculation of the profit or loss on disposal.

d) Properties

(i) Investment properties

Investment properties are land and/or buildings which are owned or held under a leasehold interest to earn rental income and/or for capital appreciation. These include land held for a currently undetermined future use.

Investment properties are stated in the balance sheet at fair value. Any gain or loss arising from a change in fair value or from the retirement or disposal of an investment property is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account. Rental income from investment properties is accounted for as described in note (r)(i).

When the Group holds a property interest under an operating lease to earn rental income and/or for capital appreciation, the interest is classified and accounted for as an investment property on a property-by-property basis. Any such property interest which has been classified as an investment property is accounted for as if it were held under a finance lease, and the same accounting policies are applied to that interest as are applied to other investment properties leased under finance leases. Lease payments are accounted for as described in note (k).

Property that is being constructed or developed for future use as investment property is classified as property, plant and equipment and stated at cost until construction or development is complete, at which time it is reclassified as investment property and recognised at fair value. Any difference between the fair value of the property at that date and its previous carrying amount is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account.

(ii) Other properties held for own use

Other properties and fixed assets held for own use are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

(iii) Properties under development for sale

Properties under development for sale are classified as current assets and stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost includes the aggregate cost of development, borrowing costs capitalised and other direct expenses. Net realisable value is estimated by the management, taking into account the expected selling price ultimately to be achieved, based on prevailing market conditions and the anticipated costs to completion.

The amount of any write down or provision for properties under development for sale is recognised as an expense in the period the write down or loss occurs. The amount of any reversal of any write down or provision arising from an increase in net realisable value is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account in the period in which the reversal occurs.

(iv) Properties held for sale

Properties held for sale are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined by apportionment of the total development costs, including borrowing costs capitalised, attributable to unsold units. Net realisable value is estimated by management, based on prevailing market conditions.

The amount of any write down or provision for properties held for sale is recognised as an expense in the period the write down or loss occurs. The amount of any reversal of any write down or provision arising from an increase in net realisable value is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account in the period in which the reversal occurs.

e) Other fixed assets

Other fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

f) Depreciation of fixed assets

(i) Investment properties

No depreciation is provided on investment properties.

(ii) Other properties held for own use

Depreciation is provided on the cost of other properties held for own use over the unexpired period of the lease of 51 years.

(iii) Other fixed assets

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis on the cost of other fixed assets at rates determined by the estimated useful lives of the assets of between 3 to 10 years.

g) Investments in debt and equity securities

(i) Investments in securities held for trading are classified as current assets and are initially stated at fair value. At each balance sheet date the fair value is remeasured, with any resultant gain or loss being recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account.

(ii) Dated debt securities that the Group has the positive ability and intention to hold to maturity are classified as held-to-maturity securities. Held-to-maturity securities are initially recognised in the balance sheet at fair value plus transaction costs. Subsequently, they are stated in the balance sheet at amortised cost less impairment losses.

(iii) Investments in equity securities that do not have a quoted market price in an active market and whose fair value cannot be reliably measured are recognised in the balance sheet at cost less impairment losses.

(iv) Other investments in securities are classified as available-for-sale investments and are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs. At each balance sheet date the fair value is remeasured, with any resultant gain or loss being recognised directly in the investment revaluation reserves in equity, except for impairment losses and, in the case of monetary items such as debt securities, foreign exchange gains and losses which are recognised directly in the consolidated profit and loss account. Where these investments are interest-bearing, interest calculated using the effective interest method is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account. When these investments are derecognised, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised directly in the investment revaluation reserves in equity is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account.

