

(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)
(Stock code: 687)

INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

For the six months ended 30 September 2008, the Group achieved a record profit attributable to equity holders of the Company of HK\$298 million, a 6-time increase (30 September 2007: HK\$42 million) over the same period, representing HK\$0.36 per share while turnover jumped 1.6 times to HK\$1,993 million (30 September 2007: HK\$749 million).

Hong Kong Market

Foundation Piling

The Group's foundation division continued to benefit from the buoyant momentum of the industry and achieved outstanding performance. For the period under review, turnover of the Group's foundation division increased by 29% to HK\$740 million while contribution to profit rose by 64% to HK\$97 million as compared to HK\$59 million in the last corresponding period. The Group's major contracts on hand include, inter alia, Cathay Pacific's cargo terminal, K. Wah, Nan Fung and Sino Land's joint venture development at Welfare Road, Kerry's project in Wong Tai Sin and Sun Hung Kai's project at Hoi Fai Road.

Other Construction Related Sectors

During the period under review, turnover and contribution of the Group's electrical and mechanical engineering division and building construction division were HK\$172 million and HK\$16 million respectively. In view of developers taking a more cautious attitude, competition is likely to intensify.

During the period under review, turnover of the Group's machinery leasing and trading division was HK\$8 million, while attaining a close to breakeven result. With the slowdown of the machinery leasing and trading market, the Group expects the division's coming contribution to remain flat.

PRC Market

Property development and investment

This is the first financial year which reflects the sale proceeds of The Waterfront, a residential development in Shanghai which comprises 9 towers with a total GFA of 147,000 sqm. For the period under review, a total of HK\$1.1 billion was recognized as revenues while contribution to profit amounted to HK\$486 million. The latest selling price was around Rmb30,000 per sqm while remaining area available for sale is approximately 67,000 sqm. In addition to the existing Metro Lines 3 and 4, the opening of Metro Line 7 in 2009 will further enhance the convenience of The Waterfront's unique feature of direct access to the Metro station. With its inner ring location, accessibility and acclaimed property management, the Group expects the development to continue to achieve positive response from the market.

In view of the gradual pickup of growth momentum in Tianjin, the Group has scheduled to launch the presale of The Riverside, its residential development project located along Haihe in Hexi District in 2009.

In December 2007, the Group acquired a site located at Huanggu District in Shenyang which has a total GFA of about 165,000 sqm. The project is currently in the planning stage and is intended to be developed into a quality residential and commercial development.

The Group's investment properties in Shanghai and Tianjin have continued to enjoy steady recurrent income and satisfactory occupancy rates. Turnover of the property investment division during the period under review amounted to HK\$52 million while contribution to profit, after excluding revaluation and sale of investment properties, amounted to HK\$24.3 million as compared to HK\$28.8 million in the last corresponding period.

Prospects

The global financial turmoil has overshadowed the general outlook of Hong Kong's economy which in turn has affected the prospect of the construction industry. On the positive side, this has pressured the Hong Kong government to act decisively in the implementation of the 10 major infrastructure projects. Since foundation piling is in the earliest stage of construction, we expect the Group will be one of the first to benefit from these coming projects. Foreseeing the growing negative sentiment of Macau's gaming-driven economy, the Group has decided to strategically relocate its Macau's resources back to Hong Kong. This has proved to be a sound move and the Group remains positive about the business outlook of the foundation industry.

The central government has issued a series of stimulus measures to expand domestic demand and stimulate economic growth. In particular, the substantial cut in interest rate, reduction of deed tax and transaction related fees help boost the real estate market. Although the focus of these policies is mainly on "ordinary housing", it will stimulate transactions and at the same time radiate a positive signal to the overall market sentiment. Despite the global economic slowdown, the Group is of the view that China will remain as one of the fastest growing economies and also to be one of the first countries to rebound from the financial crisis. The Group will continue to seek for opportunities in China while remain prudent in managing its property projects with diligence.

