



A Trusted Partner in Asia

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Stock Code: 662
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Corporate Information

Board of Directors

Executive Directors

CHAN Yau Hing Robin (*Chairman*)
CHAN Bernard Charnwut (*President*)
TAN Stephen
WONG Kok Ho

Non-Executive Directors

KAWAUCHI Yuji
OGURA Satoru

Independent Non-Executive Directors

CHOW Suk Han Anna
LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca
SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta

Audit Committee

SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta (*Chairperson*)
CHOW Suk Han Anna
LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca

Compliance Committee

CHOW Suk Han Anna (*Chairperson*)
LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca
SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta
CHAN Bernard Charnwut
TAN Stephen

Remuneration Committee

LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca (*Chairperson*)
CHOW Suk Han Anna
SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta
CHAN Bernard Charnwut
WONG Kok Ho

Nomination Committee

CHOW Suk Han Anna (*Chairperson*)
LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca
SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta
CHAN Bernard Charnwut
WONG Kok Ho

Risk Committee

LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca (*Chairperson*)
CHOW Suk Han Anna
SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta
CHAN Bernard Charnwut
WONG Kok Ho

Auditors

Ernst & Young
Certified Public Accountants
Registered Public Interest Entity Auditor

Registered Office

Clarendon House
Church Street
Hamilton HM 11
Bermuda

Head Office and Principal Place of Business

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Principal Registrar and Transfer Office

Conyers Corporate Services (Bermuda) Limited
Clarendon House
2 Church Street
Hamilton HM 11
Bermuda

Branch Registrar and Transfer Office

Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited
Shops 1712-1716, 17th Floor
Hopewell Centre
183 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai
Hong Kong

Company Secretary

CHIANG Yuet Wah Connie

Principal Bankers

Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited
Hang Seng Bank Limited
Public Bank (Hong Kong) Limited
Shanghai Commercial Bank Limited

Legal Advisers

Conyers Dill & Pearman
Gallant
Deacons

Share Listing

Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited
Stock Code : 662



Asia Financial Holdings Limited (“Asia Financial”, “The Group” or “The Company”) recorded a net profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$337.9 million in 2020, a 17.4% decrease over 2019. The coronavirus (“COVID-19”) pandemic and its repercussions continued affecting economies worldwide. However encouraging news of new vaccines has buoyed investor confidence and global equities markets have rebounded. In this time of unpredictable economic headwinds, both our investment portfolio and our core businesses showed reassuring resiliency. Due to market volatility, we recorded realised loss but unrealised gain in our investment portfolio. Dividend income increased significantly. Underwriting profits showed a 2% growth over 2019. Overall contributions from our joint ventures and associates were mixed, however our expenses remained under control.

CHAN Yau Hing Robin

Chairman

Economic Background

Overall global economic growth fell in 2020, due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which triggered the most severe recession in over a century. However, the 3.5% year-end decline in global GDP was less severe than initially predicted. The US unemployment rate, which hit a record high of 14.7% in April, fell by year end to 6.7%. Interest rates worldwide remained low, buoying global equities markets. Hong Kong experienced a difficult economic year; GDP contracted by 6.1% in 2020, and at year-end unemployment was 7%, a 17-year high. China’s economy, meanwhile, rebounded more quickly from the pandemic and it was the only major world economy to register positive GDP growth by 2.3% in 2020.

The US stock market outperformed expectations and finished at record levels in 2020 despite earlier losses and the pandemic impact. S&P 500 Index ended the year with a strong gain of 16.3%, and the Dow Jones index and Nasdaq index gained 7.2% and 43.6%, respectively. China stock market, as well, soared to record levels due to an early and strong pandemic recovery. Market performance elsewhere was mixed. The Hang Seng index yearly results were down by 3.4%, sharply behind the performance of China and US markets, H Shares were in line with the Hang Seng index, losing 3.8%.

Management Approach and Future Prospects

The global and regional economic picture as we enter 2021 remains uncertain and difficult to predict, but there are reasons for cautious optimism in both the near and long term. There is a concerning disconnect between markets and economies- while big equities markets in the US and China have rebounded, overall global economic growth indicators are weak. Geopolitical risk and US-China relations continue to impact both equities markets and trade. However it is expected that a new US administration will bring with it a more rational and stable business and trade policy. The weak Hong Kong economy will continue to be a challenge through 2021. Finally, the widening gap between rich and poor in global economies, the potential impacts of climate change, and the challenge of sustainable development will be important factors in the long-term business environment.

Chairman's Statement

Management Approach and Future Prospects (cont'd)

Asia Financial's prospects for 2021 will continue to be influenced by the unpredictable pattern and pace of global economic recovery from the pandemic crisis. Nevertheless, we remain cautiously optimistic about the outlook for our insurance operations. Our core business is solid and mature, and we are fortunate to enjoy customer confidence in the marketplace, due to our Asia Insurance Company, Limited ("Asia Insurance")'s 60+ year history in the insurance business. We will continue with our conservative but flexible core investment approach in the pursuit of long-term growth in shareholder value.

We will be closely monitoring all of these developments, as well as the continuing pandemic crisis and its impact on the global economy, and will maintain a prudent portfolio investment strategy accordingly.

The current outlook for our insurance operations is positive, with our strong distribution network and market positioning helping us to perform well despite the challenging economic situation and a crowded and competitive market. We will continue reviewing and optimizing our mix of business segments. We are also further developing our distribution capacity and product range.

At this time of global challenge in our industry and the world, our company's reputation and stability are an advantage in an uncertain and volatile marketplace. The region is undergoing a major transformation involving the rise of large middle classes, gradually aging societies and greater use of market-based solutions to demographic and other policy challenges. In this changing environment, Asia Financial is well-positioned for steady and successful growth.

This is the long-term environment on which Asia Financial's management focuses. We aim to continue building on our interests in livelihood-related service industries such as insurance, retirement, health and property development, focused on Hong Kong and Greater China. Our investment spheres fit well with our traditional expertise and networks of clients and partners, and as a whole are well-positioned to benefit from long-term economic and social trends. In considering ways to build upon this base, we will adhere to this fundamental approach and exercise patience and caution.

CHAN Yau Hing Robin

Chairman

Hong Kong, 26th March, 2021



Management Discussion and Analysis

Key Financial and Business Performance Indicators

(All changes in % refer to the same period last year)

| | | |
|---|----------------------|--------|
| Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company: | HK\$337.9 million | -17.4% |
| Earnings per share: | HK35.4 cents | -16.1% |
| Final dividend per share: | HK7.0 cents | +40.0% |
| Total dividend per share: | HK8.0 cents | -5.9% |
| Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company: | HK\$11,004.4 million | +7.1% |
| Total Assets: | HK\$15,916.0 million | +7.1% |
| Return on equity: | 3.2% (4.2% for 2019) | |

Earnings and Dividends

For the year ended 31st December, 2020, the Group recorded net profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$337.9 million, representing a 17.4% decrease compared with the previous year. We recorded realised loss but unrealised gain in our investment portfolio. Dividend income increased and underwriting profits showed a 2% growth over 2019. Overall contributions from our joint ventures and associates were mixed.

The Group's earnings per share for the year 2020 were HK35.4 cents. The Board had declared an interim dividend of HK1.0 cent in August 2020 and proposed a final dividend of HK7.0 cents, making a total dividend for the year of HK8.0 cents per share.

Capital Structure

The Group finances its own working capital requirement through funds generated from operations.

Liquidity, Financial Resources and Gearing Ratio

Cash and cash equivalents as at 31st December, 2020 amounted to HK\$2,800,240,000 (2019: HK\$3,366,602,000).

The Group had no bank borrowing as at 31st December, 2020 (31st December, 2019: The Group had a bank borrowing of HK\$100,000,000 which was secured by certain bank deposits and Hong Kong listed shares, repayable on or before 29th January, 2020 and charged at 1.25% over the 1, 2, 3 or 6-month Hong Kong Interbank Offered Rate per annum. The bank borrowing was fully repaid on 29th January, 2020).

No gearing ratio was calculated as the Group had no net current debt as at 31st December, 2020. The gearing ratio was based on net current debt divided by total capital plus net current debt. Net current debt includes current portion of insurance contract liabilities, insurance payables, amounts due to associates and other liabilities, less cash and cash equivalents and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. Capital represents equity attributable to equity holders of the Company.

The Group's liquidity position remains strong and the Group has sufficient financial resources to satisfy its commitment and working capital requirements.

Management Discussion and Analysis

Charge on Assets

As at 31st December, 2020, Asia Insurance charged assets with a carrying value of HK\$119,030,000 (2019: HK\$119,516,000) in favour of a cedant to secure the performance of Asia Insurance's obligations to the cedant under certain pecuniary loss reinsurance contracts.

Contingent Liabilities

As at 31st December, 2020, the Group had no material contingent liabilities.

Business Review

Insurance

Wholly owned subsidiary, Asia Insurance achieved net profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$189.6 million in 2020, a 0.6% decrease compared with the same period in 2019.

Despite the pandemic's impact on our clients' businesses, our turnover for 2020 rose by 3%, an extraordinary testimony to our company's reputation for service, its diversified scope of insurance products, and client confidence. We maintained most of our existing business while adding new business as well, particularly in our core small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) market. There was no exposure to major catastrophes during the period. Underwriting profit showed a 2% growth. Our fundamental underwriting profit trend remains healthy and stable, and we remain among the top performers in the Hong Kong insurance industry, with a S&P Global rating of A. (All the above figures are before elimination of group transactions.)

We recorded realised loss but unrealised gain in our investments, and a lower dividend income from the listed equities investments impacted by the slowing down of business performance from COVID-19.

The small rise in Asia Insurance's costs in 2020 was in line with the company's continuing business growth, higher internal audit fees, and investment in user and backend systems.

The outlook for Asia Insurance's core underwriting activities looks positive for 2021 and beyond in both Hong Kong and Macau. We will continue to utilize our risk management expertise to focus on quality business, and to optimize the mix of business segments while spreading risk. We are confident that our strengths in these areas will ensure continued healthy underwriting profitability.

Asia Insurance continued in 2020 to develop its distribution network through new agents and brokers and on-line digital channels. We are successfully introducing an on-line platform for business partners. We are also actively working on significant enhancements to our product range, and ongoing upgrades to employee skills, systems and distribution capacity in anticipation of future trends in clients' needs and market conditions.

Looking ahead, we also anticipate possible opportunities arising from the central government's "Greater Bay Area" plan to further integrate Pearl River Delta regions. Additionally, in the aftermath of COVID-19 people are increasingly aware of the need to protect their health with insurance coverage, a trend that will add traction to our core business and support our market growth.

In general, Asia Insurance expects to continue to build on its status as a leader in Hong Kong's general insurance market with an outstanding reputation for service and professionalism.

Business Review (cont'd)

Insurance (cont'd)

In terms of investment performance, the pandemic and related economic fallout make us cautiously optimistic for 2021. We are expecting that the introduction of vaccines will result in the gradual reopening of borders and resumption of normal business activity, however the pace of recovery is still uncertain. We will maintain a sensible and watchful approach towards portfolio management.

Joint ventures and associates in the insurance segment had mixed performances in 2020. BC Reinsurance Limited recovered early losses and ended the year with a stable profit, due to solid underwriting profit and a fair investment market. Hong Kong Life Insurance Limited experienced a marginal loss with the cost control of marketing expenses implemented. Professional Liability Underwriting Services Limited enjoyed a stable profit while The People's Insurance Company of China (Hong Kong) Limited saw a return to healthy underwriting profit up to October 2020, when it was reclassified as a direct investment.

PICC Life Insurance Company Limited ("PICC Life"), in which Asia Financial has a 5% stake, continues to take advantage of its opportunities as a company with a nationwide licence. The fair value appreciated sharply in 2020. During the year 2020, PICC Life declared a record high dividend to the Company. At the time of writing, final results were still awaited. However, the company maintains a healthy position in the Chinese market, with a substantial network of offices. This stake is Asia Financial's single biggest external holding.

Other Portfolio Investment

Trading investments recovered their early 2020 losses and showed positive momentum at year end. We synchronized our portfolio in line with market changes, and will continue to monitor and leverage continuing market fluctuations, and take profit at the appropriate times. Returns from non-traded investments were healthy.

Our portfolio will remain focused on good quality equities and fixed-income investments, and our approach will be long-term rather than reactive to year-on-year fluctuations in market valuations. We will continue to place the highest priority on preservation of core shareholder wealth. At the same time, we will remain alert to potential new long-term opportunities arising from major developments in the international environment, and changes in consumer trends in the post-COVID-19 market.

Management Discussion and Analysis

Business Review (cont'd)

Health Care and Wellness

Our 4.7% holding in Bumrungrad Hospital Public Company Limited (“Bumrungrad”) in Bangkok is our largest listed equity investment. This year, the stock market valuation weakened due to a suffering Thai economy, which experienced its sharpest downturn in 22 years. The Thai baht, as well, dropped in value although it began to recover in early 2021. Additionally, the Company felt the transitional negative effect of coronavirus pandemic restrictions on entry to Thailand (45% of Bumrungrad’s patients are from overseas). As Thailand slowly re-opens its borders to medical tourism, Bumrungrad’s success in attracting patients internationally through the delivery of high-quality medical services is likely to rebound in the long term.

Pension and Asset Management

The Group’s holding in Bank Consortium Holding Limited (“BCH”), one of our joint ventures, generated very healthy returns in 2020, in spite of the economic situation. Bank Consortium Trust Company Limited (“BCT”), a wholly owned subsidiary of BCH, remains one of the major providers of Mandatory Provident Fund services in Hong Kong.

The Group’s holding in BBL Asset Management Company Limited of Thailand represent 2.8% of our total assets. It operates as an investment management company and offers asset management, equities, fixed income, investment strategies, financial planning, and advisory services. It saw a stable return in 2020 and has continued to declare dividend for the past several years.

Property Development

The Group’s interests in real estate are focused on Shanghai and represent 3.4% of our total assets. The main project is a residential and commercial complex in Jiading in Shanghai, in which we have a 27.5% stake.

China’s property market remains strong, and there is high demand among lifestyle-conscious young urbanites for design-forward housing complexes like Jiading. Its Phase 3 is being developed in four stages, and in the first half of 2020 we took a healthy profit from 2019 residential sales of Stage One. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, there was enthusiastic demand for residential sales of Stage Two, which is now 100% sold. We expect to realise these profits in 2021. Stage Three is now complete and 99% has been sold. The property’s 450 units will be delivered in the second quarter of 2021 and we anticipate realising these profits in the coming year. Stage Four will be put up for sale in 2021, and because of current demand in the Shanghai market we expect the steady profits from this project to continue apace.

Securities Investments Representing More than 5% of Total Assets

As at 31st December, 2020, two securities investments each represented above 5% of the Group's total assets:

| Holding | No. of shares <i>(in thousand)</i> | Fair value as at 31st December, 2020 <i>(HK\$'million)</i> | % of total Group assets | Realised/ unrealised gains/(losses), after tax <i>(HK\$'million)</i> | Dividends received, after tax <i>(HK\$'million)</i> |
|----------------|--|--|--|--|---|
| PICC Life | 1,288,055 | 4,320 | 27.1% | 792 | 66 |
| Bumrungrad | 37,214 | 1,155 | 7.3% | (164) | 19 |

Both investments are mainly long-term strategic holdings.

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Effect on our operations, and relative risk and uncertainties

Economic volatility from COVID-19 did not have material effect on our overall 2020 performance. Many of our insurance business customers are SMEs, who were particularly vulnerable during the pandemic. However, this impacted our bottom line to a manageable extent only.

The performance of our investment portfolio in 2020 was also affected by COVID-19 indirectly but not to a significant extent. Based on recent market performance, and anticipating continued low interest rates and a stimulus policy in the US, we expect that COVID-19 will have only minimal impact on our investment portfolio performance in 2021.

Measures taken to manage the effects of COVID-19 pandemic

Our Company's traditionally watchful and cautious approach to investment has enabled us to successfully weather market volatility in periods of economic stress. This investment management strategy helped us to navigate successfully through the difficulties of 2020, and we anticipate it will continue to do so in the future.

In terms of actual exposure to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2020 we took robust measures to protect the health and safety of our staff and our clients. We established new health protocols and guidelines, minimised the risk of business disruption by preparing detailed contingency plans, and expanded digital and software capacity to enable us to shift business activity online when necessary.

Compliance with Laws and Regulations

The Group takes active steps to ensure compliance with all relevant laws and regulations in all jurisdictions in which it operates, and recognizes the risks of non-compliance. It dedicates sufficient resources and personnel to ensure such compliance, and to maintaining adequate liaison and communication with regulatory authorities. We believe that risks attached to non-compliance are low.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The Group's principal risks are exposed to a variety of key risks including credit risk, equity price risk, insurance risk, interest rate risk, liquidity risk, foreign exchange risk, market risk and operation risk. Details of the aforesaid key risks and mitigation measures are elaborated in the note "Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies" to the consolidated financial statements of the Group in this annual report.

Management Discussion and Analysis

Stakeholders

Asia Financial understands the importance of its relationships with employees, customers, suppliers, investors, regulators, members of the communities in which we operate, and other stakeholders whose actions can affect the Company's performance and value.

Employees

The Company recognizes the vital role that skilled and motivated staff play in its success. Our human resources policy is therefore to encourage, recognize and reward good performance through appropriate training, appraisal and remuneration practices. The Company is confident of its ability to attract high quality staff and believes that risks attached to over-reliance on key personnel are moderate.

Customers

The Company's main clients are insurance policyholders. Delivery of excellent customer service is a key reason for our consistent underwriting profitability. Diversification of our client base and avoidance of over-dependency on core clients are among our risk management practices.

Shareholders

The Company is committed to creating wealth for our shareholders. This aim is fundamental to all our operations and investment activities.

Employees and Remuneration Policy

The total number of employees of the Group for the year ended 31st December, 2020 was 299 (2019: 291). Employees were remunerated on the basis of their performance, experience and prevailing industry practice. Remuneration of the employees includes salary and discretionary bonus which is based on the Group's results and individual performance. Medical and retirement benefit schemes are made available to all levels of personnel. The Group also offers various training and induction programmes to its employees.

The remuneration policy of the Group is formulated and recommended by the Remuneration Committee of the Company for the Board's approval. The Remuneration Committee's responsibilities include reviewing and approving the management's remuneration proposals, and making recommendations to the Board on the adjustments to remuneration packages payable to directors, senior management and employees of the Group.



Environmental, Social and Governance Report

A. About This Report

This Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) Report provides details of Asia Financial Group’s responsible, sustainable and ethical business practices during the reporting period. It was prepared in accordance with the “Environment, Social and Governance (“ESG”) Reporting Guide”, Appendix 27 of the Main Board Listing Rules of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, including the “comply or explain” provisions set out in the ESG reporting guide.

Unless otherwise specified, the scope and boundary of this report are the same as in Asia Financial’s 2020 Annual Report. The preparation, presentation and contents of this report follow the principles of “Materiality”, “Quantitativeness”, “Balance” and “Consistency” set out in the Guide.

Asia Financial takes pride in being recognized as a “Caring Company” for the 18th consecutive year since 2003, and in continuing to contribute to community programmes where we can add value.



B. ESG Philosophy

For many years, Asia Financial has demonstrated a strong commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (“CSR”). We believe that it is the duty of a responsible company to protect the environment, provide a quality workplace, and serve the wider community directly through partnerships with social service organizations and social enterprises. Today the company aims to build on this foundation by expanding ESG management development, and foregrounding sustainability impact considerations in all parts of our operations.

The Company believes that ESG management begins at the Group level. The Board has overall responsibility for decision-making with respect to ESG management and reporting. Management monitors performance of the implementation and reporting process, while the Company Administration plans and implements relevant initiatives, and monitors ESG-related trends and regulations. We prioritise stakeholders’ views and recommendations through the materiality assessment. Using the above approaches, the Company can better identify and manage ESG risks and create greater value for our stakeholders and the overall community.

C. Board Statement on ESG Oversight

Environmental, social and governance issues have emerged as an important concern in corporate management and planning. Businesses and investors alike are paying closer attention to ESG-related issues like climate change, responsible and transparent corporate governance, and employee health & safety (especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic). ESG can affect business health, security and risk in a multitude of ways, from financial to reputational. With the global spotlight on ESG, it can no longer be waved aside as something to be dealt with “off in the future”. Recognizing this new reality, Asia Financial is committed to making ESG issues a priority in our business strategy and operations.

The Asia Financial Board, as the steward of our company’s long-term performance, plays the key role in ESG navigation and oversight. In December 2019, the Hong Kong Stock Exchange established new reporting requirements designed to ensure companies have established mechanisms for their boards’ direct involvement in identifying, assessing and managing ESG issues. In order to facilitate Asia Financial’s compliance with the new guidelines, we will continuously review and develop a summary of ESG issues relevant to our business, along with recommendations for enhanced management and oversight procedures.

C. Board Statement on ESG Oversight (cont'd)

Asia Financial recognizes the significance of sound ESG practices and the importance of integrating ESG considerations in its daily operations. The Board and management regularly review and evaluate ESG performance in order to identify opportunities for improvement and create sustainable value for the Group's stakeholders.

Making ESG management a Board priority: Developing the framework to discover, assess, and oversee ESG issues within existing corporate governance structure:

The Asia Financial Board can best conduct ESG issue oversight and management through Compliance Committee meetings.

During the meetings, directors can assess whether the company's existing risk identification processes are uncovering ESG-related risks. If ESG issues are not being identified and addressed through existing processes, directors can work with management to improve them.

The Asia Financial Board will also oversee management's due diligence with respect to ESG issues. They will assess whether management has considered all relevant sources of information in determining which ESG issues might impact the Company. Whenever possible and practical, directors will participate in creating quantifiable and transparent ESG goals. The directors can then follow up and track progress.

Additional governance and management procedures to facilitate Board evaluation of ESG goals and targets

The Compliance Committee will now receive a new series of reports, including:

- a full ESG report every March reviewing ESG results and providing recommendations for future strategies
- a half-yearly report every August that checks progress against set targets, and that changes strategy if progress is deemed unsatisfactory
- a report covering the period up to 30th September of each year. This report will include a projection of full year-end results, and will be the basis for setting the following year's strategy and targets

Additionally, ESG will be included as a separate agenda item for Compliance Committee meetings. This will provide directors a regular and ongoing space for discussion and review of ESG issues. After these meetings, the Compliance Committee will present a report to the Board for comments and approval.

If important ESG issues emerge outside this framework of scheduled reports and meetings, members of the Compliance Committee and the Asia Financial Board will be updated with additional reports. When necessary, special meetings will be called to discuss issues and to workshop solutions. The goal is to have a structure in place so that whenever events move rapidly or unexpectedly, the Board remains fully informed and in the loop, and can exercise effective oversight.

D. ESG Methodology

D1. Stakeholder Engagement

Asia Financial is committed to operating in a socially responsible and transparent manner with all stakeholders, including employees, customers, shareholders, suppliers, regulatory authorities and the general community. To this end, we aim to engage fully and openly with all stakeholders through various communication channels.

| Stakeholders | Communication Channels |
|--------------|---|
| Employees | - Annual performance appraisal system |
| | - Training, seminars and briefing sessions |
| | - Staff communication |
| | - Recreational and volunteer activities |
| Customers | - Client relationship contacts |
| | - Company website |
| | - Online platform |
| | - Customer service hotline |
| Shareholders | - Annual General Meeting and other general meetings |
| | - Investor and press conferences and briefings |
| | - Company website |
| | - Corporate communications including announcements, press releases, circulars, interim and annual reports |
| Suppliers | - Regular supplier communications and reviews |
| Regulators | - Regular meetings and communications |
| | - On-site review |
| | - Compliance reports |
| | - Training, focus groups and other events |
| Community | - Staff volunteer activities |
| | - Sponsorships and donations |
| | - Meetings with NGOs |

D. ESG Methodology (cont'd)

D2. Materiality Assessment

The materiality assessment used in developing this report reflects the most significant economic, environmental and social impact concerns of Asia Financial's management and its stakeholders.

Asia Financial will use the assessment to review its longer-term strategy for addressing specific sustainability issues, and to identify longer-term areas where we can improve sustainability performance and reporting.

Several major ESG issues are listed below, along with our responses.

Health & Safety

COVID-19 spreads primarily through respiratory droplets and by contact with contaminated surfaces. Exposure can occur at the workplace, during work-related travel to an area with local community transmission, as well as on the way to and from the workplace. Staff health and safety is our top priority and the company has set up protocols and guidelines to minimize staff risk.

Natural disasters and climate change

The insurance industry is exposed to climate-related risks. Asia Insurance continually reviews, and as necessary increases, its reinsurance protection, and is expanding its risk analysis of coverage exposed to climate-related risks.

Staff attraction, retention and succession planning

Many established industries face growing competition for new talent from technology and other sectors. Asia Financial is responding with development and retention plans for interns and graduate trainees and improved job rotation. We are also engaging younger staff in company-wide innovation and technology-related projects. This allows Asia Financial and Asia Insurance to identify high-potential employees. Additionally, these initiatives help the Group revise and maintain adequate succession plans even though the average age of our employees is rising.

Cyber and Data security

Cyber and data security are top concerns for any company that processes customer data. Naturally this is a priority risk control area for Asia Financial management. The Group is committed to reviewing all relevant control systems, and has taken active measures to mitigate this risk. Internal consultants and external cyber security experts are involved in various comprehensive reviews. These include vulnerability assessment, penetration tests, architectural and process reviews, as well as measures to raise and reinforce staff data security awareness.

E. Corporate Governance

Asia Financial maintains a robust corporate governance structure in compliance with relevant laws and regulations. The Group maintains policies and guidelines which define required standards for all staff concerning matters such as: Codes of Conduct, Whistleblowing Policy, Anti-Money Laundering Guidelines etc. The Company makes it clear that all management and staff must comply with these policies, to ensure that business decisions are made in the best interests of Asia Financial. Any breach of the Codes of Conduct is subject to disciplinary action.

The Corporate Governance Report contains more details.

F. Working Environment

F1. Employment

The key to Asia Financial's customer service, shareholder value creation, and community contribution is a satisfied and motivated workforce. Our workplace policy is designed to ensure:

- full compliance with all relevant legal requirements at all times;
- mutual respect on a foundation of shared interests;
- fair treatment, including an equitable, performance-linked reward system;
- equal opportunities for all individuals to reach full potential;
- working conditions conducive to good physical and mental health;
- maintenance of work-life balance.

During this year, Asia Financial fully complied with all legal requirements regarding employment.

(a) Remuneration and Employee Benefits

Our policy and practices are regularly reviewed by independent consultants to ensure that remuneration packages remain competitive in attracting and retaining good quality staff. The remuneration package for staff comprises a basic salary, year-end double pay and a discretionary bonus based on both the individual's performance, and the overall performance of Asia Financial.

Among other measures to enhance employees' welfare, the Group provides staff with medical and life insurance plans and, where appropriate, makes voluntary additional Mandatory Provident Fund contributions.

(b) Balance between Work and Family Life

Asia Financial encourages a balance between work and family life. All full-time staff are expected to use all rest days, public holidays and paid annual leave during employment. Management makes every effort to ensure that employees may take leave at times of their choosing.

F. Working Environment (cont'd)

F1. Employment (cont'd)

(c) Equal Employment Opportunities

Our policy is to ensure that every employee and job applicant is treated fairly regardless of disability, gender, pregnancy, marital status, family status or race. The Company aims to create a working environment that is free of discrimination and harassment.

In 2020, Asia Financial complied with all current Hong Kong equal opportunity laws, including the Sex Discrimination Ordinance, Disability Discrimination Ordinance, Family Status Discrimination Ordinance and Race Discrimination Ordinance.

We have an Equal Employment Opportunities Policy ("EEO Policy") in place to guide staff members in complying with the above Ordinances. These principles apply, but are not limited to, recruitment, selection, promotion and transfers, working hours, discipline and dismissal, compensation and benefits. It is the responsibility of all staff to treat both colleagues and members of the public fairly, without discrimination.

(d) Staff Profile

As of 31 December 2020, we had 299 staff, representing a 2.75% increase in headcount compared to the previous year.

Employees by employment type (as at 31/12/2020)

| Type | No of Staff |
|-----------|-------------|
| Full-time | 292 |
| Part-time | 7 |
| Total | 299 |

Our gender mix of our workforce is 38% male and 62% female. Of the 40 employees at management level, 20 are female; three of nine members of the Board of Directors are female.

Our employees are spread across all age groups, reflecting general workforce trends in Hong Kong.

Employees by age group (as at 31/12/2020)

| Age | No of Staff |
|--------------|-------------|
| Below 30 | 47 |
| 30 – 40 | 69 |
| 41 – 50 | 69 |
| 51 and above | 110 |
| Total | 295* |

* excluding employees in Mainland China and Taiwan

F. Working Environment (cont'd)

F1. Employment (cont'd)

(d) Staff Profile (cont'd)

Employees by Geographic Location (as at 31/12/2020)

| Location | No of Staff |
|----------------|-------------|
| Hong Kong | 256 |
| Mainland China | 1 |
| Macau | 39 |
| Taiwan | 3 |
| Total | 299 |

(e) Staff Turnover

For Hong Kong staff, the turnover rate in 2020 was 6.08%. For reference, employee turnover rate in Hong Kong in the first half of 2020 was 3.5% as reported by the Hong Kong Institute of Human Resource Management.

| Turnover rate by gender | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Male | 3.24% |
| Female | 2.84% |
| Total | 6.08% |

| Turnover rate by age group | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Age | Rate |
| Below 30 | 1.22% |
| 30 – 40 | 2.03% |
| 41 – 50 | 0.40% |
| 51 and above | 2.43% |
| Total | 6.08% |

Note: All the above calculations on turnover rate include Hong Kong employees only.

| Turnover rate by geographic location | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Location | Rate |
| Hong Kong | 6.08% |
| Mainland China | 5.53% |
| Macau | 0.0% |
| Taiwan | 0.0% |

Environmental, Social and Governance Report

F. Working Environment (cont'd)

F2. Health and Safety

(a) Keeping Employees Safe

Asia Financial takes all practicable steps to achieve health and safety standards that are over and above the relevant statutory requirements. Our goal is to maintain zero workplace injuries.

There were zero lost work days due to zero work-related injury at Asia Financial in 2020.

Measures Adopted for Coronavirus epidemic

Since early February 2020, the world economy has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Exposure can occur at the workplace, during work-related travel to an area with local community transmission, as well as on the way to and from the workplace. The Company has set up the following protocols and guidelines to minimize staff risk:

- Staff are required to wear protective face masks while commuting to and from work, while in public areas, and while in the office
- Staff are requested to observe social distancing and to avoid unnecessary group meetings, lunches and entertainment
- Upon entering the office, staff should have their temperature checked and clean their hands with the sanitizer available at the reception counter
- Apart from very important meetings, all staff should avoid or defer business travel and in-person meetings with external parties. Videoconferencing and teleconferencing should be used whenever possible
- Occasionally staff may need to conduct in-person meetings with outside clients or guests. Our Worldwide House office records the name, phone contact and date and time of all visitors, to provide tracking information for pandemic-related contact tracing
- Department heads may arrange flexible working hours and/or work from home for staff when necessary

We emphasize that staff health and safety is our top priority and will adopt a dynamic approach to deal with COVID-19 in the future.

| 2020 Figures | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| | Total |
| No of Coronavirus Infections | Nil |
| No. of Quarantines | 96 |
| No. of Quarantines Days | 505 |

We expect the number of quarantine days in 2021 will be significantly reduced as COVID-19 vaccine programs unroll in the community. Additionally, staff with suspected cases will be able to obtain COVID-19 tests and get results within 1-2 days. Therefore, we target an 80% reduction in the number of quarantine days.

F. Working Environment (cont'd)

F2. Health and Safety (cont'd)

(b) Occupational Health & Safety Measures

Asia Financial implements clear measures to ensure a safe workplace. In order to minimize fire hazards, the Company maintains strict guidelines on the proper connection and use of electrical appliances. Regular training and fire drills are arranged to ensure that staff are familiar with emergency procedures. Evacuation plans and exit signs are properly displayed and maintained. The Group ensures that all company premises are properly equipped with well-maintained and accessible fire-fighting equipment.

Management promotes “good housekeeping” in order to eliminate or rectify office hazards (e.g., loose cables and folded carpets). Staff are encouraged to make use of proper tools and assists when performing manual operations like transporting heavy documents. It is also policy to maintain adequate first aid facilities on office premises with designated employees to look after them.

F3. Development and Training

At Asia Financial, we believe that our employees are our most valuable resource. We strive to maintain a healthy, open and supportive company culture and workplace, and to provide staff with opportunities for further training, development and potential career advancement within the Company.

We have designed a range of workplace training programs to develop staff talent and increase and expand professional and other relevant education across all staff levels. Areas covered by these training programs include:

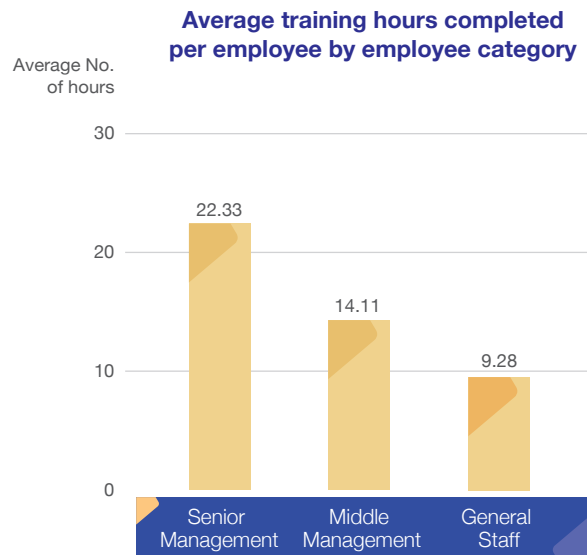
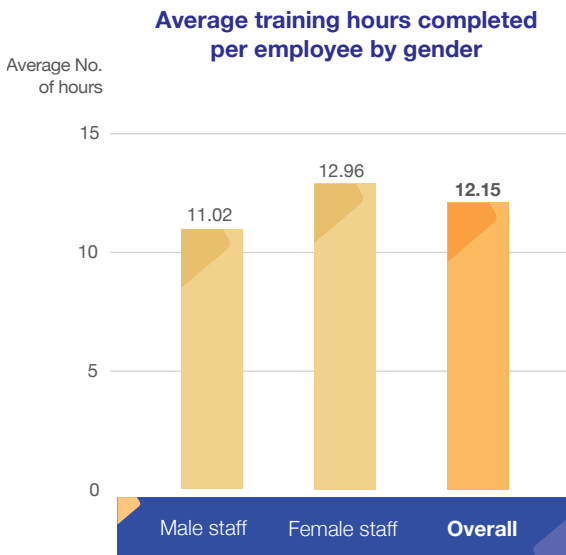
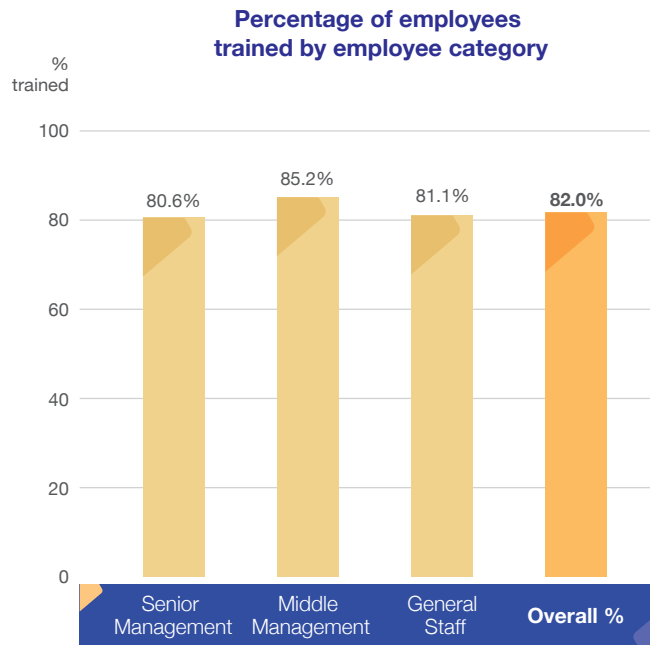
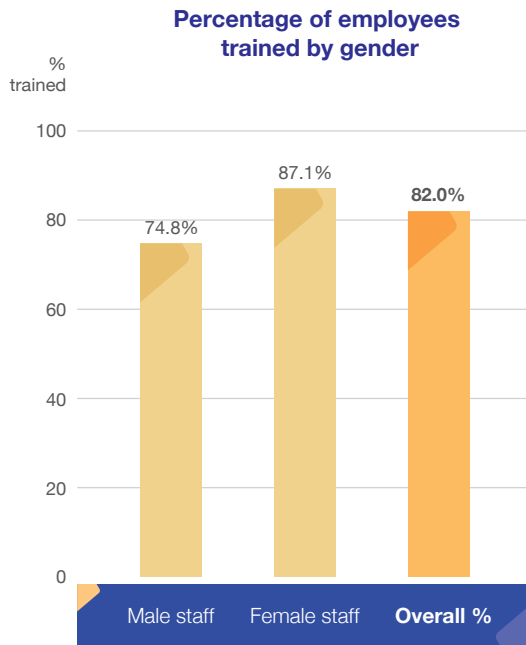
- technological innovations impacting workflow
- supervisory skills & management organization plans
- company culture & induction
- CPD required by professional bodies
- Business ethics and corporate governance

Although pandemic restrictions have inevitably affected classroom training, we put efforts to increase web-based and remote training in the second half of the year. As a result, the average training hours increased from 10.84 hours in 2019 to 12.15 hours in 2020. Our focus of training is on business ethics, corporate governance, technological and soft skills training. As more and more online training resources are available, our goal for 2021 is to increase average training hours by 10%.

