

Though a prolonged period of refining disruption and oil price fluctuation could significantly affect business confidence, we remain cautiously optimistic that 2006 will be another reasonable year for the dry bulk market.

In addition, the Board expects that the Group's trading business will continue to contribute steady returns to the Group.

## **PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF THE COMPANY'S LISTED SECURITIES**

During the period, the Company has repurchased 2,471,000 shares of the Company at an aggregate price of HK\$3,984,734.60 before expenses, which were subsequently cancelled in July 2006. The nominal value of the cancelled shares of HK\$247,100 was credited to capital redemption reserve and the aggregate price was paid out from the retained profits. Details of the repurchase are as follows:

<b>Month of the repurchase</b>	<b>Total number of shares repurchased</b>	<b>Highest price paid per share</b> <i>HK\$</i>	<b>Lowest price paid per share</b> <i>HK\$</i>	<b>Aggregate price paid (before expenses)</b> <i>HK\$</i>
June 2006	2,471,000	1.64	1.59	3,984,734.60

The Directors considered that the repurchase would increase the net asset value per share of the Company.

Save as disclosed above, there was no purchase, sale or redemption by the Company or any of its subsidiaries of the Company's listed securities during the six months ended 30 June 2006.

## **SHARE OPTION SCHEME**

The Company adopted a share option scheme on 18 November 2004 (the "Share Option Scheme"). Under the Share Option Scheme, the Company may grant share options to acquire shares of the Company to the directors, officers and employees of the Group and other persons selected by the Board who have contributed or will contribute to the Group. The purpose of granting the share options is to provide incentives and/or rewards to eligible persons for their contribution to, and continuing efforts to promote the interests of, the Group.