(v) Investments are recognised/derecognised on the date the Group commits to purchase/sell the investments or they expire.

h) Derivative financial instruments

Derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, the fair value is remeasured. The gain or loss on remeasurement to fair value is recognised immediately in the consolidated profit and loss account. However, where derivatives qualify for hedge accounting, recognition of any resultant gain or loss depends on the nature of the item being hedged.

i) Hedging**(i) Fair value hedge**

A fair value hedge is a hedge of the exposure to changes in fair value of a recognised asset or liability or an unrecognised firm commitment, or an identified portion of such an asset, liability or firm commitment, that is attributable to a particular risk and could affect the consolidated profit and loss account. The gain or loss from remeasuring the hedging instrument at fair value together with the gain or loss on the hedged item attributable to the hedged risk are recorded in the consolidated profit and loss account.

(ii) Cash flow hedge

Where a derivative financial instrument is designated as a hedge of the variability in cash flows of a recognised asset or liability or a highly probable forecast transaction or the foreign currency risk of a committed future transaction, the effective portion of any gain or loss on remeasurement of the derivative financial instrument to fair value is recognised directly in equity. The ineffective portion of any gain or loss is recognised immediately in the consolidated profit and loss account.

If a hedge of a forecast transaction subsequently results in the recognition of a non-financial asset or non-financial liability, the associated gain or loss is removed from equity and included in the initial cost or other carrying amount of the non-financial asset or liability.

If a hedge of a forecast transaction subsequently results in the recognition of a financial asset or a financial liability, the associated gain or loss is removed from equity and recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account in the same period or periods during which the asset acquired or liability assumed affects the consolidated profit and loss account (such as when interest income or expense is recognised).

For cash flow hedges, other than those covered by the preceding two policy statements, the associated gain or loss is removed from equity and recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account in the same period or periods during which the hedged forecast transaction affects the consolidated profit and loss account.

When a hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated or exercised, or the entity revokes designation of the hedge relationship but the hedged forecast transaction is still expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss at that point remains in equity and is recognised in accordance with the above policy when the transaction occurs. If the hedged transaction is no longer expected to take place, the cumulative unrealised gain or loss recognised in equity is recognised immediately in the consolidated profit and loss account.

j) Intangible assets (other than goodwill)

Other intangible assets with finite lives are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses. Other intangible assets are amortised on a straight-line basis from the date the asset is available for use and over its estimated useful lives of 3 to 5 years.

Intangible assets that have indefinite lives are stated at cost less impairment losses. Such intangible assets are tested for impairment annually as described in note (l)(ii).

k) Leased assets

(i) Classification of leased assets

Assets that are held by the Group under leases which transfer to the Group substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are classified as being held under finance leases. Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the Group are classified as operating leases, with the following exceptions:

- property held under operating leases that would otherwise meet the definition of an investment property is classified as an investment property on a property-by-property basis and, if classified as an investment property, is accounted for as if held under a finance lease; and
- land held for own use under an operating lease, the fair value of which cannot be measured separately from the fair value of a building situated thereon at the inception of the lease, is accounted for as being held under a finance lease, unless the building is also clearly held under an operating lease. For these purposes, the inception of the lease is the time that the lease was first entered into by the Group, or taken over from the previous lessee, or at the date of construction of those buildings, if later.

(ii) Assets held under operating leases

- Where the Group has the use of assets held under operating leases, payments made under the leases are charged to the consolidated profit and loss account in equal instalments over the accounting periods covered by the lease term, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased asset. Lease incentives received are recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account as an integral part of the aggregate net lease payments made. Contingent rentals are charged to the consolidated profit and loss account in the accounting period in which they are incurred.
- The cost of acquiring land held under an operating lease is amortised on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease term except where the property is classified as an investment property. Information on accounting policies for land held under operating leases for development for sale is provided in note (d).