F. Working Environment (cont'd)

F3. Development and Training (cont'd)

Apart from providing seminars and training courses, Asia Financial also offers training and education allowances to help employees advance their qualifications and skills. Training statistics for the year 2020 are as follows:



Note: All the above training statistics include Hong Kong employees only.

F. Working Environment (cont'd)

F4. Labour Standards

As part of the financial services industry, Asia Financial sees little or no risk of potential involvement in, or exposure to, child, forced or compulsory labour. Management believes recruitment procedures – such as verification of candidates' details – are more than adequate to prevent child or forced labour.

The Group is totally committed to complying with the Employment Ordinance and associated guidelines. Our Internal Audit team includes employment compliance in its regular reviews of company employment conditions at all locations.

G. Minimizing the impact of climate change on our insurance business

Climate change, for obvious reasons, has a direct and dramatic impact on an insurance company's balance sheet.

Extreme and unpredictable weather conditions increase our exposure to disaster related risks like typhoons, floods, and fires. For this reason, Asia Insurance continually reviews its reinsurance protection and when necessary increases it. With an eye towards decreasing our exposure to climate related disaster, we are also expanding risk analysis of our climate-related coverage.

One of the major ways to alleviate the impact of extreme weather on our insurance claims is to arrange for an extra layer of reinsurance. This provides protection for our business in Hong Kong, and also covers our exposure in other geographical regions, especially Asia.

Currently we are waiting for information from the Insurance Authority that will enable us to set quantifiable climate change targets. The Insurance Authority has been working on a set of ESG guidelines, requirements and reporting standards which may come out soon. Once they release this information, we will set our strategy and targets.

H. Environmental

Minimizing the environmental impact of our operations through carbon emission reduction

As a responsible member of Hong Kong's business community, we support the transition to a low-carbon economy. To this end, we have been allocating resources that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Asia Financial has been measuring and collecting data on its emissions profile since 2009. We track company vehicle information, unleaded petrol consumption data, electricity consumption and paper consumption as well as recycling. The carbon emissions from staff overseas business trips are recorded and measured according to international standards.

This detailed data record of the Company's carbon emissions has proved to be an extremely useful tool to identify and eliminate unnecessary energy consumption. We have successfully decreased our company's carbon footprint despite continuous business growth over the past several years.

| GHG Emissions Intensity | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| Total tons of GHG emission (a) | 822.46 | 808.97 | 833.21 | 814.56 | 807.58 |
| Turnover (HK\$ million) (b) | 1,287 | 1,294 | 1,483 | 1,702 | 1,748 |
| Intensity (Ton of GHG per HK\$ million turnover = a/b) | 0.64 | 0.63 | 0.56 | 0.48 | 0.46 |

Asia Financial's business does not involve significant generation of emissions or pollutants, or the use of resources such as energy, water, raw and packaging materials. However, we strive to be a pioneer in environmental best practices and to comply with regulatory requirements – and exceed them wherever possible. We have active strategies to manage our carbon footprint, use resources efficiently and reduce waste in our business operations.

As a result of organic growth, Asia Financial's total revenue reached HK\$1,747.9 million in 2020, an increase of 118.6% over the base year 2009. Although the increase in business activities inevitably increased some categories of carbon emission, we were able to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from 975 to 807.58 tonnes of CO₂-e during 2009-2020.

Note: All the reported data on environmental performance include the Hong Kong operations of Asia Financial Holdings Limited and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Asia Insurance Company, Limited.

H. Environmental (cont'd)

H1. Emissions

(a) Carbon Footprint Management Strategy

Identifying the emission sources allows us to create targeted carbon emission reduction strategies; as a result, our carbon footprint has decreased despite continuous business growth over the past several years. We are also able to quantify savings in operational costs. The 2020 carbon emission data are as follows:

| Greenhouse Gas ("GHG") Emissions | Total (tonnes CO ₂ equivalent) |
|--|---|
| Scope 1: Unleaded petrol & gas oil combustion | 118.87 |
| Scope 2: Purchased electricity | 599.55 |
| Scope 3: Overseas business travel, paper waste | 89.16 |
| Total | 807.58 |

| GHG Emissions Intensity | |
|---|--------------------|
| GHG Emissions (tonnes CO ₂ equivalent) | 807.58 |
| Business Turnover in 2020 ("HK\$ million) | 1,747.9 |
| Intensity per HK\$ million turnover | 0.46 tonnes |

| Types of Emissions and Respective Emission Data | |
|---|----------|
| Nitrogen Oxides ("NO _x ") emissions | 18,541g |
| Sulphur Oxides ("SO _x ") emissions | 426.3g |
| Particulate Matter ("PM") emissions | 1,365.2g |

Notes to Types of Emissions and Respective Emission Data:

- The source of the emissions is mainly from our company cars while our business operations have minimal effects.
- All the above calculations are based on the emission factors listed in Appendix 2 Reporting Guide on Environmental KPIs of "How to prepare an ESG Report?" issued by Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited.

(b) Measures regarding hazardous and non-hazardous wastes

| Total hazardous and non-hazardous waste produced | |
|--|--|
| Hazardous waste | Hazardous waste is minimal due to the nature of our business operations. |
| Non-hazardous waste | Our Non-hazardous waste mainly comes from disposal of paper waste at landfills: 79.02 tonnes CO ₂ equivalent. Intensity per staff = 0.31 tonnes CO₂ equivalent |

H. Environmental (cont'd)

H1. Emissions (cont'd)

(b) Measures regarding hazardous and non-hazardous wastes (cont'd)

We take the following measures to further minimize waste:

- Professional vendors collect ink cartridges of copiers and printers.
- Professional specialist firms collect paper for recycling.
Percentage with recycled content = 35.4%
Total paper recycling = 9,930 kg

(c) Measures to mitigate emissions

c1. Staff engagement

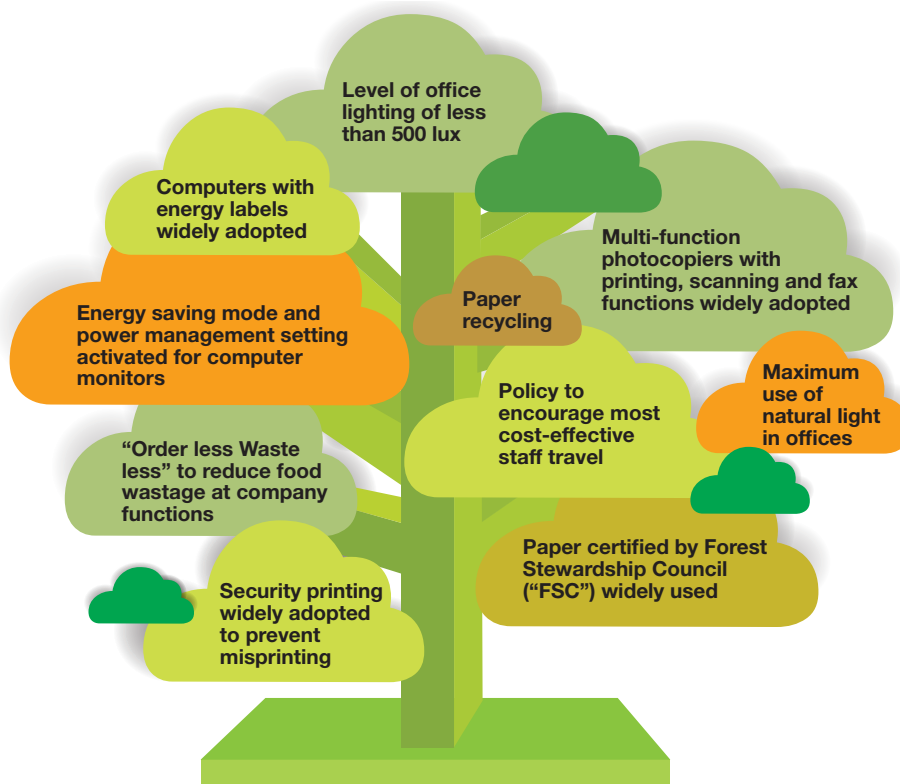
Employee participation is essential to our green office policies, including a "Switch-off" policy for idle electronic equipment.

c2. Use of energy efficient lighting & equipment

Since 2009, Asia Financial has replaced T8 fluorescent lamps with T5 fluorescent lamps, and 12V50W spotlights with 3W LED spotlights in all its local offices. This resulted in a 12.0% reduction in carbon emissions from electricity used during 2009-2020.

c3. Other environmental practices

Among our measures to reduce carbon emissions are:



H. Environmental (cont'd)

H2. Use of Resources

Asia Financial's business does not involve significant use of such resources as energy, water, raw and packaging materials. However, we are committed to using resources efficiently and reducing waste within our business operations.

| Disclosures on Use of Resources for 2020 | |
|---|---|
| Direct and indirect energy consumption by type (e.g. electricity, gas or oil) and intensity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total and electricity consumption = 713,751 kWh Total unleaded petrol consumption = 29,000 Litres Total gas oil consumption = 13,500 Litres Energy consumption intensity = 2.81 tonnes CO₂ equivalent per staff |
| Water consumption in total and intensity | Data unavailable as business premises are located in buildings with centralized water metering. |
| Total packaging material used for finished goods | Not applicable. |

H3. The Environment and Natural Resources

Although our business activities do not have significant impact on the environment and natural resources, our commitment to sustainability has resulted in:

- A 12.0% reduction in carbon emissions from electricity in 2009-2020.
- Paper waste sent to landfill reduced from 20,536kg in 2009 to 16,462kg in 2020.

Asia Financial – Green Office Award Label

Asia Financial has been awarded the Green Office Award Label by the World Green Organization since 2014. We are proud to have received this recognition of our efforts to improve the quality of life for both present and future generations.



Targets for 2021

Looking at the years 2016-2020, we can see that the "Intensity per HK\$ million turnover" figure shows a decreasing trend. We expect a small uptick in our total carbon emission for 2021 as COVID-19 vaccinations roll out, and the pandemic's impact on business is reduced.

Based on 2020 figures, our goal for 2021 is to maintain Asia Financial's carbon emissions at existing levels, or at a slight reduction (5%) in intensity per HK\$ million turnover.

Our strategy and methods for reducing carbon emissions include:

Curbing or eliminating non-essential business travel

During the COVID-19 pandemic, management and staff have been video conferencing rather than traveling overseas for in-person meetings. We hope this trend continues, so that we can continue to reduce carbon emissions from staff overseas business trips.

H. Environmental (cont'd)

H3. The Environment and Natural Resources (cont'd)

Green Office Policy

We practice a “Green Office Policy” that includes a “switch-off” policy for idle lighting and electronic equipment, and the use of energy efficient office lighting and equipment. At our Worldwide House main office we are planning to replace the existing 6 year old lighting system with a more energy-efficient one.

Printing Efficiency Project to Reduce Paper Waste

Asia Insurance has launched a printing efficiency project that includes the following features:

- Centralized and consolidated printer functions, and the number of machines reduced from 70 to 25.
- Double-sided and black & white printing modes are now set as office-wide defaults.

We expect these initiatives will help reduce paper waste in the future.

In the long term, Asia Insurance is exploring the possibility of paperless operation, adopting electronic solutions for business processes.

I. Operations

I1. Supply Chain Management

Asia Financial fully considers environmental and social standards in its sourcing and procurement activities. Our ethics and values inform all our interactions with suppliers, contractors and service partners.

All suppliers of furniture, equipment, stationery and other office items to Asia Financial are local. We expect suppliers and their supply chain to comply fully with all applicable laws and regulations in the conduct of their business. It is our practice to identify, assess and monitor supplier practices with regard to human and labour rights, the environment, health and safety, and anti-corruption principles. Where practical, we also work with our vendors to encourage the use of responsibly and sustainably produced goods and services.

I2. Service Quality

For our insurance business, operations strictly comply with the Companies Ordinance and regulations of the Insurance Authority. Our Internal Audit team conducts periodic checks to make sure the quality of service and the terms of the insurance contracts are properly arranged.

Due to the nature of the insurance business, there are no recall procedures for our products. If customers are dissatisfied with our service or the terms of the insurance contract, our staff are more than willing to make necessary adjustments. During 2020, four customer complaints were made concerning products and services provided by Asia Insurance. These were carefully assessed and handled by the Compliant Officer with the customers concerned and were satisfactorily settled.

I. Operations (cont'd)

I3. Intellectual Rights

Our policy on copyright, patents and trademarks is subject to review from time to time to ensure compliance with all applicable Hong Kong laws. Our business operation's major exposure is the design of our marketing materials and the use of computer software. We have implemented the following measures to minimize risks.

- All marketing areas are centrally processed and approved by the Administration Department to avoid intellectual property right infringement.
- Our policy against Illegal and Unlicensed Computer Software prohibits employees from installing computer software onto any information technology equipment on Company premises. Duplicating licensed software for backup purposes is also prohibited unless an additional license is granted.

I4. Personal Data (Privacy) Policies

Asia Financial is committed to adopting and complying with all relevant provisions of the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, Chapter 486, the Laws of Hong Kong (the "Ordinance"). The Company upholds the personal data privacy protection principles stated in Schedule 1 of the Ordinance for the purposes of collecting, retaining, processing and using personal data. The Company has a designated Data Protection Officer to monitor compliance and assist heads of department who have direct control of personal data. Our Internal Audit Department conducts regular checks to ensure compliance with all regulations.

I5. Anti-corruption

Asia Financial is committed to complying fully with all applicable laws and regulations in order to combat corruption, money laundering, extortion, fraud and other financial crimes.

Asia Financial reserves the right to terminate immediately any business relationship that violates or presents the risk of violating such laws, regulations or policies of the Company.

Asia Financial's written policies, procedures and internal controls in this area include a risk assessment process, education and training, review and approval processes, due diligence procedures, accounting processes and independent testing processes. Personnel who engage in or facilitate bribery, or who fail to comply with all applicable laws and regulations and our related policies, may be subject to disciplinary action.

There were no corrupt practice cases against either the Company or its employees during the year 2020.

I6. Preventive Measures & Whistle-blowing

Asia Financial is committed to the highest standards of openness, probity and accountability. Employees at all levels are expected to conduct themselves with integrity, impartiality and honesty. Employees are encouraged to raise concerns about any suspected misconduct or malpractice within the Group, without fear of victimization or harassment, in a responsible and effective manner, rather than overlooking a problem or blowing the whistle outside.

The Company has devised a whistleblowing policy to achieve the above corporate governance target. The Policy applies to employees (permanent or temporary) at all levels of the Group.

I. Operations (cont'd)

I6. Preventive Measures & Whistle-blowing (cont'd)

Whistleblowing matters may include but not confined to:

- a criminal offence;
- a failure to comply with any legal obligations;
- a miscarriage of justice;
- a financial impropriety;
- an action which endangers the health and safety of an individual;
- an action which causes damage to the environment;
- the deliberate concealment of information concerning any of the matters listed above.

If Asia Financial discovers any incident of corruption, money laundering, extortion, fraud and other financial crimes, legal or disciplinary action will be taken. The Audit Committee has overall responsibility for overseeing, monitoring and reviewing the operation of the policy and recommendations for action resulting from investigations, while day-to-day responsibility is assigned to the President of the Company.

J. Community

Commitment to our community is at the heart of Asia Financial's company culture. We aim to make a positive difference to society through donations, partnerships with social enterprises and staff volunteering activities. We strive to reach a wide range of beneficiaries with these different forms of outreach.

J1. Donation & Sponsorship

In 2020, Asia Financial and Asia Insurance contributed financial resources with a total amount of HK\$1.59 million (mainly through donations and sponsorships) towards the support of non-profit organizations both local and overseas. The amount represents a significant decrease from the prior year, as fund-raising activities were impacted by COVID-19.

J. Community (cont'd)

J2. Community Involvement – Partnership with Social Enterprises

We invest in SVHK Capital Limited (“SVHK”), which is a venture philanthropic organization that provides financial and non-financial support to social-purpose organizations and social enterprises in Hong Kong. SVHK’s flagship project is Light Be (Social Realty) Limited (“Light Be”).



J3. Community Involvement – Staff Volunteering

Community life is as important to our company’s employees as it is to our company. We organize volunteering programmes every year because we believe that personal caring and outreach is a valuable resource that amplifies the social impact of financial contributions and organization sponsorships. At the heart of these efforts is the voluntary work undertaken by individual members of staff within our local communities. With the cooperation of Evangelical Lutheran Church Social Service – Hong Kong and the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, we arranged several activities in 2020 to bring love and care to children and senior citizens. Our volunteer services dropped significantly in 2020 due to coronavirus.

| Volunteer Service Statistics for 2020 | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Total number of volunteers | 32 |
| Total service hours | 155 |

K. 2021 ESG Targets

Though we have provided our ESG targets for 2021 in the previous sections, they are summarized as follows:

K1. Carbon emissions

- We have successfully decreased our company's carbon footprint despite continuous business growth over the past several years,
- Our goal is to maintain Asia Financial's carbon emissions at existing levels, or at a slight reduction (5%) in intensity per HK\$ million turnover.

K2. Health & Safety – COVID-19

- We shall continue prioritizing staff health and safety through implementation of health safety protocols,
- We will aim for the highest possible health safety standards by adopting a dynamic approach. This includes monitoring current situations, obtaining the latest scientific and expert information, and adjusting our policy accordingly.

K3. Impact of Climate Change

- Asia Insurance continually reviews, and as necessary increases, reinsurance protection, and is expanding its risk analysis of coverage exposed to climate-related risks,
- We anticipate that we will be setting quantifiable climate change targets, once the Insurance Authority has completed and released its requirements and reporting standards.

K4. Training

- We regard our employees as our most valuable resource and strive to provide them with opportunities for further training, development and potential career advancement,
- With the addition of new web-based and remote training platforms we aim to increase average training hours by 10% in 2021.

L. Conclusion

This report describes Asia Financial's ongoing and multi-platform efforts to be a responsible corporate citizen. We remain committed to a continuous review of our performance in the areas of workplace equality, environmental sustainability, promotion of ethical business practices and community involvement, so that we may evolve and improve. As a business environment constantly grows and changes, so does the community of which we are a part. That is why we will continue to monitor and develop our ESG performance as a core function of corporate management, just as we do with our traditional financial indicators.

Corporate Governance Practices

The Company is committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance. The board of directors (the “Board”) believes that good corporate governance provides a framework that is essential for effective management, successful business growth and a healthy corporate culture, thereby leading to promote investor confidence and safeguard the interests of shareholders, investors, customers, staff and other stakeholders.

The Board has applied with the principles set out in the Corporate Governance Code (the “CG Code”) contained in Appendix 14 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities (the “Listing Rules”) on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”) and has adopted various measures to ensure that a high standard of corporate governance is maintained.

The Company has complied with all the applicable code provisions set out in the CG Code throughout the year ended 31st December, 2020.

Directors’ Securities Transactions

The Company has adopted a code for securities transactions by directors (the “Code of Conduct”) on terms no less exacting than the required standard in the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the “Model Code”) as set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules.

The Company has made specific enquiry of all directors and all directors have confirmed that they have complied with the required standard as set out in the Code of Conduct and the Model Code throughout the year ended 31st December, 2020.

Board of Directors

Board Composition

The Board currently comprises 9 members, consisting of 4 executive directors (including the Chairman and the President), 2 non-executive directors (“NEDs”) and 3 independent non-executive directors (“INEDs”). The name of chairman, executive directors, NEDs and INEDs are set out under the heading “Attendance Records of Directors” hereinafter. NEDs and INEDs provide the Group with a wide range of expertise and experience as well as checks and balances to safeguard the interests of the shareholders. Members of the Board, who come from a variety of different backgrounds, have a diverse range of business and professional expertise. The biographical details of the directors and the relationship among them are set out on pages 57 to 60 of this annual report. The updated list of directors of the Company identifying their roles and functions and whether they are INEDs is available on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange. INEDs are also identified as such in all corporate communications that disclose the names of directors of the Company.

The Board has adopted a Board Diversity Policy which is published on the Company’s website. This policy sets out the Company’s approach to achieve and maintain diversity on the Board.

Corporate Governance Report

Board of Directors (cont'd)

Board Composition (cont'd)

Pursuant to the Board Diversity Policy, appointments of Board members are based on merit and candidates are considered against objective criteria, having due regard for the benefits of diversity on the Board including, but not limited to, gender, age, cultural and educational background, race, professional experience, skills, knowledge, length of services and any other factors that the Board may consider relevant and applicable from time to time.

An analysis of the Board's current composition as at 31st December, 2020 is as follows:

| | | Number of Directors | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Designation | Executive Director | 4 | 44.4% |
| | NED | 2 | 22.2% |
| | INED | 3 | 33.3% |
| Gender | Male | 6 | 66.7% |
| | Female | 3 | 33.3% |
| Age group | 81 or over | 1 | 11.1% |
| | 71-80 | 2 | 22.2% |
| | 61-70 | 3 | 33.3% |
| | 51-60 | 3 | 33.3% |
| Nationality | Chinese | 7 | 77.8% |
| | Non-Chinese | 2 | 22.2% |
| Directorship with Asia Financial (years) | Over 20 | 2 | 22.2% |
| | 10-19 | 3 | 33.3% |
| | 1-9 | 4 | 44.4% |
| Other listed company directorships | 5 | 1 | 11.1% |
| | 3 | 1 | 11.1% |
| | 1 | 2 | 22.2% |
| | 0 | 5 | 55.6% |

Induction for Directors

Every Board member receives a package of orientation materials on key areas of business operations and practices of the Company, as well as a copy of the Director's Handbook upon joining the Board. The Director's Handbook sets out, among other things, the general and specific duties of the directors and the terms of reference of various Board committees. The Director's Handbook was updated in the year and is updated from time to time to reflect developments and latest changes in the commercial and regulatory environment in which the Group conducts its businesses.

Board of Directors (cont'd)

Appointment and Re-election of Directors and Nomination Policy

All directors are subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at each annual general meeting (“AGM”) as per the Bye-laws of the Company. Any new director appointed to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the Board shall hold office only until the next following general meeting or next following AGM of the Company and shall then be eligible for re-election.

The Company has a Nomination Policy which setting out the procedures, process and criteria for identifying and recommending candidates for election to the Board or for re-election to the Board.

According to the Nomination Policy, any proposed appointment or re-election will be first reviewed by the Nomination Committee. The selection of candidates will be based on criteria set out in the Nomination Policy, which include but not limited to qualification, experience, ability to provide insights and practical wisdom based on his/her experience and expertise, time commitment, contribution to and enhancement on the Board’s balance of skills, experience and diversity of perspectives. The identified candidates will be recommended by the Nomination Committee to the Board for further consideration. The qualified candidates will be approved by the Board or by shareholders in any general meeting.

Role and Function of the Board

The Board is empowered to manage and conduct the businesses and affairs of the Group and is responsible for determining the Group’s overall corporate objectives, business strategies and operational policies. The Board monitors the Group’s financial performance, maintains effective oversight over the management, risks assessment, controls over business operations and ensures the Group’s operations are conducted prudently and complied with specific corporate governance requirements and appropriate framework of laws and regulatory guidelines.

Chairman and President

The Company has appointed a President instead of a Chief Executive. The roles of the Chairman and the President are segregated. Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin, the executive Chairman is responsible for the leadership and effective running of the Board. Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut, also an executive director, is the President of the Company and he is responsible for the overall strategic planning and the day-to-day management of the Group. Their respective roles and responsibilities are set out in writing, which have been approved and adopted by the Board.

Non-executive Directors and Independent Non-executive Directors

All NEDs and INEDs do not actively involve in the day-to-day management of the Company. They, however, do play an important role in bringing their independent judgement, considerable knowledge and diverse expertise to the Board’s deliberations.

Each NED (including INED) of the Company has received a letter of appointment from the Company for a specific term of office of less than 3 years and is subject to retirement by rotation and eligible for re-election at the AGM in accordance with the Company’s Bye-laws.

One-third of the members of the Board consist of INEDs and at least one of whom has appropriate professional qualifications or accounting or related financial management expertise. The Company has received from each of the INEDs an annual written confirmation of his/her independence for the year ended 31st December, 2020. The independence of the INEDs has been assessed in accordance with the criteria as set out in Rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules. Following such assessment, the Board has affirmed that all the INEDs continue to be independent.

Board of Directors (cont'd)

Board Meetings

The Board meets regularly, and at least four times a year, to review business development and performance of the Group and additional meetings will be held as and when required. Directors have full access to information on the Group and may, in appropriate circumstances, take independent professional advice at the Company's expense. The schedule of Board meetings for a year is planned in the preceding year and such schedule is made available to all directors to facilitate directors' attendance at the meetings. Directors receive written notice of each regular Board meeting at least 14 days in advance and they are given an opportunity to include matters in meeting agenda. The Company Secretary assists the Board in preparing the agenda for meetings. Directors receive the meeting agenda and accompanying Board papers at least 3 days before the date of Board meeting so that the directors have the time to review the documents. Minutes of every Board meeting are circulated to all directors for their perusal prior to confirmation of the minutes at the following Board meeting. Minutes of Board meetings are kept by the Company Secretary and are open for inspection by directors.

Directors make their best efforts to contribute to the development of strategy, policies and decision-making by attending the Board meetings in person, use Zoom or via telephone conferencing.

During the year 2020, the Company held five Board meetings. In addition, eight written resolutions were passed by all the Board members. The summary of works performed by the Board were as follows:

- discussed the business development and strategies of the Group;
- approved the Group's financial and profit budget;
- reviewed and received financial and business updates with information on the Company's latest financial and operational performance;
- reviewed the internal control systems and risk management functions by receiving reports from the respective Board committees and approved the change of internal audit consultant, and the appointment of Head of Group Internal Audit and Chief Risk Officer;
- approved the interim and annual results announcement of the Group and the release to the public;
- approved the interim report as well as the annual report of the Company (including the Corporate Governance Report and the Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") Report) and the release to the public;
- reviewed and approved the revised dividend policy of the Company and its subsidiaries;
- declared interim dividend payment and recommended final dividend for shareholders' approval;
- approved the internal and external audit fees;
- endorsed the nomination of the retiring directors for re-election at the AGM;
- endorsed the recommendation for re-appointment of the Company's external auditor for shareholders' approval;
- approved the change of non-executive director, Company Secretary, and composition of certain Board Committees, and the issue of relevant announcements;
- approved the profit warning announcement and the release to the public;
- approved the discloseable transaction and relevant announcement in relation to the acquisition of listed securities and the release of such announcement to the public; and
- endorsed the revised terms of reference of certain Board committees and approved the updated Director's Handbook.

Board of Directors (cont'd)

Attendance Records of Directors

Other than regular Board meetings, the Chairman also held a meeting with the INEDs without the presence of the other directors and management during the year to discuss issues relating to the Group that the INEDs wish to raise at the Board.

The attendance records of each directors at the Board meetings held in 2020 and the 2020 AGM of the Company are set out below:

| Name of director | Board meetings | 2020 AGM |
|--|----------------|----------|
| <i>Executive Directors:</i> | | |
| CHAN Yau Hing Robin (<i>Chairman</i>) | 1/5 | 0/1 |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut (<i>President</i>) | 4/5 | 0/1 |
| TAN Stephen | 5/5 | 1/1 |
| WONG Kok Ho | 5/5 | 1/1 |
| <i>NEDs:</i> | | |
| KAWAUCHI Yuji | 5/5 | 1/1 |
| OGURA Satoru* | 5/5 | 1/1 |
| <i>INEDs:</i> | | |
| CHOW Suk Han Anna | 5/5 | 1/1 |
| LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca | 5/5 | 1/1 |
| SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta | 5/5 | 1/1 |

* Appointed on 25th March, 2020

Liability Insurance for Directors

The Company has arranged appropriate insurance coverage on directors' and officers' liabilities against possibility of legal action to be taken against the directors and the senior executives. In year 2020, no claim under the insurance policy was made.

Directors' Training

All directors are required to keep abreast of the responsibilities as a director, and of the conduct and business activities of the Company. During the year, all directors were provided with the monthly management accounts of the Group as well as regular updates on applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Directors are also encouraged to participate in continuous professional development to develop and refresh their knowledge and skills.

In year 2020, the Company organised an in-house seminar on the topic of "Duties of Directors and Senior Management of Hong Kong Listed Companies" conducted by a professional body for directors at the Company's expense. Written materials of the seminar were provided to all directors for reading and reference. Apart from what the Company had arranged, some of the directors also attended other external training seminars.

Corporate Governance Report

Board of Directors (cont'd)

Directors' Training (cont'd)

According to the training records provided by all directors of the Company as at 31st December, 2020, which had been reviewed by the Compliance Committee in March 2021, all directors have complied with Code Provision A.6.5 of the CG Code during the year. The training received by the directors is summarized as follows:

- Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut, Mr. TAN Stephen, Mr. WONG Kok Ho, Mr. KAWAUCHI Yuji, Mr. OGURA Satoru, Ms. CHOW Suk Han Anna, Mrs. LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca and Mrs. SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta participated in the in-house seminar.
- Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut, Mr. TAN Stephen, Mr. WONG Kok Ho, Mrs. LAI KO Wing Yee and Mrs. SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta also attended some other seminars organised by professional bodies or other organizations.
- Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin, Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut, Mr. TAN Stephen and Mr. WONG Kok Ho read the training materials provided by professional body/HKEX.

Delegation by the Board

Board Committees

As an important part of a sound corporate governance practice, the Board has set up several Board committees including the Executive Committee, the Remuneration Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Compliance Committee, the Audit Committee and the Risk Committee to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities.

Each of these Board committees has its specific written terms of reference which set out in detail their respective authorities and responsibilities. All these Board committees, except the Executive Committee, comprise a majority of INEDs.

Executive Committee

The Board has delegated the day-to-day management of the Company's business to the Executive Committee which consists of all 4 executive directors of the Company. The Executive Committee usually meets once a month with the Group's senior executives and is responsible for formulating the policies of the Group on major strategic, financial, regulatory, risk management, commercial and operational issues for the Board's consideration; implementing policies as determined by the Board and monitoring the operational and financial performance of the Group.

In year 2020, the Executive Committee held ten meetings and one written resolution was passed by all members of the Executive Committee. The attendance record of each executive director is set out below:

| Name of executive director | Number of meetings attended/held |
|--|---|
| CHAN Yau Hing Robin (<i>Chairman</i>) | 5/10 |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut (<i>President</i>) | 10/10 |
| TAN Stephen | 10/10 |
| WONG Kok Ho | 10/10 |

Delegation by the Board (cont'd)

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee was set up with specific terms of reference which are available on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange. The name of chairperson and members are set out in the attendance record shown below. The Remuneration Committee meets at least once each year with the Company's Head of Human Resources and reports to the Board on their decisions or recommendations following each meeting.

The Remuneration Committee is responsible for considering and making recommendations to the Board on the Company's remuneration policy and for the formulation and review of the remuneration packages of all the directors, Board committees' members and senior executives of the Group. The Remuneration Committee may seek advice from external professional advisors for market data of executive remuneration and other remuneration related issues if required.

During the year 2020, the Remuneration Committee held one meeting. The summary of works performed by the Remuneration Committee were as follows:

- reviewed and recommended for approval by the Board the annual salary review, the emolument of the executive directors and allocation of discretionary bonus;
- reviewed and recommended the remuneration proposal of the directors' fees and the Board committees' members' fees for the Board's endorsement subject to the shareholders' approval at the AGM of the Company;
- ensure no director or any of his associates is involved in deciding his own remuneration;
- reviewed and recommended the revised Terms of Reference of the Remuneration Committee for the Board's approval; and
- submitted a summary report on the resolved issues and recommendations to the Board.

The attendance record of each member at the Remuneration Committee meeting held in 2020 is set out below:

| Name of member | Number of meeting attended/held |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>INEDs:</i> | |
| LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca (<i>Chairperson</i>) | 1/1 |
| CHOW Suk Han Anna | 1/1 |
| SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta | 1/1 |
| <i>Executive Director:</i> | |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut | 1/1 |
| WONG Kok Ho* | 1/1 |

* Appointed on 1st January, 2020

Delegation by the Board (cont'd)

Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee was set up with specific terms of reference which are available on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange. The name of chairperson and members are set out in the attendance record shown below. The Nomination Committee meets at least once each year and reports to the Board on their decisions or recommendations following each meeting.

The Nomination Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Board on nominations, appointments or re-appointments of directors and committee members in accordance with the Nomination Policy adopted by the Company. The Nomination Committee considers and reviews, among other things, the structure, size, composition and diversity of the Board, the balance of skills, knowledge and experience of the candidates, independence of INEDs, re-election of retiring directors, term of appointment of NEDs (including INEDs) and the membership of respective Board committees. The Nomination Committee is also responsible for developing and reviewing measurable objectives for the Company's Board Diversity Policy to ensure its effectiveness. The Nomination Committee may seek independent professional advice, at the Company's expense, to perform its responsibilities.

During the year 2020, the Nomination Committee held two meetings and three written resolutions were passed by all members of the Nomination Committee. The summary of works performed by the Nomination Committee were as follows:

- reviewed, assessed and confirmed the independence of all the INEDs;
- considered and nominated the retiring directors to stand for re-election by shareholders at the Company's AGM;
- reviewed the structure, size, composition and diversity of the Board;
- reviewed and recommended the revised Terms of Reference of the Nomination Committee for the Board's approval;
- reviewed and nominated a candidate for appointment as the Company Secretary and the Compliance Officer of the Company;
- reviewed and nominated a candidate for appointment as the NED of the Company;
- reviewed the promotion of several Senior Vice Presidents to Executive Vice Presidents and made recommendation for such promotion;
- reviewed and recommended the nomination of two executives of Asia Insurance Company, Limited ("Asia Insurance") to the Board of Asia Insurance for appointment as executive directors; and
- submitted summary reports on the resolved issues and recommendations to the Board.

The attendance record of each member at the Nomination Committee meetings held in 2020 is set out below:

| Name of member | Number of meetings attended/held |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <i>INEDs:</i> | |
| CHOW Suk Han Anna (<i>Chairperson</i>) | 2/2 |
| LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca | 2/2 |
| SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta | 2/2 |
| <i>Executive Director:</i> | |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut | 2/2 |
| WONG Kok Ho* | 2/2 |

* Appointed on 1st January, 2020

Delegation by the Board (cont'd)

Compliance Committee

The Compliance Committee was set up with specific terms of reference which are available on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange. The name of chairperson and members are set out in the attendance record shown below. The Compliance Committee meets at least twice each year and reports to the Board on their decisions or recommendations following each meeting.

The Compliance Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring the Company's policies and practices on compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. The Board has delegated the responsibility of overseeing the corporate governance functions to the Compliance Committee to ensure that the Company implements sound corporate governance practices and procedures.

During the year 2020, the Compliance Committee held three meetings. The summary of works performed by the Compliance Committee were as follows:

- reviewed the reports on the work done by the Compliance Officers of the Company on the Group's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements;
- reviewed and recommended the review period and approval procedure of Company Policies/Guidelines for the Board's approval;
- reviewed and recommended the revised Director's Handbook for the Board's approval;
- reviewed and recommended the revised Terms of Reference of the Compliance Committee for the Board's approval;
- reviewed the Company's compliance with the CG Code and disclosure in the Corporate Governance Report;
- reviewed the Company's compliance with the ESG Reporting Guide and disclosure in the ESG Report;
- received report on progress of meeting the new ESG reporting requirements and on the main ESG targets for 2021;
- reviewed the training records of all the directors and the Company Secretary;
- submitted compliance reports to the Audit Committee; and
- submitted summary reports to the Board on the resolved issues and recommendations.

The attendance record of each member at the Compliance Committee meetings held in 2020 is set out below:

| Name of member | Number of meetings attended/held |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>INEDs:</i> | |
| CHOW Suk Han Anna (<i>Chairperson</i>) | 3/3 |
| LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca | 3/3 |
| SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta | 3/3 |
| <i>Executive Directors:</i> | |
| TAN Stephen | 3/3 |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut | 3/3 |

Delegation by the Board (cont'd)

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee was set up with specific terms of reference which are available on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange. The name of chairman/chairperson and members are set out in the attendance record shown below. The chairperson possesses the appropriate professional accounting qualifications and financial management expertise.