Financial Review

The Group continues to adopt a prudent financial policy and maintains a sound capital structure with healthy cashflow. As at 30 September 2008, the Group's cash on hand was approximately HK\$422 million (31 March 2008: HK\$247 million) while total assets and net assets (excluding minority interests) were approximately HK\$3,671 million (31 March 2008: HK\$3,698 million) and HK\$1,172 million (31 March 2008: HK\$859 million) respectively. As at 30 September 2008, the Group's working capital amounted to HK\$335 million (31 March 2008: HK\$68 million).

The Group's net borrowings were HK\$267 million as compared to HK\$277 million in the previous period. Net debt to equity (including minority interests) gearing ratio was 14% as compared to 19% in the last period. As at 30 September 2008, contingent liabilities in relation to guarantees of performance bonds increased from HK\$136 million to HK\$220 million while guarantees for end user mortgage loans amounted to HK\$102 million (31 March 2008: HK\$281 million). Certain of the Group's assets with a book value of approximately HK\$682 million have been pledged to secure certain banking facilities of the Group. The Group's bank borrowings were mostly denominated in Hong Kong dollars but Renminbi loan facilities have also been arranged for its PRC subsidiaries. Currency exposure in the Renminbi borrowings has been hedged by the Group's Renminbi assets and revenue generated by its PRC properties.

Employment and Remuneration Policies

The Group, including its subsidiaries and joint ventures in Hong Kong and the PRC, employed approximately 1,330 employees as at 30 September 2008. The Group's remuneration policies are primarily based on prevailing market salary levels and the performance of the respective companies and individuals concerned. Fringe benefits include provident fund, medical insurance and training. In addition, share options may also be granted in accordance with the terms of the Group's approved share option scheme.

Interim Dividend

The Board has resolved to declare an interim dividend of HK1 cent (2007: HK1 cent) per ordinary share for the six months ended 30 September 2008. The interim dividend will be payable on 16 January 2009 to shareholders whose names appear on the Company's register of members on 2 January 2009.

Closure of Register of Members

The register of members of the Company will be closed on 2 January 2009, and no transfer of shares of the Company will be registered on this day. In order to qualify for entitlement to the interim dividend for the six months ended 30 September 2008, all transfers for shares of the Company accompanied by the relevant share certificates and the appropriate transfer forms must be lodged for registration with the Company's Branch Share Registrar in Hong Kong, Tricor Tengis Limited, at 26th Floor, Tesbury Centre, 28 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong not later than 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 31 December 2008.

Consolidated Income Statement

	Notes	2008 HK\$'000 Unaudited	2007 HK\$'000 Unaudited
REVENUE Cost of sales	2	1,992,588 (1,366,245)	749,140 (660,484)
Gross profit		626,343	88,656
Other income and gains Selling expenses Administrative expenses Changes in fair value of investment properties Other expenses Finance costs	3	9,656 (10,235) (23,890) (26,970) (6,535) (11,574)	13,508 (4,500) (19,097) 933 (4,724) (8,875)
PROFIT BEFORETAX	4	556,795	65,901
Tax	5	(200,821)	(10,393)
PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD		355,974	55,508
Attributable to: Equity holders of the Company Minority interests		298,321 57,653 355,974	41,960 13,548 55,508
DIVIDEND	6	8,382	8,375
EARNINGS PER SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY EQUITY HOLDERS OF THE COMPANY Basic	7	35.61 cents	5.01 cents
Diluted		35.59 cents	N/A

Consolidated Balance Sheet

	Notes	As at 30 September 2008 HK\$'000 Unaudited	As at 31 March 2008 HK\$'000 Audited
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment Investment properties Prepaid land lease payments Properties under development Deposit paid for land acquisition Other assets	8	197,696 1,210,660 104,957 278,389 351,039 1,030	194,376 1,210,660 106,347 254,512 177,536 1,020
Total non-current assets		2,143,771	1,944,451
CURRENT ASSETS			
Property under development Equity investments at fair value through profit or loss Inventories Properties held for sale Amounts due from customers for contract works Trade receivables Other receivables, prepayments and deposits Tax prepaid Time deposits Restricted cash Cash and bank balances Total current assets	9	113,407 6,091 20,897 417,864 81,548 426,828 35,522 2,854 140,770 — 281,419	529,966 14,452 18,006 303,521 78,703 284,000 238,677 40,157 28,768 3,537 214,225
			1,/34,012
CURRENT LIABILITIES	10	40 7 020	221.0(7
Trade payables and accruals Other payables, deposits received and receipts in advance Amounts due to customers for contract works Deposits received from properties sold Deposits received from pre-sale of properties under development Interest-bearing bank borrowings Tax payable	10 at	497,028 78,687 93,446 25,834 — 346,214 150,614	221,967 70,883 166,399 — 927,714 255,075 43,566
Total current liabilities		1,191,823	1,685,604
NET CURRENT ASSETS		335,377	68,408
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,479,148	2,012,859