(iii) Assets held under finance leases

Where the Group acquires the use of assets under finance leases, the amounts representing the fair value of the leased asset, or, if lower, the present value of the minimum lease payments, of such assets are included in fixed assets and the corresponding liabilities, net of finance charges, are recorded as obligations under finance leases. Depreciation is provided at rates which write off the cost or valuation of the assets over the term of the relevant lease or, where it is likely the Company or Group will obtain ownership of the asset, the life of the asset, as set out in note (f). Impairment losses are accounted for in accordance with the accounting policy as set out in note (l)(ii). Finance charges implicit in the lease payments are charged to the consolidated profit and loss account over the period of the leases so as to produce an approximately constant periodic rate of charge on the remaining balance of the obligations for each accounting period. Contingent rentals are written off as an expense of the accounting period in which they are incurred.

l) Impairment of assets**(i) Impairment of financial assets**

Investments in debt and equity securities and other current and non-current receivables that are stated at cost or amortised cost or are classified as available-for-sale investments are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is objective evidence of impairment. If any such evidence exists, any impairment loss is determined and recognised as follows:

- For unquoted equity securities and current receivables that are carried at cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount of the financial asset and the estimated future cash flows, discounted at the current market rate of return for a similar financial asset where the effect of discounting is material. Impairment losses arising on current receivables are reversed if in a subsequent period the amount of the impairment loss decreases. Impairment losses arising on equity securities are not reversed.
- For financial assets carried at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the financial asset's original effective interest rate (i.e. the effective interest rate computed at initial recognition of these assets).

If in a subsequent period the amount of an impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be linked objectively to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised, the impairment loss is reversed through the consolidated profit and loss account. A reversal of an impairment loss shall not result in the asset's carrying amount exceeding that which would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised in prior years.

- For available-for-sale investments, the cumulative loss that had been recognised directly in equity is removed from equity and is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account. The amount of the cumulative loss that is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account is the difference between the acquisition cost (net of any principal repayment and amortisation) and current fair value, less any impairment loss on that asset previously recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account.

Impairment losses recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account in respect of available-for-sale equity investments are not reversed through the consolidated profit and loss account. Any subsequent increase in the fair value of such assets is recognised directly in the investment revaluation reserves in equity.

(ii) Impairment of other assets

The carrying amounts of non-current assets, other than properties carried at revalued amounts and deferred tax assets, are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount is estimated.

- Recoverable amount
The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its net selling price and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Where an asset does not generate cash inflows largely independent of those from other assets, the recoverable amount is determined for the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows independently (i.e. a cash-generating unit).
- Recognition of impairment losses
An impairment loss is recognised as an expense in the consolidated profit and loss account whenever the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount. Impairment losses recognised in respect of cash-generating units are allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to the cash-generating unit (or group of units) and then, to reduce the carrying amount of the other assets in the unit (or group of units) on a pro rata basis, except that the carrying value of an asset will not be reduced below its individual fair value less costs to sell, or value in use, if determinable.
- Reversals of impairment losses
In respect of assets other than goodwill, an impairment loss is reversed if there has been a favourable change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed.

A reversal of an impairment loss is limited to the asset's carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised in prior years. Reversals of impairment losses are credited to the consolidated profit and loss account in the year in which the reversals are recognised.

m) Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts, except where the receivables are interest-free loans made to related parties without any fixed repayment terms or the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases, the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

n) Interest-bearing borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings for which there is a hedging relationship with a derivative financial instrument, which does not qualify for hedge accounting are initially recognised at fair value less transaction costs. At each balance sheet date the fair value is remeasured and any change in fair value is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account.

o) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

p) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other financial institutions, and short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, having been within three months of maturity at acquisition. Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Group's cash management are also included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the cash flow statement.

q) Foreign currencies

Foreign currency transactions during the year are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the exchange rates ruling at the transaction dates. Monetary foreign currency balances and the balance sheets of overseas subsidiaries and associates are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date. The profit and loss accounts of overseas subsidiaries or associates are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the monthly weighted average exchange rates for the year. Differences arising from the translation of the financial statements of overseas subsidiaries or associates are dealt with in capital reserves. All other exchange differences are dealt with in the consolidated profit and loss account. On disposal of an overseas subsidiary or associate, the cumulative amount of the exchange differences recognised in the other capital reserves which relate to that overseas subsidiary or associate is included in the calculation of the profit or loss on disposal.