Rule 3.21 of the Listing Rules provides, inter alia, that every listed issuer must establish an audit committee comprising non-executive directors only. On 5th December, 2019, the Board appointed two executive directors namely Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut and Mr. WONG Kok Ho as members of the Audit Committee of the Company with effect from 1st January, 2020. As a result, the Audit Committee comprised not only non-executive directors from 1st January, 2020. The Company rectified this as soon as it noticed the non-compliance. Both Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut and Mr. WONG Kok Ho ceased to be members of the Audit Committee of the Company with effect from 26th February, 2020. After this, the Audit Committee comprised non-executive directors only and in compliance with Rule 3.21 of the Listing Rules.

The Audit Committee meets at least three times each year and has a separate meeting with the external auditor in the absence of management to discuss any audit issues and any other matters the external auditor may wish to raise.

The Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing, among other things, the Group's financial reporting, the nature and scope of audit, the effectiveness of the systems of internal control and risk management, and compliance relating to financial reporting. The Audit Committee is also responsible for making recommendations to the Board on the appointment, re-appointment, removal and remuneration of the Group's external auditor and internal auditors. The Audit Committee reports to the Board following each Audit Committee meeting, drawing the Board's attention to significant issues or matters of which the Board should be aware of, identifying any matters in respect of which it considers that action or improvement is needed, and make relevant recommendations.

The Audit Committee has the overall responsibility for overseeing, monitoring and reviewing the operation of the Company's Whistleblowing Policy. This policy is devised to provide a channel through which all staff members may report incidents of improprieties in a secured and confidential manner such that reporting employees are assured of protection against unfair dismissal, victimization or unwarranted disciplinary actions if they acted in good faith and exercised due care.

During the year 2020, the Audit Committee held four meetings, all of which were in the presence of the external auditor, and one written resolution was passed by all members of the Audit Committee. In addition, the Audit Committee meet the external auditor once in the absence of management to discuss matters the auditor may wish to raise. The summary of works performed by the Audit Committee were as follows:

- reviewed the interim and annual financial results and reports of the Group;
- reviewed the changes in accounting standards and their impacts on the Group's financial statements;
- reviewed reports from the external auditor and agreed with the external auditor's work;
- reviewed the statutory audit plan, audit scope and the report from the external auditor;
- reviewed and recommended for approval by the Board the audit fees payable to the external auditor;
- reviewed the independence and objectivity of the external auditor and make recommendation to the Board, for the approval by shareholders, of the re-appointment of the external auditor and approval of their remuneration;

Delegation by the Board (cont'd)

Audit Committee (cont'd)

- reviewed the internal audit co-sourcing arrangement with external internal audit consultant and recommended for approval by the Board the appointment and relevant fee of new external internal audit consultant;
- reviewed and approved the internal audit plans and audit scope;
- reviewed the reports on internal audit progress, findings and recommendations from the Group Internal Audit and the external internal audit consultant and the responses from the management;
- reviewed the effectiveness of the Group's internal control systems and processes covering the controls for financial, operational, compliance and risk management;
- reviewed and recommended the revised Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee for the Board's approval;
- submitted summary reports on the resolved issues and recommendations to the Board;
- reviewed the compliance reports from the Compliance Committee to monitor the Group's compliance with regulatory and statutory requirements; and
- reviewed the Whistleblowing Policy and relevant operation procedures.

The attendance record of each member at the Audit Committee meetings held in 2020 is set out below:

| Name of member | Number of meetings attended/held |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <i>INEDs:</i> | |
| SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta (<i>Chairperson</i>) | 4/4 |
| CHOW Suk Han Anna | 4/4 |
| LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca | 4/4 |

Risk Committee

The Risk Committee was set up with specific terms of reference which are available on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange. The name of chairperson and members are set out in the attendance record shown below. The Risk Committee meets at least two times each year and reports to the Board on their decisions or recommendations following each meeting.

The Risk Committee is responsible for assisting the Board to oversee the effectiveness of the Group's risk management system and framework, to review and develop risk management policy, manual and guideline, and to advise the Board on the appropriateness and effectiveness of risk controls/mitigation tools and risk management functions. The Risk Committee is also responsible for making recommendations to the Board on the appointment and/or removal of the Chief Risk Officer of the Company and monitor the management's responsiveness to the findings and recommendations of the Chief Risk Officer.

Corporate Governance Report

Delegation by the Board (cont'd)

Risk Committee (cont'd)

During the year 2020, the Risk Committee held three meetings. The summary of works performed by the Risk Committee were as follows:

- reviewed and recommended the revised Terms of Reference of the Risk Committee for the Board's approval;
- reviewed the progress update and work done by the Chief Risk Officer of Asia Insurance on the progress of the development of the enterprise risk management system, framework and policy;
- reviewed the report/update on risk management in the Company by the Chief Risk Officer of the Company, including the review of the risk assessment summary of the Company with its risk appetite and tolerance; and
- submitted summary reports to the Board on the resolved issues and recommendations.

The attendance record of each member at the Risk Committee meetings held in 2020 is set out below:

| Name of member | Number of meetings attended/held |
|--|----------------------------------|
| <i>INEDs:</i> | |
| LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca (<i>Chairperson</i>) | 3/3 |
| CHOW Suk Han Anna | 3/3 |
| SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta | 3/3 |
| <i>Executive Director:</i> | |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut | 2/3 |
| WONG Kok Ho* | 3/3 |

* Appointed on 1st January, 2020

Auditor's Remuneration

During the year under review, the fees paid/payable to the Company's external auditor, Ernst & Young, Hong Kong, are as follows:

| Services rendered | Fees paid/payable HK\$'000 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Audit services | 3,757 |
| Non-audit services* | 996 |
| Total: | 4,753 |

* The non-audit services fees paid/payable to the external auditor were for advice on taxation matters and for preparation, review, submission of tax returns, interim agreed-upon procedures and other non-audit engagement.

Accountability and Audit

Financial Reporting

Directors are responsible for overseeing the preparation of consolidated financial statements of each financial period which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company and its subsidiaries as at the end of the reporting period and of their financial performance and cash flows for that period then ended. In preparing the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2020, the directors selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently, adopted appropriate Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards and Hong Kong Accounting Standards which are pertinent to its operations and relevant to the financial statements, made judgments and estimates that are prudent and reasonable, and prepared the accounts on the going concern basis.

The consolidated financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31st December, 2020 have been audited by the external auditor, Ernst & Young, and reviewed by the Audit Committee. The directors acknowledged their responsibility for preparing the consolidated financial statements which were prepared in accordance with statutory requirements and applicable accounting standards. As at 31st December, 2020, the directors were not aware of any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions which might cast significant doubt upon the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The responsibilities of the external auditor with respect to the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31st December, 2020 are set out in the "Independent Auditor's Report" on pages 62 to 67 of this annual report.

Risk Management and Internal Control

The Board acknowledged the responsibility for maintaining and overseeing an appropriate and effective risk management and internal control systems. These systems will monitor the material aspects of the Group's business and operations and also to safeguard its assets. The risk management and internal control systems of the Group comprises a well-established organisational structure and the internal policies, procedures and guidelines. Such systems are designed to manage the Group's risks within an acceptable risk profile, rather than to eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss, and to manage and minimize risks of failure in operational systems.

The Board delegates operational duties and responsibilities to the management, which comprises senior executives and operating heads of different business units/departments. The management oversees the daily business operations, identifies potential opportunities and inherent risks so that the identified risks can be well-understood, managed and/or mitigated. Appropriate operation policies, standards and procedures are in place in different business units/departments and being exercised accordingly, and their efficiency and effectiveness are monitored by the head of each business unit/department to ensure effective segregation of duties.

The Board has adopted the Risk Management Policy which covers the Group's risk appetite and risk management framework at strategic and operation levels in identifying, measuring, monitoring and controlling risks including credit risk, liquidity risk, interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, equity price risk, market risk, insurance risk, capital management, operational risk, compliance risk, human resources risk, investment risk and IT & cybersecurity risk.

Accountability and Audit (cont'd)

Risk Management and Internal Control (cont'd)

The Board has established the Risk Committee to assist the Board to oversee the effectiveness of the Group's risk management system with the assistance of the Chief Risk Officer who takes up the risk management functions and developed the Risk Register for implementing risk management and internal control practices. The Chief Risk Officer is also responsible for reviewing the risk management status in the Group, to monitor and review the execution of and compliance with the established risk control policies and measures. Regular audits or reviews are conducted to provide assurance that the risk controls are in place in business and operational units of the Group. The Chief Risk Officer presents periodical update to the members of the Risk Committee on the progress of the development of the enterprise risk management system and framework.

The Board also delegates the responsibility of reviewing the effectiveness of the Group's internal control systems to the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee monitors the Group's risk management processes and internal control systems through the Internal Audit Department ("IAD"). IAD performs ongoing assessments and regular independent reviews of all material controls of the Group, checks for compliance with policies and standards and evaluates the effectiveness of internal control structures across the Group.

To complement the in-house internal audit team, the Company also engaged an external consultant during the year to assist in performing periodic internal audits and reviews on certain departments and business units across the Group. IAD and the external consultant presented the internal audit reports to the members of the Audit Committee. The reports were then followed up to ensure corrective actions have been taken in respect of any finding previously identified and they have been properly resolved.

The Compliance Committee acknowledged the responsibilities of formulating, reviewing, approving and monitoring the Group's policies and practices on compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Two Compliance Officers, one for the Company and the other for Asia Insurance have been appointed to perform the compliance function and implement the compliance management system. Reports are presented to relevant committee regularly on their works done related to the Group's compliance function. The Compliance Committee submits compliance reports to the members of the Audit Committee after each of their meetings.

Using a risk-and-control based audit approach, IAD and the external consultant plan their respective internal audit schedules and reviews annually with audit resources being focused on higher risk areas. Their internal audit plans for each financial year are discussed with and submitted to the Audit Committee for review and approved before the end of the preceding year or as and when required.

The Audit Committee reviewed the effectiveness of the Group's internal control systems covering all material controls, including financial, operational, compliance, and risk management functions during the year and the resources allocated to internal control operations. The Audit Committee reported the review result to the Board following each Audit Committee meeting. The Board reviewed, considered and satisfied that the Group's internal control systems and risk management functions are effective, adequate and in compliance with the risk management and internal control code provisions of the CG Code.

Accountability and Audit (cont'd)

Risk Management and Internal Control (cont'd)

The Board has adopted the Inside Information Disclosure Policy which sets out the approach, procedures and internal controls for the handling and dissemination of inside information of the Group to ensure the inside information is maintained confidentially or to be disseminated to the public in timely and accurate manner in accordance with the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong), the Listing Rules and all other applicable rules and regulations. The Inside Information Disclosure Policy will be reviewed, as appropriate, and any amendment to such policy shall be approved by the Board to ensure its continued effectiveness from time to time.

Company Secretary

During the year, Ms. CHIANG Yuet Wah Connie (“Ms. Chiang”) was appointed Company Secretary in place of Mr. WONG Ka Kong Adam, both being an employee of the Company, on 7th February, 2020. The Company Secretary has day-to-day knowledge of the Company’s affairs who should report to the Chairman and/or the President and is responsible for advising the Board through the Chairman and/or the President on governance matters.

Ms. Chiang confirmed that she had complied with Rule 3.29 of the Listing Rules by taking no less than 15 hours of relevant professional training during the year under review.

Remuneration of Directors and Senior Management

The Remuneration Policy of the Company is to maintain fair and competitive packages based on business needs and industry practice. The overall remuneration package of each individual director and senior management is determined based on the market level of similar positions in comparable companies and by reference to factors including individual working positions, qualifications, experience, level of responsibilities as well as the Group’s performance and profitability.

During the year, the level of fees and emoluments paid to directors and senior management depends on their respective contractual terms under employment contracts or letters of appointments, if any, and as recommended by the Remuneration Committee and approved by the Board or shareholders at the Company’s AGM.

Information relating to the remuneration of directors on a named basis for the year ended 31st December, 2020 is set out in note 7 to the financial statements.

Constitutional Documents

There was no change to the Company’s Memorandum of Association and Bye-laws during the year ended 31st December, 2020. A copy of the latest consolidated version of the Memorandum of Association and Bye-laws is available on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange.

Dividend Policy

Policy on payment of dividend of the Company is in place setting out the principles and matters that shall be observed and considered when deciding the payment of dividend. Such principles and matters include but not limited to compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations, the performance and liquidity of the Group, and after prudent and adequate reserve and provision of tax been duly made. The policy shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee periodically and submitted to the Board for approval if amendments are required.

Communications with Shareholders

The Board recognises the importance of good communications with all shareholders. The Company has established the Shareholders Communication Policy and posted it on its website. The policy sets out the processes to provide the shareholders with ready, equal, timely and understandable information on the Company in order to enable them to exercise their rights in an informed manner.

The Company is committed to maintaining a policy of open and timely disclosure of relevant information on its attributes to shareholders and other stakeholders through the publication of interim and annual reports, public announcements and other public circulars, all of which are available on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange. The Company may conduct post-results press conferences, with executive directors and senior management present to answer questions. Meetings with institutional investors and financial analysts are also conducted upon such requests being received.

The AGM provides a useful forum for shareholders to exchange views with the Board. Shareholders are encouraged to attend the AGM for which at least 20 clear business days prior notice is given. The Chairman as well as chairmen of the Audit Committee, the Compliance Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Remuneration Committee and the Risk Committee (or in their absence, other members of such committees) together with the external auditor are available to answer shareholders' questions at the meeting. The Chairman also advises all other directors to attend the AGM in order to gain and develop a balanced understanding of the views of shareholders. All resolutions proposed at the AGM must be decided on a poll, which the Company's branch share registrar in Hong Kong will conduct as scrutineer for the vote-taking and the results of the poll will be published on the websites of the Company and the Stock Exchange.

The Company's last AGM was held at Meeting Room S426-S427 (Harbour Road Entrance), Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, 1 Expo Drive, Wanchai, Hong Kong on Friday, 22nd May, 2020. All the resolutions proposed at that meeting were approved by the shareholders by poll voting. Details of the poll results are available on both the Company's and Stock Exchange's websites.

The next AGM will be held on Friday, 21st May, 2021, the notice of which will be set out in the circular to shareholders to be sent together with this annual report on or about 20th April, 2021.

Shareholders' Rights

Convening a Special General Meeting

Shareholders holding in aggregate of not less than one-tenth (1/10) of the paid up capital can send a written request to the Board or the Secretary of the Company to request a Special General Meeting ("SGM").

The written request should be deposited at the Company's principal place of business for the attention of the Company Secretary.

The written request must state the resolution(s), accompanied by a statement of the matters referred in the proposed resolution(s) and signed by the shareholders concerned.

The request will be verified with the Company's branch share registrar and upon its confirmation that the request is proper and in order, the Company will convene a SGM within twenty-one (21) days of the deposit of the request. The actual SGM shall be held within two (2) months after the deposit of the written request.

Notice of SGM will be sent out at least fourteen (14) clear days before the meeting unless shorter notice is permitted by the majority members having the right to attend and vote at the meeting.

Shareholders' Rights (cont'd)

Making Proposals at Shareholders' Meeting

Shareholder can send a written request to the Board or the Secretary of the Company to make proposal(s) at a shareholders' meeting. The written request must state the resolution(s), accompanied by a statement of the matters referred in the proposed resolution(s) and signed by the shareholder concerned.

The written request should be deposited with the Company at its principal place of business at least fourteen (14) clear days before the date of the shareholders' meeting.

The request will be verified with the Company's branch share registrar and upon its confirmation that the request is proper and in order, the Company Secretary will ask the Board to include the proposed resolution(s) in the agenda for the shareholders' meeting.

A revised notice of the shareholders' meeting that included the proposed resolution(s) will be issued to the shareholders.

Nomination of Person for Director Election

Shareholder wishes to nominate a person to stand for election as a director at the Company's AGM should send a written notice to the Company Secretary at the Company's principal place of business within the period of at least seven (7) days as determined by the Company. Such lodgement period will commence no earlier than the day after dispatch of the notice of AGM and end no later than seven (7) days prior to the date of AGM.

The nomination notice must be signed by the nominating shareholder and stated: (i) the name, address and shareholding of the nominating shareholder; (ii) the proposed candidate's biographical details as required by the Rule 13.51(2) of the Listing Rules; and (iii) a signed letter from the candidate confirming willingness to act as director if being elected.

The nomination notice will be verified with the Company's branch share registrar and upon its confirmation that the notice is proper and in order, the Company Secretary will arrange a meeting of the Nomination Committee of the Company.

The nomination notice will be reviewed by the members of the Nomination Committee who will consider the factors such as gender, age, cultural and educational background, character, integrity, diversity of experience, area of expertise, other commitments, independence and other factors that the Nomination Committee may consider appropriate.

After assessing the nomination, the Nomination Committee will send a report to the Board advising whether the candidate possessed the qualifications for a position on the Board. The Nomination Committee will recommend the right candidate to the Board for election as a director at the AGM.

The Company will publish an announcement or issue a supplementary circular and dispatch it to shareholders containing the details of the candidate(s) proposed. The Board's consideration, rationale and assessment conclusion recommended by the Nomination Committee should be included in the supplementary circular for the consideration of shareholders. If for INED nomination, it should further explain on identification process, independence, sufficient time commitment, contribution in the diversity of the Board.

The shareholder proposing the candidate will be required to attend the AGM and read out the proposed resolution at the AGM.

Shareholders' Rights (cont'd)

Sending Enquiries

Shareholders enquire about their shareholdings should contact the Company's Hong Kong Branch Registrar, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited at 17M Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong.

Shareholders who have any queries to the Board should send the questions to the Company Secretary whose details are as follows:

The Company Secretary
Asia Financial Holdings Limited
16th Floor, Worldwide House
19 Des Voeux Road Central
Hong Kong
Email : contactus@afh.hk
Tel : (852) 3606 9200
Fax : (852) 2545 3881

Public Float

Based on the information that is publicly available to the Company and within the knowledge of the directors, the Company has maintained the prescribed amount of public float during the year 2020 and up to the date of this annual report as required by the Listing Rules.

Report of the Directors

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2020.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Company is investment holding. Details of the principal activities of its principal subsidiaries are set out in detail in note 40 to the financial statements. There were no significant changes in the nature of the Group's principal activities during the year.

Business review

A discussion and analysis of the activities of the Group as required by Schedule 5 to the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, including a fair review of the Group's business; a description of the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Group; particulars of important events affecting the Group that have occurred since the end of the financial year 2020; an indication of likely future development in the Group's business; an analysis of the Group's performance using financial key performance indicators; a discussion on the Group's environmental policies and performance; the Group's compliance with the relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the Group; and an account of the key relationships with its stakeholders that have a significant impact on the Group and on which the Group's success depends, are provided in the "Chairman's Statement", "Management Discussion and Analysis", "Corporate Governance Report", and "Environmental, Social and Governance Report" set out on pages 3 to 48 of this annual report. This discussion forms part of this directors' report.

Results and dividends

The Group's profit for the year ended 31st December, 2020 and the Group's financial position at that date are set out in the financial statements on pages 68 to 174.

An interim dividend of HK1.0 cent per ordinary share, totalling approximately HK\$9,493,000, was paid on 8th October, 2020.

The directors recommend the payment of a final dividend of HK7.0 cents per ordinary share, totalling approximately HK\$65,970,000 in respect of the year, which will be payable on or about 11th June, 2021 in cash to shareholders on the register of members of the Company on 2nd June, 2021. This recommendation has been incorporated into the financial statements as an allocation of the retained profits within the equity section in the Group's statement of financial position. Further details of this accounting treatment are set out in note 10 to the financial statements.

Share capital

Details of movements in the Company's share capital during the year are set out in note 23 to the financial statements.

Equity-linked agreements

There were no equity-linked agreements entered into by the Group during the year or subsisting at the end of the year.

Report of the Directors

Purchase, redemption or sale of listed securities of the Company

During the year ended 31st December, 2020, a subsidiary of the Company repurchased a total of 14,542,000 ordinary shares of the Company on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") at an aggregate purchase price of approximately HK\$51,744,000 (excluding expenses) which was paid wholly out of retained profits. Such repurchased shares were cancelled during the year and after the end of the year. Details of the ordinary shares repurchased on the Stock Exchange during the year are as follows:

| Month of repurchase | Number of ordinary shares repurchased | Price per share | | Aggregate purchase price (excluding expenses) HK\$'000 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|
| | | Highest HK\$ | Lowest HK\$ | |
| January 2020 | 918,000 | 4.00 | 3.84 | 3,593 |
| February 2020 | 422,000 | 3.85 | 3.83 | 1,624 |
| March 2020 | 58,000 | 2.90 | 2.90 | 168 |
| June 2020 | 2,956,000 | 3.50 | 3.35 | 10,106 |
| July 2020 | 7,044,000 | 3.58 | 3.40 | 24,810 |
| September 2020 | 914,000 | 3.65 | 3.50 | 3,290 |
| October 2020 | 818,000 | 3.66 | 3.60 | 2,973 |
| November 2020 | 942,000 | 3.71 | 3.60 | 3,463 |
| December 2020 | 470,000 | 3.75 | 3.55 | 1,717 |
| | <u>14,542,000</u> | | | <u>51,744</u> |

Subsequent to the end of the year and up to the date of this report, a total of 3,726,000 ordinary shares of the Company were repurchased on the Stock Exchange at an aggregate purchase price of approximately HK\$14,453,000 (excluding expenses) which was paid wholly out of retained profits. Such repurchased shares were cancelled on 3rd February, 2021 and 5th March, 2021 respectively. Details of the ordinary shares repurchased on the Stock Exchange after the end of the year are as follows:

| Month of repurchase | Number of ordinary shares repurchased | Price per share | | Aggregate purchase price (excluding expenses) HK\$'000 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--|
| | | Highest HK\$ | Lowest HK\$ | |
| January 2021 | 244,000 | 3.95 | 3.80 | 949 |
| February 2021 | 3,482,000 | 4.10 | 3.80 | 13,504 |
| | <u>3,726,000</u> | | | <u>14,453</u> |

Purchase, redemption or sale of listed securities of the Company (cont'd)

As a result of the above share repurchases, the issued share capital of the Company was accordingly reduced by the par value of the aforesaid repurchased ordinary shares which were cancelled during the year and after the end of the year. As at the date of this report, the number of issued ordinary shares of the Company is 942,424,000.

The purchase of the Company's shares during the year and after the end of the year was effected by the directors, pursuant to the mandate from shareholders received at the annual general meetings held in 2019 and 2020 respectively. The directors believe that the above share repurchases were exercised in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders and that such share repurchases would lead to an enhancement of the net assets value and/or earnings per share of the Company.

Save as disclosed above, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries purchased, redeemed or sold any of the Company's listed securities during the year ended 31st December, 2020 and up to the date of this report.

Distributable reserves

At 31st December, 2020, the Company's reserves available for cash distribution, calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Bermuda Companies Act 1981, amounted to HK\$2,948,446,000, of which HK\$65,970,000 has been proposed as a final dividend for the year. In addition, the Company's share premium account and capital reserve, in the amount of HK\$620,591,000 in aggregate, may be distributed in the form of fully paid bonus shares.

Five years financial summary

The results and assets, liabilities and non-controlling interests of the Group for the last five years, as extracted from the published audited financial statements and restated as appropriate, are summarised below:

Results

| | Year ended 31st December, | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 | 2018 HK\$'000 | 2017 HK\$'000 (Restated) | 2016 HK\$'000 |
| Revenue | <u>1,747,918</u> | <u>1,702,009</u> | <u>1,482,935</u> | <u>1,294,323</u> | <u>1,287,457</u> |
| Profit for the year | <u>344,947</u> | <u>407,568</u> | <u>257,294</u> | <u>478,791</u> | <u>369,038</u> |
| Profit for the year attributable to: | | | | | |
| Equity holders of the Company | <u>337,952</u> | 408,965 | 255,889 | 477,098 | 367,271 |
| Non-controlling interests | <u>6,995</u> | (1,397) | 1,405 | 1,693 | 1,767 |
| | <u>344,947</u> | <u>407,568</u> | <u>257,294</u> | <u>478,791</u> | <u>369,038</u> |

Report of the Directors

Five years financial summary (cont'd)

Assets, liabilities and non-controlling interests

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 31st December, 2018 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2017 <i>HK\$'000</i> (Restated) | 2016 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Total assets | 15,916,026 | 14,857,973 | 13,546,785 | 11,990,953 | 10,259,709 |
| Total liabilities | (4,856,706) | (4,534,793) | (4,118,687) | (3,960,612) | (3,180,105) |
| Non-controlling interests | (54,881) | (47,329) | (44,568) | (45,689) | (43,090) |
| | <u>11,004,439</u> | <u>10,275,851</u> | <u>9,383,530</u> | <u>7,984,652</u> | <u>7,036,514</u> |

Major customers

During the year, the Group derived less than 30% of its total income from its five largest customers.

As far as the directors are aware, none of the directors of the Company, or any of their associates and shareholders, which, to the knowledge of the directors, own more than 5% of the Company's issued share capital, had any beneficial interest in the Group's five largest customers.

Major suppliers

The Group's major subsidiary is an insurance company, which is exempted from disclosing the particulars of suppliers. Accordingly, no such information has been disclosed.

Directors

The directors of the Company during the year and up to the date of the report were:

CHAN Yau Hing Robin*, G.B.M., G.B.S., LL.D., J.P.

CHAN Bernard Charnwut*, G.B.M., G.B.S., J.P.

TAN Stephen*

WONG Kok Ho*

KAWAUCHI Yuji**

IDE Kentaro**

(Resigned on 25th March, 2020)

OGURA Satoru**

(Appointed on 25th March, 2020)

CHOW Suk Han Anna***

LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca***, J.P.

SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta***

* Executive directors

** Non-executive directors

*** Independent non-executive directors

In accordance with Bye-law 87(2) of the Company's Bye-laws, Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin, Mr. TAN Stephen, Mr. WONG Kok Ho, Ms. CHOW Suk Han Anna and Mrs. LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca will retire by rotation at the forthcoming annual general meeting (the "2021 AGM") and all of them, being eligible, will offer themselves for re-election except Ms. CHOW Suk Han Anna who will not offer herself for re-election and will retire as independent non-executive director of the Company with effect from the conclusion of the 2021 AGM.

The Company has received from each independent non-executive director an annual confirmation of independence pursuant to Rule 3.13 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Listing Rules"). The Company still considers that all of them are independent.

Directors' service contracts

None of the directors proposed for re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting has a service contract with the Company which is not determinable by the Company within one year without payment of compensation, other than statutory compensation.

Report of the Directors

Directors' and chief executive's interests and short positions in shares and underlying shares

As at 31st December, 2020, the interests of the directors and chief executive in the shares and underlying shares of the Company or its associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the Securities and Futures Ordinance, Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong (the "SFO")) as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company under section 352 of the SFO or as otherwise notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") in the Listing Rules were as follows:

| Name of director | Number of ordinary shares held, capacity and nature of interest | | | | Approximate % of the Company's issued share capital ⁽¹⁾ |
|-----------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|-------------|---|
| | Directly beneficially owned | Through spouse or minor children | Through controlled corporation | Total | |
| CHAN Yau Hing Robin | – | – | 569,999,712 ⁽²⁾ | 569,999,712 | 60.21 |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut | 1,912,680 | – | 8,830,000 ⁽³⁾ | 10,742,680 | 1.13 |
| WONG Kok Ho | 810,000 | 430,000 | – | 1,240,000 | 0.13 |
| CHOW Suk Han Anna | 41,559 | – | – | 41,559 | 0.00 |

Notes:

- (1) Based on 946,620,000 shares in issue as at 31st December, 2020.
- (2) Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin was deemed to be interested in 569,999,712 shares. Out of the 569,999,712 shares, (i) 566,069,712 shares were held through Claremont Capital Holdings Ltd ("Claremont Capital"), (ii) 3,097,000 shares were held through Asia Panich Investment Company (Hong Kong) Limited ("Asia Panich") and (iii) 833,000 shares were held through Man Tong Company Limited ("Man Tong"). More than one-third of the issued share capital of Claremont Capital, Asia Panich and Man Tong are held by Cosmos Investments Inc. These corporations or their directors are accustomed to act in accordance with the directions or instructions of Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin.
- (3) Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut was deemed to be interested in 8,830,000 shares that were held through Robinson Enterprise Holdings Limited which was 38% held by Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut and his spouse.

In addition to the above, Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin and Mr. WONG Kok Ho have non-beneficial personal equity interests in certain subsidiaries held for the benefit of the Company solely for the purpose of complying with the minimum company membership requirements.

Save as disclosed above, as at 31st December, 2020, none of the Company's directors and chief executive had registered an interest or a short position in the shares or underlying shares of the Company or any of its associated corporations that was required to be recorded pursuant to section 352 of the SFO, or as otherwise notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code.

Directors' rights to acquire shares or debentures

At no time during the year there were rights to acquire benefits by means of acquisition of shares in or debentures of the Company granted to any director or their respective spouses or minor children, or were any such rights exercised by them, or was the Company, its holding company or any of its subsidiaries a party to any arrangement to enable the directors to acquire such rights in any other body corporate.

Substantial shareholders' and other persons' interests and short positions in shares and underlying shares

As at 31st December, 2020, the following persons (other than the directors or chief executive of the Company) had interests or short positions in the shares and underlying shares of the Company as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company pursuant to section 336 of the SFO, or as otherwise notified to the Company:

| Name of shareholder | Notes | Number of ordinary shares held | Approximate % of the Company's issued share capital ⁽¹⁾ |
|---|----------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Cosmos Investments Inc. | (2), (3) | 569,999,712 | 60.21 |
| Claremont Capital Holdings Ltd | (2) | 566,069,712 | 59.80 |
| Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited | | 89,988,236 | 9.51 |
| Sompo Holdings, Inc. | (4) | 91,759,753 | 9.69 |
| Sompo Japan Insurance Inc. | (4) | 91,759,753 | 9.69 |
| Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company, Limited | | 52,550,175 | 5.55 |

Notes:

- (1) Based on 946,620,000 shares in issue as at 31st December, 2020.
- (2) These shares have been included in the interest disclosure of Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin as set out in the section "Directors' and chief executive's interests and short positions in shares and underlying shares" above.
- (3) Cosmos Investments Inc. was deemed to be interested in 569,999,712 shares in which 566,069,712 shares were held by Claremont Capital, 3,097,000 shares were held by Asia Panich and 833,000 shares were held by Man Tong since Cosmos Investments Inc. holds more than one-third of the issued share capital of Claremont Capital, Asia Panich and Man Tong, respectively.
- (4) Sompo Japan Insurance Inc. ("SJII") is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sompo Holdings, Inc. ("SHI") and accordingly, the shares in which SJII is shown as interested are included in the shares in which SHI is shown as interested.

Save as disclosed above, as at 31st December, 2020, no other persons 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.

Report of the Directors

Directors' interests in transactions, arrangements or contracts

Save as disclosed in note 35(a) to the financial statements, no director nor a connected entity of a director had a material beneficial interest, either directly or indirectly, in any transactions, arrangements or contracts of significance to the business of the Group to which the Company, the holding company of the Company, or any of the Company's subsidiaries or fellow subsidiaries was a party during or at the end of the year.

No contracts concerning the management and administration of the whole or any substantial part of any business of the Company and the Company's subsidiaries were entered into or existed during the year.

No right to subscribe for equity or debt securities of the Company has been granted by the Company to, or have any such rights been exercised by, any person during the year ended 31st December, 2020.

Permitted indemnity provision

The Company's Bye-laws provides that all directors or other officers of the Company shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the Company's assets against all losses or liabilities which he or she may incur or sustain in or about the execution of the duties of his or her office or otherwise in relation thereto. In addition, the Company has maintained appropriate directors' and officers' liability insurance throughout the year, which provides appropriate cover for certain legal actions brought against its directors and officers.

Directors' interests in competing businesses

During the year and up to the date of this report, the following directors are considered to have interests in the following businesses which compete or are likely to compete, either directly or indirectly, with the businesses of the Group, other than those businesses where the directors of the Company were appointed as directors to represent the interests of the Company and/or the Group, pursuant to the Listing Rules, as set out below:

| Name of director | Name of entity whose businesses are considered to compete or likely to compete with the businesses of the Group | Description of the businesses of the entity which are considered to compete or likely to compete with the businesses of the Group | Nature of interest of the director in the entity |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| CHAN Yau Hing Robin* | The People's Insurance Company of China (Hong Kong), Limited | General insurance | Director |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut | The People's Insurance Company of China (Hong Kong), Limited | General insurance | Director |
| | Sompo Japan Insurance (China) Company Limited | General insurance | Director |

* resigned as director of The People's Insurance Company of China (Hong Kong), Limited on 28th September, 2020.

Although the companies listed above operate in similar fields to certain operations of the Group, the board believes that the directors concerned are able to manage any potential conflicts of interest arising from their respective directorships and/or interests in such companies.

As the board of directors of the Company is independent from the boards of directors of these companies, the Group is capable of carrying on its businesses independently of, and at an arm's length from, the businesses of these companies.

Brief biographical details of directors and senior management staff

Executive Directors:

Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin (alias: Rabin SOPHONPANICH), G.B.M., G.B.S., LL.D., J.P., aged 88, is the Chairman and an executive director of the Company. Dr. Chan has been working for the Group for over 60 years. He is also a director of several other subsidiaries of the Company and a director of Claremont Capital Holdings Ltd, the controlling shareholder of the Company. Dr. Chan was awarded the Knight Commander (Second Class) of the Most Noble Order of the Crown of Thailand by His Majesty, the King of Thailand and the Gold Bauhinia Star by the Government of the HKSAR in 2000. He was also awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal by the Government of the HKSAR in July 2018. Dr. Chan was conferred with the Honorary University Fellowships by Hong Kong Baptist University and The University of Hong Kong in 2010 and 2011 respectively, and the Honorary Fellowship by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2013. Dr. Chan is the Life Honorary Chairman of The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce and an adviser of the All-China Federation of Returned Overseas Chinese. He is also the Founding Chairman and President of the Hong Kong Federation of Overseas Chinese Associations Limited, the Honorary Chairman of both the China Federation of Overseas Chinese Entrepreneurs and Federation of HK Chiu Chow Community Organizations Limited. Dr. Chan had been a Deputy to The National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China from March 1988 to February 2008. He has extensive experience in the banking industry and acts as an adviser to numerous other companies. Dr. Chan retired as independent non-executive director of K. Wah International Holdings Limited and Keck Seng Investments (Hong Kong) Limited, both of which are listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, on 5th June, 2019 and 6th June, 2019 respectively. Dr. Chan is the father of Mr. TAN Stephen and Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut.

Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut (former name: CHAN Chi Sze Bernard), G.B.M., G.B.S., J.P., aged 56, is an executive director and the President of the Company and serves as a member of the remuneration committee, the nomination committee, the compliance committee and the risk committee of the Company. Mr. Chan is also an executive director and the Chairman of Asia Insurance Company, Limited ("Asia Insurance"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company and the Chairman of AFH Charitable Foundation Limited. Mr. Chan has been working for the Group for 31 years. He graduated from Pomona College in California, U.S.A. In addition to directorships in other subsidiaries of the Company, Mr. Chan is an independent non-executive director of Yau Lee Holdings Limited, Chen Hsong Holdings Limited, China Resources Beer (Holdings) Company Limited and Cathay Pacific Airways Limited, all of which are listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. Mr. Chan is also a director of Bumrungrad Hospital Public Company Limited which is a company listed in Thailand. Mr. Chan is currently a director of PICC Life Insurance Company Limited, a director of Claremont Capital Holdings Ltd which is the controlling shareholder of the Company, the Chairman of both Hong Kong-Thailand Business Council and Hong Kong Palace Museum Limited, and an adviser to Bangkok Bank (China) Company Limited. Mr. Chan has been elected a Deputy to The National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China since January 2008. He has also been appointed as the Convenor of the Non-official Members of the Executive Council of the HKSAR since 1st July, 2017. Mr. Chan is a member of Hong Kong Monetary Authority Exchange Fund Advisory Committee, a Trustee Emeritus of Pomona College, California U.S.A. and serves as the Chairperson of The Hong Kong Council of Social Service. Mr. Chan is the son of Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin and the brother of Mr. TAN Stephen.

