

Interim Dividend

The Board has resolved to declare an interim dividend of RMB0.030 per share for the six months ended 30 June 2004 (the proposed interim dividend in 2003: RMB0.026). Shareholders at the Annual General Meeting of the Company for the year 2003 authorized the directors of the Company to decide on matters relating to the declaration, payment and recommendation of interim dividends for the year 2004.

The interim dividend is expected to be paid on or before Monday, 18 October 2004, to the shareholders whose names appear on the register of shareholders on Friday, 8 October 2004. The register of the shareholders of the Company will be temporarily closed from Saturday, 2 October 2004 to Friday, 8 October 2004 (both days inclusive), during which period no transfer of shares will be registered.

In order to qualify for the interim dividend, the holders of H shares whose transfers have not been registered are requested to deposit the transfer documents together with relevant share certificates to the Company's Branch Share Registrar in Hong Kong, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited of Rooms 1712-1716, 17/F., Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong, not later than 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, 30 September 2004, for registration.

Pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Company, dividends payable to the holders of Domestic Shares will be paid in Renminbi, while dividends payable to the holders of H Shares will be paid in Hong Kong dollars. The exchange rate for the dividends to be paid in Hong Kong dollars is the mean of the average exchange rate of Renminbi to Hong Kong dollar published by the People's Bank of China during the calendar week (17 August 2004 to 23 August 2004) prior to the date of declaration of the dividend. During the period, the average exchange rate of Renminbi to Hong Kong Dollar was HK\$1.00=RMB1.06078. Accordingly, the amount of interim dividend for each H Share of the Company is HK\$0.0283.