1. Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRS") and under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of certain investment properties and available-for-sale investments, which are carried at fair value.

2. Basis of consolidation

The consolidated accounts for the year ended 31st December 2006 incorporate the accounts of Swire Pacific Limited, its subsidiary companies (together referred to as the "group") and the group's interest in jointly controlled and associated companies.

3. Subsidiary companies

Subsidiary companies are all entities (including special purpose entities) over which the group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies generally accompanying a shareholding of more than one half of the voting rights. The existence and effect of potential voting rights that are currently exercisable or convertible are considered when assessing whether the group controls another entity.

The results of subsidiary companies are included in the consolidated profit and loss account and minority interests therein are disclosed separately as a component of the consolidated profit after tax. Results attributable to subsidiary company interests acquired or disposed of during the year are included from the date on which control is transferred to the group or to the date that control ceases.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for the acquisition of subsidiary companies by the group. The cost of an acquisition is measured as the fair value of the assets given, equity instruments issued and liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange, plus costs directly attributable to the acquisition. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date, irrespective of the extent of any minority interests. The excess of the cost of acquisition over the fair value of the group's share of the identifiable net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. If the cost of acquisition is less than the fair value of the net assets of the subsidiary company acquired, the difference is recognised directly in the profit and loss account.

Intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiary companies have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.

Minority interests in the balance sheet comprise the outside shareholders' proportion of the net assets of subsidiary companies. The group applies a policy of treating transactions with minority interests as transactions with parties external to the group. Disposals to minority interests result in gains and losses for the group that are recorded in the profit and loss account. Purchases from minority interests result in goodwill, being the difference between any consideration paid and the relevant share acquired of the carrying value of net assets of the subsidiary company.

In the Company's balance sheet its investments in subsidiary companies, are stated at cost less provision for any impairment losses. Income from subsidiary companies are accounted for by the Company on the basis of dividends received and receivable.

4. Jointly controlled and associated companies

Jointly controlled companies are those companies held for the long-term, over which the group is in a position to exercise joint control with other venturers in accordance with contractual arrangements, and where none of the participating parties has unilateral control over the economic activity of the joint venture.

Associated companies are those companies over which the group has significant influence but not control or joint control, over its management including participation in the financial and operating policy decisions generally accompanying a shareholding of between 20% and 50% of the voting rights.

Investments in jointly controlled and associated companies are accounted for by the equity method of accounting and are initially recognised at cost. The excess of the cost of investment in jointly controlled and associated companies over the fair value of the group's share of the identifiable net assets acquired represents goodwill. The group's investments in jointly controlled and associated companies include goodwill (net of any accumulated impairment losses) arising on acquisitions.

The group's share of its jointly controlled and associated companies' post-acquisition profits or losses is recognised in the consolidated profit and loss account, and its share of post-acquisition movements in reserves is recognised in reserves. The cumulative post-acquisition movements are adjusted against the carrying amount of the investment. When the group's interest, including any other unsecured receivables in a jointly controlled or an associated company is reduced to nil, the group does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the jointly controlled or associated company.

Unrealised gains on transactions between the group and its jointly controlled and associated companies are eliminated to the extent of the group's interest in these companies. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of jointly controlled and associated companies have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the group.

In the Company's balance sheet, its investments in jointly controlled and associated companies are stated at cost less provision for any impairment losses. Income from jointly controlled and associated companies is recognised by the company on the basis of dividends received and receivable.

5. Foreign currency translation

(a) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the accounts of each of the group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ("the functional currency"). The consolidated accounts are presented in Hong Kong dollars, which is the Company's functional and presentation currency.

(b) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the profit and loss account, except when deferred in equity as qualifying cash flow hedges or qualifying net investment hedges.

When a gain or loss on a non-monetary item is recognised directly in equity, any translation difference on that gain or loss is recognised directly in equity. When a gain or loss on a non-monetary item is recognised in profit or loss, any translation difference on that gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss.

(c) Group companies

The results and financial position of all the group entities (none of which has the currency of a hyperinflationary economy) that have a functional currency different from the presentation currency are translated into the presentation currency as follows:

(i) Assets and liabilities for each balance sheet presented are translated at the closing rate at the date of that balance sheet;

(ii) Income and expenses for each profit and loss account are translated at average exchange rates (unless this average is not a reasonable approximation of the cumulative effect of the rates prevailing on the transaction dates, in which case income and expenses are translated at the dates of the transactions); and

(iii) All resulting exchange differences are recognised as a separate component of equity.