Brief biographical details of directors and senior management staff (cont'd)

Executive Directors: (cont'd)

Mr. TAN Stephen, aged 67, has been an executive director of the Company since 30th May, 2006 and has been working for the Group for 34 years. He is a member of the compliance committee of the Company. In addition to directorships in other subsidiaries of the Company, Mr. Tan sits on the boards of AFH Charitable Foundation Limited, Bank Consortium Trust Company Limited and Hong Kong Life Insurance Limited. He is also an independent non-executive director of Pioneer Global Group Limited, China Motor Bus Company, Limited and Keck Seng Investments (Hong Kong) Limited, all of which are listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited. Mr. Tan serves as a Standing Committee Member of The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, the Vice President of Hong Kong Chiu Chow Chamber of Commerce, the Incumbent Honorary President of Chiu Yang Residents Association of Hong Kong Limited, the Manager of Chiu Yang Primary School of Hong Kong and the Supervisor of Chiu Yang Por Yen Primary School. Mr. Tan is a voting member of Tung Wah Group of Hospitals Advisory Board, a founding member of both Hong Kong-Thailand Business Council and Hong Kong-Korea Business Council, a trustee of Outward Bound Trust of Hong Kong, a charter member of The Rotary Club of The Peak and a founding member of Opera Hong Kong Limited. Mr. Tan is also a member of the Board of Governor of Hong Kong Sinfonietta Limited and the honorary adviser of the Hong Kong Baseball Association. Mr. Tan was educated in the U.S.A. and holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Rutgers University, and a master's degree in Business Administration from St. John's University. He is the son of Dr. CHAN Yau Hing Robin and the brother of Mr. CHAN Bernard Charnwut.

Mr. WONG Kok Ho, aged 73, has been an executive director of the Company since 2nd May, 2007. Mr. Wong has been appointed as a member of the remuneration committee, the nomination committee and the risk committee of the Company on 1st January, 2020. Mr. Wong is also an executive director of Asia Insurance and a director of several other subsidiaries of the Company. Mr. Wong has served the Group for over 40 years and has extensive experience in the insurance industry. Mr. Wong is a director of Grand Plaza Hotel Corporation, a public company listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange. He sits on the boards of AFH Charitable Foundation Limited, AR Consultant Services (HK) Limited, Professional Liability Underwriting Services Limited, Asia Insurance (Philippines) Corporation, PT Asian International Investindo, APIC Holdings, Inc. and Strand Hotels International Limited. He has also been appointed as the President of Asia Insurance (Philippines) Corporation. Mr. Wong is an independent non-executive director of Sompo Insurance (Hong Kong) Company Limited. Mr. Wong was educated in Hong Kong and Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia and is a fellow member of The Chartered Insurance Institute, London. Mr. Wong was a member of the insurance subsector of the Election Committee 2018. He had served as the Chairman and a councillor of the Employees Compensation Insurer Insolvency Bureau, the General Insurance Council of the Hong Kong Federation of Insurers (HKFI) and the Council of Motor Insurers' Bureau of Hong Kong. He had also been a member of the General Committee of the Insurance Claims Complaints Bureau, the Governing Committee of the HKFI and the President of the Insurance Institute of Hong Kong.

Brief biographical details of directors and senior management staff (cont'd)

Non-Executive Directors:

Mr. KAWAUCHI Yuji, aged 55, has been a non-executive director of the Company since 23rd March, 2018. Mr. Kawauchi is currently the Executive Vice President and Executive Officer, General Manager of Global Business Planning Department of Sompo Holdings, Inc. (a company listed on Japan Stock Exchange) which through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Sompo Japan Insurance Inc. (formerly known as Sompo Japan Nipponkoa Insurance Inc.) ("Sompo Japan"), currently holds approximately 9.74% shareholding in the Company's issued share capital. Mr. Kawauchi is a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU). He graduated from Tokyo Metropolitan University, Faculty of Law in 1988 and in the same year he joined The Yasuda Fire and Marine Insurance Company Limited (now known as Sompo Japan). Mr. Kawauchi had served as the President and Managing Director of Sompo Holdings (Asia) Pte. Limited from April 2017 to April 2019. Mr. Kawauchi had been a director of Sompo Insurance (Thailand) Public Company Limited from 15th May, 2017 to 25th April, 2018. He was also an Executive Director of Berjaya Sompo Insurance Berhad (Malaysia) from April 2014 to April 2016. He has also become a Non-Executive Director of Sompo International Holdings Ltd. from 1st January, 2020.

Mr. OGURA Satoru, aged 52, has been a non-executive director of the Company since 25th March, 2020. Mr. Ogura is currently the General Manager of Global Business Department of Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company, Limited ("Aioi Nissay Dowa"). Mr. Ogura graduated from University of Nagoya, Faculty of Law in 1991. He had served as a Risk & Reinsurance Coordinator of Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company of Europe Limited from April 2009 to March 2018 and became the General Manager of Global Business Department since April 2018. Mr. Ogura has more than 7 years' experience of arrangement of intra-group reinsurance programmes and group-wide capital arrangement of European operations. He was one of the leading member of intra Japan-European team for acquisition of Telematics company and establishment of European subsidiaries in the UK, Italy, Russia and Kazakhstan. He also established governance & compliance system in European operation upon harmonisation of multi-regulatory frameworks. Aioi Nissay Dowa currently holds approximately 5.58% of the Company's issued share capital. Mr. Ogura is an Independent Director of Bangkok Insurance Public Company Limited which is a company listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. Mr. Ogura is a non-executive director and SOOA (Senior Officer Outside Australia) of Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company Australia Pty Ltd and also a non-executive director of Aioi Nissay Dowa Europe Limited, both companies are 100% owned subsidiary of Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company Limited.

Brief biographical details of directors and senior management staff (cont'd)

Independent Non-Executive Directors:

Ms. CHOW Suk Han Anna (alias: WONG Suk Han Anna), aged 73, has been an independent non-executive director of the Company since 27th September, 2004. Ms. Chow is the chairperson of both the nomination committee and the compliance committee, and a member of the audit committee, the remuneration committee and the risk committee of the Company. She is also an independent non-executive director of Asia Insurance. Ms. Chow was admitted as a solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and of Hong Kong respectively in 1973 and she has been in legal practice in Hong Kong since 1973. Ms. Chow was a partner of Messrs. Peter C. Wong, Chow and Chow from 1st April, 1989 to 30th September, 2012 and has since 1st October, 2012 become a consultant of the firm. The firm has since 1st February, 2016, changed its name to Guantao and Chow. She was appointed as a Notary Public by the Faculty Office of Archbishop of Canterbury in 1984 and as a China-Appointed Attesting Officer by the Ministry of Justice, The People's Republic of China in 1991 and has been practicing as a Notary Public and an attesting officer since the said years respectively. Ms. Chow was appointed as a chairperson and a member of a number of public services committees of the Government of the HKSAR. She was a chairperson of the Appeal Tribunal under Building Ordinance (Cap.123) and the Railway Objections Hearing Panel under the Transport Bureau respectively. She was a member of the Vetting Committee for the Professional Services Development Assistance Scheme under the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau, ICAC Complaints Committee, the Administrative Appeals Board, Inland Revenue Review Board, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and the Law Enforcement Injuries Compensation Board respectively. She served on the Inland Revenue Review Board as a deputy chairman from 1998 to 2007. She had also been a member of the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal Panel of the Law Society. Ms. Chow is also a director of a number of charitable organizations, namely Chi Lin Nunnery, Poh Yea Ching Shea Limited and Chi Hong Ching Yuen Limited. She was a trustee of The D.H. Chen Foundation from 1st December, 1998 and became the honorary secretary of The D.H. Chen Foundation on 1st January, 2010. She resigned as both a trustee and the honorary secretary of the foundation on 1st June, 2012.

Mrs. LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca, J.P., aged 62, has been an independent non-executive director of the Company since 3rd December, 2012. Mrs. Lai is the chairperson of both the remuneration committee and the risk committee, and a member of the audit committee, the nomination committee and the compliance committee of the Company. She is also an independent non-executive director of Asia Insurance. Mrs. Lai is the Director of Education Initiatives of China Graduate School of Theology. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree from University of Hong Kong, Master of Business Administration from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Master of Christian Studies (Counselling) from China Graduate School of Theology. Mrs. Lai has over 25 years' experience in the civil service. Her last position with the Government of the HKSAR in 2006 was the Permanent Secretary for the Civil Service. Mrs. Lai was a member of the Council of City University of Hong Kong from 2012-2014 and a member of the Court of the University from 2015-2020.

Ms. LEUNG Lai Sheung (alias: Loretta SHUEN), aged 66, has been an independent non-executive director of the Company since 16th August, 2017. Ms. Leung is the chairperson of the audit committee and a member of the nomination committee, the compliance committee, the remuneration committee and the risk committee of the Company. She is also an independent non-executive director of Asia Insurance, BE Reinsurance Limited, Avo Insurance Company Limited and United Builders Insurance Company Limited. She is a director of Evolut Foundation Limited. Ms. Leung is currently a fellow member of CPA Australia and Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. She received her Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hon) degree from the University of Hong Kong and Master degree in Accounting Studies from the University of New England, Australia. Ms. Leung is a former partner of Ernst & Young and has over 20 years of experience in serving clients in a wide range of industries in Hong Kong, China and Asia Pacific region. She had over 15 years of experience in civil services and had served in an investment bank before settling in Ernst & Young. Ms. Leung is a former appointed member of the Council of the Lingnan University (the "University") and served as the Treasurer to the Council of the University, the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Chairman of the Investment Subcommittee. She is a member of the Accounting Advisory Board, and a member of the Risk and Insurance Management Advisory Board of the University.

Employees and remuneration policy

The total number of employees of the Group was 299 at the end of the reporting period (2019: 291). Employees were remunerated on the basis of their performance, experience and prevailing industry practice. Remuneration of the employees includes salary and discretionary bonus which is based on the Group's results and individual performance. Medical and retirement benefit schemes are made available to all levels of personnel. There was no share option scheme in operation during the year. The Group also offers various training and induction programmes to its employees.

The remuneration policy of the Group is formulated and recommended by the Remuneration Committee of the Company for the Board's approval. The Remuneration Committee's responsibilities include reviewing and approving the management's remuneration proposals, and making recommendations to the Board on the adjustments to remuneration packages payable to directors, senior management and employees of the Group.

Donations

During the year, the Group made charitable donations totalling HK\$1,244,000 (2019: HK\$5,377,000).

Sufficiency of public float

Based on information that is publicly available to the Company and within the knowledge of the directors, the Company believes that the percentage of shares of the Company which were in the hands of the public was above the relevant prescribed minimum percentage as at the date of this report.

Pre-emptive rights

There are no provisions for pre-emptive rights under the Company's Bye-laws or the laws of Bermuda which would oblige the Company to offer new shares on a pro rata basis to existing shareholders.

Corporate governance

Details of the Company's corporate governance practices are set out in the Corporate Governance Report in this annual report.

Auditor

The financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2020 have been audited by Ernst & Young who retire and a resolution for the reappointment as auditor of the Company will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

CHAN Bernard Charnwut

Executive Director & President

Hong Kong, 26th March, 2021

Independent Auditor's Report



To the shareholders of Asia Financial Holdings Limited

(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Asia Financial Holdings Limited (the “Company”) and its subsidiaries (the “Group”) set out on pages 68 to 174, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31st December, 2020, and the consolidated statement of profit or loss, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31st December, 2020, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”) and have been properly prepared in compliance with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (“HKSA”) issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the HKICPA’s *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the “Code”), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. For each matter below, our description of how our audit addressed the matter is provided in that context.

We have fulfilled the responsibilities described in the *Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements* section of our report, including in relation to these matters. Accordingly, our audit included the performance of procedures designed to respond to our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements. The results of our audit procedures, including the procedures performed to address the matters below, provide the basis for our audit opinion on the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

Key audit matters (cont'd)

Key audit matter

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

Valuation of general insurance claims liabilities

As at 31st December, 2020, the Group had general insurance claims liabilities of reported and incurred but not reported claims for the general insurance business of HK\$2,793 million in aggregate, representing 58% of the Group's total liabilities.

The measurement of general insurance claims liabilities involves significant judgement and it may take a significant period of time before the ultimate cost of the claims can be established with certainty. The primary techniques adopted by management in estimating the cost of the ultimate claims include using the past claims settlement trends to predict the future claims settlement trends combined with actuarial and statistical projection techniques; referencing to benchmarks of companies in similar industry sectors, and assessments by loss adjusters.

Related disclosures are included in notes 2.5, 25 and 36 to the financial statements.

With the involvement of our internal actuarial specialists, the procedures we performed that addressed the key audit matter included, among others:

- Performed walkthroughs to understand the Group's processes and methodologies for calculating the general insurance claims liabilities;
- Tested the design and operating effectiveness of key controls performed by management over the valuation process;
- Evaluated the assumptions used in the valuation of the general insurance claims liabilities, by comparing to historical and market data and industry experience data, considering the features of specific insurance products;
- Assessed the validity of liability adequacy tests by evaluating the assumptions adopted in the context of the Group by comparison to historical and market data and industry experience data, considering the features of the specific insurance products; and
- Assessed the adequacy of the disclosures relating to the insurance risk against the requirements of HKFRS.

Independent Auditor's Report

Key audit matters (cont'd)

Key audit matter

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

Fair value measurement of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income

As at 31st December, 2020, the Group had investments in various financial instruments, of which HK\$1,342 million and HK\$6,851 million, representing 8% and 43% of the Group's total assets, are stated at fair value and classified as "financial assets at fair value through profit or loss" and "equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income", respectively. Fair value measurement can be a subjective area, especially for financial instruments with model based valuation or with weak liquidity and price discovery. Valuation techniques for financial instruments without active markets can be subjective in nature and involve various assumptions regarding pricing factors. The use of different valuation techniques and assumptions could lead to significantly different estimates of fair value. Specific areas of focus include the valuation of fair value of Level 2 or Level 3 assets where valuation techniques are applied in which observable or unobservable inputs are used, respectively. Significant unobservable inputs include the determination of comparable companies, the use of price multiples and lack of marketability discount.

Related disclosures are included in notes 2.5, 17, 19 and 37 to the financial statements.

The procedures we performed that addressed the key audit matter included, amongst others:

- Performed a walkthrough of the Group's valuation process.
- Tested the design and operating effectiveness of key controls related to the valuation of financial instruments, including independent price verification, and independent model validation and approval.

With the involvement of our internal valuation specialist, the procedures we performed for areas of higher estimation uncertainty included:

- Evaluated the pricing model methodologies, and key observable and unobservable inputs of selected financial instruments by comparing them with appropriate benchmarks and observable pricing sources;
- Validated the accuracy of arithmetical calculation in the pricing models;
- Evaluated the valuation of selected financial instruments by considering alternative valuation methodologies and assessing sensitivities to key inputs; and
- Assessed the adequacy of the disclosures relating to the fair value of financial instruments against the requirements of HKFRS.

Other information included in the Annual Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report, other than the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the directors for the consolidated financial statements

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors of the Company are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors of the Company either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors of the Company are assisted by the Audit Committee in discharging their responsibilities for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Our report is made solely to you, as a body, in accordance with section 90 of the Bermuda Companies Act 1981, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

Independent Auditor's Report

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements (cont'd)

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements (cont'd)

We communicate with the Audit Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the Audit Committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with the Audit Committee, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Wong Sui Yan.

Ernst & Young

Certified Public Accountants
32/F, Taikoo Place,
Quarry Bay, Hong Kong

26th March, 2021

Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss

Year ended 31st December, 2020

| | Notes | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 |
|---|----------|------------------|------------------|
| REVENUE | 4, 26(a) | 1,747,918 | 1,702,009 |
| Gross premiums | 26(a) | 1,668,958 | 1,545,448 |
| Reinsurers' share of gross premiums | 26(b) | (632,083) | (568,797) |
| Net insurance contracts premiums revenue | | 1,036,875 | 976,651 |
| Gross claims paid | 27(a) | (723,229) | (946,606) |
| Reinsurers' share of gross claims paid | 27(b) | 339,447 | 553,415 |
| Gross change in outstanding claims | 27(c) | (252,680) | (163,601) |
| Reinsurers' share of gross change in outstanding claims | 27(d) | 126,296 | 70,548 |
| Net claims incurred | | (510,166) | (486,244) |
| Commission income | | 138,134 | 135,657 |
| Commission expense | | (393,258) | (387,841) |
| Net commission expense | | (255,124) | (252,184) |
| Management expenses for underwriting business | | (117,647) | (87,275) |
| Underwriting profit | | 153,938 | 150,948 |
| Dividend income | | 166,270 | 118,832 |
| Realised gain/(loss) on investments | | (64,049) | 22,884 |
| Unrealised gain on investments | | 98,856 | 33,871 |
| Interest income | | 77,671 | 102,335 |
| Other income and gains/(losses), net | | (8,228) | 454 |
| | | 424,458 | 429,324 |
| Operating expenses | | (133,132) | (138,088) |
| Finance costs | 5 | (383) | (4,022) |
| | | 290,943 | 287,214 |
| Share of profits or losses of joint ventures | 14 | 26,883 | 46,801 |
| Share of profits or losses of associates | | 54,595 | 100,244 |
| PROFIT BEFORE TAX | 6 | 372,421 | 434,259 |
| Income tax expense | 9 | (27,474) | (26,691) |
| PROFIT FOR THE YEAR | | 344,947 | 407,568 |

continued/...

Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss

Year ended 31st December, 2020

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| <hr/> | | | |
| Attributable to: | | | |
| Equity holders of the Company | | 337,952 | 408,965 |
| Non-controlling interests | | 6,995 | (1,397) |
| | | <u>344,947</u> | <u>407,568</u> |
| | | | |
| EARNINGS PER SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY EQUITY HOLDERS OF THE COMPANY | 11 | | |
| | | | |
| Basic and diluted | | | |
| – For profit for the year | | <u>HK35.4 cents</u> | <u>HK42.2 cents</u> |

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

Year ended 31st December, 2020

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| PROFIT FOR THE YEAR | | 344,947 | 407,568 |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | | | |
| Other comprehensive income that may be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods: | | | |
| Share of other comprehensive income of joint ventures | 14 | 9,879 | 16,343 |
| Share of other comprehensive income of associates | | 32,443 | 2,255 |
| Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations | | (910) | (676) |
| Net other comprehensive income that may be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods | | 41,412 | 17,922 |
| Other comprehensive income that will not be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods: | | | |
| Equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income: | | | |
| Changes in fair value | 17 | 542,491 | 711,615 |
| Income tax effect | 31 | (85,939) | (106,838) |
| Net other comprehensive income that will not be reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods | | 456,552 | 604,777 |
| OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR, NET OF TAX | | 497,964 | 622,699 |
| TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR | | 842,911 | 1,030,267 |
| ATTRIBUTABLE TO: | | | |
| Equity holders of the Company | | 835,359 | 1,027,506 |
| Non-controlling interests | | 7,552 | 2,761 |
| | | 842,911 | 1,030,267 |

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

31st December, 2020

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | <i>12</i> | 194,232 | 181,382 |
| Investment properties | <i>13</i> | 257,500 | 285,300 |
| Interests in joint ventures | <i>14</i> | 515,444 | 496,698 |
| Interests in associates | <i>15</i> | 427,519 | 507,333 |
| Due from associates | <i>15</i> | 256,140 | 256,140 |
| Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | <i>16</i> | 1,042,767 | 738,587 |
| Equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income | <i>17</i> | 6,850,964 | 5,801,466 |
| Pledged deposits | <i>22</i> | 313,357 | 305,590 |
| Loans and advances and other assets | <i>18</i> | 153,702 | 117,982 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | <i>19</i> | 1,341,716 | 1,147,947 |
| Insurance receivables | <i>20</i> | 231,385 | 251,060 |
| Reinsurance assets | <i>21</i> | 1,531,060 | 1,401,886 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | <i>22</i> | 2,800,240 | 3,366,602 |
| Total assets | | 15,916,026 | 14,857,973 |

continued/...

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

31st December, 2020

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | | |
| Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company | | | |
| Issued capital | 23 | 946,620 | 960,840 |
| Reserves | 24 | 9,991,849 | 9,267,043 |
| Proposed final dividend | 10 | 65,970 | 47,968 |
| | | 11,004,439 | 10,275,851 |
| Non-controlling interests | | 54,881 | 47,329 |
| Total equity | | 11,059,320 | 10,323,180 |
| Liabilities | | | |
| Insurance contracts liabilities | 25 | 3,935,104 | 3,603,464 |
| Insurance payables | 28 | 169,375 | 207,099 |
| Due to associates | 15 | 4,222 | 4,222 |
| Other liabilities | 29 | 304,552 | 264,101 |
| Interest-bearing bank borrowing | 30 | – | 100,000 |
| Tax payable | | 69,637 | 73,957 |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 31 | 373,816 | 281,950 |
| Total liabilities | | 4,856,706 | 4,534,793 |
| Total equity and liabilities | | 15,916,026 | 14,857,973 |

CHAN Bernard Charnwut
Executive Director & President

TAN Stephen
Executive Director

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

Year ended 31st December, 2020

| | Attributable to equity holders of the Company | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Issued capital HK\$'000 | Treasury shares HK\$'000 | Share premium account HK\$'000 <i>(note 24)</i> | Contingency reserve HK\$'000 | Fair value reserve HK\$'000 | Asset revaluation reserve HK\$'000 | Exchange reserve HK\$'000 | Statutory reserve HK\$'000 | Capital reserve HK\$'000 | Capital redemption reserve HK\$'000 | Retained profits HK\$'000 | Proposed final dividend HK\$'000 | Total HK\$'000 | Non-controlling interest HK\$'000 | Total HK\$'000 |
| At 1st January, 2019 | 973,180 | - | 560,531 | 69,890 | 2,862,741 | 141,570 | (10,465) | 2,427 | 513,240 | 84,841 | 4,136,960 | 48,615 | 9,383,530 | 44,568 | 9,428,098 |
| Profit for the year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 408,965 | - | 408,965 | (1,397) | 407,568 |
| Other comprehensive income for the year: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Changes in fair value of equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income, net of tax | - | - | - | - | 604,777 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 604,777 | - | 604,777 |
| Share of other comprehensive income of joint ventures <i>(note 14)</i> | - | - | - | - | 18,779 | - | (2,436) | - | - | - | - | - | 16,343 | - | 16,343 |
| Share of other comprehensive income of associates | - | - | - | - | 7,303 | - | (8,285) | - | - | - | - | - | (982) | 3,237 | 2,255 |
| Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations | - | - | - | - | - | - | (1,597) | - | - | - | - | - | (1,597) | 921 | (676) |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | - | - | - | - | 630,859 | - | (12,318) | - | - | - | 408,965 | - | 1,027,506 | 2,761 | 1,030,267 |
| Final 2018 dividend declared | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 121 | (48,615) | (48,494) | - | (48,494) |
| Interim 2019 dividend | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | (33,784) | - | (33,784) | - | (33,784) |
| Proposed final 2019 dividend <i>(note 10)</i> | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | (47,968) | 47,968 | - | - | - |
| Repurchase of shares | (12,340) | (593) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | (39,974) | - | (52,907) | - | (52,907) |
| Transfer to capital redemption reserve | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 12,340 | (12,340) | - | - | - | - |
| Transfer to contingency reserve | - | - | - | 14,816 | - | - | - | - | - | - | (14,816) | - | - | - | - |
| Release from contingency reserve | - | - | - | (30,235) | - | - | - | - | - | - | 30,235 | - | - | - | - |
| Share of changes in contingency reserve of a joint venture | - | - | - | 132 | - | - | - | - | - | - | (132) | - | - | - | - |
| At 31st December, 2019 | 960,840 | (593)* | 560,531* | 54,603* | 3,493,600* | 141,570* | (22,783)* | 2,427* | 513,240* | 97,181* | 4,427,267* | 47,968 | 10,275,851 | 47,329 | 10,323,180 |

continued/...

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

Year ended 31st December, 2020

| | Attributable to equity holders of the Company | | | | | | | | | | | | | Non-controlling interest | Total | |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------|------------|
| | Issued capital | Treasury shares | Share premium account | Share based reserve | Contingency reserve | Fair value reserve | Asset revaluation reserve | Exchange reserve | Statutory reserve | Capital reserve | Capital redemption reserve | Retained profits | Proposed final dividend | | | Total |
| | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 (note 24) | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 |
| At 1st January, 2020 | 960,840 | (593) | 560,531 | - | 54,603 | 3,483,600 | 141,570 | (22,783) | 2,427 | 513,240 | 97,181 | 4,427,267 | 47,968 | 10,275,851 | 47,329 | 10,323,180 |
| Profit for the year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 337,952 | - | 337,952 | 6,995 | 344,947 |
| Other comprehensive income for the year: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Changes in fair value of equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income, net of tax | - | - | - | - | - | 455,652 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 455,652 | 900 | 456,552 |
| Share of other comprehensive income of joint ventures (note 14) | - | - | - | - | - | 9,679 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 9,679 | - | 9,679 |
| Share of other comprehensive income of associates | - | - | - | - | - | (1,002) | - | 33,788 | - | - | - | - | - | 32,786 | (343) | 32,443 |
| Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | - | - | - | (921) | - | (910) | - | (910) |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | - | - | - | - | - | 464,529 | - | 33,799 | - | - | - | 337,031 | - | 835,359 | 7,552 | 842,911 |
| Reclassification of net change in fair value of equity instruments upon derecognition | - | - | - | - | - | 574 | - | - | - | - | - | (574) | - | - | - | - |
| Final 2019 dividend declared | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | (47,968) | (47,964) | - | (47,964) |
| Interim 2020 dividend | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | (9,493) | - | (9,493) | - | (9,493) |
| Proposed final 2020 dividend (note 10) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | (65,970) | 65,970 | - | - | - |
| Repurchase of shares (note 23) | (14,220) | (1,127) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | (36,516) | - | (51,863) | - | (51,863) |
| Transfer to capital redemption reserve (note 23) | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14,220 | (14,220) | - | - | - | - | - |
| Transfer to contingency reserve | - | - | - | - | 51,414 | - | - | - | - | - | - | (51,414) | - | - | - | - |
| Share of share based reserve of a joint venture | - | - | - | 2,549 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2,549 | - | 2,549 |
| Share of changes in contingency reserve of a joint venture | - | - | - | - | 170 | - | - | - | - | - | - | (170) | - | - | - | - |
| At 31st December, 2020 | 946,620 | (1,720)* | 560,531* | 2,549* | 106,187* | 3,958,703* | 141,570* | 11,016* | 2,427* | 513,240* | 111,401* | 4,585,945* | 65,970 | 11,004,439 | 54,881 | 11,059,320 |

* These reserve accounts comprise the consolidated reserves of HK\$9,991,849,000 (2019: HK\$9,267,043,000) in the consolidated statement of financial position.

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31st December, 2020

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Profit before tax | | 372,421 | 434,259 |
| Adjustments for: | | | |
| Interest income | <i>6</i> | (77,671) | (102,335) |
| Finance costs | <i>5</i> | 383 | 4,022 |
| Dividend income from investments | <i>6</i> | (166,270) | (118,832) |
| Gain on changes in ownership interest in a joint venture | | (5,535) | – |
| Gain on deemed disposal of interest in an associate | | (12,665) | – |
| Loss on redemption/call-back of held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | <i>6</i> | – | 298 |
| Depreciation | <i>6</i> | 14,022 | 10,406 |
| Changes in expected credit losses | | | |
| – Insurance receivables | <i>6</i> | 5,014 | 3,300 |
| – Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | <i>6</i> | 1,237 | – |
| Changes in fair value of investment properties | <i>6</i> | 28,704 | 2,600 |
| Loss on disposal/write-off of items of property, plant and equipment | <i>6</i> | 288 | 71 |
| Share of profits or losses of joint ventures | | (26,883) | (46,801) |
| Share of profits or losses of associates | | (54,595) | (100,244) |
| | | 78,450 | 86,744 |
| Increase in loans and advances and other assets | | (33,755) | (27,917) |
| Decrease/(increase) in financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | | (193,769) | 366,691 |
| Decrease/(increase) in insurance receivables | | 14,661 | (15,051) |
| Increase in reinsurance assets | | (129,174) | (137,841) |
| Increase in time deposits with original maturity of over three months | | (57,833) | (14,467) |
| Increase in insurance contracts liabilities | | 331,640 | 320,162 |
| Increase/(decrease) in insurance payables | | (37,724) | 31,018 |
| Increase in other liabilities | | 38,011 | 21,839 |
| Cash generated from operations | | 10,507 | 631,178 |
| Hong Kong profits tax paid | | (5,350) | (9,839) |
| Overseas profits tax paid | | (7,266) | (6,921) |
| Overseas withholding tax paid | | (15,216) | – |
| Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities | | (17,325) | 614,418 |

continued/...

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31st December, 2020

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Net cash flows from/(used in) operating activities | | (17,325) | 614,418 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Interest received | | 77,671 | 102,335 |
| Dividends received from investments | | 166,270 | 118,832 |
| Dividends received from joint ventures | <i>14</i> | 26,100 | 25,499 |
| Dividends received from associates | <i>15</i> | 1,014 | 38,594 |
| Purchases of held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | | (369,711) | (132,316) |
| Purchases of equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income | | (330,936) | (2,916) |
| Proceeds from redemption/call-back of held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | | 64,294 | 190,443 |
| Proceeds from disposal of equity investment designated at fair value through other comprehensive income | | 2,432 | – |
| Purchases of items of property, plant and equipment | <i>12</i> | (13,328) | (5,670) |
| Purchase of an investment property | <i>13</i> | (12,093) | – |
| Proceeds from disposal of items of property, plant and equipment | | – | 8 |
| Capital return from a joint venture | | – | 6,746 |
| Capital contribution to a joint venture | | – | (96,500) |
| Capital contribution to an associate | | – | (35,000) |
| Decrease/(increase) in pledged deposits | | (7,767) | 17,476 |
| Net cash flows from/(used in) investing activities | | (396,054) | 227,531 |
| CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Repayment of a bank borrowing | <i>32</i> | (100,000) | (50,000) |
| Repurchase of shares | <i>23</i> | (51,863) | (52,907) |
| Dividends paid | | (57,457) | (82,278) |
| Principal portion of lease payments | <i>32</i> | (1,113) | (581) |
| Interest paid | <i>32</i> | (383) | (4,022) |
| Net cash flows used in financing activities | | (210,816) | (189,788) |
| NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | | (624,195) | 652,161 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | | 3,321,674 | 2,669,513 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR | | 2,697,479 | 3,321,674 |

continued/...

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31st December, 2020

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <hr/> | | | |
| ANALYSIS OF BALANCES OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | | | |
| Cash and bank balances | <i>22</i> | 201,165 | 184,274 |
| Non-pledged time deposits with original maturity of over three months when acquired | <i>22</i> | 102,761 | 44,928 |
| Non-pledged time deposits with original maturity of less than three months when acquired | <i>22</i> | 2,496,314 | 3,137,400 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Cash and cash equivalents as stated in the consolidated statement of financial position | | 2,800,240 | 3,366,602 |
| Less: Non-pledged time deposits with original maturity of over three months when acquired | | (102,761) | (44,928) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Cash and cash equivalents as stated in the consolidated statement of cash flows | | 2,697,479 | 3,321,674 |
| | | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

1. Corporate and Group Information

Asia Financial Holdings Limited is a limited liability company incorporated in Bermuda and its shares are listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”). The registered office of the Company is located at Clarendon House, Church Street, Hamilton HM 11, Bermuda and its principal place of business in Hong Kong is located at 16th Floor, Worldwide House, 19 Des Voeux Road Central, Hong Kong.

The principal activities of the Group comprise the provision of underwriting of general and life insurance and investment holding. There were no significant changes in the nature of the Group’s principal activities during the year. Particulars of the Company’s principal subsidiaries are detailed in note 40 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the directors, the holding company and the ultimate holding company of the Company is Claremont Capital Holdings Ltd, which was incorporated in the British Virgin Islands.

2.1 Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) (which include all 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 disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance. They have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for investment properties, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income which have been measured at fair value. These financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand except when otherwise indicated.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as the “Group”) for the year ended 31st December, 2020. A subsidiary is an entity (including a structured entity), directly or indirectly, controlled by the Company. Control is achieved when the Group is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the investee (i.e., existing rights that give the Group the current ability to direct the relevant activities of the investee).

2.1 Basis of Preparation (cont'd)

Basis of consolidation (cont'd)

When the Company has, directly or indirectly, less than a majority of the voting or similar rights of an investee, the Group considers all relevant facts and circumstances in assessing whether it has power over an investee, including:

- (a) the contractual arrangement with the other vote holders of the investee;
- (b) rights arising from other contractual arrangements; and
- (c) the Group's voting rights and potential voting rights.

The financial statements of the subsidiaries are prepared for the same reporting period as the Company using consistent accounting policies, except where exemption is applicable. The results of subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which the Group obtains control, and continue to be consolidated until the date that such control ceases.

Profit or loss and each component of other comprehensive income are attributed to the equity holders of the Company and to the non-controlling interests, even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance. All intra-group assets and liabilities, equity, income, expenses and cash flows relating to transactions between members of the Group are eliminated on consolidation.

The Group reassesses whether or not it controls an investee if facts and circumstances indicate that there are changes to one or more of the three elements of control described above. A change in the ownership interest of a subsidiary, without a loss of control, is accounted for as an equity transaction.

If the Group loses control over a subsidiary, it derecognises (i) the assets (including goodwill) and liabilities of the subsidiary, (ii) the carrying amount of any non-controlling interest and (iii) the cumulative translation differences recorded in equity; and recognises (i) the fair value of the consideration received, (ii) the fair value of any investment retained and (iii) any resulting surplus or deficit in profit or loss. The Group's share of components previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified to profit or loss or retained profits, as appropriate, on the same basis as would be required if the Group had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities.

2.2 Changes in Accounting Policies and Disclosures

The Group has adopted the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting 2018* and the following revised HKFRSs for the first time for the current year's financial statements.

| | |
|---|--|
| Amendments to HKFRS 3 | <i>Definition of a Business</i> |
| Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39 and HKFRS 7 | <i>Interest Rate Benchmark Reform</i> |
| Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8 | <i>Definition of Material</i> |
| Amendment to HKFRS 16 | <i>COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions (early adopted)</i> |

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

2.2 Changes in Accounting Policies and Disclosures (cont'd)

The nature and the impact of the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting 2018* and the revised HKFRSs are described below:

Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting 2018 (the “Conceptual Framework”)

The Conceptual Framework sets out a comprehensive set of concepts for financial reporting and standard setting, and provides guidance for preparers of financial statements in developing consistent accounting policies and assistance to all parties to understand and interpret the standards. The Conceptual Framework includes new chapters on measurement and reporting financial performance, new guidance on the derecognition of assets and liabilities, and updated definitions and recognition criteria for assets and liabilities. It also clarifies the roles of stewardship, prudence and measurement uncertainty in financial reporting. The Conceptual Framework is not a standard, and none of the concepts contained therein override the concepts or requirements in any standard. The Conceptual Framework did not have any significant impact on the financial position and performance of the Group.

Amendments to HKFRS 3 Definition of a Business

Amendments to HKFRS 3 clarify and provide additional guidance on the definition of a business. The amendments clarify that for an integrated set of activities and assets to be considered a business, it must include, at a minimum, an input and a substantive process that together significantly contribute to the ability to create output. A business can exist without including all of the inputs and processes needed to create outputs. The amendments remove the assessment of whether market participants are capable of acquiring the business and continue to produce outputs. Instead, the focus is on whether acquired inputs and acquired substantive processes together significantly contribute to the ability to create outputs. The amendments have also narrowed the definition of outputs to focus on goods or services provided to customers, investment income or other income from ordinary activities. Furthermore, the amendments provide guidance to assess whether an acquired process is substantive and introduce an optional fair value concentration test to permit a simplified assessment of whether an acquired set of activities and assets is not a business. The Group has applied the amendments prospectively to transactions or other events that occurred on or after 1st January, 2020. The amendments did not have any impact on the financial position and performance of the Group.

2.2 Changes in Accounting Policies and Disclosures (cont'd)

Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39 and HKFRS 7 *Interest Rate Benchmark Reform*

Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39 and HKFRS 7 address the effects of interbank offered rate reform on issues affecting financial reporting in the period before the replacement of an existing interest rate benchmark with an alternative risk-free rate ("RFR"). The amendments provide temporary reliefs which enable hedge accounting to continue during the period of uncertainty before the replacement of an existing interest rate benchmark introduction of the alternative RFR. In addition, the amendments require companies to provide additional information to investors about their hedging relationships which are directly affected by these uncertainties. The amendments did not have any impact on the financial position and performance of the Group as the Group does not have any interest rate hedge relationships.

Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8 *Definition of Material*

Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8 provide a new definition of material. The new definition states that information is material if omitting, misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements. The amendments clarify that materiality will depend on the nature or magnitude of information, or both. The amendments did not have any significant impact on the financial position and performance of the Group.

Amendment to HKFRS 16 *COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions*

Amendment to HKFRS 16 provides a practical expedient for lessees to elect not to apply lease modification accounting for rent concessions arising as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The practical expedient applies only to rent concessions occurring as a direct consequence of the pandemic and only if (i) the change in lease payments results in revised consideration for the lease that is substantially the same as, or less than, the consideration for the lease immediately preceding the change; (ii) any reduction in lease payments affects only payments originally due on or before 30th June, 2021; and (iii) there is no substantive change to other terms and conditions of the lease. The amendment is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st June, 2020 with earlier application permitted and shall be applied retrospectively. The amendments did not have any impact on the financial position and performance of the Group as the Group does not have any rent concessions.

