

When the late Mr. Wong Kwoon Chung launched a car cleaning service in 1948, he would not have envisaged that Kwoon Chung Bus Holdings Limited and its subsidiaries (the "Group") would become one of the largest (if not the largest) non-franchised bus operators in Hong Kong. The expansion in Mainland China can also be described as dramatic. Today, the Group has operations in 11 major cities in Mainland China.

The growth of the Group reflects the typical industrious and diligent nature of the type of free market entrepreneurship that helps to make Hong Kong one of the most competitive regions in the world. After over half a century of development, the Group has made its name in the transport history of Hong Kong as a comprehensive transport service provider.

The Group has made its strong presence in student services and is regarded as the leading school bus service operator. It is also well positioned in resident and employee services. Every morning, from the northwestern edge of the New Territories to Hong Kong Island South, there are buses of the Group carrying passengers to their places of work. The network has extended to the new airport at Chek Lap Kok since 1998. The acquisitions of Tai Fung Coach Company Limited and Holiday Rental, operated by Trade Travel (Hong Kong) Limited in April 1997, have enabled the Group in becoming the largest provider, in terms of bus fleet size, of tour buses and coaches to hotels and tour operators in Hong Kong.

The New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited, a subsidiary of the Group, is the franchised bus operator in Lantau Island. Another subsidiary, Lantau Tours Limited, is the major tour service provider in Lantau Island, which offers a wide range of travel packages which cover the new and the old scenery – from visiting the Tsing Ma Bridge viewing platform and Tung Chung New Town, to crossing over to South Lantau Island to visit the Tian Tan Buddha, Po Lin Monastery and Tai O fishing village.

Since 1992, the Group has been trying to realise its vision of the bus service market in Mainland China. Shanghai Pudong Kwoon Chung Public Transport Co., Ltd. ("Pudong Kwoon Chung") was the first co-operative joint venture ("CJV") of the Group established in Mainland China and, after several additional investments, is now a 90% owned equity joint venture ("EJV") or subsidiary of the Group operating a fleet of over 700 buses and 60 taxis mainly in Pudong, Shanghai. The Group has CJVs in other major cities, namely Guangzhou, Shantou, Dalian, Harbin and Anshan, and cross-border bus services in Shenzhen. There are altogether around 550 buses being operated under these CJVs. In June 1998, the Group completed its joint venture investment in Shanghai Wu Qi Kwoon Chung Public Transport Co., Ltd., which is now a 52.40% owned EJV or subsidiary of the Group. This subsidiary owns a fleet of approximately 1,000 buses and 81 taxis and operates designated bus routes mainly in Puxi, Shanghai. Together with Pudong Kwoon Chung, the Group operates more than 1,700 buses and 100 taxis in Shanghai city as a whole and is the third largest designated bus route operator in Shanghai, and the largest Sino-foreign joint venture operating designated bus routes in Shanghai and even in Mainland China at large. Further, the Group has advanced to the stage of investing in bus operations in Mainland China with the intention of operating or participating in all bus routes in an entire city. Since 1997, the Group had been negotiating with the then Chongqing Public Utilities Bureau (now reorganised and renamed as Chongqing Communications Committee) as the first target for this strategic plan. In December 1998, the Group, through a 55% owned subsidiary, made the first step to establish a 55% (effective 30.25%) owned EJV in Chongqing, namely Chongqing Kwoon Chung (No. 3) Public Transport Co., Ltd., which commenced its operation in January 1999 and currently operates a fleet of over 800 buses. In January 2000, the Group further acquired its and established a EJV in Chongqing, namely Chongqing Kwoon Chung (New Town) Public Transport Co., Ltd., owned as to about a 76.64% (effective 42.15%) equity interest. Now the Group, as a majority shareholder, owns two public city bus companies (out of major seven in total administered by the Chongqing Communications Committee) in Chongqing, which is a fast growing city in the western part of Mainland China under the "Go West" Strategy directed by the central government of The People's Republic of China. With the committed support from the relevant authorities in Chongqing, the Group continues to try to realise this vision.