On consolidation, exchange differences arising from the translation of the net investment in foreign entities, and of borrowings and other currency instruments designated as hedges of such investments, are taken to shareholders' equity. When a foreign operation is sold, such exchange differences are recognised in the profit and loss account as part of the gain or loss on sale.

Goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on the acquisition of a foreign entity are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign entity and translated at the closing rate.

6. Investment properties

Property that is held for long-term rental yields or for capital appreciation or both, and that is not occupied by the companies in the consolidated group, is classified as investment property. Investment property comprises land held under operating leases and buildings held under finance leases. Land held under operating leases is classified and accounted for as investment property when the rest of the definition of investment property is met.

Investment properties are carried at fair values and are valued at least annually by independent valuers. The valuations are performed in accordance with the Valuation Standards on Properties issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors and are on an open market basis, related to individual properties, and separate values are not attributed to land and buildings. Investment property that is being redeveloped for continuing use as investment property continues to be measured at fair value. Changes in fair values are recognised in the profit and loss account.

Subsequent expenditure is charged to the asset's carrying amount only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance costs are expensed in the profit and loss account during the financial period in which they are incurred.

If an investment property becomes owner-occupied, it is reclassified as property, plant and equipment, and its fair value at the date of reclassification becomes its cost for accounting purposes. 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 and subsequently accounted for as investment property.

7. Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are carried at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items. Cost may also include transfers from equity of any gains/losses on qualifying cash flow hedges of foreign currency purchases of property, plant and equipment. Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are expensed in the profit and loss account during the financial period in which they are incurred.

With the exception of freehold land, all other assets under this category are depreciated at rates sufficient to write off their original costs to estimated residual values using the straight-line method over their anticipated useful lives in the following manner:

Properties	2% to 5% per annum
Plant and machinery	7% to 34% per annum
Vessels	4% to 7% per annum

The assets' expected useful lives and residual values are regularly reviewed and adjusted, if appropriate, at each balance sheet date to take into account operational experience and changing circumstances.

At each balance sheet date, both internal and external sources of information are considered to assess whether there is any indication that the assets are impaired. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and where relevant, an impairment loss is recognised to reduce the asset to its recoverable amount. Such impairment losses are recognised in the profit and loss account.

8. Intangible assets

(a) Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of acquisition over the fair value of the group's share of the net identifiable assets of the acquired subsidiary, jointly controlled and associated companies at the date of acquisition. Goodwill is treated as an asset of the entity acquired and where attributable to a foreign entity will be translated at the closing rate.

Goodwill on acquisition of a subsidiary company is included in intangible assets. Goodwill on acquisitions of associated and jointly controlled companies is included in investments in associated and jointly controlled companies respectively.

Goodwill is stated at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units for the purpose of impairment testing, which is performed annually. Impairment losses recognised on goodwill are not reversed.

Gains and losses on the disposal of an entity include the carrying amount of goodwill relating to the entity sold.

(b) Computer software

Acquired computer software licences are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. These costs are amortised over their estimated useful lives (three to five years).

Costs associated with developing or maintaining computer software programmes are recognised as an expense as incurred. Costs that are directly associated with the production of identifiable and unique software products controlled by the group, and that will probably generate economic benefits exceeding costs beyond one year, are recognised as intangible assets. Direct costs include the software development employee costs and an appropriate portion of relevant overheads.

Computer software costs recognised as assets are amortised over their estimated useful lives.

9. Impairment of assets

Assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation. These assets are at least tested annually for impairment and are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. Assets that are subject to amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash flows (cash-generating units).

10. Investments

The group classifies its investments in the following categories: financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments, and available-for-sale investments. The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at every reporting date.

(a) Financial assets/liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

This category has two sub-categories: financial assets held for trading, and financial assets/liabilities designated at fair value through profit or loss at inception. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management. Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Assets/liabilities in this category are classified as current if they are either held for trading or are expected to be realised/settled within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

(b) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They arise when the group provides money, goods or services directly to a debtor with no intention of trading the receivable. They are included in current assets, except for maturities greater than 12 months after the balance sheet date where these are classified as non-current assets. Loans and receivables are included in trade and other receivables in the balance sheet.