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

2.3 Issued but not yet Effective Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards

Except for the amendment to HKFRS 16, the Group has not applied the following new and revised HKFRSs, that have been issued but are not yet effective for the accounting year ended 31st December, 2020 in these financial statements.

| | |
|---|---|
| Amendments to HKFRS 3 | <i>Reference to the Conceptual Framework</i> ² |
| Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39, HKFRS 7, HKFRS 4 and HKFRS 16 | <i>Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2</i> ¹ |
| Amendments to HKFRS 10 and HKAS 28 (2011) | <i>Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture</i> ⁴ |
| HKFRS 17 | <i>Insurance Contracts</i> ³ |
| Amendments to HKFRS 17 | <i>Insurance Contracts</i> ^{3**} |
| Amendments to HKAS 1 | <i>Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current</i> ^{3, 5} |
| Amendments to HKAS 16 | <i>Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use</i> ² |
| Amendments to HKAS 37 | <i>Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract</i> ² |
| <i>Annual Improvements to HKFRSs 2018-2020</i> | Amendments to HKFRS 1, HKFRS 9, Illustrative Examples accompanying HKFRS 16, and HKAS 41 ² |

1 Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2021

2 Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2022

3 Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2023

4 No mandatory effective date yet determined but available for adoption

5 As a consequence of the amendments to HKAS 1, Hong Kong Interpretation 5 *Presentation of Financial Statements – Classification by the Borrower of a Term Loan that Contains a Repayment on Demand Clause* was revised in October 2020 to align the corresponding wording with no change in conclusion

** As a consequence of the amendments to HKFRS 17 issued in October 2020, HKFRS 4 was amended to extend the temporary exemption that permits insurers to apply HKAS 39 rather than HKFRS 9 for annual periods beginning before 1st January, 2023

Further information about those HKFRSs that are expected to be applicable to the Group is described below.

Amendments to HKFRS 3 *Reference to the Conceptual Framework*

Amendments to HKFRS 3 are intended to replace a reference to the previous *Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements* with a reference to the *Conceptual Framework for Financial Reporting* issued in June 2018 without significantly changing its requirements. The amendments also add to HKFRS 3 an exception to its recognition principle for an entity to refer to the Conceptual Framework to determine what constitutes an asset or a liability. The exception specifies that, for liabilities and contingent liabilities that would be within the scope of HKAS 37 or HK(IFRIC)-Int 21 if they were incurred separately rather than assumed in a business combination, an entity applying HKFRS 3 should refer to HKAS 37 or HK(IFRIC)-Int 21 respectively instead of the Conceptual Framework. Furthermore, the amendments clarify that contingent assets do not qualify for recognition at the acquisition date. The Group expects to adopt the amendments prospectively from 1st January, 2022. Since the amendments apply prospectively to business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the date of first application, the Group will not be affected by these amendments on the date of transition.

2.3 Issued but not yet Effective Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (cont'd)

Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39, HKFRS 7, HKFRS 4 and HKFRS 16 *Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2*

Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39, HKFRS 7, HKFRS 4 and HKFRS 16 address issues not dealt with in the previous amendments which affect financial reporting when an existing interest rate benchmark is replaced with an alternative RFR. The Phase 2 amendments provide a practical expedient to allow the effective interest rate to be updated without adjusting the carrying amount when accounting for changes in the basis for determining the contractual cash flows of financial assets and liabilities, if the change is a direct consequence of the interest rate benchmark reform and the new basis for determining the contractual cash flows is economically equivalent to the previous basis immediately preceding the change. In addition, the amendments permit changes required by the interest rate benchmark reform to be made to hedge designations and hedge documentation without the hedging relationship being discontinued. Any gains or losses that could arise on transition are dealt with through the normal requirements of HKFRS 9 to measure and recognise hedge ineffectiveness. The amendments also provide a temporary relief to entities from having to meet the separately identifiable requirement when an RFR is designated as a risk component. The relief allows an entity, upon designation of the hedge, to assume that the separately identifiable requirement is met, provided the entity reasonably expects the RFR risk component to become separately identifiable within the next 24 months. Furthermore, the amendments require an entity to disclose additional information to enable users of financial statements to understand the effect of interest rate benchmark reform on an entity's financial instruments and risk management strategy. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2021 and shall be applied retrospectively, but entities are not required to restate the comparative information. The amendments are not expected to have any significant impact on the Group's financial statements.

Amendments to HKFRS 10 and HKAS 28 (2011) *Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture*

Amendments to HKFRS 10 and HKAS 28 (2011) address an inconsistency between the requirements in HKFRS 10 and in HKAS 28 (2011) in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The amendments require a full recognition of a gain or loss when the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture constitutes a business. For a transaction involving assets that do not constitute a business, a gain or loss resulting from the transaction is recognised in the investor's profit or loss only to the extent of the unrelated investor's interest in that associate or joint venture. The amendments are to be applied prospectively. The previous mandatory effective date of amendments to HKFRS 10 and HKAS 28 (2011) was removed by the HKICPA in January 2016 and a new mandatory effective date will be determined after the completion of a broader review of accounting for associates and joint ventures. However, the amendments are available for adoption now.

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

2.3 Issued but not yet Effective Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (cont'd)

HKFRS 17 *Insurance Contracts*

HKFRS 17 is a comprehensive new accounting standard for insurance contracts covering recognition and measurement, presentation and disclosure. Once effective, HKFRS 17 will replace the existing HKFRS 4 *Insurance Contracts*. The standard applies to all types of insurance contracts (i.e., life, non-life, direct insurance and re-insurance), regardless of the type of entities that issue them, as well as to certain guarantees and financial instruments with discretionary participation features. A few scope exceptions will apply. The overall objective of the standard is to provide an accounting model for insurance contracts that is more useful and consistent for insurers. In contrast to the requirements in HKFRS 4, which are largely based on grandfathering previous local accounting policies, the standard provides a comprehensive model for insurance contracts, covering all relevant accounting aspects. The core of the standard is the general model, supplemented by:

- A specific adaptation for contracts with direct participation features (the variable fee approach); and
- A simplified approach (the premium allocation approach) mainly for short-duration contracts.

HKFRS 17 is effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2023. Early application is permitted, provided the entity also applies HKFRS 9 on or before the date it first applies HKFRS 17. The Group is assessing the financial impact of the standard and the timing of its application.

Amendments to HKFRS 17 *Insurance Contracts*

Amendments to HKFRS 17 include changes to simplify certain requirements in the standard and make financial performance easier to explain. The amendments also provide additional reliefs to reduce the effort required for the transition to HKFRS 17. In addition, the amendments defer the effective date of HKFRS 17 to annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2023 with earlier application permitted. The Group is assessing the financial impact of the standard and the timing of its application.

Amendments to HKAS 1 *Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*

Amendments to HKAS 1 clarify the requirements for classifying liabilities as current or non-current. The amendments specify that if an entity's right to defer settlement of a liability is subject to the entity complying with specified conditions, the entity has a right to defer settlement of the liability at the end of the reporting period if it complies with those conditions at that date. Classification of a liability is unaffected by the likelihood that the entity will exercise its right to defer settlement of the liability. The amendments also clarify the situations that are considered a settlement of a liability. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2023 and shall be applied retrospectively. Earlier application is permitted. The amendments are not expected to have any significant impact on the Group's financial statements.

2.3 Issued but not yet Effective Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (cont'd)

Amendments to HKAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment: Proceeds before Intended Use

Amendments to HKAS 16 prohibit an entity from deducting from the cost of an item of property, plant and equipment any proceeds from selling items produced while bringing that asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management. Instead, an entity recognises the proceeds from selling any such items, and the cost of those items, in profit or loss. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2022 and shall be applied retrospectively only to items of property, plant and equipment made available for use on or after the beginning of the earliest period presented in the financial statements in which the entity first applies the amendments. Earlier application is permitted. The amendments are not expected to have any significant impact on the Group's financial statements.

Amendments to HKAS 37 Onerous Contracts – Cost of Fulfilling a Contract

Amendments to HKAS 37 clarify that for the purpose of assessing whether a contract is onerous under HKAS 37, the cost of fulfilling the contract comprises the costs that relate directly to the contract. Costs that relate directly to a contract include both the incremental costs of fulfilling that contract (e.g., direct labour and materials) and an allocation of other costs that relate directly to fulfilling that contract (e.g., an allocation of the depreciation charge for an item of property, plant and equipment used in fulfilling the contract as well as contract management and supervision costs). General and administrative costs do not relate directly to a contract and are excluded unless they are explicitly chargeable to the counterparty under the contract. The amendments are effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2022 and shall be applied to contracts for which an entity has not yet fulfilled all its obligations at the beginning of the annual reporting period in which it first applies the amendments. Earlier application is permitted. Any cumulative effect of initially applying the amendments shall be recognised as an adjustment to the opening equity at the date of initial application without restating the comparative information. The amendments are not expected to have any significant impact on the Group's financial statements.

Annual Improvements to HKFRSs 2018-2020 Amendments to HKFRS 1, HKFRS 9, Illustrative Examples accompanying HKFRS 16, and HKAS 41

Annual Improvements to HKFRSs 2018-2020 sets out amendments to HKFRS 1, HKFRS 9, Illustrative Examples accompanying HKFRS 16, and HKAS 41. Details of the amendments that are expected to be applicable to the Group are as follows:

- HKFRS 9 *Financial Instruments*: clarifies the fees that an entity includes when assessing whether the terms of a new or modified financial liability are substantially different from the terms of the original financial liability. These fees include only those paid or received between the borrower and the lender, including fees paid or received by either the borrower or lender on the other's behalf. An entity applies the amendment to financial liabilities that are modified or exchanged on or after the beginning of the annual reporting period in which the entity first applies the amendment. The amendment is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2022. Earlier application is permitted. The amendment is not expected to have a significant impact on the Group's financial statements.
- HKFRS 16 *Leases*: removes the illustration of payments from the lessor relating to leasehold improvements in Illustrative Example 13 accompanying HKFRS 16. This removes potential confusion regarding the treatment of lease incentives when applying HKFRS 16.

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Revenue recognition

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when control of goods or services is transferred to the customers at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Group expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services.

When the consideration in a contract includes a variable amount, the amount of consideration is estimated to which the Group will be entitled in exchange for transferring the goods or services to the customer. The variable consideration is estimated at contract inception and constrained until it is highly probable that a significant revenue reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur when the associated uncertainty with the variable consideration is subsequently resolved.

When the contract contains a financing component which provides the customer with a significant benefit of financing the transfer of goods or services to the customer for more than one year, revenue is measured at the present value of the amount receivable, discounted using the discount rate that would be reflected in a separate financing transaction between the Group and the customer at contract inception. When the contract contains a financing component which provides the Group with a significant financial benefit for more than one year, revenue recognised under the contract includes the interest expense accreted on the contract liability under the effective interest method. For a contract where the period between the payment by the customer and the transfer of the promised goods or services is one year or less, the transaction price is not adjusted for the effects of a significant financing component, using the practical expedient in HKFRS 15.

Insurance premium income

Premiums from direct underwriting and reinsurance business are recorded based on insurance policy contracts inception and advices received from the cedants during the financial year, respectively, and are recognised as income when risk coverage is provided to the insured or the cedants.

Commission income

Commission income is recognised at the point in time when the related policy is effective.

Revenue from other sources

Rental income is recognised on a time proportion basis over the lease terms. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as income in the accounting period in which they are incurred.

Other income

Interest income is recognised on an accrual basis using the effective interest method by applying the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash receipts over the expected life of the financial instrument or a shorter period, when appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Dividend income is recognised when the shareholders' right to receive payment has been established, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the dividend will flow to the Group and the amount of the dividend can be measured reliably.

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Commission expenses and other acquisition costs

Commission expenses and other acquisition costs relating to the underwriting business are not deferred and are charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss as incurred.

Investments in associates and joint ventures

An associate is an entity in which the Group has a long term interest of generally not less than 20% of the equity voting rights and over which it is in a position to exercise significant influence. Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee, but is not control or joint control over those policies.

A joint venture is a type of joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the joint venture. Joint control is the contractually agreed sharing of control of an arrangement, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

The Group's interests in associates and joint ventures are stated in the consolidated statement of financial position at the Group's share of net assets under the equity method of accounting, less any impairment losses. Adjustments are made to bring into line any dissimilar accounting policies that may exist. The Group's share of the post-acquisition results and other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures is included in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and consolidated statement of comprehensive income, respectively. In addition, when there has been a change recognised directly in the equity of the associate or joint venture, the Group recognises its share of any changes, when applicable, in the consolidated statement of changes in equity. Unrealised gains and losses resulting from transactions between the Group and its associates or joint ventures are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interests in the associates or joint ventures, except where unrealised losses provide evidence of an impairment of the assets transferred. Goodwill arising from the acquisition of associates or joint ventures is included as part of the Group's interests in associates or joint ventures and is not individually tested for impairment.

If an investment in an associate becomes an investment in a joint venture or vice versa, the retained interest is not remeasured. Instead, the investment continues to be accounted for under the equity method. In all other cases, upon loss of significant influence over the associate or joint control over the joint venture, the Group measures and recognises any retained investment at its fair value. Any difference between the carrying amount of the associate or joint venture upon loss of significant influence or joint control and the fair value of the retained investment and proceeds from disposal is recognised in profit or loss.

When an investment in an associate or a joint venture is classified as held for sale, it is accounted for in accordance with HKFRS 5 *Non-current Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*.

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2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Business combinations and goodwill

Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method. The consideration transferred is measured at the acquisition date fair value which is the sum of the acquisition date fair values of assets transferred by the Group, liabilities assumed by the Group to the former owners of the acquiree and the equity interests issued by the Group in exchange for control of the acquiree. For each business combination, the Group elects whether to measure the non-controlling interests in the acquiree that are present ownership interests and entitle their holders to a proportionate share of net assets in the event of liquidation at fair value or at the proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets. All other components of non-controlling interests are measured at fair value. Acquisition-related costs are expensed as incurred.

The Group determines that it has acquired a business when the acquired set of activities and assets includes an input and a substantive process that together significantly contribute to the ability to create outputs.

When the Group acquires a business, it assesses the financial assets and liabilities assumed for appropriate classification and designation in accordance with the contractual terms, economic circumstances and pertinent conditions as at the acquisition date. This includes the separation of embedded derivatives in host contracts of the acquiree.

If the business combination is achieved in stages, the previously held equity interest is remeasured at its acquisition date fair value and any resulting gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Any contingent consideration to be transferred by the acquirer is recognised at fair value at the acquisition date. Contingent consideration classified as an asset or liability is measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. Contingent consideration that is classified as equity is not remeasured and subsequent settlement is accounted for within equity.

Goodwill is initially measured at cost, being the excess of the aggregate of the consideration transferred, the amount recognised for non-controlling interests and any fair value of the Group's previously held equity interests in the acquiree over the identifiable net assets acquired and liabilities assumed. If the sum of this consideration and other items is lower than the fair value of the net assets acquired, the difference is, after reassessment, recognised in profit or loss as a gain on bargain purchase.

After initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired. The Group performs its annual impairment test of goodwill as at 31st December. For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the Group's cash-generating units, or groups of cash-generating units, that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the Group are assigned to those units or groups of units.

Impairment is determined by assessing the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit (group of cash-generating units) to which the goodwill relates. Where the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit (group of cash-generating units) is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised. An impairment loss recognised for goodwill is not reversed in a subsequent period.

Where goodwill has been allocated to a cash-generating unit (or group of cash-generating units) and part of the operation within that unit is disposed of, the goodwill associated with the operation disposed of is included in the carrying amount of the operation when determining the gain or loss on the disposal. Goodwill disposed of in these circumstances is measured based on the relative value of the operation disposed of and the portion of the cash-generating unit retained.

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Fair value measurement

The Group measures its investment properties, financial assets at fair value through profit or loss and equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income at fair value at the end of each reporting period. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability, or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The principal or the most advantageous market must be accessible by the Group. The fair value of an asset or a liability is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

A fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Group uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 – based on quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 – based on valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is observable, either directly or indirectly
- Level 3 – based on valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable

For assets and liabilities that are recognised in the financial statements on a recurring basis, the Group determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

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2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Impairment of non-financial assets

Where an indication of impairment exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required (other than financial assets, reinsurance assets, investment properties and a disposal group classified as held for sale), the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of the asset's or cash-generating unit's value in use and its fair value less costs of disposal, and is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets, in which case the recoverable amount is determined for the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

An impairment loss is recognised only if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. 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 the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. An impairment loss is charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss in the period in which it arises in those expense categories consistent with the function of the impaired asset.

An assessment is made at the end of each reporting period as to whether there is an indication that previously recognised impairment losses may no longer exist or may have decreased. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount is estimated. A previously recognised impairment loss of an asset other than goodwill and certain financial assets is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount of that asset, but not to an amount higher than the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of any depreciation/amortisation) had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset in prior years. A reversal of such an impairment loss is credited to the consolidated statement of profit or loss in the period in which it arises unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is accounted for in accordance with the relevant accounting policy for that revalued asset.

Property, plant and equipment and depreciation

Property, plant and equipment (including right-of-use assets arising from leases under HKFRS 16) are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. When an item of property, plant and equipment is classified as held for sale or when it is part of a disposal group classified as held for sale, it is not depreciated and is accounted for in accordance with HKFRS 5, as further explained in the accounting policy for "Non-current assets and disposal groups held for sale". The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment comprises its purchase price and any directly attributable costs of bringing the asset to its working condition and location for its intended use.

Expenditure incurred after items of property, plant and equipment have been put into operation, such as repairs and maintenance, is normally charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss in the period in which it is incurred. In situations where the recognition criteria are satisfied, the expenditure for a major inspection is capitalised in the carrying amount of the asset as a replacement. Where significant parts of property, plant and equipment are required to be replaced at intervals, the Group recognises such parts as individual assets with specific useful lives and depreciates them accordingly.

Land and buildings with residual lease periods of not more than 50 years are depreciated in equal annual instalments over the terms of leases excluding any renewal period. Buildings with residual lease periods of more than 50 years are depreciated on a straight-line basis at 2% per annum.

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Property, plant and equipment and depreciation (cont'd)

Furniture, fixtures, equipment, yachts and motor vehicles are depreciated to write off the cost of each asset over their estimated useful lives of 3 to 10 years.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the shorter of useful lives and lease terms.

Where parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, the cost of that item is allocated on a reasonable basis among the parts and each part is depreciated separately.

Residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at least at each financial year end.

An item of property, plant and equipment including any significant part initially recognised is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss on disposal or retirement recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss in the year the asset is derecognised is the difference between the net sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the relevant asset. On disposal or retirement, any attributable revaluation surplus realised in respect of previous valuations is transferred directly to retained profits as a reserve movement.

Investment properties

Investment properties are interests in land and buildings held to earn rental income and/or for capital appreciation, rather than for use in the production or supply of goods or services or for administrative purposes; or for sale in the ordinary course of business. Such properties are measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investment properties are stated at fair value, which reflects market conditions at the end of the reporting period.

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair values of investment properties are included in the consolidated statement of profit or loss in the year in which they arise.

Any gains or losses on the retirement or disposal of an investment property are recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss in the year of the retirement or disposal.

For a transfer from investment properties to owner-occupied properties, the deemed cost of a property for subsequent accounting is its fair value at the date of change in use. If a property occupied by the Group as an owner-occupied property becomes an investment property, the Group accounts for such property in accordance with the policy stated under "Property, plant and equipment and depreciation" up to the date of change in use, and any difference at that date between the carrying amount and the fair value of the property is dealt with as movements in the asset revaluation reserve.

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2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Non-current assets and disposal groups held for sale

Non-current assets and disposal groups are classified as held for sale if their carrying amounts will be recovered principally through a sales transaction rather than through continuing use. For this to be the case, the asset or disposal group must be available for immediate sale in its present condition subject only to terms that are usual and customary for the sale of such assets or disposal groups and its sale must be highly probable. All assets and liabilities of a subsidiary classified as a disposal group are reclassified as held for sale regardless of whether the Group retains a non-controlling interest in its former subsidiary after the sale.

Non-current assets and disposal groups (other than investment properties and financial assets) classified as held for sale are measured at the lower of their carrying amounts and fair values less costs to sell. Property, plant and equipment classified as held for sale are not depreciated or amortised.

Leases

The Group assesses at contract inception whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

Group as a lessee

The Group applies a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. The Group recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

(a) *Right-of-use assets*

Right-of-use assets are recognised at the commencement date of the lease (that is the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received. Where applicable, the cost of a right-of-use asset also includes an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease terms and the estimated useful lives of the assets.

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Group by the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

The Group's right-of-use assets are included in property, plant and equipment.

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Leases (cont'd)

Group as a lessee (cont'd)

(b) *Lease liabilities*

Lease liabilities are recognised at the commencement date of the lease at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The lease payments include fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees. The lease payments also include the exercise price of a purchase option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Group and payments of penalties for termination of a lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising the option to terminate the lease. The variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as an expense in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Group uses its incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date because the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in lease payments (e.g., a change to future lease payments resulting from a change in an index or rate) or a change in assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset.

The Group's lease liabilities are included in other liabilities.

(c) *Short-term leases and leases of low-value assets*

The Group applies the short-term lease recognition exemption to its short-term leases (that is those leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less from the commencement date and do not contain a purchase option). It also applies the recognition exemption for leases of low-value assets to leases that are considered to be of low value. Lease payments on short-term leases and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Group as a lessor

When the Group acts as a lessor, it classifies at lease inception (or when there is a lease modification) each of its leases as either an operating lease or a finance lease.

Leases in which the Group does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset are classified as operating leases. When a contract contains lease and non-lease components, the Group allocates the consideration in the contract to each component on a relative stand-alone selling price basis. Rental income is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease terms and is included in revenue in the consolidated statement of profit or loss due to its operating nature. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognised over the lease term on the same basis as rental income. Contingent rents are recognised as revenue in the period in which they are earned.

Leases that transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an underlying asset to the lessee, are accounted for as finance leases.

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2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Investments and other financial assets

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, as subsequently measured at amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income, and fair value through profit or loss.

The classification of financial assets at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the Group's business model for managing them. With the exception of trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Group has applied the practical expedient of not adjusting the effect of a significant financing component, the Group initially measures a financial asset at its fair value, plus in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss, transaction costs. Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Group has applied the practical expedient are measured at the transaction price determined under HKFRS 15 in accordance with the policies set out for "Revenue recognition" above.

In order for a financial asset to be classified and measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income, it needs to give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest ("SPPI") on the principal amount outstanding. Financial assets with cash flows that are not SPPI are classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss, irrespective of the business model.

The Group's business model for managing financial assets refers to how it manages its financial assets in order to generate cash flows. The business model determines whether cash flows will result from collecting contractual cash flows, selling the financial assets, or both. Financial assets classified and measured at amortised cost are held within a business model with the objective to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows, while financial assets classified and measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are held within a business model with the objective of both holding to collect contractual cash flows and selling. Financial assets which are not held within the aforementioned business models are classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss.

All regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on the trade date, that is, the date that the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Regular way purchases or sales are purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the period generally established by regulation or convention in the marketplace.

Subsequent measurement

The subsequent measurement of financial assets depends on their classification as follows:

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Investments and other financial assets (cont'd)

Subsequent measurement (cont'd)

Financial assets at amortised cost (debt instruments)

The Group measures financial assets at amortised cost if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows.
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest method and are subject to impairment. Gains and losses are recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss when the asset is derecognised, modified or impaired.

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income (debt instruments)

The Group measures debt investments at fair value through other comprehensive income if both of the following conditions are met:

- The financial asset is held within a business model with the objective of both holding to collect contractual cash flows and selling.
- The contractual terms of the financial asset give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

For debt investments at fair value through other comprehensive income, interest income, foreign exchange revaluation and impairment losses or reversals are recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss and computed in the same manner as for financial assets measured at amortised cost. The remaining fair value changes are recognised in other comprehensive income. Upon derecognition, the cumulative fair value change recognised in other comprehensive income is recycled to the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income (equity instruments)

Upon initial recognition, the Group can elect to classify irrevocably its equity investments as equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income when they meet the definition of equity under HKAS 32 Financial Instruments: Presentation and are not held for trading. The classification is determined on an instrument-by-instrument basis.

Gains and losses on these financial assets are never recycled to the consolidated statement of profit or loss. Dividends are recognised as dividend income in the consolidated statement of profit or loss when the right of payment has been established, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the dividend will flow to the Group and the amount of the dividend can be measured reliably, except when the Group benefits from such proceeds as a recovery of part of the cost of the financial asset, in which case, such gains are recorded in other comprehensive income. Equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income are not subject to impairment assessment.

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2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Investments and other financial assets (cont'd)

Subsequent measurement (cont'd)

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss include financial assets held for trading, financial assets designated upon initial recognition at fair value through profit or loss, or financial assets mandatorily required to be measured at fair value. Financial assets are classified as held for trading if they are acquired for the purpose of selling or repurchasing in the near term. Derivatives, including separated embedded derivatives, are also classified as held for trading unless they are designated as effective hedging instruments. Financial assets with cash flows that are not solely payments of principal and interest are classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss, irrespective of the business model. Notwithstanding the criteria for debt instruments to be classified at amortised cost or at fair value through other comprehensive income, as described above, debt instruments may be designated at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition if doing so eliminates, or significantly reduces, an accounting mismatch.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are carried in the statement of financial position at fair value with net changes in fair value recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

This category includes financial assets at fair value through profit or loss which the Group had not irrevocably elected to classify at fair value through other comprehensive income. Dividends on equity investments classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are also recognised as dividend income in the consolidated statement of profit or loss when the right of payment has been established, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the dividend will flow to the Group and the amount of the dividend can be measured reliably.

A derivative embedded in a hybrid contract, with a financial liability or non-financial host, is separated from the host and accounted for as a separate derivative if the economic characteristics and risks are not closely related to the host; a separate instrument with the same terms as the embedded derivative would meet the definition of a derivative; and the hybrid contract is not measured at fair value through profit or loss. Embedded derivatives are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss. Reassessment only occurs if there is either a change in the terms of the contract that significantly modifies the cash flows that would otherwise be required or a reclassification of a financial asset out of the fair value through profit or loss category.

A derivative embedded within a hybrid contract containing a financial asset host is not accounted for separately. The financial asset host together with the embedded derivative is required to be classified in its entirety as a financial asset at fair value through profit or loss.

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Derecognition of financial assets

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is primarily derecognised (i.e., removed from the Group's consolidated statement of financial position) when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- the Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party under a "pass-through" arrangement; and either (a) the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or (b) the Group has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

When the Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a pass-through arrangement, it evaluates if, and to what extent, it has retained the risk and rewards of ownership of the asset. When it has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset nor transferred control of the asset, the Group continues to recognise the transferred asset to the extent of the Group's continuing involvement. In that case, the Group also recognises an associated liability. The transferred asset and the associated liability are measured on a basis that reflects the rights and obligations that the Group has retained.

Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of the original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the Group could be required to repay.

Impairment of financial assets

The Group recognises an allowance for expected credit losses ("ECLs") for all debt instruments not held at fair value through profit or loss. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Group expects to receive, discounted at an approximation of the original effective interest rate. The expected cash flows will include cash flows from the sale of collateral held or other credit enhancements that are integral to the contractual terms.

General approach

ECLs are recognised in two stages. For credit exposures for which there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, ECLs are provided for credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the next 12 months (a 12-month ECL). For those credit exposures for which there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, a loss allowance is required for credit losses expected over the remaining life of the exposure, irrespective of the timing of the default (a lifetime ECL).

At each reporting date, the Group assesses whether the credit risk on a financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition. When making the assessment, the Group compares the risk of a default occurring on the financial instrument as at the reporting date with the risk of a default occurring on the financial instrument as at the date of initial recognition and considers reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort, including historical and forward-looking information.

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2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Impairment of financial assets (cont'd)

General approach (cont'd)

For debt investments at fair value through other comprehensive income, the Group applies the low credit risk simplification. At each reporting date, the Group evaluates whether the debt investments are considered to have low credit risk using all reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort. In making that evaluation, the Group reassesses the external credit ratings of the debt investments. In addition, the Group considers that there has been a significant increase in credit risk when contractual payments are more than 30 days past due.

The Group considers a financial asset in default when contractual payments are 90 days past due. However, in certain cases, the Group may also consider a financial asset to be in default when internal or external information indicates that the Group is unlikely to receive the outstanding contractual amounts in full before taking into account any credit enhancements held by the Group. A financial asset is written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovering the contractual cash flows.

Debt investments at fair value through other comprehensive income and financial assets at amortised cost are subject to impairment under the general approach and they are classified within the following stages for measurement of ECLs except for trade receivables and contract assets which apply the simplified approach as detailed below.

- Stage 1 – Financial instruments for which credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition and for which the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to 12-month ECLs
- Stage 2 – Financial instruments for which credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition but that are not credit-impaired financial assets and for which the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs
- Stage 3 – Financial assets that are credit-impaired at the reporting date (but that are not purchased or originated credit-impaired) and for which the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs

Simplified approach

For trade receivables and contract assets that do not contain a significant financing component or when the Group applies the practical expedient of not adjusting the effect of a significant financing component, the Group applies the simplified approach in calculating ECLs. Under the simplified approach, the Group does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises a loss allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Group has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

For trade receivables and contract assets that contain a significant financing component and lease receivables, the Group chooses as its accounting policy to adopt the simplified approach in calculating ECLs with policies as described above.

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Financial liabilities at amortised cost

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial liabilities are classified, at initial recognition, as financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, loans and borrowings, payables, or as derivatives designated as hedging instruments in an effective hedge, as appropriate.

All financial liabilities are recognised initially at fair value and, in the case of loans and borrowings and payables, net of directly attributable transaction costs.

The Group's financial liabilities include other liabilities, amounts due to associates, insurance payables and an interest-bearing bank borrowing.

Subsequent measurement

The subsequent measurement of financial liabilities depends on their classification as follows:

Loans and borrowings

After initial recognition, interest-bearing loans and borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost. Gains and losses are recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the effective interest rate amortisation process.

Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees or costs that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. The effective interest rate amortisation is included in finance costs in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled, or expires.

When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as a derecognition of the original liability and a recognition of a new liability, and the difference between the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Offsetting of financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the statement of financial position if there is currently an enforceable legal right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously.

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2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Related parties

A party is considered to be related to the Group if:

- (a) the party is a person or a close member of that person's family and that person
 - (i) has control or joint control over the Group;
 - (ii) has significant influence over the Group; or
 - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of the Group or of a parent of the Group;

or

- (b) the party is an entity where any of the following conditions applies:
 - (i) the entity and the Group are members of the same group;
 - (ii) one entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or of a parent, subsidiary or fellow subsidiary of the other entity);
 - (iii) the entity and the Group are joint ventures of the same third party;
 - (iv) one entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity;
 - (v) the entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the Group or an entity related to the Group;
 - (vi) the entity is controlled or jointly controlled by a person identified in (a);
 - (vii) a person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity); and
 - (viii) the entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to the Group or to the parent of the Group.

Product classification – Insurance contracts

Insurance contracts are those contracts when the Group (the insurer) has accepted significant insurance risk from another party (the policyholders) by agreeing to compensate the policyholders if a specified uncertain future event (the insured event) adversely affects the policyholders. As a general guideline, the Group determines whether it has significant insurance risk, by comparing benefits payable after an insured event with benefits payable if the insured event did not occur. Insurance contracts can also transfer financial risk.

Once a contract has been classified as an insurance contract, it remains an insurance contract for the remainder of its lifetime, even if the insurance risk reduces significantly during the period, unless all rights and obligations are extinguished or expire.

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Insurance payables

Insurance payables are recognised when due and measured on initial recognition at fair value of the consideration received less directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Derecognition of insurance payables

Insurance payables are derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled, or expires.

Insurance contracts liabilities

General insurance contracts liabilities

General insurance contracts liabilities include the outstanding claims provision and the provision for unearned premiums. The outstanding claims provision is based on the estimated ultimate cost of all claims incurred but not settled at the reporting date, whether reported or not, together with handling costs. Delays can be experienced in the notification and settlement of certain types of general insurance claims. Therefore, the ultimate cost of these claims cannot be known with certainty at the reporting date.

Outstanding claims

Full provision has been made for outstanding claims, including those incurred but not reported and incurred but not enough reported until after the end of the reporting period, and also for the related claims handling expenses estimated to be necessarily and directly incurred in the claims settlement process. This provision, although not a precise assessment, has been made in light of available information and after taking into account the direct claims handling expenses and possible recoveries from other parties. Claims provisions are not discounted for the time value of money and no estimate of inflationary adjustment is admitted until confirmed as necessary. The provisions are derecognised when they are discharged or settled.

Incurred but not reported outstanding claims are in respect of losses incurred prior to the end of the reporting period but reported only subsequent to the end of the reporting period. These outstanding claims have been estimated by reference to the historical pattern of claims settlement in respect of each major class of insurance portfolio. Any differences between the original claims provisions made in previous years and the subsequently revised or settled amount are included in the profit or loss account for the financial year in which the revision or settlement is made.

Unearned premiums

The provision for unearned premiums represents that portion of premium received or a receivable that relates to risks that have not yet expired at the reporting date. The provision is recognised when contracts are entered into and premiums are charged, and is brought to account as premium income over the term of the contract in accordance with the pattern of insurance services provided under the contract.

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Insurance contracts liabilities (cont'd)

Life insurance contracts liabilities

Life insurance contracts liabilities are recognised when contracts are entered into and premiums are charged. The provision for life insurance contracts consists of outstanding claims and the life reserve.

Life reserve

Life reserve represents a reserve to cover unexpired risk of life insurance policies and is computed by reference to an actuarial valuation carried out annually.

Liability adequacy test

At each reporting date, the Group reviews its unexpired risk and a liability adequacy test is performed in accordance with HKFRS 4 to determine whether there is any overall excess of expected claims over unearned premiums. This calculation uses current estimates of future contractual cash flows after taking account of the investment return expected to arise on assets relating to the relevant non-life insurance technical provisions. If these estimates show that the carrying amount of the unearned premiums is inadequate, the deficiency is recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss by setting up a provision for premium deficiency.

Insurance receivables

Insurance receivables are recognised when due and measured on initial recognition at the fair value of the consideration receivable. Subsequent to initial recognition, insurance receivables are measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. The carrying value of insurance receivables is reviewed for impairment whenever events or circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable, with the impairment loss recorded in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Insurance receivables are derecognised when the derecognition criteria for financial assets, as described in the paragraph "Derecognition of financial assets" above, have been met.

Reinsurance

The Group cedes insurance risk in the normal course of business for all of its businesses. Reinsurance assets represent balances due from reinsurance companies. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent with the outstanding claims provision or settled claims associated with the reinsurer's policies and are in accordance with the related reinsurance contract.

Reinsurance assets are reviewed for impairment at each reporting date, or more frequently, when an indication of impairment arises during the reporting year. Impairment occurs when there is objective evidence that occurred after initial recognition of the reinsurance asset that the Group may not receive all outstanding amounts due under the terms of the contract and the event has a reliably measurable impact on the amounts that the Group will receive from the reinsurer. The impairment loss is recorded in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Ceded reinsurance arrangements do not relieve the Group from its obligations to policyholders.

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Reinsurance (cont'd)

The Group also assumes reinsurance risk in the normal course of business for general and life insurance contracts where applicable. Premiums and claims on assumed reinsurance are recognised as income and expenses in the same manner as they would be if the reinsurance was considered direct business, taking into account the product classification of the reinsured business. Reinsurance liabilities represent balances due to reinsurance companies, which are estimated in accordance with the associated reinsurance contract.

Premiums and claims are presented on a gross basis for both ceded and assumed reinsurance.

Reinsurance assets or liabilities are derecognised when the contractual rights are extinguished or expire or when the contract is transferred to another party.

Treasury shares

The Group's own equity instruments which are reacquired and held by the Company or the Group (treasury shares) are recognised directly in equity at cost. No gain or loss is recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss on the purchase, sale, issue or cancellation of the Group's own equity instruments.

Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and demand deposits, and short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash, are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and have a short maturity of generally within three months when acquired.

For the purpose of the consolidated statement of financial position, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and at banks, including term deposits, and assets similar in nature to cash, which are not restricted as to use.

Provisions

A provision is recognised when a present obligation (legal or constructive) has arisen as a result of a past event and it is probable that a future outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, provided that a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

When the effect of discounting is material, the amount recognised for a provision is the present value at the end of the reporting period of the future expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation. The increase in the discounted present value amount arising from the passage of time is included in finance costs in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Income tax

Income tax comprises current and deferred tax. Income tax relating to items recognised outside profit or loss is recognised either in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current tax assets and liabilities are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period, taking into consideration interpretations and practices prevailing in the jurisdictions in which the Group operates.