Corporate Profile

In September 1999, First Action Developments Limited (a 100% owned subsidiary of NWS Transport Services Limited) acquired approximately 20% (now approximately 29.90%) of the issued share capital in the Company and became the Group's strategic partner. The Group has benefited by sharing with the new partner's valuable experiences in bus fleet management and human resources utilisation.

To diversify into long distance inter-city bus operations, in late 1999, the Group acquired a 51% (now approximately 84.27%) equity interest in King Chau Keung Tat Transportation Co., Ltd. which operates long distance inter-city buses in Hubei Province with Jingzhou as the headquarter city. This subsidiary now operates a fleet of 14 buses.

To diversify into other bus-related businesses, in June 2000, the Group acquired a 60% equity interest in Chongqing Tourism (Group) Co., Ltd. which holds investments in a hotel, a travel agency company, a tour bus company and a hydro-electric power plant. The Group envisages that domestic, inbound and outbound travel businesses in Mainland China will grow at a speed. The entering into this market will be beneficial to the Group's existing tour bus business both in Mainland China and Hong Kong. The Group may also utilise its bus operation network in Mainland China to speed up the development of its travel business which is expected to become one of the major businesses of the Group in the near future. The travel agency company, Chongqing Everbright International Travel Service Co., Ltd., originally holds domestic and inbound travel business licences in Mainland China. In 2002, two years after our acquisition, due to its good record in the expansion of its existing business and achieving of various standards set by the relevant authorities, at the recommendation of the local Tourism Administration Bureau, it has been granted an outbound travel business licence by the National Tourism Administration Bureau of China. There are only 13 out of over 200 travel agency companies in Chongqing which have been granted this competitive licence. This success further enhances the Group's diversification into travel business in Mainland China and internationally.

In October 2002, the Group acquired a 75% equity interest in Top China International Investment Holdings Limited, which holds a 70% effective equity interest in GFTZ Xing Hua Tourism Bus Co., Ltd. and GFTZ Xing Hua International Transport Ltd. These companies operate a number of inner-city and long distance bus routes, and a fleet of taxis. The Group had conducted a feasibility study on this investment and found that Guangzhou and its vicinity have potential for development because of the improved network of highways and the notable diminishing in the number of bicycle users.

In November 2003, the Group acquired a 100% shareholding of Trans-Island Limousine Service Limited ("TIL") and all of its subsidiaries and CJs in Hong Kong and Mainland China. TIL is a non-franchised bus operator with a fleet of around 190 buses, and its subsidiary, Intercontinental Hire Cars Limited, is a limousine service provider with a fleet of around 140 limousines. A portion of the above fleets of vehicles have service licences for cross-border passenger services. In addition, TIL operates a number of service counters at the passenger terminal of the Hong Kong International Airport and Shenzhen International Airport. Synergy can be achieved to strengthen the Group's operations in the provision of tour, hotel, limousine and cross-border bus services both in Hong Kong and Mainland China. Starting from August 2004, a new mode of cross-border bus service has been developed with a network of six routes operating a 24-hour service between Huanggang of Shenzhen and designated locations in the urban and the New Territories of Hong Kong. The Group, through its associated company, All China Express Limited, succeeded in the bidding of three of the above routes. The number of passengers has been increasing steadily.

In August 2004, the Group also acquired a 50% shareholding of GoGo TIL (Cross Border) Transportation Services Co. Ltd., which provides cross-border bus services to mainly Taiwanese travellers for routes between the Hong Kong International Airport and designated locations in Guangdong Province.

In August 2004, the Group acquired a 100% equity interest in Hubei Shenzhou Transport Holdings Co., Ltd., which holds a transport terminal with around 90 routes and a fleet of around 320 buses and operates inter-city bus services within Hubei Province. In the opinion of the Group, this newly acquired operation should have promising potential for future development.

In December 2004, the Group acquired a 56% equity interest in Guangzhou New Era Express Bus Co., Ltd., which operates a fleet of 19 buses for five inter-city bus routes in Guangdong Province.

Given the enormous market of bus operations and being the first foreign investor with proven record of quality bus services in Mainland China, the Group is confident about its future growth in the bus and bus related businesses in Mainland China.