r) Recognition of revenue

- (i)** Rental income under operating leases is recognised in equal instalments over the accounting periods covered by the lease term, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased asset. Lease incentives granted are recognised as an integral part of the aggregate net lease payments receivable. Contingent rentals are recognised as income in the accounting period in which they are earned.
- (ii)** Income from sale of properties held for sale is recognised upon the execution of the formal sale and purchase agreement or the issue of occupation permit by the relevant government authorities, whichever is the later. Deposits and instalments received on properties sold prior to the date of revenue recognition are included in the balance sheet under deposits from sale of properties.
- (iii)** Residential agency income comprises fees and commissions which are brought into account on the exchange of contracts for the property to which they relate. Lettings income relates to fees for finding and renewing tenants for landlord of properties and are recognised on the commencement of the tenancy.
- (iv)** Dividend income from listed investments is recognised when the share price of the investment goes ex-dividend.
- (v)** Interest income is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest method.

s) Income taxes

- (i)** Income tax for the year comprises current tax and deferred tax. Income tax is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity, in which case it is recognised in equity.
- (ii)** Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.
- (iii)** Deferred tax assets and liabilities arise from deductible and taxable temporary differences respectively, being the differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and their tax bases. Deferred tax assets also arise from unused tax losses and unused tax credits.

Deferred tax is provided, using the balance sheet liability method, in respect of all temporary differences arising between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profits, with limited exceptions. Deferred tax liabilities are provided in full on all temporary differences while deferred tax assets relating to the carried forward of unused tax losses are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the unused tax losses can be utilised.

The amount of deferred tax recognised is measured based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of the assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

The carrying amount of a deferred tax asset is reviewed at each balance sheet date and is reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available to allow the related tax benefit to be utilised. Any such reduction is reversed to the extent that it becomes probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available.

t) *Borrowing costs*

Borrowing costs are expensed in the consolidated profit and loss account in the period in which they are incurred, except to the extent that they are capitalised as being directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of an asset which necessarily takes a substantial time to get ready for its intended use or sale.

The capitalisation of borrowing costs as part of the cost of a qualifying asset commences when expenditure for the asset is incurred, borrowing costs are being incurred and activities that are necessary to prepare the asset for its intended use or sale are in progress. Capitalisation of borrowing costs is suspended or ceases when substantially all the activities necessary to prepare the qualifying asset for its intended use or sale are interrupted or complete.

u) *Related parties*

For the purposes of these accounts, parties are considered to be related to the Group if the Group has the ability, directly or indirectly, to control the party or exercise significant influence over the party in making financial and operating decisions, or vice versa, or where the Group and the party are subject to common control or common significant influence. Related parties may be individuals (being members of key management personnel, significant shareholders and/or their close family members) or other entities and include entities which are under the significant influence of related parties of the Group where those parties are individuals, and post-employment benefit plans which are for the benefit of employees of the Group or of any entity that is a related party of the Group.

v) *Provisions*

Provisions are recognised for liabilities of uncertain timing or amount when the Group or the Company has a legal or constructive obligation arising as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made. Where the time value of money is material, provisions are stated at the present value of the expenditure expected to settle the obligation.

Where it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required, or the amount cannot be estimated reliably, the obligation is disclosed as a contingent liability, unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote. Possible obligations, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future events are also disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote.

w) Segment reporting

A segment is a distinguishable component of the Group that is engaged in providing products or services (business segment), or in providing products, or services within a particular economic environment (geographical segment), which is subject to risks and rewards that are different from those of other segments.

In accordance with the Group's internal financial reporting, the Group has chosen business segment information as the primary reporting format and geographical segment information as the secondary reporting format.

Segment revenue, expenses, results, assets and liabilities include items directly attributable to a segment as well as those that can be allocated on a reasonable basis to that segment. Segment revenue, expenses, assets and liabilities are determined before intra-group balances and intra-group transactions are eliminated as part of the consolidation process, except to the extent that such intra-group balances and transactions are between group companies within a single segment. Inter-segment pricing is based on similar terms as those available to other external parties.