Deferred tax is provided, using the liability method, on all material temporary differences at the end of the reporting period between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all material taxable temporary differences, except:

- when the deferred tax liability arises from the initial recognition of goodwill or an asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither the accounting profit nor taxable profit or loss; and
- in respect of taxable temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures, when the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences can be controlled and it is probable that the temporary differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for all material deductible temporary differences, and the carryforward of unused tax credits and any unused tax losses. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the deductible temporary differences, and the carryforward of unused tax credits and unused tax losses can be utilised, except:

- when the deferred tax asset relating to the deductible temporary differences arises from the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither the accounting profit nor taxable profit or loss; and
- in respect of deductible temporary differences associated with investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures, deferred tax assets are only recognised to the extent that it is probable that the temporary differences will reverse in the foreseeable future and taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at the end of each reporting period and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be utilised. Unrecognised deferred tax assets are reassessed at the end of each reporting period and are recognised to the extent that it has become probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period.

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Income tax (cont'd)

Deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are offset if and only if the Group has a legally enforceable right to set off current tax assets and current tax liabilities and the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on either the same taxable entity or different taxable entities which intend either to settle current tax liabilities and assets on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously, in each future period in which significant amounts of deferred tax liabilities or assets are expected to be settled or recovered.

Dividends

Final dividends proposed by the directors are classified as a separate allocation of retained profits and/or contributed surplus within the equity section of the statement of financial position, until they have been approved by the shareholders in a general meeting. When these dividends have been approved by the shareholders and declared, they are recognised as a liability.

Interim dividends are simultaneously proposed and declared, because the Company's memorandum and by-laws grant the directors the authority to declare interim dividends. Consequently, interim dividends are recognised immediately as a liability when they are proposed and declared.

Foreign currencies

These financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars, which is the Company's functional currency. Each entity in the Group determines its own functional currency and items included in the financial statements of each entity are measured using that functional currency. Foreign currency transactions recorded by the entities in the Group are initially recorded using their respective functional currency rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the functional currency rates of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period. Differences arising on settlement or translation of monetary items are recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the dates of the initial transactions. Non-monetary items measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was measured. The gain or loss arising on translation of a non-monetary item measured at fair value is treated in line with the recognition of the gain or loss on change in fair value of the item (i.e., translation difference on the item whose fair value gain or loss is recognised in other comprehensive income or profit or loss is also recognised in other comprehensive income or profit or loss, respectively).

In determining the exchange rate on initial recognition of the related asset, expense or income on the derecognition of a non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability relating to an advance consideration, the date of initial transaction is the date on which the Group initially recognises the non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability arising from the advance consideration. If there are multiple payments or receipts in advance, the Group determines the transaction date for each payment or receipt of the advance consideration.

The functional currencies of certain overseas subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates are currencies other than the Hong Kong dollar. As at the end of the reporting period, the assets and liabilities of these entities are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the reporting period and their statements of profit or loss are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the weighted average exchange rates for the year.

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

2.4 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (cont'd)

Foreign currencies (cont'd)

The resulting exchange differences are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the exchange reserve. On disposal of a foreign operation, the component of other comprehensive income relating to that particular foreign operation is recognised in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

For the purpose of the consolidated statement of cash flows, the cash flows of overseas subsidiaries are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the exchange rates ruling at the dates of the cash flows. Frequently recurring cash flows of overseas subsidiaries which arise throughout the year are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the weighted average exchange rates for the year.

Employee benefits

The Group operates a defined contribution provident fund (the "Fund") and a Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme (the "MPF Scheme") under the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance for its employees. Contributions to the Fund and the MPF Scheme are charged to the consolidated statement of profit or loss as incurred. The amount of contributions by the Group is based on a specified percentage of the monthly relevant income of the eligible employees. Forfeited contributions of the Fund in respect of employees who leave before the contributions become fully vested are available to the Group to reduce its ongoing funding and retirement scheme costs. The Group's employer contributions vest fully with the employees when contributed into the MPF Scheme, except for the Group's employer voluntary contributions, which are refunded to the Group when the employee leaves employment prior to the contributions vesting fully. The assets of the Fund and the MPF Scheme are held separately from those of the Group and placed in independently administered funds.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attaching conditions will be complied with. When the grant relates to an expense item, it is recognised as income on a systematic basis over the periods that the costs, for which it is intended to compensate, are expensed.

2.5 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates

The preparation of the Group's financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and their accompanying disclosures, and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. Uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates could result in outcomes that could require a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of the assets or liabilities affected in the future.

Estimates, assumptions and judgements are continuously evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Estimation uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, are described below.

Estimation of general insurance contracts claims liabilities

It can take a significant period of time before the ultimate claims cost can be established with certainty. The primary technique adopted by management in estimating the cost of ultimate claims is using the past claim settlement trends to predict the future claim settlement trends. At each reporting date, prior year estimates of claims are reassessed for adequacy and any changes from the previous assessment are made to the provision.

The carrying value at the end of the reporting period for these general insurance contracts liabilities was HK\$2,792,759,000 (2019: HK\$2,546,365,000) (note 25(b)).

Deferred tax assets

Deferred tax assets are recognised for unused tax losses to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the losses can be utilised in the foreseeable future. Significant management judgement is required to determine the amount of deferred tax assets that can be recognised, based upon the likely timing and level of future taxable profits together with future tax planning strategies. No deferred tax asset relating to tax losses was recognised at 31st December, 2020 (2019: Nil). The amount of unrecognised tax losses at 31st December, 2020 was HK\$264,671,000 (2019: HK\$287,841,000). Further details are contained in note 31 to the financial statements.

Fair value measurement of unlisted financial instruments

The unlisted equity investments have been valued based on a market-based valuation technique as detailed in note 37 to the financial statements. The valuation requires the Group to determine the comparable public companies (peers) and select the price multiple. In addition, the Group makes estimates about the discount for illiquidity and business size differences. The Group classifies the fair value of these investments as Level 3. Further details are contained in notes 17, 19 and 37 to the financial statements.

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

2.5 Significant Accounting Judgements and Estimates (cont'd)

Estimation uncertainty (cont'd)

Provision for expected credit losses on debt instruments and insurance receivables

The Group uses the general approach to calculate ECLs for debt instruments at amortised cost by considering published credit ratings and the probability of default of comparable securities with published credit ratings. In the situation where credit ratings are not published or no comparable securities with credit ratings can be identified, expected credit losses are estimated by applying a loss rate approach with reference to the historical loss record of the Group. The loss rate is adjusted to reflect the current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions, as appropriate.

The Group uses a provision matrix to calculate ECLs for insurance receivables. The provision rates are based on days past due for groupings of various customer segments that have similar loss patterns (i.e., by geography, product type, customer type and rating, and coverage by letters of credit and other forms of credit insurance).

The provision matrix is initially based on the Group's historical observed default rates. The Group will calibrate the matrix to adjust the historical credit loss experience with forward-looking information. For instance, if forecast economic conditions are expected to deteriorate over the next year which can lead to an increased number of defaults, the historical default rates are adjusted. At each reporting date, the historical observed default rates are updated and changes in the forward-looking estimates are analysed.

The assessment of the correlation among historical observed default rates, forecast economic conditions and ECLs is a significant estimate. The amount of ECLs is sensitive to changes in circumstances and forecast economic conditions. The Group's historical credit loss experience and forecast of economic conditions may also not be representative of the customer's actual default in the future. The information about the ECLs on the Group's debt instruments and insurance receivables is disclosed in notes 16 and 20 to the financial statements, respectively.

3. Operating Segment Information

For management purposes, the Group is organised into business units based on their business activities and has two reportable operating segments as follows:

- (a) the insurance segment engages in the provision of underwriting of general and life insurance; and
- (b) the corporate segment engages in securities trading and holding and other businesses.

Management monitors the results of its operating segments separately for the purpose of making decisions about resource allocation and performance assessment. Segment performance is evaluated based on reportable segment profit/(loss), which is a measure of profit/(loss) before tax from existing operations.

Intersegment transactions are conducted with reference to the terms used for transactions with third parties.

31st December, 2020

3. Operating Segment Information (cont'd)

The following tables present revenue, profit and certain asset, liability and expenditure information for the Group's operating segments for the years ended 31st December, 2020 and 2019:

| | Insurance | | Corporate | | Eliminations | | Consolidated | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 |
| Segment revenue (note 4): | | | | | | | | |
| External customers | 1,747,918 | 1,702,009 | - | - | - | - | 1,747,918 | 1,702,009 |
| Other revenue, income and gains, net | 109,687 | 131,360 | 160,833 | 147,016 | - | - | 270,520 | 278,376 |
| Intersegment | 5,911 | 5,339 | - | - | (5,911) | (5,339) | - | - |
| Total | 1,863,516 | 1,838,708 | 160,833 | 147,016 | (5,911) | (5,339) | 2,018,438 | 1,980,385 |
| Segment results | 184,914 | 203,613 | 106,029 | 83,601 | - | - | 290,943 | 287,214 |
| Share of profits or losses of: | | | | | | | | |
| Joint ventures | (6,313) | 12,105 | 33,196 | 34,696 | - | - | 26,883 | 46,801 |
| Associates | 16,891 | (7,184) | 37,704 | 107,428 | - | - | 54,595 | 100,244 |
| Profit before tax | | | | | | | 372,421 | 434,259 |
| Income tax expense | (6,037) | (25,796) | (21,437) | (895) | - | - | (27,474) | (26,691) |
| Profit for the year | | | | | | | 344,947 | 407,568 |

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

3. Operating Segment Information (cont'd)

The following tables present revenue, profit and certain asset, liability and expenditure information for the Group's operating segments for the years ended 31st December, 2020 and 2019: (continued)

| | Insurance | | Corporate | | Consolidated | |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 |
| Segment assets | 7,359,635 | 7,119,144 | 7,613,428 | 6,734,798 | 14,973,063 | 13,853,942 |
| Interests in joint ventures | 409,855 | 400,305 | 105,589 | 96,393 | 515,444 | 496,698 |
| Interests in associates | 49,607 | 200,913 | 377,912 | 306,420 | 427,519 | 507,333 |
| Total assets | 7,819,097 | 7,720,362 | 8,096,929 | 7,137,611 | 15,916,026 | 14,857,973 |
| Segment liabilities | 4,189,996 | 4,099,403 | 666,710 | 435,390 | 4,856,706 | 4,534,793 |
| Other segment information: | | | | | | |
| Depreciation charges | 11,391 | 8,039 | 2,631 | 2,367 | 14,022 | 10,406 |
| Loss/(gain) on disposal/write-off of items of property, plant and equipment | 288 | 79 | - | (8) | 288 | 71 |
| Loss on change in fair value of investment properties | 2,704 | 1,600 | 26,000 | 1,000 | 28,704 | 2,600 |
| Capital expenditure | 14,494 | 5,756 | 1,477 | 2,500 | 15,971 | 8,256 |

Geographical information

Over 90% of the Group's revenue and results are derived from operations carried out in Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China.

4. Revenue

Revenue represents gross premiums net of discounts, from the direct and reinsurance businesses underwritten during the year.

5. Finance Costs

| | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Interest on a bank loan | 304 | 3,968 |
| Interest on lease liabilities | 79 | 54 |
| | 383 | 4,022 |

31st December, 2020

6. Profit Before Tax

The Group's profit before tax is arrived at after crediting/(charging):

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Auditor's remuneration | | (3,757) | (3,675) |
| Depreciation | 12 | (14,022) | (10,406) |
| Employee benefit expense (including directors' remuneration, note 7): | | | |
| Wages and salaries | | (154,854) | (144,952) |
| Pension scheme contributions | | (6,784) | (6,232) |
| Less: Forfeited contributions | | 50 | 158 |
| Net pension scheme contributions | | (6,734) | (6,074) |
| Total employee benefit expense | | (161,588) | (151,026) |
| Expenses relating short-term leases and leases of low-value assets | | (715) | (450) |
| Realised gain/(loss) on: | | | |
| – disposal of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, net | | (82,249) | 23,182 |
| – redemption/call-back of held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | | – | (298) |
| – gain on changes in ownership interest in a joint venture | | 5,535 | – |
| – gain on deemed disposal of interest in an associate | | 12,665 | – |
| Total realised gain/(loss) on investments | | (64,049) | 22,884 |
| Unrealised gain on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, net | | 98,856 | 33,871 |
| Changes in expected credit losses for: | | | |
| – insurance receivables | 20 | (5,014) | (3,300) |
| – held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | 16 | (1,237) | – |
| Interest income | | 77,671 | 102,335 |
| Loss on disposal/write-off of items of property, plant and equipment* | | (288) | (71) |
| Gross rental income* | | 7,132 | 7,271 |
| Direct operating expenses (including repairs and maintenance) arising from rental-earning investment properties | | (366) | (269) |
| Change in fair value of investment properties* | 13 | (28,704) | (2,600) |
| Employment Support Scheme from the Government* | | 6,602 | – |
| Write-off of interest in a joint venture | | – | (183) |
| Foreign exchange gain/(loss), net* | | 1,392 | (11,786) |
| Dividend income from: | | | |
| – listed investments | | 52,364 | 63,392 |
| – unlisted investments | | 113,906 | 55,440 |
| Total dividend income | | 166,270 | 118,832 |

* These amounts were included in "Other income and gains/(losses), net" in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

Notes to Financial Statements

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7. Directors' Remuneration

Directors' remuneration for the year, disclosed pursuant to the Listing Rules, section 383(1)(a), (b), (c) and (f) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance and Part 2 of the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation, is as follows:

| 2020 | Fees <i>HK\$'000</i> | Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind <i>HK\$'000</i> | Discretionary bonuses <i>HK\$'000</i> | Pension scheme contributions <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total remuneration <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Executive directors: | | | | | |
| CHAN Yau Hing Robin | 94 | 1,440 | 650 | 72 | 2,256 |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut | 120 | 5,192 | 1,030 | 240 | 6,582 |
| TAN Stephen | 70 | 2,886 | 1,300 | 133 | 4,389 |
| WONG Kok Ho | 120 | 2,277 | 200 | 105 | 2,702 |
| | <u>404</u> | <u>11,795</u> | <u>3,180</u> | <u>550</u> | <u>15,929</u> |
| Non-executive directors: | | | | | |
| KAWAUCHI Yuji ¹ | 70 | - | - | - | 70 |
| IDE Kentaro ^{2,3} | 16 | - | - | - | 16 |
| OGURA Satoru ^{2,4} | 54 | - | - | - | 54 |
| | <u>140</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>140</u> |
| Independent non-executive directors: | | | | | |
| CHOW Suk Han Anna | 290 | - | - | - | 290 |
| LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca | 290 | - | - | - | 290 |
| SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta | 280 | - | - | - | 280 |
| | <u>860</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>860</u> |
| | <u>1,404</u> | <u>11,795</u> | <u>3,180</u> | <u>550</u> | <u>16,929</u> |

31st December, 2020

7. Directors' Remuneration (cont'd)

| 2019 | Fees HK\$'000 | Salaries, allowances and benefits in kind HK\$'000 | Discretionary bonuses HK\$'000 | Pension scheme contributions HK\$'000 | Total remuneration HK\$'000 |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Executive directors: | | | | | |
| CHAN Yau Hing Robin | 140 | 1,836 | 1,100 | 72 | 3,148 |
| CHAN Bernard Charnwut | 240 | 5,204 | 1,150 | 240 | 6,834 |
| TAN Stephen | 100 | 3,386 | 1,000 | 133 | 4,619 |
| WONG Kok Ho | 120 | 2,542 | 200 | 117 | 2,979 |
| | <u>600</u> | <u>12,968</u> | <u>3,450</u> | <u>562</u> | <u>17,580</u> |
| Non-executive directors: | | | | | |
| KAWAUCHI Yuji ¹ | 70 | – | – | – | 70 |
| IDE Kentaro ² | 70 | – | – | – | 70 |
| | <u>140</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>140</u> |
| Independent non-executive directors: | | | | | |
| MA Andrew Chiu Cheung ⁵ | 110 | – | – | – | 110 |
| CHOW Suk Han Anna | 290 | – | – | – | 290 |
| LAI KO Wing Yee Rebecca | 290 | – | – | – | 290 |
| SHUEN LEUNG Lai Sheung Loretta | 276 | – | – | – | 276 |
| | <u>966</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>966</u> |
| | <u>1,706</u> | <u>12,968</u> | <u>3,450</u> | <u>562</u> | <u>18,686</u> |

¹ Mr. KAWAUCHI Yuji was nominated as director by Sompo Japan Insurance Inc. ("Sompo"). He is entitled to a director's fee of HK\$70,000 per annum provided that his director's fee be payable in proportion to the period of his service in the event the duration of his directorship is for an incomplete year. As per Sompo's instruction, the director's fee of Mr. Kawauchi for the year ended 31st December, 2020 and 2019, was paid directly to "Sompo Japan Insurance Inc – HK Rep Office".

² Both of Mr. IDE Kentaro (resigned on 25th March, 2020) and Mr. OGURA Satoru (appointed on 25th March, 2020) were nominated as director by Aioi Nissay Dowa Insurance Company, Limited ("Aioi Insurance"). Each of them is entitled to a director's fee of HK\$70,000 per annum provided that his director's fee be payable in proportion to the period of his service in the event that the duration of his directorship is for an incomplete year. As per Aioi Insurance's instruction, the director's fee of each of these directors for the year ended 31st December, 2020 and 2019, was paid directly to Aioi Insurance.

³ Resigned during the year ended 31st December, 2020.

⁴ Appointed during the year ended 31st December, 2020.

⁵ Retired during the year ended 31st December, 2019.

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8. Five Highest Paid Employees

The five highest paid employees during the year included two (2019: three) directors, details of whose remuneration are set out in note 7 above. Details of the remuneration for the year of the remaining three (2019: two) highest paid employees who are neither a director nor chief executive of the Company are as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Salaries, commission, allowances and benefits in kind | 9,288 | 6,613 |
| Discretionary bonuses | 2,450 | 1,750 |
| Pension scheme contributions | 418 | 296 |
| | 12,156 | 8,659 |

The number of non-director and non-chief executive highest paid employees whose remuneration fell within the following bands is as follows:

| | Number of employees | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| | 2020 | 2019 |
| HK\$3,000,001 to HK\$3,500,000 | 1 | 1 |
| HK\$3,500,001 to HK\$4,000,000 | 1 | – |
| HK\$5,000,001 to HK\$5,500,000 | – | 1 |
| HK\$5,500,001 to HK\$6,000,000 | 1 | – |
| | 3 | 2 |

9. Income Tax

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 16.5% (2019: 16.5%) on the estimated assessable profits arising in Hong Kong during the year. Taxes on profits assessable elsewhere have been calculated at the rates of tax prevailing in the locations in which the Group operates.

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Current – Hong Kong | | |
| Charge for the year | 16,985 | 19,699 |
| Over provision in prior years | (19,250) | (25) |
| Current – Elsewhere | | |
| Charge for the year | 23,818 | 6,930 |
| Under provision/(over provision) in prior years | (6) | 219 |
| Deferred (<i>note 31</i>) | 5,927 | (132) |
| Total tax charge for the year | 27,474 | 26,691 |

A reconciliation of the tax expense applicable to profit before tax at the statutory rates for the locations in which the Company and the majority of its subsidiaries are domiciled to the tax expense at the effective tax rates is as follows:

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9. Income Tax (cont'd)**2020**

| | Hong Kong <i>HK\$'000</i> | Macau & Taiwan <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Profit before tax | 303,675 | 68,746 | 372,421 |
| Tax at the statutory tax rates (Hong Kong: 16.5%; Macau: 12.0%) | 50,106 | 7,929 | 58,035 |
| Share of profits or losses attributable to joint ventures and associates | (13,443) | – | (13,443) |
| Adjustments in respect of current tax of previous periods | (18,619) | (5) | (18,624) |
| Income not subject to tax | (33,368) | – | (33,368) |
| Expenses not deductible for tax | 18,130 | – | 18,130 |
| Tax losses from previous periods utilised | (3,823) | – | (3,823) |
| Temporary difference recognised | 5,351 | – | 5,351 |
| Foreign withholding tax | 15,216 | – | 15,216 |
| Tax charge at the Group's effective rate | 19,550 | 7,924 | 27,474 |
| Effective tax rate | 6.4% | 11.5% | 7.4% |

2019

| | Hong Kong <i>HK\$'000</i> | Macau <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Profit before tax | 374,939 | 59,320 | 434,259 |
| Tax at the statutory tax rates (Hong Kong: 16.5%; Macau: 12.0%) | 61,865 | 7,118 | 68,983 |
| Share of profits or losses attributable to joint ventures and associates | (24,262) | – | (24,262) |
| Adjustments in respect of current tax of previous periods | (25) | 219 | 194 |
| Income not subject to tax | (30,288) | (320) | (30,608) |
| Expenses not deductible for tax | 13,823 | – | 13,823 |
| Tax losses from previous periods utilised | (4,819) | – | (4,819) |
| Tax losses not recognised | 3,380 | – | 3,380 |
| Tax charge at the Group's effective rate | 19,674 | 7,017 | 26,691 |
| Effective tax rate | 5.2% | 11.8% | 6.1% |

The share of tax attributable to joint ventures amounting to HK\$10,414,000 (2019: HK\$8,164,000) is included in "Share of profits or losses of joint ventures" in the consolidated statement of profit or loss. The share of tax attributable to associates and the effect of withholding tax on the distributable profits of the Group's associate in the People's Republic of China amounting to HK\$38,599,000 (2019: HK\$66,402,000) and HK\$2,182,000 (2019: HK\$6,183,000), respectively, are included in "Share of profits or losses of associates" in the consolidated statement of profit or loss.

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10. Dividends

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Interim – HK1.0 cent (2019: HK3.5 cents) per ordinary share | 9,493 | 33,907 |
| Proposed final – HK7.0 cents (2019: HK5.0 cents) per ordinary share | 65,970 | 47,968 |
| | 75,463 | 81,875 |

The proposed final dividend for the year is subject to the approval of the Company's shareholders at the forthcoming annual general meeting. Accordingly, the proposed final dividend has been included in the proposed final dividend reserve account within the equity attributable to equity holders of the Company in the statement of financial position.

11. Earnings per share Attributable to Ordinary Equity Holders of the Company

The calculation of the basic earnings per share amount is based on the profit for the year attributable to ordinary equity holders of the Company of HK\$337,952,000 (2019: HK\$408,965,000) and the weighted average number of ordinary shares of 954,031,000 (2019: 967,969,000) in issue during the year.

No adjustment has been made to the basic earnings per share amounts presented for the years ended 31st December, 2020 and 2019 in respect of a dilution as the Group had no potentially dilutive ordinary shares in issue during the years ended 31st December, 2020 and 2019.

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12. Property, Plant and Equipment

31st December, 2020

| | Land and buildings <i>HK\$'000</i> | Furniture, fixtures, equipment, yachts and motor vehicles <i>HK\$'000</i> | Right-of- use assets <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| Cost or valuation: | | | | |
| At beginning of year | 249,745 | 81,458 | 2,586 | 333,789 |
| Additions | - | 13,328 | 2,643 | 15,971 |
| Disposals/write-off | - | (3,401) | - | (3,401) |
| Transfer from investment property | 11,189 | - | - | 11,189 |
| At 31st December, 2020 | <u>260,934</u> | <u>91,385</u> | <u>5,229</u> | <u>357,548</u> |
| Accumulated depreciation and impairment: | | | | |
| At beginning of year | 85,353 | 66,410 | 644 | 152,407 |
| Charge for the year | 5,158 | 7,742 | 1,122 | 14,022 |
| Disposals/write-off | - | (3,113) | - | (3,113) |
| At 31st December, 2020 | <u>90,511</u> | <u>71,039</u> | <u>1,766</u> | <u>163,316</u> |
| Net book value: | | | | |
| At 31st December, 2020 | <u>170,423</u> | <u>20,346</u> | <u>3,463</u> | <u>194,232</u> |
| At 31st December, 2019 | <u>164,392</u> | <u>15,048</u> | <u>1,942</u> | <u>181,382</u> |

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31st December, 2020

12. Property, Plant and Equipment (cont'd)

31st December, 2019

| | Land and buildings <i>HK\$'000</i> | Furniture, fixtures, equipment, yachts and motor vehicles <i>HK\$'000</i> | Right-of- use assets <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|
| Cost or valuation: | | | | |
| At beginning of year | 249,745 | 76,748 | – | 326,493 |
| Additions | – | 5,670 | 2,586 | 8,256 |
| Disposals/write-off | – | (960) | – | (960) |
| At 31st December, 2019 | <u>249,745</u> | <u>81,458</u> | <u>2,586</u> | <u>333,789</u> |
| Accumulated depreciation and impairment: | | | | |
| At beginning of year | 80,419 | 62,463 | – | 142,882 |
| Charge for the year | 4,934 | 4,828 | 644 | 10,406 |
| Disposals/write-off | – | (881) | – | (881) |
| At 31st December, 2019 | <u>85,353</u> | <u>66,410</u> | <u>644</u> | <u>152,407</u> |
| Net book value: | | | | |
| At 31st December, 2019 | <u>164,392</u> | <u>15,048</u> | <u>1,942</u> | <u>181,382</u> |
| At 31st December, 2018 | <u>169,326</u> | <u>14,285</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>183,611</u> |

31st December, 2020

13. Investment Properties

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Carrying amount at 1st January | 285,300 | 287,900 |
| Additions | 12,093 | – |
| Change in fair value (<i>note 6</i>) | (28,704) | (2,600) |
| Transfer to property, plant and equipment (<i>note 12</i>) | (11,189) | – |
| Carrying amount at 31st December | 257,500 | 285,300 |

The Group's investment properties were revalued at 31st December, 2020 based on valuations performed by Memfus Wong Surveyors Limited and AA Property Services Limited, independent firms of professionally qualified valuers, at HK\$223,000,000 (2019: HK\$249,000,000) and HK\$34,500,000 (2019: HK\$36,300,000), respectively. The Group decides to appoint which external valuer to be responsible for the external valuation of the Group's properties based on selection criteria including market knowledge, reputation, independence and whether professional standards are maintained. The management of the Group has discussions with the valuers on the valuation assumptions and valuation results annually when the valuation is performed for financial reporting. The investment properties are leased to third parties under operating leases.

As at 31st December, 2020 and 2019, the fair value measurement of the Group's investment properties was categorised in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy (i.e., fair value measurement using significant unobservable inputs).

During the year ended 31st December, 2020, there were no transfers into or out of Level 3.

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13. Investment Properties (cont'd)

Reconciliation of fair value measurements categorised within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy:

| | Commercial properties in Hong Kong <i>HK\$'000</i> | Commercial properties in Macau <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| Carrying amount at 1st January, 2019 | 268,300 | 19,600 | 287,900 |
| Change in fair value of investment properties | (1,500) | (1,100) | (2,600) |
| Carrying amount at 31st December, 2019 and 1st January, 2020 | 266,800 | 18,500 | 285,300 |
| Addition | – | 12,093 | 12,093 |
| Change in fair value of investment properties | (26,600) | (2,104) | (28,704) |
| Transfer to property, plant and equipment | – | (11,189) | (11,189) |
| Carrying amount at 31st December, 2020 | 240,200 | 17,300 | 257,500 |

Below is a summary of the valuation techniques used and the key inputs to the valuation inputs of the investment properties:

| | Valuation techniques | Significant unobservable inputs | Range or weighted average | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | 2020 | 2019 |
| Commercial properties in Macau | Income capitalisation approach | Monthly rent per square foot | HK\$22 to HK\$30 | HK\$22 to HK\$30 |
| | | Capitalisation rate | 2.6% to 3.3% | 2.4% to 3.1% |
| Commercial properties in Hong Kong | Direct comparison plus term and reversion approach | Unit rate per square foot | HK\$13,000 to HK\$27,000 | HK\$13,000 to HK\$28,000 |

A significant increase/(decrease) in the monthly rent and unit rate per square foot in isolation would result in a significant increase/(decrease) in the fair value of the investment properties. A significant increase/(decrease) in the capitalisation rate in isolation would result in a significant (decrease)/increase in the fair value of the investment properties.

31st December, 2020

14. Interests in Joint Ventures

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Share of net assets | <u>515,444</u> | <u>496,698</u> |

Particulars of the joint ventures of the Group as at 31st December, 2020 are as follows:

| Name | Business structure | Place of incorporation and operation | Percentage of ownership interest and profit sharing | Voting power | Principal activities |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| Bank Consortium Holding Limited | Corporate | Hong Kong | 13.3 | 1 out of 7 [#] | Provision of mandatory provident fund scheme services |
| BC Reinsurance Limited | Corporate | Hong Kong | 21 | 1 out of 10 [#] | Reinsurance underwriting |
| Bumrungrad International Limited | Corporate | Thailand | 19.5 | 1 out of 5 [#] | Provision of health care services |
| Hong Kong Life Insurance Limited | Corporate | Hong Kong | 16.67 | 1 out of 8 [#] | Life insurance |
| Avo Insurance Company Limited | Corporate | Hong Kong | 49.3 | 3 out of 8 [#] | Insurance |

Note:

Representing the number of votes on the board of directors attributable to the Group

During the year, the Group received dividend income amounting to HK\$26,100,000 (2019: HK\$25,499,000) from the joint ventures.

The following table illustrates the aggregate financial information of the Group's joint ventures that are not individually material:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Share of the joint ventures' profit for the year | 26,883 | 46,801 |
| Share of the joint ventures' other comprehensive income | 9,879 | 16,343 |
| Share of the joint ventures' total comprehensive income | 36,762 | 63,144 |
| Aggregate carrying amount of the Group's interests in the joint ventures | <u>515,444</u> | <u>496,698</u> |

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

14. Interests in Joint Ventures (cont'd)

The Group applied the temporary exemption from HKFRS 9 as permitted by the amendment to HKFRS 4 when accounting for its interests in certain joint ventures. The joint ventures concluded that it qualified for the temporary exemption from HKFRS 9 because its activities are predominantly connected with insurance. As at 31st December, 2020, the joint ventures' percentage of its gross liabilities connected with insurance represented 99% of its total liabilities. Since 31st December, 2020, there has been no change in the activities of the joint ventures that requires reassessment of the use of the temporary exemption. The following disclosure is provided to respond to the HKFRS 4 amendment requirement:

For the following presentation, these joint ventures' financial assets are separated into the following two groups:

- financial assets with contractual terms that give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding (SPPI) in accordance with HKFRS 9 and are not held for trading or managed on a fair value basis, which consisted of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, loans and deposits and debt securities; and
- financial assets other than those specified above, which consisted of equity securities and debt securities.

The following tables show the fair values as at 31st December, 2020 and 2019 and the change in fair value of these two groups of financial assets for the years ended 31st December, 2020 and 2019 for these joint ventures:

| | Fair value <i>HK\$'000</i> | Fair value change <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| As at 31st December, 2020 | | |
| Financial assets that met the SPPI criteria and not held for trading or managed on a fair value basis | 1,672,765 | 274,403 |
| Others | 1,314,861 | 360,071 |
| As at 31st December, 2019 | | |
| Financial assets that met the SPPI criteria and not held for trading or managed on a fair value basis | 1,550,900 | 73,965 |
| Others | 954,791 | 610,984 |

31st December, 2020

14. Interests in Joint Ventures (cont'd)

The following table shows the carrying amount of the SPPI financial assets included in the table above by credit risk rating grades. The carrying amount is measured in accordance with HKAS 39 although this is prior to any impairment allowance for those measured at amortised cost.

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| AAA | – | – |
| AA | 28,048 | 149,082 |
| A | 449,616 | 482,247 |
| BBB | 930,171 | 746,150 |
| BB | – | 168 |
| Not rated | 147,465 | 110,561 |
| | 1,555,300 | 1,488,208 |

As at 31st December, 2020, the fair value and carrying amount of financial assets that do not have low credit risk were HK\$146,894,000 and HK\$147,465,000 (2019: HK\$110,162,000 and HK\$110,561,000), respectively.

Financial assets are considered to have low credit risk if:

- the financial instruments have a low risk of default;
- the borrower has a strong capacity to meet its contractual cash flow obligations in the near term; and
- adverse changes in economic and business conditions in the longer term may, but will not necessarily, reduce the ability of the borrower to fulfill its contractual cash flow obligations.

Notes to Financial Statements

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15. Interests in Associates

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Share of net assets | | 427,519 | 501,604 |
| Goodwill on acquisition | | – | 5,729 |
| | | 427,519 | 507,333 |
| Due from associates | <i>(i)</i> | 256,140 | 256,140 |
| Due to associates | <i>(ii)</i> | (4,222) | (4,222) |

Notes:

- (i) The amounts due from associates are unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand, except for an amount due from an associate of HK\$168,390,000 (2019: HK\$168,390,000), which has no fixed terms of repayment and, in the opinion of the directors, is unlikely to be repaid in the foreseeable future and is considered as part of the Group's investment in the associate.
- (ii) The amounts due to associates are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost, and are unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

Particulars of the associates of the Group as at 31st December, 2020, which are all corporate entities, are as follows:

| Name | Place of incorporation/ establishment and operation | Percentage of equity indirectly held by the Company | Issued ordinary/registered share capital | Principal activities |
|---|--|---|--|------------------------|
| APIC Holdings, Inc. | Philippines | 50 | Peso23,241,700 | Investment holding |
| Asian Insurance International (Holding) Limited | Bermuda | 25 | US\$5,740,000 | Investment holding |
| Professional Liability Underwriting Services Limited | Hong Kong | 27 | HK\$3,000,000 | Insurance agent |
| The People's Insurance Company of China (Hong Kong), Limited | Hong Kong | N/A# (2019: 17.375) | HK\$1,609,999,956 (2019: HK\$640,000,000) | Insurance underwriting |
| Key Apex Limited | British Virgin Islands | 27.5 | US\$1,000 | Investment holding |

31st December, 2020

15. Interests in Associates (cont'd)

Particulars of the associates of the Group as at 31st December, 2020, which are all corporate entities, are as follows:
(cont'd)

| Name | Place of incorporation/ establishment and operation | Percentage of equity indirectly held by the Company | Issued ordinary/registered share capital | Principal activities |
|--|--|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Excellent Star Development Limited | Hong Kong | 27.5 | HK\$1 | Investment holding |
| 上海盤谷房地產有限公司 | The People's Republic of China | 27.5 | RMB570,870,560 | Property development |
| Health Horizons Enterprises Pte. Limited | Singapore | 20 | US\$16,849,422 | Investment holding |
| Bangkok Insurance (Lao) Company Limited | Lao | 23.5 | LAK16,000,000,000 | Insurance |
| Glory Standard Limited | Hong Kong | 45 | HK\$10,000 | Property investment |

Note:

- # Before 26th October, 2020, the Group held 17.375% effective equity interest in The People Insurance Company of China (Hong Kong), Limited ("PICC (HK)") via Asia Insurance (Investments) Limited ("All"), a 69.5% owned subsidiary (while All directly holds 25% of PICC(HK)). On 26th October, 2020, the associate was derecognized upon the deemed disposal of PICC(HK). The gain or loss relating to the derecognition is recognized immediately in profit or loss and included in the "Gain on deemed disposal of interest in an associate" line item in Note 6.

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15. Interests in Associates (cont'd)

The Group received dividend income amounting to HK\$1,014,000 (2019: HK\$38,594,000) from the associates during the year.

Key Apex Limited, which is considered a material associate of the Group, is a strategic partner of the Group, which directly and indirectly held 100% of Excellent Star Development Limited and 上海盤谷房地產有限公司 respectively (collectively known as “Key Apex Group”), primarily engaged in property development in The People’s Republic of China, and is accounted for using the equity method.

The following table illustrates the summarised consolidated financial information in respect of Key Apex Group adjusted for any differences in accounting policies and reconciled to the carrying amount in the consolidated financial statements:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Assets, excluding goodwill | 4,020,247 | 2,872,354 |
| Liabilities | <u>(2,685,539)</u> | <u>(1,813,572)</u> |
| Net assets, excluding goodwill | <u>1,334,708</u> | <u>1,058,782</u> |
| Reconciliation to the Group’s interest in the associate: | | |
| Proportion of the Group’s ownership | 27.5% | 27.5% |
| Group’s share of net assets of the associate, excluding goodwill | 367,045 | 291,165 |
| Goodwill on acquisition (less cumulative impairment) | – | 6,312 |
| Carrying amount of the investment | <u>367,045</u> | <u>297,477</u> |
| Revenue | 702,421 | 1,583,313 |
| Profit for the year | 150,585 | 426,978 |
| Translation difference | <u>125,342</u> | <u>(26,196)</u> |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | <u>275,927</u> | <u>400,782</u> |

31st December, 2020

15. Interests in Associates (cont'd)

The following table illustrates the aggregate financial information of the Group's associates that are not individually material:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Share of the associates' profit or loss for the year | 19,496 | (6,190) |
| Share of the associates' other comprehensive income | (2,026) | 9,459 |
| Share of the associates' total comprehensive income | 17,470 | 3,269 |
| Aggregate carrying amount of the Group's interests in the associates | 60,474 | 209,856 |

The Group applied the temporary exemption from HKFRS 9 as permitted by the amendment to HKFRS 4 when accounting for its interests in an associate. The associate concluded that it qualified for the temporary exemption from HKFRS 9 because its activities are predominantly connected with insurance. As at 31st December, 2020, the associate's percentage of its gross liabilities connected with insurance represented 92% of its total liabilities. Since 31st December, 2020, there has been no change in the activities of the associate that requires reassessment of the use of the temporary exemption. The following disclosure is provided to respond to the HKFRS 4 amendment requirement:

For the following presentation, these associates' financial assets are separated into the following two groups:

- financial assets with contractual terms that give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding (SPPI) in accordance with HKFRS 9 and are not held for trading or managed on a fair value basis, which consisted of cash and cash equivalents, receivables, loans and deposits and debt securities; and
- financial assets other than those specified above, which consisted of equity securities and debt securities.

