

## **STAFF EMPLOYMENT**

Total number of employees of the Group as at 30 September 2002 was approximately 1,597. Remuneration packages are generally structured by reference to market terms and individual qualifications. Salaries and wages are normally reviewed on an annual basis based on performance appraisals and other relevant factors. The Group operates a mandatory provident fund scheme which covers all the employees of the Group.

## **PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF LISTED SHARES**

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company's listed shares during the period under review.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF BEST PRACTICE OF THE LISTING RULES**

In the opinion of the directors, the Company complied with the Code of Best Practice (the "Code") as set out in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, throughout the accounting period covered by the interim report, except that the non-executive directors of the Company are not appointed for specific terms as required by paragraph 7 of the Code, but are subject to retirement by rotation in accordance with the Company's articles of association.

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

The Company has an audit committee which was established in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Best Practice, for the purposes of reviewing and providing supervision over the Group's financial reporting process and internal controls. The audit committee comprises two of the independent non-executive directors of the Company.

The audit committee has reviewed with management the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group and discussed auditing, internal controls and financial reporting matters including a review of the unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2002.

On behalf of the Board  
**Dr. TAI Tak Fung, Stephen**  
*Chairman*

Hong Kong, 18 December 2002