Segment capital expenditure is the total cost incurred during the period to acquire segment assets (both tangible and intangible) that are expected to be used for more than one period.

Unallocated items mainly comprise financial and corporate assets, interest-bearing borrowings and corporate and financing expenses.

x) Employee benefits

(i) Defined contribution retirement schemes

Contributions to the schemes are expensed as incurred and may be reduced by contributions forfeited by those employees who leave the schemes prior to vesting fully in the contributions. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Group in independently administered funds.

(ii) Central Provident Fund in Singapore

Contributions to the Central Provident Fund in Singapore as required under the Central Provident Fund Act are charged to the consolidated profit and loss account when incurred.

(iii) Salaries, annual bonuses, paid annual leave, leave passage and the cost to the Group of non-monetary benefits are accrued in the year in which the associated services are rendered by employees of the Group. Where payment or settlement is deferred and the effect would be material, these amounts are stated at their present values.

y) *Significant accounting estimates and judgements*

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Note 26 contains information about the assumptions and their risk relating to financial instruments. Other key sources of estimation uncertainty are as follows:

- Valuation of investment properties
Investment properties are included in the balance sheet at their open market value, which is assessed annually by qualified valuers, after taking into consideration the net income allowing for reversionary potential.

The assumptions adopted in the property valuations are based on the market conditions existing at the balance sheet date, with reference to current market sales prices and the appropriate capitalisation rate.

- Business combinations and allocation of purchase price amongst intangible assets
The Group accounts for the business combination in accordance with HKFRS 3 “Business Combinations”. The Group is required to recognise separately, at the acquisition date, the acquiree’s identifiable assets, including tangible and intangible assets that satisfy the recognition criteria regardless of whether they had been previously recognised in the acquiree’s financial statements.

The valuation of these intangible assets recognised upon the acquisition of business combination during the year was assessed by the management based on a valuation performed by an independent valuer by reference to the future economic benefits to be derived from these assets based on fair value assessment. The assumptions adopted in the valuation include the revenue growth, expected percentage of recurring business and the general market conditions.

- Assessment of impairment of non-current assets
The Group has non-current assets, including properties, goodwill and other intangible assets. Assets that have an indefinite useful life are tested for impairment annually. Assets that are subject to depreciation and amortisation are assessed on an annual basis as to whether there is any indication of impairment loss which suggests that the carrying value of these asset may not be recoverable. Management assesses the recoverable amount of each non-current asset based on its value in use (using relevant rates) or on its net selling price (by reference to market prices), depending upon the anticipated future plans for the assets. Estimating the value in use of an asset involves estimating the future cash inflows and outflows to be derived from continuing use of the asset and from its ultimate disposal and applying the appropriate discount rate to these future cash flows. Cash flow projections for the remaining useful life of the asset and the most recent financial budgets/forecasts approved by management.

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- Assessment of provision for properties held under development and for sale
Management determines the net realisable value of properties held for sale by using (1) prevailing market data such as most recent sale transactions and market survey reports available from property valuers; and (2) internal estimates of costs based on quotes by suppliers.

Management's assessment of net realisable value of properties under development for sale requires the application of a risk-adjusted discount rate to estimate future discounted cash flows to be derived from the properties under development for sale. These estimates require judgement as to the anticipated sale prices by reference to recent sale transactions in nearby locations, rate of new property sales, marketing costs (including price discounts required to stimulate sales) and the expected costs to completion of properties, the legal and regulatory framework and general market conditions. The Group's estimates may be inaccurate, and estimates may need to be adjusted in later periods.

- Recognition of deferred tax assets
The recognition of deferred tax assets requires formal assessment by the Group in respect of the future profitability of the operations. In making this judgement, the Group evaluates, amongst other factors, the forecast financial performance, changes in the operational and financing cashflows.