(c) Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that the group's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. During the year, the group did not hold any investments in this category.

(d) Available-for-sale investments

Available-for-sale investments are non-derivatives that are either designated in this category or not classified in any of the other categories. They are included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on their trade-date – the date on which the group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Investments are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs for all financial assets not carried at fair value through profit or loss. Investments are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or have been transferred and the group has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership. Available-for-sale investments and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are subsequently carried at fair value. Loans and receivables and held-to-maturity investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of the "financial assets at fair value through profit or loss" category are included in the profit and loss account in the period in which they arise. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of non-monetary available-for-sale investments are recognised in equity. When available-for-sale investments are sold or impaired, the accumulated fair value adjustments are included in the profit and loss account as gains and losses from investments.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets (such as publicly traded derivatives, and trading and available-for-sale investments) is based on quoted market prices at the balance sheet date. The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the group is the current bid price; the appropriate quoted market price for financial liabilities is the current ask price.

The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market (for example, over-the-counter derivatives) is determined by using valuation techniques. The group uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each balance sheet date. Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments are used for long-term debt. Other techniques, such as estimated discounted cash flows, are used to determine fair value for the remaining financial instruments. The fair value of interest-rate swaps is calculated as the present value of the estimated future cash flows. The fair value of forward foreign exchange contracts is determined using forward exchange market rates at the balance sheet date.

The nominal value less estimated credit adjustments of trade receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair value. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the group for similar financial instruments.

The group assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired. In the case of equity investments classified as available-for-sale, a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of the investment below its cost is considered in determining whether the investments are impaired. If any such evidence exists for available-for-sale investments, the cumulative loss – measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that investment previously recognised in profit or loss – is removed from equity and recognised in the profit and loss account. Impairment losses recognised in the profit and loss account on equity instruments are not reversed through the profit and loss account.

11. Derivative financial instruments and hedging activities

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured at their fair value. The method of recognising the resulting gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and if so, the nature of the item being hedged. The group designates certain derivatives as either: (1) hedges of the fair value of recognised assets or liabilities or a firm commitment (fair value hedge); (2) hedges of highly probable forecast transactions (cash flow hedges); or (3) hedges of net investments in foreign operations.

The group documents at the inception of the transaction the relationship between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as its risk management objective and strategy for undertaking various hedge transactions. The group also documents its assessment, both at hedge inception and on an ongoing basis, of whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in fair values or cash flows of hedged items.

(a) Fair value hedge

Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as fair value hedges are recorded in the profit and loss account, together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability that are attributable to the hedged risk.

(b) Cash flow hedge

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges are recognised in equity. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognised immediately in the profit and loss account.

Amounts accumulated in equity are recycled in the profit and loss account in the periods when the hedged item will affect profit or loss (for instance when the forecast sale that is hedged takes place). However, when the forecast transaction that is hedged results in the recognition of a non-financial asset (for example, inventory or property, plant and equipment) or a liability, the gains and losses previously deferred in equity are transferred from equity and included in the initial measurement of the cost of the asset or liability.

When a hedging instrument expires or is sold, or when a hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, any cumulative gain or loss existing in equity at that time remains in equity and is recognised when the forecast transaction is ultimately recognised in the profit and loss account. When a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss that was reported in equity is immediately transferred to the profit and loss account.

(c) Net investment hedge

Hedges of net investments in foreign operations are accounted for similarly to cash flow hedges. Any gain or loss on the hedging instrument relating to the effective portion of the hedge is recognised in equity; the gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognised immediately in the profit and loss account.

Gains and losses accumulated in equity are included in the profit and loss account when the foreign operation is disposed of.

(d) Derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting

Certain derivative instruments do not qualify for hedge accounting. Changes in the fair value of any derivative instruments that do not qualify for hedge accounting are recognised immediately in the profit and loss account.

12. Deferred expenditure

Expenditure incurred in leasing the group's property during construction is deferred and amortised on a straight-line basis to the profit and loss account upon occupation of the property over a period not exceeding five years.