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15. Interests in Associates (cont'd)

The following table shows the fair values as at 31st December, 2020 and 2019 and change in fair value of these two groups of financial assets for the years ended 31st December, 2020 and 2019 for these associates:

| | Fair value HK\$'000 | Fair value change HK\$'000 |
|---|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| As at 31st December, 2020 | | |
| Financial assets that met the SPPI criteria and not held for trading or managed on a fair value basis | 27,743 | N/A |
| Others | - | N/A |
| As at 31st December, 2019 | | |
| Financial assets that met the SPPI criteria and not held for trading or managed on a fair value basis | 258,323 | N/A |
| Others | 292,109 | (6,441) |

The following table shows the carrying amount of the SPPI financial assets included in the table above by credit risk rating grades. The carrying amount is measured in accordance with HKAS 39 although this is prior to any impairment allowance for those measured at amortised cost.

| | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 |
|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| A | - | 91,969 |
| BBB | - | 1,467 |
| Not rated | 27,743 | 164,887 |
| | 27,743 | 258,323 |

As at 31st December, 2020, the fair value and carrying amount of financial assets that do not have low credit risk was HK\$27,743,000 (2019: HK\$164,887,000).

Financial assets are considered to have low credit risk if:

- the financial instruments have a low risk of default;
- the borrower has a strong capacity to meet its contractual cash flow obligations in the near term; and
- adverse changes in economic and business conditions in the longer term may, but will not necessarily, reduce the ability of the borrower to fulfill its contractual cash flow obligations.

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16. Held-To-Collect Debt Securities at Amortised Cost

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Listed debt securities in Hong Kong, at amortised cost | 611,533 | 393,994 |
| Listed debt securities outside Hong Kong, at amortised cost | 274,854 | 177,928 |
| Unlisted debt securities, at amortised cost | 157,617 | 166,665 |
| | 1,044,004 | 738,587 |
| Less: Impairment allowance | (1,237) | – |
| Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | 1,042,767 | 738,587 |

The fair values of the listed and unlisted held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost are based on quoted market prices and quoted prices from brokers and fund managers, respectively.

An impairment analysis is performed at each reporting date on held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost by considering published credit ratings and the probability of default of comparable securities with published credit ratings. In the situation where credit ratings are not published or no comparable securities with credit ratings can be identified, expected credit losses are estimated by applying a loss rate approach with reference to the historical loss record of the Group. The loss rate is adjusted to reflect the current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions, as appropriate.

The held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost, net of impairment allowance, analysed by issuer as at the end of the reporting period are as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Public sector entities | – | 23,427 |
| Banks and other financial institutions | 764,460 | 575,827 |
| Corporate entities | 278,307 | 139,333 |
| | 1,042,767 | 738,587 |

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16. Held-To-Collect Debt Securities at Amortised Cost (cont'd)

The maturity profile of the held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost, net of impairment allowance, as at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| With a residual maturity of: | | |
| Three months or less | 87,062 | 102,552 |
| One year or less but over three months | 38,977 | 38,957 |
| Five years or less but over one year | 436,353 | 306,174 |
| Over five years | 480,375 | 290,904 |
| | <u>1,042,767</u> | <u>738,587</u> |

As at 31st December, 2020, listed debt securities of the Group amounting to HK\$119,030,000 (2019: HK\$119,516,000) were pledged in favour of a cedant of certain pecuniary loss reinsurance contracts for the Group's performance of its obligations under those reinsurance contracts.

The table below shows the credit quality and the maximum exposure to credit risk and the year-end stage classification. The amounts presented are gross of impairment allowance.

2020

| | Stage 1 <i>HK\$'000</i> | Stage 2 <i>HK\$'000</i> | Stage 3 <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| AAA | 52,387 | - | - | 52,387 |
| AA+ to AA- | 90,230 | - | - | 90,230 |
| A+ to A- | 273,930 | - | - | 273,930 |
| Below A- | 550,500 | - | - | 550,500 |
| Not rated | 76,957 | - | - | 76,957 |
| | <u>1,044,004</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,044,004</u> |

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16. Held-To-Collect Debt Securities at Amortised Cost (cont'd)

2019

| | Stage 1 <i>HK\$'000</i> | Stage 2 <i>HK\$'000</i> | Stage 3 <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| AAA | 52,509 | – | – | 52,509 |
| AA+ to AA- | 92,613 | – | – | 92,613 |
| A+ to A- | 148,823 | – | – | 148,823 |
| Below A- | 367,685 | – | – | 367,685 |
| Not rated | 76,957 | – | – | 76,957 |
| | <u>738,587</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>738,587</u> |

The movements in the loss allowance for impairment of held-to-collect debt investments measured at amortised cost are as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| At beginning of year | – | – |
| Impairment losses (note 6) | <u>1,237</u> | – |
| At end of year | <u>1,237</u> | – |

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17. Equity Investments Designated at Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income | | |
| Listed equity investments outside Hong Kong, at fair value | | |
| Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited | 582,971 | 788,862 |
| Bumrungrad Hospital Public Company Limited | 1,029,815 | 870,197 |
| | <u>1,612,786</u> | <u>1,659,059</u> |
| Unlisted equity investments, at fair value | | |
| PICC Life Insurance Company Limited | 4,320,000 | 3,440,000 |
| BBL Asset Management Company Limited | 442,000 | 462,000 |
| The People's Insurance Company of China (Hong Kong), Limited | 181,455 | – |
| PT Asian International Investindo | 152,029 | 128,516 |
| BE Reinsurance Limited | 55,075 | 49,019 |
| Others | 87,619 | 62,872 |
| | <u>5,238,178</u> | <u>4,142,407</u> |
| | <u><u>6,850,964</u></u> | <u><u>5,801,466</u></u> |

The above equity investments were irrevocably designated at fair value through other comprehensive income at initial recognition as the Group considers these investments to be strategic in nature.

The fair values of listed equity investments are based on quoted market prices. The fair value of unlisted equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income has been estimated using market-based valuation techniques.

During the year ended 31st December, 2020, the gross gain before tax impact in respect of the Group's equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income recognised in other comprehensive income amounted to HK\$542,491,000 (2019: gross gain of HK\$711,615,000) and the Group received dividends in the amounts of HK\$22,656,000 (2019: HK\$27,694,000), HK\$17,901,000 (2019: HK\$15,085,000), HK\$73,357,000 (2019: HK\$11,662,000) and HK\$34,669,000 (2019: HK\$34,122,000) from Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited, Bumrungrad Hospital Public Company Limited, PICC Life Insurance Company Limited, and BBL Asset Management Company Limited, respectively.

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18. Loans and Advances and Other Assets

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Loans and advances | 8,553 | 9,804 |
| Accrued interest and other assets | 143,249 | 108,168 |
| Tax recoverable | 1,900 | 10 |
| Gross loans and advances and other assets | 153,702 | 117,982 |

The Group's accrued interest and other assets were current in nature as at 31st December, 2020 and 2019.

The maturity profile of the loans and advances as at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Repayable on demand | – | – |
| With a residual maturity of: | | |
| Three months or less | 310 | 332 |
| One year or less but over three months | 939 | 920 |
| Five years or less but over one year | 5,251 | 5,147 |
| Over five years | 2,053 | 3,405 |
| | 8,553 | 9,804 |

Where applicable, an impairment analysis is performed on other receivables at each reporting date by considering the probability of default of comparable companies with published credit ratings. In the situation where no comparable companies with credit ratings can be identified, expected credit losses are estimated by applying a loss rate approach with reference to the historical loss record of the Group. The loss rate is adjusted to reflect the current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions, as appropriate. The expected credit losses associated with other receivables were minimal in view of the fact that these balances are not yet past due.

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19. Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Debt securities: | | |
| – listed in Hong Kong, at fair value | 40,853 | 42,275 |
| – listed outside Hong Kong, at fair value | 37,981 | 19,812 |
| | <u>78,834</u> | <u>62,087</u> |
| Equity securities at fair value: | | |
| – listed in Hong Kong | 216,473 | 128,273 |
| – listed outside Hong Kong | 440,141 | 494,953 |
| | <u>656,614</u> | <u>623,226</u> |
| Investment funds: | | |
| – listed outside Hong Kong, at fair value | 249,305 | 112,750 |
| – unlisted, at quoted price | 356,963 | 349,884 |
| | <u>606,268</u> | <u>462,634</u> |
| Total | <u><u>1,341,716</u></u> | <u><u>1,147,947</u></u> |

The fair values of the listed and unlisted financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are based on quoted market prices and quoted prices from brokers and fund managers, respectively.

The financial assets at fair value through profit or loss as at the end of the reporting period, analysed by the sector of the issuers, are as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Public sector entities | 2,731 | – |
| Banks and other financial institutions | 87,765 | 133,453 |
| Corporate entities | 1,251,220 | 1,014,494 |
| | <u>1,341,716</u> | <u>1,147,947</u> |

The above securities and investment funds at 31st December, 2020 and 2019 were classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss as they were held for trading.

As at 31st December, 2019, certain bank deposits and equity securities listed in Hong Kong with fair value of not less than HK\$100,000,000 were pledged as securities for the Group's bank loan (note 30).

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20. Insurance Receivables

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Amounts due in respect of: | | |
| Direct underwriting | 99,795 | 135,355 |
| Reinsurance accepted | 142,181 | 121,282 |
| | 241,976 | 256,637 |
| Less: Impairment allowance | (10,591) | (5,577) |
| | 231,385 | 251,060 |

The Group grants credit terms of three months to six months on billed policies. The past settlement history of these receivables indicates that certain debtors settle in arrears subsequent to the credit period, which may also involve settlement subsequent to 12 months from the end of the reporting period.

The Group's insurance receivables relate to a large number of diversified customers, and therefore, there is no significant concentration of credit risk. Insurance receivables are non-interest-bearing.

An aging analysis of the insurance receivables based on the issuance date of policies, as at the end of the reporting period, is as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Three months or less | 195,413 | 216,283 |
| Six months or less but over three months | 37,406 | 36,285 |
| One year or less but over six months | 8,807 | 3,219 |
| Over one year | 350 | 850 |
| | 241,976 | 256,637 |
| Less: Impairment allowance | (10,591) | (5,577) |
| | 231,385 | 251,060 |

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20. Insurance Receivables (cont'd)

The movements in the loss allowance for impairment of insurance receivables are as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| At beginning of year | 5,577 | 2,765 |
| Impairment losses (<i>note 6</i>) | 5,014 | 3,300 |
| Amount written off as uncollectible | – | (488) |
| | 10,591 | 5,577 |

An impairment analysis is performed at each reporting date using a provision matrix to measure expected credit losses. The provision rates are based on days past due for groupings of various customer segments with similar loss patterns (i.e., by geographical region, product type, customer type and rating, and coverage by letters of credit or other forms of credit insurance). The calculation reflects the probability-weighted outcome, the time value of money and reasonable and supportable information that is available at the reporting date about past events, current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions. Generally, insurance receivables are written off if past due for more than one year and are not subject to enforcement activity.

Set out below is the information about the credit risk exposure on the Group's insurance receivables using a provision matrix:

As at 31st December, 2020

| | Current | Past due | | | Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| | | Less than 1 month | 1 to 3 months | Over 3 months | |
| Expected credit loss rate | 0.32% | 3.56% | 11.39% | 79.35% | 4.38% |
| Gross carrying amount (HK\$'000) | 195,413 | 19,830 | 17,576 | 9,157 | 241,976 |
| Expected credit losses (HK\$'000) | 617 | 706 | 2,002 | 7,266 | 10,591 |

As at 31st December, 2019

| | Current | Past due | | | Total |
|-----------------------------------|---------|----------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| | | Less than 1 month | 1 to 3 months | Over 3 months | |
| Expected credit loss rate | 0.26% | 3.41% | 12.91% | 50.00% | 2.17% |
| Gross carrying amount (HK\$'000) | 216,283 | 17,938 | 18,347 | 4,069 | 256,637 |
| Expected credit losses (HK\$'000) | 562 | 612 | 2,369 | 2,034 | 5,577 |

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21. Reinsurance Assets

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Reinsurers' share of insurance contracts liabilities (note 25) | 1,531,060 | 1,401,886 |

22. Cash and Cash Equivalents and Pledged Deposits

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cash and bank balances | 201,165 | 184,274 |
| Time deposits with original maturity of over three months | 102,761 | 44,928 |
| Time deposits with original maturity of less than three months | 2,496,314 | 3,137,400 |
| | 2,800,240 | 3,366,602 |
| Pledged deposits | 313,357 | 305,590 |
| | 3,113,597 | 3,672,192 |

The pledged deposits are pledged in favour of Autoridade Monetaria e Cambial de Macau as security for the outstanding claims provision and unearned premiums reserve of a subsidiary operating in Macau as required under the applicable laws of Macau.

Cash and cash equivalents included cash at banks and short term time deposits. Cash at banks earns interest at floating rates based on daily bank deposit rates. Short term time deposits are made for varying periods of between one day and three months depending on the immediate cash requirements of the Group, and earn interest at the respective short term time deposit rates. Time deposits with original maturity of more than three months when acquired earn interest at the respective time deposit rates with terms between three months and twelve months. The bank balances and pledged deposits are deposited with creditworthy banks with no recent history of default.

The maturity profile of the cash and bank balances, time deposits and pledged deposits as at the end of the reporting period was as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| With a residual maturity of: | | |
| Three months or less | 2,951,663 | 3,520,935 |
| Over three months but less than one year | 161,934 | 151,257 |
| | 3,113,597 | 3,672,192 |

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23. Share Capital

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Authorised: | | |
| 1,500,000,000 (2019: 1,500,000,000) ordinary shares of HK\$1 each | <u>1,500,000</u> | <u>1,500,000</u> |
| Issued and fully paid: | | |
| 946,620,000 (2019: 960,840,000) ordinary shares of HK\$1 each | <u>946,620</u> | <u>960,840</u> |

A summary of movements in the Company's share capital is as follows:

| | Number of shares in issue | Share capital <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| At 1st January, 2019 | 973,180,000 | 973,180 |
| Shares repurchased and cancelled | (12,340,000) | (12,340) |
| At 31st December, 2019 and 1st January, 2020 | <u>960,840,000</u> | <u>960,840</u> |
| Shares repurchased and cancelled (Note) | <u>(14,220,000)</u> | <u>(14,220)</u> |
| At 31st December, 2020 | <u>946,620,000</u> | <u>946,620</u> |

Note:

At 31st December, 2019, 148,000 shares with cost of HK\$593,000 were classified as treasury shares, and were subsequently cancelled in January 2020. During the year ended 31st December, 2020, a subsidiary of the Company repurchased 14,542,000 ordinary shares of the Company of HK\$1 each on the Stock Exchange at prices ranging from HK\$2.90 to HK\$4.00 per share at a total consideration of HK\$51,863,000 (including expenses and dividend). Out of which, 14,072,000 repurchased shares were cancelled.

The premium of HK\$36,516,000 paid on the repurchase of such shares was debited to the retained profits account and an amount of HK\$14,220,000 was transferred from retained profits of the Company to the capital redemption reserve, as set out in the consolidated statement of changes in equity.

The remaining 470,000 shares with cost of HK\$1,720,000 were classified as treasury shares at 31st December, 2020 and were subsequently cancelled in January 2021.

Subsequent to the end of the reporting period, the Group repurchased and cancelled 3,726,000 ordinary shares of the Company from the market at prices ranging from HK\$3.80 to HK\$4.10 per share at a total amount of HK\$14,479,000 (including transaction cost). As at the date of this report, the number of issued shares of the Company is 942,424,000.

24. Reserves

The amounts of the Group's reserves and the movements therein for the current and prior years are presented in the consolidated statement of changes in equity in the consolidated financial statements.

In accordance with the Macau Commercial Codes, a branch (the "Branch") of Asia Insurance Company, Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, whose principal operation is conducted in Macau, is required to appropriate annually not less than 25% of its profit after tax to a statutory reserve, until the balance of the reserve reaches 50% of the branch's capital fund, which was achieved in prior years. The statutory reserve may be utilised by the Branch for certain restricted purposes including offsetting against the accumulated losses, if any, arising under certain specified circumstances.

The contingency reserve ("CR") represents a reserve established in accordance with the *Guideline on Reserving for Mortgage Guarantee Business* ("GL6") issued by the Insurance Authority. In respect of the mortgage guarantee business entered into before 1st January, 2011, an amount equal to 50% of the net earned premium income derived from the mortgage guarantee business shall be assigned to the CR in each year and maintained for a period of seven years. In respect of the mortgage guarantee business entered into on or after 1st January, 2011, an amount equal to 50% of the net earned premium income derived from the mortgage guarantee business and 75% of the net earned premium derived from the direct non-standard mortgage guarantee business shall be assigned to the CR in each year and maintained for a period of ten years. In accordance with GL6, withdrawals may be made where the claims incurred in any year exceed 35% of the net earned premium income in that year, and any such withdrawals shall only be made on a first-in-first-out basis and recognised directly in equity.

At the end of the seventh year for the mortgage guarantee business entered into before 1st January, 2011, or the tenth year for the mortgage guarantee business entered into on or after 1st January, 2011, the amount assigned to the CR in respect of a year may be released to the extent that it has not already been depleted by prior withdrawals. Changes in the CR are recognised directly in equity.

No withdrawal was made to the CR during the year ended 31st December, 2020 (2019: Nil).

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25. Insurance Contracts Liabilities

| | Notes | 2020 | | | 2019 | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---|---|------------------|---|---|------------------|
| | | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 (note 21) | Net HK\$'000 | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 (note 21) | Net HK\$'000 |
| Life insurance contracts | (a) | 91,216 | - | 91,216 | 77,407 | - | 77,407 |
| General insurance contracts | (b) | 3,843,888 | (1,531,060) | 2,312,828 | 3,526,057 | (1,401,886) | 2,124,171 |
| Total insurance contracts liabilities | | <u>3,935,104</u> | <u>(1,531,060)</u> | <u>2,404,044</u> | <u>3,603,464</u> | <u>(1,401,886)</u> | <u>2,201,578</u> |

(a) The life insurance contracts liabilities are analysed as follows:

| | Notes | 2020 | | | 2019 | | |
|----------------------|-------|---|--|-----------------|---|--|-----------------|
| | | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 |
| Life reserve | (1) | 73,077 | - | 73,077 | 65,554 | - | 65,554 |
| Provision for claims | (2) | 18,139 | - | 18,139 | 11,853 | - | 11,853 |
| | | <u>91,216</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>91,216</u> | <u>77,407</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>77,407</u> |

(1) Life reserve is analysed as follows:

| | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| At 1st January | 65,554 | 57,192 |
| Increase in the year | 7,523 | 8,362 |
| At 31st December | <u>73,077</u> | <u>65,554</u> |

(2) The provision for claims of life insurance contracts is analysed as follows:

| | 2020 | | | 2019 | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|---|--|-----------------|
| | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 |
| At 1st January | 11,853 | - | 11,853 | 8,033 | - | 8,033 |
| Claims incurred during the year | 23,161 | (10,245) | 12,916 | 27,493 | (12,201) | 15,292 |
| Claims paid during the year | (16,875) | 10,245 | (6,630) | (23,673) | 12,201 | (11,472) |
| At 31st December | <u>18,139</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>18,139</u> | <u>11,853</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>11,853</u> |

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25. Insurance Contracts Liabilities (cont'd)

(b) General insurance contracts liabilities are analysed as follows:

| Notes | 2020 | | | 2019 | | |
|---|---|--|-----------------|---|--|-----------------|
| | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 |
| Provision for claims reported by policyholders | 1,347,893 | (623,383) | 724,510 | 1,241,648 | (570,862) | 670,786 |
| Provision for claims incurred but not reported ("IBNR") | 1,444,866 | (546,580) | 898,286 | 1,304,717 | (472,805) | 831,912 |
| Total claims reported and IBNR (1) | 2,792,759 | (1,169,963) | 1,622,796 | 2,546,365 | (1,043,667) | 1,502,698 |
| Provision for unearned premiums (2) | 1,051,129 | (361,097) | 690,032 | 979,692 | (358,219) | 621,473 |
| Total general insurance contracts liabilities | 3,843,888 | (1,531,060) | 2,312,828 | 3,526,057 | (1,401,886) | 2,124,171 |

(1) The provision for claims reported by policyholders and IBNR is analysed as follows:

| | 2020 | | | 2019 | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|---|--|-----------------|
| | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 |
| At 1st January | 2,546,365 | (1,043,667) | 1,502,698 | 2,386,584 | (973,119) | 1,413,465 |
| Claims incurred during the year | 952,748 | (455,498) | 497,250 | 1,082,714 | (611,762) | 470,952 |
| Claims paid during the year | (706,354) | 329,202 | (377,152) | (922,933) | 541,214 | (381,719) |
| At 31st December | 2,792,759 | (1,169,963) | 1,622,796 | 2,546,365 | (1,043,667) | 1,502,698 |

(2) The provision for unearned premiums is analysed as follows:

| | 2020 | | | 2019 | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|---|--|-----------------|
| | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 | Insurance contracts liabilities HK\$'000 | Reinsurers' share of liabilities HK\$'000 | Net HK\$'000 |
| At 1st January | 979,692 | (358,219) | 621,473 | 831,493 | (290,926) | 540,567 |
| Premiums written during the year | 1,705,400 | (617,579) | 1,087,821 | 1,654,139 | (616,101) | 1,038,038 |
| Premiums earned during the year | (1,633,963) | 614,701 | (1,019,262) | (1,505,940) | 548,808 | (957,132) |
| At 31st December | 1,051,129 | (361,097) | 690,032 | 979,692 | (358,219) | 621,473 |

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26. Net Premiums

| | Notes | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 |
|--|----------|------------------|------------------|
| (a) Gross premiums on insurance contracts | | | |
| Gross general insurance premiums: | | | |
| Direct underwriting | | 1,076,797 | 1,130,594 |
| Reinsurance accepted | | 628,603 | 523,545 |
| Total gross general insurance premiums | 25(b)(2) | 1,705,400 | 1,654,139 |
| Gross life insurance premiums | | 42,518 | 47,870 |
| Total revenue | | 1,747,918 | 1,702,009 |
| Change in gross unearned premiums | | (71,437) | (148,199) |
| Change in life reserve | 25(a)(1) | (7,523) | (8,362) |
| Total gross premiums | | 1,668,958 | 1,545,448 |
| (b) Reinsurers' share of gross premiums on insurance contracts | | | |
| Gross general insurance premiums: | | | |
| Direct underwriting | | (338,367) | (351,791) |
| Reinsurance accepted | | (279,212) | (264,310) |
| Total gross general insurance premiums | 25(b)(2) | (617,579) | (616,101) |
| Gross life insurance premiums | | (17,382) | (19,989) |
| Change in unearned premiums | | 2,878 | 67,293 |
| Total reinsurers' share of gross premiums | | (632,083) | (568,797) |

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27. Net Claims Incurred

| | <i>Notes</i> | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Gross claims paid | | | |
| Life insurance contracts claims paid | <i>25(a)(2)</i> | (16,875) | (23,673) |
| General insurance contracts claims paid | <i>25(b)(1)</i> | (706,354) | (922,933) |
| Total gross claims paid | | (723,229) | (946,606) |
| (b) Reinsurers' share of gross claims paid | | | |
| Life insurance contracts claims paid | <i>25(a)(2)</i> | 10,245 | 12,201 |
| General insurance contracts claims paid | <i>25(b)(1)</i> | 329,202 | 541,214 |
| Total reinsurers' share of gross claims paid | | 339,447 | 553,415 |
| (c) Gross change in outstanding claims | | | |
| Change in life insurance outstanding claims | | (6,286) | (3,820) |
| Change in general insurance outstanding claims | | (246,394) | (159,781) |
| Total gross change in outstanding claims | | (252,680) | (163,601) |
| (d) Reinsurers' share of gross change in outstanding claims | | | |
| General insurance outstanding claims | | 126,296 | 70,548 |

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28. Insurance Payables

An aging analysis of the insurance payables based on the invoice date, as at the end of the reporting period, is as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Three months or less | 107,562 | 138,495 |
| Six months or less but over three months | 17,684 | 23,820 |
| One year or less but over six months | 22,952 | 16,985 |
| Over one year | 21,177 | 27,799 |
| Total | <u>169,375</u> | <u>207,099</u> |

29. Other Liabilities

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lease liabilities | 3,535 | 2,005 |
| Accruals and other payables | 301,017 | 262,096 |
| Total | <u>304,552</u> | <u>264,101</u> |

HK\$302,194,000 of the Group's other liabilities were current in nature while HK\$2,358,000 were non-current in nature as at 31st December, 2020. HK\$262,998,000 of the Group's other liabilities were current in nature while HK\$1,103,000 were non-current in nature as at 31st December, 2019. The maturity analysis of lease liabilities is disclosed in note 38 to the financial statements.

30. Interest-Bearing Bank Borrowing

At 31st December, 2019, the Group's bank loan was denominated in Hong Kong dollars and secured by the pledge of certain bank deposits and equity securities listed in Hong Kong classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss with fair value of not less than HK\$100,000,000. The Group fully repaid the bank loan together with the accrual loan interest on the maturity date, 29th January, 2020.

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31. Deferred Tax

The movements in deferred tax liabilities during the year are as follows:

| | Depreciation allowance in excess of related depreciation <i>HK\$'000</i> | Fair value adjustments of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss <i>HK\$'000</i> | Fair value adjustments of equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income <i>HK\$'000</i> | Revaluation of buildings <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|---|---|---|--|--------------------------|
| At 1st January, 2019 | – | – | 161,270 | 13,974 | 175,244 |
| Deferred tax credited to the statement of profit or loss during the year (note 9) | – | – | – | (132) | (132) |
| Deferred tax charged to other comprehensive income during the year | – | – | 106,838 | – | 106,838 |
| At 1st January, 2020 | – | – | 268,108 | 13,842 | 281,950 |
| Deferred tax charged/(credited) to the statement of profit or loss during the year (note 9) | 720 | 5,351 | – | (144) | 5,927 |
| Deferred tax charged to other comprehensive income during the year | – | – | 85,939 | – | 85,939 |
| Gross deferred tax liabilities at 31st December, 2020 | 720 | 5,351 | 354,047 | 13,698 | 373,816 |

At 31st December, 2020, the Group had tax losses arising in Hong Kong of HK\$264,671,000 (2019: HK\$287,841,000) that are available indefinitely for offsetting against future taxable profits of the companies in which the losses arose. Deferred tax assets have not been recognised in respect of these losses as they have mainly arisen in subsidiaries whose principal activities are securities trading and investment holding and it is not considered probable that taxable profits will be available against which the tax losses can be utilised.

There are no income tax consequences attaching to the payment of dividends by the Company to its shareholders.

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32. Note to the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

| | Bank borrowing HK\$'000 | Lease liabilities HK\$'000 |
|--|--|---|
| At 1st January, 2019 | 150,000 | – |
| New leases | – | 2,586 |
| Principal repayment | (50,000) | (581) |
| Interest expenses | 3,968 | 54 |
| Interest paid classified as financing cash flows | <u>(3,968)</u> | <u>(54)</u> |
| At 31st December, 2019 and 1st January, 2020 | 100,000 | 2,005 |
| New leases | – | 2,643 |
| Principal repayment | (100,000) | (1,113) |
| Interest expenses | 304 | 79 |
| Interest paid classified as financing cash flows | <u>(304)</u> | <u>(79)</u> |
| At 31st December, 2020 | <u>–</u> | <u>3,535</u> |

33. Operating Lease Arrangements

As lessor

The Group leases its investment properties (note 13) under operating lease arrangements, with leases negotiated for terms ranging from two to three years. The terms of the leases generally also require the tenants to pay security deposits.

At 31st December, 2020, the undiscounted lease payments receivables by the Group in future periods under non-cancellable operating leases with its tenants are as follows:

| | 2020 HK\$'000 | 2019 HK\$'000 |
|--|--------------------------|------------------|
| Within one year | 6,566 | 6,645 |
| After one year but within two years | 6,389 | 558 |
| After two years but within three years | <u>6,283</u> | <u>20</u> |
| | <u>19,238</u> | <u>7,223</u> |

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34. Commitments

In addition to the operating lease commitments detailed in note 33, the Group had the following capital commitment at the end of the reporting period:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Contracted, but not provided for: | | |
| Acquisition of computer software | 345 | 4,109 |

35. Related Party Transactions

(a)

| | 2020 | | 2019 | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| | Directors and key management personnel <i>HK\$'000</i> | Enterprises and individuals related to directors and key management personnel <i>HK\$'000</i> | Directors and key management personnel <i>HK\$'000</i> | Enterprises and individuals related to directors and key management personnel <i>HK\$'000</i> |
| Loans and advances granted: | | | | |
| Aggregate balance at the end of the reporting period | - | 1,963 | - | 1,922 |
| Interbank activities: | | | | |
| Deposits placed | - | 516,531 | - | 864,747 |
| Interest income | - | 9,447 | - | 19,523 |
| Premium income: | | | | |
| Gross premiums written | 401 | 7,330 | 355 | 6,704 |
| Commission expense, net | - | 1,465 | - | 7,095 |

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35. Related Party Transactions (cont'd)

(b) The Group had the following transactions with certain of its joint ventures during the year:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Loans and advances received: | | |
| Interest expenses | – | 19 |
| Reinsurance premium ceded | 6 | 6 |

(c) The Group had the following transactions with certain of its associates during the year:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Loans and advances granted: | | |
| Aggregate balance at the end of the reporting period | 256,140 | 256,140 |
| Interest income | 1,755 | 1,755 |
| Commission expense paid | 17,940 | 15,884 |

(d) Details of the Group's advances to its joint ventures and associates as at the end of the reporting period are included in notes 14 and 15 to the financial statements, respectively.

(e) Details of compensation for key management personnel, who are the directors of the Company, and post-employment benefits of the Group, is included in note 7 to the financial statements.

36. Insurance Contracts Liabilities and Reinsurance Assets – Terms, Assumptions and Sensitivities

General insurance contracts

(1) Terms and conditions

The major classes of general insurance written by the Group include property damage, ships, goods in transit, pecuniary loss, accident and health, general liability, employees' compensation and motor insurances. Risks under these policies usually cover a 12-month duration.

For general insurance contracts, the most significant risks arise from natural disasters. For longer tail claims that take some years to settle, there is also inflation risk. For accident and health contracts, the most significant risks arise from lifestyle changes, epidemics and medical science and technology improvements.

These risks do not vary significantly in relation to the location of the risk insured by the Group, by type of risk insured and by industry.

For general insurance contracts, claims provisions (comprising provisions for claims reported by policyholders and claims incurred but not yet reported) are established to cover the ultimate cost of settling the liabilities in respect of claims that have occurred and are estimated based on known facts at the end of the reporting period.

The provisions are refined regularly as part of an ongoing process as claims experience develops, certain claims are settled and further claims are reported. Outstanding claims provisions are not discounted for the time value of money.

The measurement process primarily includes projection of future claims costs through a combination of actuarial and statistical projection techniques like the Chain Ladder and Bornheutter Ferguson method calculated by an external actuary. In certain cases, where there is a lack of reliable historical data to estimate claims development, relevant benchmarks of similar business are used in developing claims estimates. Claims provisions are separately analysed by class of business. In addition, larger claims are usually separately assessed by loss adjusters. The claims projection assumptions are generally intended to provide the best estimate of the most likely or expected outcome.

(2) Assumptions

The principal assumption underlying the estimates is the Group's past claims development experience. This includes assumptions in respect of average claim costs, claims handling costs and claim numbers for each accident year. Additional qualitative judgements are used to assess the extent to which past trends may not apply in the future, for example: one-off occurrence, changes in market factors such as public attitude to claiming, economic conditions, as well as internal factors such as portfolio mix, policy conditions and claims handling procedures. Judgement is used to assess the extent to which external factors, such as judicial decisions and government legislation, affect the estimates.

Notes to Financial Statements

31st December, 2020

36. Insurance Contracts Liabilities and Reinsurance Assets – Terms, Assumptions and Sensitivities (cont'd)

General insurance contracts (cont'd)

(3) Sensitivities

The general insurance claims provision is sensitive to the above key assumptions. The sensitivity of certain assumptions, e.g., legislative change and uncertainty in the estimation process, etc., is not possible to quantify. Furthermore, because of the delays that arise between occurrence of a claim and its subsequent notification and eventual settlement, the outstanding claim provision is not known with certainty at the end of the reporting period.

Consequently, the ultimate liabilities will vary as a result of subsequent developments. Differences resulting from reassessment of the ultimate liabilities are recognised in subsequent financial statements.

The analysis below is performed for reasonably possible movements in average claim cost with all other assumptions held constant, showing the impact on gross and net liabilities, profit before tax and equity, if average claim costs were changed in a single calendar year.

The sensitivity factor is $\pm 5\%$ (2019: $\pm 5\%$). The sensitivities of net income and equity relate to the decrease/increase of average claim costs by 5% (2019: 5%) over the period.

| | Change % | Impact on gross insurance contract liabilities HK\$'000 | Impact on net insurance contract liabilities HK\$'000 | Impact on profit before tax HK\$'000 | Impact on equity HK\$'000 |
|------------------------|-------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| At 31st December, 2020 | | | | | |
| Average claim costs | +5% | 47,637 | 24,863 | (24,863) | (20,761) |
| | -5% | (47,637) | (24,863) | 24,863 | 20,761 |
| At 31st December, 2019 | | | | | |
| Average claim costs | +5% | 54,136 | 23,548 | (23,548) | (19,663) |
| | -5% | (54,136) | (23,548) | 23,548 | 19,663 |

(4) Loss development triangle

Reproduced below is an exhibit that shows the development of claims over a period of time on a gross and net basis.

The tables show the estimates of cumulative incurred claims, including both notified and IBNR claims, for each successive accident year at the end of each reporting period, together with cumulative claims as at 31st December, 2020.

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36. Insurance Contracts Liabilities and Reinsurance Assets – Terms, Assumptions and Sensitivities (cont'd)

General insurance contracts (cont'd)

(4) Loss development triangle (cont'd)

Gross general insurance claims

| | 2011 and before | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Total |
|--|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 |
| Accident year | 4,115,633 | 587,258 | 688,871 | 681,583 | 638,217 | 597,487 | 1,365,990 | 836,266 | 976,306 | 928,719 | |
| One year later | 4,200,130 | 615,036 | 666,854 | 636,204 | 613,689 | 654,702 | 1,334,001 | 1,169,457 | 1,089,103 | - | |
| Two years later | 4,267,396 | 622,608 | 669,691 | 634,304 | 583,101 | 690,061 | 1,281,532 | 1,123,405 | - | - | |
| Three years later | 4,315,595 | 627,162 | 635,890 | 583,263 | 580,662 | 657,558 | 1,264,359 | - | - | - | |
| Four years later | 4,324,681 | 622,446 | 629,147 | 607,313 | 529,089 | 636,535 | - | - | - | - | |
| Five years later | 4,278,307 | 616,856 | 635,131 | 551,565 | 527,257 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Six years later | 4,192,853 | 562,624 | 576,099 | 538,221 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Seven years later | 4,173,845 | 567,045 | 579,744 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Eight years later | 4,157,897 | 575,755 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Nine years later | 4,154,608 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Current estimate of cumulative gross claims | 4,154,608 | 575,755 | 579,744 | 538,221 | 527,257 | 636,535 | 1,264,359 | 1,123,405 | 1,089,103 | 928,719 | 11,417,706 |
| Cumulative gross payments to date | (4,073,039) | (540,169) | (533,974) | (483,609) | (426,740) | (462,859) | (980,293) | (652,971) | (364,384) | (106,909) | (8,624,947) |
| Total gross general insurance outstanding claims provision as per consolidated statement of financial position | 81,569 | 35,586 | 45,770 | 54,612 | 100,517 | 173,676 | 284,066 | 470,434 | 724,719 | 821,810 | 2,792,759 |

(Note 25(b))

Net general insurance claims

| | 2011 and before | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | Total |
|--|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 |
| Accident year | 2,770,156 | 453,795 | 548,608 | 558,328 | 498,393 | 457,531 | 613,420 | 574,089 | 520,818 | 477,928 | |
| One year later | 2,999,789 | 484,725 | 538,786 | 542,235 | 513,819 | 471,457 | 573,797 | 722,837 | 626,319 | - | |
| Two years later | 3,116,022 | 482,317 | 532,089 | 509,374 | 495,951 | 458,919 | 548,541 | 697,274 | - | - | |
| Three years later | 3,099,838 | 483,368 | 500,027 | 453,512 | 457,226 | 417,649 | 517,105 | - | - | - | |
| Four years later | 3,080,097 | 476,998 | 484,101 | 439,208 | 423,585 | 402,821 | - | - | - | - | |
| Five years later | 3,026,644 | 467,149 | 478,752 | 387,824 | 411,098 | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Six years later | 2,946,391 | 414,785 | 421,612 | 377,701 | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Seven years later | 2,922,793 | 417,517 | 427,295 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Eight years later | 2,905,357 | 424,780 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Nine years later | 2,888,604 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Current estimate of cumulative net claims | 2,888,604 | 424,780 | 427,295 | 377,701 | 411,098 | 402,821 | 517,105 | 697,274 | 626,319 | 477,928 | 7,250,925 |
| Cumulative net payments to date | (2,826,815) | (396,168) | (399,072) | (340,384) | (347,173) | (299,845) | (348,507) | (437,774) | (174,854) | (57,537) | (5,628,129) |
| Total net general insurance outstanding claims provision as per consolidated statement of financial position | 61,789 | 28,612 | 28,223 | 37,317 | 63,925 | 102,976 | 168,598 | 259,500 | 451,465 | 420,391 | 1,622,796 |

(Note 25(b))

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37. Fair Value Hierarchy of Financial Instruments

Management has assessed that the fair values of cash and cash equivalents, pledged deposits, amounts due from associates, financial assets included in loans and advances and other assets, insurance receivables, insurance payables, amounts due to associates, other liabilities and an interest-bearing bank borrowing approximate to their carrying amounts.