13. Stocks and work in progress

Stocks and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost represents average unit cost and net realisable value is determined on the basis of anticipated sales proceeds less estimated selling expenses. The costs of finished goods and work in progress comprise direct material and labour costs and an appropriate proportion of production overhead expenses less provisions for foreseeable losses. Cost includes the transfer from equity of any gains/losses on qualifying cash flow hedges relating to purchase of raw materials or stocks.

14. Properties under development for sale

Properties under development for sale are included under current assets and comprise freehold and leasehold land, construction costs and interest costs capitalised, less provisions for possible losses.

15. Accounts receivable

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade and other receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the group will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. Accounts receivable in the balance sheet are stated net of such provision.

16. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand, amounts repayable on demand from banks and financial institutions and short-term highly liquid investments which were within three months of maturity when acquired, less bank overdrafts.

17. Borrowings

Borrowings are recognised initially at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Transaction costs are incremental costs that are directly attributable to the initiation of the borrowings, including fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges, and transfer taxes and duties. Borrowings are subsequently stated either at amortised cost with any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption value recognised in the profit and loss account over the period of the borrowings using the effective interest method or at fair value through profit and loss.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

18. Borrowing costs

Interest costs incurred are charged to the profit and loss account except for those interest charges attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets (i.e. assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to get ready for their intended use or sale) which are capitalised as part of the cost of those assets. Capitalisation of such borrowing costs ceases when the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale.

19. Operating leases

Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Receipts or payments made under operating leases (net of any incentives paid to lessees or received from the lessors) are recognised as income or expense in the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

20. Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the accounts. However, if the deferred income tax arises from initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that, at the time of the recognition has no impact on taxable nor accounting profit or loss, it is not recognised. Tax rates enacted or substantially enacted by the balance sheet date are used to determine deferred taxation.

Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

Deferred taxation is provided on temporary differences arising on investments in subsidiary, jointly controlled and associated companies, except where the timing of the reversal of the temporary difference is controlled by the group and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

21. Revenue recognition

Provided the collectibility of the related receivable is reasonably assured revenue is recognised as follows:

(a) Sales of goods are recognised when the goods are delivered to the customer and the customer has accepted the related risks and rewards of ownership.

(b) Sales of services are recognised when the services are rendered.

(c) Sales of properties are recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the properties are transferred to the buyers.

(d) Charter hire income is recognised over the charter hire period in accordance with the charter hire agreements.

(e) Rental income is recognised on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(f) Interest income is recognised on a time-proportion basis using the effective interest method.

22. Related parties

Related parties are individuals and companies, including subsidiary, fellow subsidiary, jointly controlled and associated companies and key management (including close members of their families), where the individual, company or group has the ability, directly or indirectly, to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions.

23. Retirement benefits

The group operates a number of defined benefit and defined contribution retirement benefit schemes for its employees, the assets of which are generally held in separate trustee – administered funds. The schemes are generally funded by payments from the relevant group companies and, in some cases, employees themselves, taking account of the recommendations of independent qualified actuaries.

A defined benefit plan is a pension plan that defines an amount of pension benefit that an employee will receive on retirement, usually dependent on one or more factors such as age, years of service and compensation. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the group pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. The group has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

The group's contributions to the defined contribution schemes are charged to the profit and loss account in the period to which the contributions relate.

For defined benefit schemes, retirement benefit costs are assessed using the projected unit credit method. Under this method, the cost of providing retirement benefits is charged to the profit and loss account so as to spread the regular cost over the service lives of employees. The retirement benefit obligation is either measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows using market yields on Exchange Fund Notes in Hong Kong and corporate bonds overseas which have terms to maturity approximating the terms of the related liability. Plan assets are measured at fair value. Cumulative unrecognised net actuarial gains and losses at the previous financial year end, to the extent that the amount is in excess of 10% of the greater of the present value of the defined benefit obligations and the fair value of the plan assets, are recognised over the expected average remaining working lives of the employees participating in the plan. Past service costs are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the average period until the benefits become vested.

24. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

25. Dividend distribution

Final dividend distribution to the Company's shareholders is recognised as a liability in the group's accounts in the period in which the dividends are approved by the Company's shareholders.

26. Segment reporting

In accordance with the group's internal financial reporting the group has determined that business segments be presented as the primary reporting format and geographical segments as the secondary reporting format.