Management is responsible for determining the policies and procedures for the fair value measurement of financial instruments. At each reporting date, management analyses the movements in the values of financial instruments and determines the major inputs applied in the valuation. The valuation is reviewed and approved twice a year for interim and annual financial reporting.

The fair values of the financial assets and liabilities are included at the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. The following methods and assumptions were used to estimate the fair values:

The fair values of listed equity investments are based on quoted market prices. The fair values of the unlisted fund investments at fair value through profit or loss are based on fund house quotations when the open market quotation is not available. The fair values of unlisted equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income have been estimated using market-based valuation techniques based on assumptions that are not supported by observable market prices or rates. The valuation requires management to determine comparable public companies (peers) based on industry, size, leverage and strategy, and to calculate an appropriate price multiple, such as price to earnings ("P/E") multiple, price to book value multiple and price to embedded value multiple, for each comparable company identified. The multiple is calculated by dividing the enterprise value of the comparable company by an earnings or book/embedded value measure. The trading multiple is then discounted for considerations such as illiquidity and size differences between the comparable companies based on company-specific facts and circumstances. The discounted multiple is applied to the corresponding earnings measure of the unlisted equity investments to measure the fair value. Management believes that the estimated fair values resulting from the valuation technique, which are recorded in the consolidated statement of financial position, and the related changes in fair values, which are recorded in other comprehensive income, are reasonable, and that they were the most appropriate values at the end of the reporting period.

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37. Fair Value Hierarchy of Financial Instruments (cont'd)

Below is a summary of significant unobservable inputs to the valuation of financial instruments as at 31st December, 2020:

| | Valuation technique | Significant unobservable input | Range or weighted average | Sensitivity of fair value to the input |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Unlisted equity investments | Valuation multiples | Discount of lack of marketability | 0% – 39% | 20% increase/(decrease) in discount would result in (decrease)/increase in fair value by HK\$498,465,000 |
| | | Price to book value multiple | 0.21 – 19.7 | 10% increase/(decrease) in multiple would result in increase/(decrease) in fair value by HK\$41,621,000 |
| | | Enterprise value to earnings before interest and tax (“EBIT”) multiple | 8.30 – 36.70 | 10% increase/(decrease) in multiple would result in increase/(decrease) in fair value by HK\$1,130,000 |
| | | Enterprise value to sales multiple | 0.35 – 13.37 | 10% increase/(decrease) in multiple would result in increase/(decrease) in fair value by HK\$1,085,000 |
| | | Price to earnings multiple | 13.87 – 21.75 | 15% increase/(decrease) in multiple would result in increase/(decrease) in fair value by HK\$62,900,000 |
| | | Price to embedded value multiple | 0.24 – 2.49 | 15% increase/(decrease) in multiple would result in increase/(decrease) in fair value by HK\$648,000,000 |

The discount for lack of marketability represents the amounts of discounts determined by the Group that market participants would take into account when pricing the investments.

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37. Fair Value Hierarchy of Financial Instruments (cont'd)

Below is a summary of significant unobservable inputs to the valuation of financial instruments as at 31st December, 2019:

| | Valuation technique | Significant unobservable input | Range or weighted average | Sensitivity of fair value to the input |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Unlisted equity investments | Valuation multiples | Discount of lack of marketability | 0% – 39% | 20% increase/(decrease) in discount would result in (decrease)/increase in fair value by HK\$380,416,000 |
| | | Price to book value multiple | 1.00 – 1.20 | 10% increase/(decrease) in multiple would result in increase/(decrease) in fair value by HK\$8,988,000 |
| | | Enterprise value to earnings before interest and tax (“EBIT”) multiple | 10.28 – 25.07 | 10% increase/(decrease) in multiple would result in increase/(decrease) in fair value by HK\$1,129,000 |
| | | Price to earnings multiple | 3.00 – 1,591.61 | 15% increase/(decrease) in multiple would result in increase/(decrease) in fair value by HK\$79,923,000 |
| | | Price to embedded value multiple | 0.28 – 2.12 | 15% increase/(decrease) in multiple would result in increase/(decrease) in fair value by HK\$516,000,000 |

The discount for lack of marketability represents the amounts of discounts determined by the Group that market participants would take into account when pricing the investments.

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37. Fair Value Hierarchy of Financial Instruments (cont'd)**Fair value hierarchy**

The following tables illustrate the fair value measurement hierarchy of the Group's financial instruments:

Assets measured at fair value:

| | Fair value measurement using | | | Total HK\$'000 |
|---|---|--|--|-------------------|
| | Quoted prices in active markets (Level 1) HK\$'000 | Significant observable inputs (Level 2) HK\$'000 | Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) HK\$'000 | |
| At 31st December, 2020 | | | | |
| Equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income | 582,971 | 1,029,815 | 5,238,178 | 6,850,964 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 859,298 | 364,936 | 117,482 | 1,341,716 |
| | <u>1,442,269</u> | <u>1,394,751</u> | <u>5,355,660</u> | <u>8,192,680</u> |

| | Fair value measurement using | | | Total HK\$'000 |
|---|---|--|--|-------------------|
| | Quoted prices in active markets (Level 1) HK\$'000 | Significant observable inputs (Level 2) HK\$'000 | Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) HK\$'000 | |
| At 31st December, 2019 | | | | |
| Equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income | 788,862 | 870,197 | 4,142,407 | 5,801,466 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 654,856 | 493,091 | – | 1,147,947 |
| | <u>1,443,718</u> | <u>1,363,288</u> | <u>4,142,407</u> | <u>6,949,413</u> |

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37. Fair Value Hierarchy of Financial Instruments (cont'd)

Fair value hierarchy (cont'd)

The movements in the fair value measurement within level 3 during the year ended 31st December, 2020 are as follows:

| | Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss – unlisted <i>HK\$'000</i> | Equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income – unlisted <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|---|---|
| At 1st January, 2019 | – | 3,118,222 |
| Purchase during 2019 | – | 2,916 |
| Total gain recognised in other comprehensive income | – | 1,021,269 |
| At 31st December, 2019 and at 1st January, 2020 | – | 4,142,407 |
| Purchase during 2020 | 50,242 | 34,565 |
| Transfer from interest in an associate | – | 178,503 |
| Disposal during 2020 | – | (3,006) |
| Total gain recognised in profit or loss | 9,150 | – |
| Total gain recognised in other comprehensive income | – | 885,709 |
| Transferred into level 3* | 58,090 | – |
| At 31st December, 2020 | 117,482 | 5,238,178 |
| Total unrealised gain for the year included in profit or loss for financial assets held as at 31st December, 2020 | 9,150 | – |

The Group did not have any financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss as at 31st December, 2020 and 2019.

* Transfers into level 3 during the period relate to financial instruments where the valuation parameters became unobservable during the year. Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy are deemed to occur at the end of the year.

During the years ended 31st December, 2019, there were no transfers of fair value measurements into or out of Level 3 for both financial assets and financial liabilities.

During the years ended 31st December, 2020 and 2019, there were no transfers of fair value measurements between Level 1 and Level 2 for both financial assets and financial liabilities.

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37. Fair Value Hierarchy of Financial Instruments (cont'd)

Fair value hierarchy (cont'd)

Assets for which fair values are disclosed:

| | Fair value measurement using | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| | Quoted prices in active markets (Level 1) <i>HK\$'000</i> | Significant observable inputs (Level 2) <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
| As at 31st December, 2020 | | | |
| Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | <u>911,980</u> | <u>178,159</u> | <u>1,090,139</u> |

| | Fair value measurement using | | |
|---|--|---|--------------------------|
| | Quoted prices in active markets (Level 1) <i>HK\$'000</i> | Significant observable inputs (Level 2) <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
| As at 31st December, 2019 | | | |
| Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | <u>584,106</u> | <u>189,154</u> | <u>773,260</u> |

Notes to Financial Statements

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38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

The Group has established policies and procedures for identifying, evaluating, monitoring and controlling the various types of risks pertaining to the Group's businesses, which are approved and endorsed by the board of directors and reviewed regularly by the Group's management, executive committee, investment committee, fund management committee and other designated committees or working groups. Material risks are identified and measured by designated committees and/or working groups before the launch of new products or business activities, and monitored, documented and controlled against applicable risk limits after the introduction of new products or services or implementation of new business activities. Internal auditors of the Group also perform regular audits to ensure compliance with the policies and procedures. The key risks include credit risk, liquidity risk, capital management risk, interest rate risk, foreign exchange risk, insurance risk, operational risk and equity price risk.

The overall internal control environment and the management policies for the major types of risks are as follows:

(1) Internal control environment

The internal control framework of the Group comprises comprehensive control policies and standards. The areas of responsibilities of each business and operational unit are clearly defined. Internal control procedures have been established based on the risk inherent in the individual business unit.

The internal audit department plays an important role in the Group's internal control framework. It monitors the effectiveness of the internal control procedures and ensures compliance with the policies and standards across the whole group. A direct reporting line to the audit committee under the board of directors safeguards its independence. The audit committee meets periodically to review and discuss financial performance, internal control, compliance issues and matters raised by the external auditors to ensure that all audit recommendations are implemented.

(2) Credit risk management

Credit risk is the risk that a customer or counterparty in a transaction may default. It arises from the credit terms which extend to clients, intermediates and reinsurers, and other activities undertaken by the Group. To manage credit risk, the Group has considered the underlying security and the long-established business relationship with the counterparty.

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk within the Group as the customer bases of the Group's insurance receivables are widely dispersed in different intermediates and direct customers from different sectors and industries.

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38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)**(2) Credit risk management (cont'd)**

Maximum exposure and year-end staging as at 31st December, 2020

The table below shows the credit quality and the maximum exposure to credit risk based on the Group's credit policy, which is mainly based on past due information unless other information is available without undue cost or effort, and year-end staging classification as at 31st December, 2020. For listed debt investments, the Group also monitors them by using external credit ratings. The amounts presented are gross carrying amounts for financial assets and the exposure to credit risk for the financial guarantee contracts.

| | 12-month | Life time ECLs | | | HK\$'000 |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------|----------------|------------------|
| | ECLs | | | | |
| | Stage 1 | Stage 2 | Stage 3 | Simplified | |
| | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 | approach | |
| | | | | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 |
| Due from associates | 256,140 | - | - | - | 256,140 |
| Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | 1,044,004 | - | - | - | 1,044,004 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 78,834 | - | - | - | 78,834 |
| Insurance receivables* | - | - | - | 241,976 | 241,976 |
| Financial assets included in loans and advances and other assets – Normal** | 146,316 | - | - | - | 146,316 |
| Pledged deposits – Not yet past due | 313,357 | - | - | - | 313,357 |
| Cash and cash equivalents – Not yet past due | 2,800,240 | - | - | - | 2,800,240 |
| Total | 4,638,891 | - | - | 241,976 | 4,880,867 |

* For insurance receivables to which the Group applies the simplified approach for impairment, information based on the provision matrix is disclosed in note 20 to the financial statements.

** The credit quality of the financial assets included in loans and advances and other assets is considered to be "normal" when they are not past due and there is no information indicating that the financial assets had a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition. Otherwise, the credit quality of the financial assets is considered to be "doubtful".

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38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)

(2) Credit risk management (cont'd)

Maximum exposure and year-end staging as at 31st December, 2019

| | 12-month | Life time ECLs | | | Simplified approach HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | ECLs | Stage 2 | Stage 3 | | | |
| | Stage 1 HK\$'000 | Stage 2 HK\$'000 | Stage 3 HK\$'000 | | | |
| Due from associates | 256,140 | – | – | – | | 256,140 |
| Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | 738,587 | – | – | – | | 738,587 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 62,087 | – | – | – | | 62,087 |
| Insurance receivables* | – | – | – | 256,637 | | 256,637 |
| Financial assets included in loans and advances and other assets | | | | | | |
| – Normal** | 106,413 | – | – | – | | 106,413 |
| Pledged deposits | | | | | | |
| – Not yet past due | 305,590 | – | – | – | | 305,590 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | | | | | |
| – Not yet past due | <u>3,366,602</u> | – | – | – | | <u>3,366,602</u> |
| Total | <u><u>4,835,419</u></u> | <u><u>–</u></u> | <u><u>–</u></u> | <u><u>256,637</u></u> | | <u><u>5,092,056</u></u> |

* For insurance receivables to which the Group applies the simplified approach for impairment, information based on the provision matrix is disclosed in note 20 to the financial statements.

** The credit quality of the financial assets included in loans and advances and other assets is considered to be “normal” when they are not past due and there is no information indicating that the financial assets had a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition. Otherwise, the credit quality of the financial assets is considered to be “doubtful”.

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38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)**(3) Liquidity risk management**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group cannot meet its current obligations as they fall due. To manage liquidity risk, the Group has established liquidity management policies that are pertinent to the operations of business units.

The Group monitors its risk to a shortage of funds using a recurring liquidity planning tool. This tool considers the maturity of both its financial instruments and financial assets (e.g., insurance receivables) and the projected cash flows from operations.

The maturity profile of the Group's financial liabilities as at the end of the reporting period, based on the contractual undiscounted payments, was as follows:

| | 2020 | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | On demand and less than 1 year <i>HK\$'000</i> | 1 to 5 years <i>HK\$'000</i> | Over 5 years <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
| Provision for claims reported by policyholders | 233,591 | 1,132,441 | – | 1,366,032 |
| IBNR | 247,072 | 1,197,794 | – | 1,444,866 |
| Insurance payables | 169,375 | – | – | 169,375 |
| Due to associates | 4,222 | – | – | 4,222 |
| Lease liabilities | 1,250 | 2,442 | – | 3,692 |
| Accruals and other payables | 301,017 | – | – | 301,017 |
| Interest-bearing bank borrowing | – | – | – | – |
| | <u>956,527</u> | <u>2,332,677</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>3,289,204</u> |

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38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)

(3) Liquidity risk management (cont'd)

| | 2019 | | | Total HK\$'000 |
|---|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| | On demand and less than 1 year HK\$'000 | 1 to 5 years HK\$'000 | Over 5 years HK\$'000 | |
| Provision for claims reported by policyholders | 171,730 | 1,081,771 | – | 1,253,501 |
| IBNR | 178,746 | 1,125,971 | – | 1,304,717 |
| Insurance payables | 207,099 | – | – | 207,099 |
| Due to associates | 4,222 | – | – | 4,222 |
| Lease liabilities | 960 | 1,144 | – | 2,104 |
| Accruals and other payables | 262,096 | – | – | 262,096 |
| Interest-bearing bank borrowing | 100,325 | – | – | 100,325 |
| | <u>925,178</u> | <u>2,208,886</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>3,134,064</u> |

The tables below summarise the expected recovery or settlement of assets of the Group:

| 31st December, 2020 | Current* HK\$'000 | Non-current HK\$'000 | Total HK\$'000 |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Property, plant and equipment | – | 194,232 | 194,232 |
| Investment properties | – | 257,500 | 257,500 |
| Interests in joint ventures | – | 515,444 | 515,444 |
| Interests in associates | – | 427,519 | 427,519 |
| Due from associates | 87,750 | 168,390 | 256,140 |
| Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | 71,133 | 971,634 | 1,042,767 |
| Equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income | – | 6,850,964 | 6,850,964 |
| Pledged deposits | 313,357 | – | 313,357 |
| Loans and advances and other assets | 146,000 | 7,702 | 153,702 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 1,341,716 | – | 1,341,716 |
| Insurance receivables | 231,385 | – | 231,385 |
| Reinsurance assets | 1,531,060 | – | 1,531,060 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 2,800,240 | – | 2,800,240 |
| Total assets | <u>6,522,641</u> | <u>9,393,385</u> | <u>15,916,026</u> |

* Expected recovery or settlement within 12 months from the end of the reporting period.

38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)**(3) Liquidity risk management (cont'd)**

The tables below summarise the expected recovery or settlement of assets of the Group: (cont'd)

| 31st December, 2019 | Current* <i>HK\$'000</i> | Non-current <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Property, plant and equipment | – | 181,382 | 181,382 |
| Investment properties | – | 285,300 | 285,300 |
| Interests in joint ventures | – | 496,698 | 496,698 |
| Interests in associates | – | 507,333 | 507,333 |
| Due from associates | 87,750 | 168,390 | 256,140 |
| Held-to-collect debt securities at amortised cost | 141,509 | 597,078 | 738,587 |
| Equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income | – | 5,801,466 | 5,801,466 |
| Pledged deposits | 305,590 | – | 305,590 |
| Loans and advances and other assets | 108,529 | 9,453 | 117,982 |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 1,147,947 | – | 1,147,947 |
| Insurance receivables | 251,060 | – | 251,060 |
| Reinsurance assets | 1,401,886 | – | 1,401,886 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 3,366,602 | – | 3,366,602 |
| Total assets | 6,810,873 | 8,047,100 | 14,857,973 |

* Expected recovery or settlement within 12 months from the end of the reporting period.

(4) Capital management

Externally imposed capital requirements are mainly set and regulated by the Hong Kong Insurance Authority. These requirements are put in place to ensure sufficient solvency margins. Further objectives are set by the Group to maintain a strong credit rating and healthy capital ratios in order to support its business objectives and maximise shareholders' value.

The Group manages its capital requirements by assessing any shortfalls between the reported and required Relevant Amount, as defined in section 10 of the Hong Kong Insurance Ordinance, on a regular basis. Adjustments to current capital levels are made in light of changes in economic conditions and risk characteristics of the Group's activities. In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Group may adjust the amount of dividends paid or return capital to ordinary shareholders.

The Group fully complied with the externally imposed requirements of the Relevant Amount during the reported financial periods and no changes were made to its capital base, objectives, policies and processes for managing capital from the previous year.

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38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)

(4) Capital management (cont'd)

The table below summarises the required Relevant Amount across the Group.

| | Life insurance HK\$'000 | Non-life insurance HK\$'000 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 2020 required Relevant Amount | 21,585 | 182,280 |
| 2019 required Relevant Amount | 23,571 | 170,270 |

The required Relevant Amount is determined by the application of a formula that contains variables for premiums and claims, expenses and reserve items. It also takes into account distribution of assets and investment returns.

In addition, the Group monitors capital using a gearing ratio, which is net current debt divided by total capital plus net current debt. Net current debt includes current portion of insurance contracts liabilities, insurance payables, amounts due to associates, an interest-bearing bank borrowing and other liabilities, less cash and cash equivalents and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. Capital represents equity attributable to equity holders of the Company. As at 31st December, 2020, the Group had no net current debt.

(5) Interest rate risk management

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value/future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

Floating rate instruments expose the Group to cash flow interest rate risk, whereas fixed interest rate instruments expose the Group to fair value interest rate risk.

The Group's interest rate risk policy requires it to manage interest rate risk by maintaining an appropriate mix of fixed and variable rate instruments. The policy also requires it to manage the maturities of interest-bearing financial assets. Interest on floating rate instruments is repriced at intervals of less than one year. Interest on fixed interest rate instruments is priced at inception of the financial instruments and is fixed until maturity.

38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)**(5) Interest rate risk management (cont'd)**

The analysis below is performed for reasonably possible movements in interest rates with all other variables held constant, for financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, interest-bearing bank deposits, loans and advances and other assets and an interest-bearing bank borrowing showing the pre-tax impact on profit and equity. The correlation of variables will have a significant effect in determining the ultimate impact on interest rate risk, but to demonstrate the impact due to changes in variables, variables had to be changed on an individual basis.

| | Change in interest rate | 2020 | | 2019 | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------|---|------------------------|
| | | Increase/(decrease) in profit HK\$'000 | In equity* HK\$'000 | Increase/(decrease) in profit HK\$'000 | In equity* HK\$'000 |
| Financial assets at fair value | +50 basis points | (1,366) | – | (978) | – |
| through profit or loss | –50 basis points | 1,366 | – | 978 | – |
| Interest-bearing bank deposits | +50 basis points | 15,082 | – | 18,032 | – |
| | –50 basis points | (15,082) | – | (18,032) | – |
| Loans and advances and other assets | +50 basis points | 43 | – | 49 | – |
| | –50 basis points | (43) | – | (49) | – |
| Interest-bearing bank borrowing | +50 basis points | – | – | (500) | – |
| | –50 basis points | – | – | 500 | – |

* Excluding retained profits

(6) Foreign exchange risk management

Foreign exchange risk is the risk that the holding of foreign currencies will affect the Group's position as a result of a change in foreign currency exchange rates. The Group's foreign exchange risk primarily arises from its overseas operations, reinsurance and investment activities.

The following table demonstrates the sensitivity at the end of the reporting period to a reasonably possible change in the exchange rates of Thai Baht, Japanese Yen and Renminbi, with all other variables held constant, of the Group's profit before tax (due to changes in the fair value of monetary assets and liabilities).

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38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)

(6) Foreign exchange risk management (cont'd)

| | Change in exchange rate % | Decrease in profit before tax HK\$'000 |
|--|------------------------------------|---|
| 2020 | | |
| If Thai Baht weakens against Hong Kong dollar | -5% | (100) |
| If Japanese Yen weakens against Hong Kong dollar | -8% | (513) |
| If Renminbi weakens against Hong Kong dollar | -7% | (9,927) |
| 2019 | | |
| If Thai Baht weakens against Hong Kong dollar | -5% | (405) |
| If Japanese Yen weakens against Hong Kong dollar | -8% | (792) |
| If Renminbi weakens against Hong Kong dollar | -7% | (7,168) |

(7) Insurance risk management

The business of the Group comprises both life and general insurance contracts, and general insurance contracts represent 98% of its total gross premiums written.

The risk under an insurance contract is the risk that an insured event will occur, including the uncertainty of the amount and timing of any resulting claim. The principal risk the Group faces under such contracts is that the actual claims and benefit payments may exceed the carrying amount of insurance liabilities. This is influenced by the frequency of claims, severity of claims, actual benefits paid which are greater than originally estimated and subsequent development of long tail claims.

The Group actively manages its product mix to ensure that there is no significant concentration of insurance risk.

The variability of risks is improved by diversification of risk of loss to a large portfolio of insurance contracts as a more diversified portfolio is less likely to be affected across the board by change in any subset of the portfolio, as well as unexpected outcomes.

The variability of risks is also improved by careful selection and implementation of underwriting strategies, which are designed to ensure that risks are diversified in terms of type of risk and level of insured benefits. This is largely achieved through diversification across industry sectors and geographical areas. Furthermore, strict claim review policies to assess all new and ongoing claims, regular detailed review of claims handling procedures and frequent investigation of possible fraudulent claims are all policies and procedures put in place to reduce the risk exposure of the Group. The Group further enforces a policy of actively managing and prompt pursuing of claims, in order to reduce its exposure to unpredictable future developments that can negatively impact the Group.

38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)

(7) Insurance risk management (cont'd)

The majority of the reinsurance business ceded is placed on both the proportional and excess of loss basis with retention limits varying by product line and territory. Excess-of-loss reinsurance is designed to mitigate the Group's net exposure to catastrophic losses. Amounts recoverable from reinsurers are estimated in a manner consistent with the assumptions used for ascertaining the underlying policy benefits and are presented in the statement of financial position as reinsurance assets.

Although the Group has reinsurance arrangements, it is not relieved of its direct obligations to its policyholders and thus a credit exposure exists with respect to reinsurance ceded, to the extent that any reinsurer is unable to meet its obligations assumed under such reinsurance agreements.

The Group's placement of reinsurance is diversified such that it is neither dependent on a single reinsurer nor are the operations of the Group substantially dependent upon any single reinsurance contract. The Group also considers the long-established business relationship with the reinsurers.

The Group also has limited its exposure to a certain level by imposing maximum claim amounts on certain contracts as well as the use of reinsurance arrangements in order to limit exposure to catastrophic events, such as hurricanes, earthquakes and flood damages. The purpose of these underwriting and reinsurance strategies is to limit the exposure to catastrophes to a pre-determined maximum amount based on the Group's risk appetite as decided by management. For a single realistic catastrophic event, this maximum amount is less than 5% of the shareholders' equity of the wholly-owned subsidiary, Asia Insurance Company, Limited, on a net basis. In the event of such a catastrophe, counterparty exposure to a single reinsurer is estimated not to exceed 5% of the shareholders' equity of the wholly-owned subsidiary, Asia Insurance Company, Limited.

The Group uses its own and commercially available proprietary risk management software to assess catastrophe exposure. However, there is always a risk that the assumptions and techniques used in these models are unreliable or that claims arising from an unmodelled event are greater than those arising from a modelled event.

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38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)

(7) Insurance risk management (cont'd)

| | 2020 | | | 2019 | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|------------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| | Insurance contracts liabilities <i>HK\$'000</i> | Reinsurers' share of liabilities <i>HK\$'000</i> | Net <i>HK\$'000</i> | Insurance contracts liabilities <i>HK\$'000</i> | Reinsurers' share of liabilities <i>HK\$'000</i> | Net <i>HK\$'000</i> |
| Employees' compensation | 1,207,968 | (149,351) | 1,058,617 | 1,148,510 | (151,687) | 996,823 |
| Property damage | 1,099,785 | (600,101) | 499,684 | 1,012,209 | (564,637) | 447,572 |
| General liability | 648,067 | (327,026) | 321,041 | 599,934 | (287,617) | 312,317 |
| Motor vehicle | 494,584 | (221,897) | 272,687 | 487,319 | (198,913) | 288,406 |
| Others | 393,484 | (232,685) | 160,799 | 278,085 | (199,032) | 79,053 |
| Total general insurance | <u>3,843,888</u> | <u>(1,531,060)</u> | <u>2,312,828</u> | <u>3,526,057</u> | <u>(1,401,886)</u> | <u>2,124,171</u> |

As at 31st December, 2020, over 90% (2019: 90%) of the general insurance contracts liabilities were related to the business written in Hong Kong, Macau and Mainland China.

(8) Operational risk management

Operational risk is the risk of financial loss resulting from procedural errors, system failures, fraud and other events.

The Group manages operational risk by maintaining adequate documentation of its operating procedures to facilitate training and quality performance. A proper internal control system is incorporated in the operation workflow to minimise the risk of losses caused by human errors. To reduce the interruptions to business activities caused by system failures or natural disasters, back-up systems and contingency business resumption plans are in place for critical business and back-office functions. Detailed recovery procedures are properly documented, with periodic drills conducted to ensure that the procedures are current and correct.

(9) Equity price risk management

Equity price risk is the risk that the fair values of equity securities decrease as a result of changes in the levels of equity indices and the values of individual securities. The Group is exposed to equity price risk arising from individual equity investments included in financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (note 19) and equity investments designated at fair value through other comprehensive income (note 17) as at 31st December, 2020. The Group's listed investments are mainly listed on the stock exchanges of Hong Kong, the United States, and Thailand and are valued at quoted market prices at the end of the reporting period.

38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)**(9) Equity price risk management (cont'd)**

The following table demonstrates the sensitivity to every change of 15%, 10%, 5% and 10% in the fair values of the securities listed in Hong Kong, the United States, Thailand and all other areas, respectively, with all other variables held constant and before any impact on tax, based on their carrying amounts at the end of the reporting period. For the equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income, the impact is recognised on the fair value reserve, which is part of equity.

| | Change in sensitivity % | Carrying amount of securities HK\$'000 | Increase/ (decrease) in profit before tax HK\$'000 | Increase/ (decrease) in equity* HK\$'000 |
|--|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 2020 | | | | |
| Equity investments in: | | | | |
| Hong Kong | | | | |
| – Listed financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | +15% | 216,473 | 32,471 | – |
| | –15% | 216,473 | (32,471) | – |
| United States | | | | |
| – Listed financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | +10% | 278,549 | 27,855 | – |
| | –10% | 278,549 | (27,855) | – |
| Thailand | | | | |
| – Listed equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income | +5% | 1,612,786 | – | 80,639 |
| | –5% | 1,612,786 | – | (80,639) |
| – Listed financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | +5% | 158,357 | 7,918 | – |
| | –5% | 158,357 | (7,918) | – |
| All other areas | | | | |
| – Listed financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | +10% | 3,235 | 324 | – |
| | –10% | 3,235 | (324) | – |

* Excluding retained profits

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38. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (cont'd)

(9) Equity price risk management (cont'd)

| | Change in sensitivity % | Carrying amount of securities <i>HK\$'000</i> | Increase/ (decrease) in profit before tax <i>HK\$'000</i> | Increase/ (decrease) in equity* <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 2019 | | | | |
| Equity investments in: | | | | |
| Hong Kong | | | | |
| – Listed financial assets at | +15% | 128,273 | 19,241 | – |
| fair value through profit or loss | –15% | 128,273 | (19,241) | – |
| United States | | | | |
| – Listed financial assets at | +10% | 285,153 | 28,515 | – |
| fair value through profit or loss | –10% | 285,153 | (28,515) | – |
| Thailand | | | | |
| – Listed equity investments at | +5% | 1,659,059 | – | 82,953 |
| fair value through other | –5% | 1,659,059 | – | (82,953) |
| comprehensive income | | | | |
| – Listed financial assets at | +5% | 206,979 | 10,349 | – |
| fair value through profit or loss | –5% | 206,979 | (10,349) | – |
| All other areas | | | | |
| – Listed financial assets at | +10% | 2,821 | 282 | – |
| fair value through profit or loss | –10% | 2,821 | (282) | – |

* Excluding retained profits

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39. Statement of Financial Position of the Company

Information about the statement of financial position of the Company at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

| | 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> | 2019 <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | – | – |
| Interests in subsidiaries | 1,721,957 | 1,721,957 |
| Due from subsidiaries | 1,321,153 | 1,133,722 |
| Interest in a joint venture | – | – |
| Equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income | 4,762,000 | 3,902,000 |
| Loans and advances and other assets | 8,853 | 9,732 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 370,785 | 256,901 |
| Total assets | 8,184,748 | 7,024,312 |
| EQUITY AND LIABILITIES | | |
| Equity | | |
| Issued capital | 946,620 | 960,840 |
| Reserves (note) | 6,504,875 | 5,671,571 |
| Proposed final dividend | 65,970 | 47,968 |
| Total equity | 7,517,465 | 6,680,379 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Other liabilities | 9,684 | 11,249 |
| Due to subsidiaries | 311,811 | 71,896 |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 345,788 | 260,788 |
| Total liabilities | 667,283 | 343,933 |
| Total equity and liabilities | 8,184,748 | 7,024,312 |

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39. Statement of Financial Position of the Company (cont'd)

Note:

A summary of the Company's reserves is as follows:

| | Fair value reserve HK\$'000 | Treasury shares HK\$'000 | Share premium account HK\$'000 | Capital reserve HK\$'000 | Capital redemption reserve HK\$'000 | Retained profits HK\$'000 | Total HK\$'000 |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| At 1st January, 2019 | 1,259,777 | - | 560,531 | 60,060 | 84,841 | 2,820,176 | 4,785,385 |
| Profit for the year | - | - | - | - | - | 151,034 | 151,034 |
| Other comprehensive income for the year: | | | | | | | |
| Changes in fair value of equity | | | | | | | |
| investments at fair value through | | | | | | | |
| other comprehensive income, net of tax | 857,350 | - | - | - | - | - | 857,350 |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | 857,350 | - | - | - | - | 151,034 | 1,008,384 |
| Repurchase of shares | - | (593) | - | - | - | (39,974) | (40,567) |
| Transfer to capital redemption reserve | - | - | - | - | 12,340 | (12,340) | - |
| Interim 2019 dividend | - | - | - | - | - | (33,907) | (33,907) |
| Proposed final 2019 dividend (note 10) | - | - | - | - | - | (47,968) | (47,968) |
| Over-provision of 2018 final dividend | - | - | - | - | - | 121 | 121 |
| Over-provision of 2019 interim dividend | - | - | - | - | - | 123 | 123 |
| At 1st January, 2020 | 2,117,127 | (593) | 560,531 | 60,060 | 97,181 | 2,837,265 | 5,671,571 |
| Profit for the year | - | - | - | - | - | 171,406 | 171,406 |
| Other comprehensive income for the year: | | | | | | | |
| Changes in fair value of equity | | | | | | | |
| investments at fair value through other | | | | | | | |
| comprehensive income, net of tax | 775,000 | - | - | - | - | - | 775,000 |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | 775,000 | - | - | - | - | 171,406 | 946,406 |
| Repurchase of shares (note 23) | - | (1,127) | - | - | - | (36,516) | (37,643) |
| Transfer to capital redemption reserve (note 23) | - | - | - | - | 14,220 | (14,220) | - |
| Interim 2020 dividend | - | - | - | - | - | (9,493) | (9,493) |
| Proposed final 2020 dividend (note 10) | - | - | - | - | - | (65,970) | (65,970) |
| Over-provision of 2020 interim dividend | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |
| At 31st December, 2020 | 2,892,127 | (1,720) | 560,531 | 60,060 | 111,401 | 2,882,476 | 6,504,875 |

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40. Particulars of Principal Subsidiaries

Particulars of the Company's principal subsidiaries as at 31st December, 2020 are as follows:

| Name | Place of incorporation | Percentage of equity attributable to the Company | | Issued share capital | Principal activities |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|--|----------|---|-------------------------------|
| | | Direct | Indirect | | |
| Asia Insurance Company, Limited | Hong Kong | 100 | – | HK\$2,000,000,000 | Insurance |
| Asia Investment Services Limited | British Virgin Islands | 100 | – | HK\$10,000,000 | Investment holding |
| AFH Investments (BVI) Limited | British Virgin Islands | 100 | – | US\$1,000,000 | Investment holding |
| Asia Insurance (Finance) Limited | Hong Kong | – | 100 | HK\$25,000,000 | Mortgage loan financing |
| Chamberlain Investment Limited | Republic of Liberia | – | 100 | US\$100 | Investment holding |
| Bedales Investment Limited | Republic of Liberia | – | 100 | Ordinary US\$100 Preference US\$3,000,000 | Investment holding |
| Asia Investment Services (HK) Limited | Hong Kong | – | 100 | HK\$10,000 | Investment holding |
| Asia Insurance (Investments) Limited | Hong Kong | – | 69.5 | HK\$78,000,000 | Investment holding |
| Asia Financial (Nominees) Limited | Hong Kong | – | 100 | HK\$2 | Provision of nominee services |
| AFH Investment Company Limited | Hong Kong | – | 100 | HK\$1 | Investment holding |
| AFH Realty Investment Company Limited | Hong Kong | – | 100 | HK\$1 | Investment holding |
| AFH International Company Limited | Hong Kong | – | 100 | HK\$1 | Investment holding |

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40. Particulars of Principal Subsidiaries (cont'd)

Particulars of the Company's principal subsidiaries as at 31st December, 2020 are as follows: (cont'd)

| Name | Place of incorporation | Percentage of equity attributable to the Company | | Issued share capital | Principal activities |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|--|----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | Direct | Indirect | | |
| AFH Health Care Services Limited | Hong Kong | – | 100 | HK\$1 | Provision of health care services |
| Top Hover Limited | British Virgin Islands | – | 100 | US\$1 | Investment holding |
| AFH Health Care Investment Limited | Hong Kong | 100 | – | HK\$25,700,000 | Investment holding |
| Wellness Realty Limited | Hong Kong | 100 | – | HK\$10,000 | Property investment |

The above table lists the subsidiaries of the Company which, in the opinion of the directors, principally affected the results for the year or formed a substantial portion of the net assets of the Group. To give details of other subsidiaries would, in the opinion of the directors, result in particulars of excessive length.

The principal place of operations of the principal subsidiaries is mainly Hong Kong.

41. Comparative Figures

Certain comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

42. Approval of the Financial Statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 26th March, 2021.