Consolidated Balance Sheet (Continued)

	As at	As at
	30 September	31 March
	2008	2008
Notes	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	Unaudited	Audited
TOTALASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	2,479,148	2,012,859
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Interest-bearing bank borrowings	342,845	268,399
Deferred tax liabilities	253,099	251,076
Total non-current liabilities	595,944	519,475
Net assets	1,883,204	1,493,384
EQUITY		
Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company		
Issued capital 11	83,821	83,746
Reserves	1,087,904	775,123
	1,171,725	858,869
Minority interests	711,479	634,515
Total equity	1,883,204	1,493,384

Notes to Unaudited Interim Financial Statements

1. Basis of preparation and Accounting policies

The unaudited interim financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable disclosure provisions of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Listing Rules") and the Hong Kong Accounting Standard ("HKAS") 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2008.

The accounting policies used in the preparation of the unaudited interim financial statements are consistent with those adopted in the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2008.

During this period, the Group has applied for the first time a number of new interpretations issued by the HKICPA, which are effective for accounting periods commencing on or after 1 April 2008. The adoption of these new interpretations had no material effect on the results or financial position of the Group for the current or prior accounting periods.

The Group has not early adopted any new accounting and financial reporting standards, amendments to existing standards and interpretations which have been issued but are not yet effective.

The unaudited interim financial were approved and authorized for issue by the board of directors on 16 December 2008.

2. Segment information

(a) Business segments

The following tables present revenue and profit/(loss) for the Group's business segments for the six months ended 30 September:

	Foundation piling 2008 HK\$`000	E&M engineering and building construction 2008 HK\$'000	Machinery hiring and trading 2008 HK\$'000	Property investment and management 2008 HK\$'000	Property development 2008 HK\$'000	Unallocated 2008 HK\$'000	Eliminations 2008 HK\$'000	Consolidated 2008 HK\$'000
Segment revenue: Sales to external customers Intersegment sales	739,975 103	94,077 78,055	7,838 771	52,371	1,098,327			1,992,588
Total	740,078	172,132	8,609	52,371	1,098,327		(78,929)	1,992,588
Segment results	97,367	16,307	(259)	(2,690)	486,155	(29,831)	_	567,049
Interest income Dividend income from listed investments Finance costs								1,047 273 (11,574)
Profit before tax Tax								556,795 (200,821)
Profit for the period								355,974

2. Segment information (Continued)

(a) Business segments (Continued)

	Foundation piling 2007 HK\$'000	E&M engineering and building construction 2007 HK\$'000	Machinery hiring and trading 2007 HK\$'000	Property investment and management 2007 HK\$'000	Property development 2007 HK\$'000	Unallocated 2007 HK\$'000	Eliminations 2007 HK\$'000	Consolidated 2007 HK\$'000
Segment revenue: Sales to external customers Intersegment sales	571,768 —	108,623	17,067 1,384	51,422 	260 		(1,384)	749,140
Total	571,768	108,623	18,451	51,422	<u>260</u>		(1,384)	749,140
Segment results	59,342	2,814	258	34,015	(5,096)	(21,233)	_	70,100
Interest income Dividend income from listed investments Finance costs								4,676 — (8,875)
Profit before tax Tax								65,901 (10,393)
Profit for the period								55,508

(b) Geographical segments

The following table presents revenue for the Group's geographical segments for the six months ended 30 September:

	Hong K	ong	Maca	u	Elsewhere in	the PRC	Consolic	lated
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Segment revenue: Sales to external customers	728,094	397,420	113,260	300,299	1,151,234	51,421	1,992,588	749,140

3. Other income and gains

Six months ended		
30 September		
2008	2007	
HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
1,048	4,676	
1,716	_	
_	4,164	
1,390	914	
410	_	
_	1,415	
151	129	
280	1,003	
2,962	_	
1,699	1,207	
9,656	13,508	
	30 Se 2008 HK\$'000 1,048 1,716 — 1,390 410 — 151 280 2,962 1,699	

4. Profit before tax

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

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2008	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Depreciation	25,240	19,128
Recognition of prepaid land lease payments	1,390	18
Fair value (gains)/losses on equity		
investments at fair value through profit or loss, net	4,199	(1,415)
Gain on disposal of an investment property	_	(4,164)
Gain on disposal of items of property, plant and equipment	(1,390)	(914)
Write-back of impairment of trade receivables, net	(151)	(129)
Interest expenses	13,169	18,724
Less: Interest capitalized in properties under development	(1,595)	(9,849)
	11,574	8,875

5. Tax

	Six months ended 30 September		
	2008 HK\$'000	2007 HK\$'000	
Provision for tax in respect of profit for the period:			
PRC:			
Hong Kong	7,139	3,986	
Elsewhere	99,177	8,247	
Overprovision in prior period:			
PRC:			
Hong Kong	(2)	_	
Elsewhere	(1)	(32)	
Land appreciation tax:			
PRC:			
Elsewhere	98,670		
	204,983	12,201	
Deferred tax	(4,162)	(1,808)	
	200,821	10,393	

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 16.5% (2007: 17.5%) on the estimated assessable profits arising in Hong Kong during the period. Taxes on profits assessable elsewhere in the People's Republic of China have been calculated at the applicable tax rates prevailing in the areas in which the Group operates, based on existing legislation, interpretations and practices in respect thereof.

6. Dividend

	Six montl 30 Sept	
	2008 HK\$'000	2007 HK\$'000
Interim dividend HK1 cent (2007: HK1 cent) per ordinary share	8,382	8,375

Notes:

- (a) A final dividend of HK1.5 cents per ordinary share, totally approximately HK\$12,562,000 for the year ended 31 March 2008 was approved in the Company's Annual General Meeting on 29 August 2008 and paid on 5 September 2008.
- (b) An interim dividend in respect of six months ended 30 September 2008 of HK1 cent per ordinary share, amounting to HK\$8,382,000 was approved at the board meeting on 16 December 2008. The interim dividend is not recognized as a liability as at 30 September 2008, but will be reflected as an appropriation of retained profits for the year ending 31 March 2009.

7. Earnings per share

The calculation of the basic earnings per share amount is based on the profit for the period attributable to ordinary equity holders of the Company of HK\$298,321,000 (2007: HK\$41,960,000), and the weighted average number of 837,646,231 (2007: 837,465,903) ordinary shares in issue during the period.

The calculation of the diluted earnings per share amount for the period ended 30 September 2008 is based on the profit for the period attributable to ordinary equity holders of the Company of HK\$298,321,000. The weighted average number of ordinary shares used in the calculation is the number of ordinary shares in issue during the period, as used in the basic earnings per share calculation, and the weighted average number of ordinary shares assumed to have been issued at no consideration on the deemed exercise of all share options into ordinary shares during the year of 579,182.

8. Property, plant and equipment

During the period, the Group acquired assets with a cost of HK\$29,936,000 (2007: HK\$16,302,000) to expand its business. Assets with a net book value of HK\$1,531,000 were disposed of by the Group during the six months ended 30 September 2008 (2007: HK\$12,349,000) resulting in a net gain on disposal of HK\$1,390,000 (2007: HK\$914,000).

9. Trade receivables

The Group has established credit policies that follow local industry standards. The average normal credit periods offered to trade customers other than for retention receivables are within 90 days, and are subject to periodic review by management. In view of the aforementioned and the fact that the Group's trade receivables relate to a large number of diversified customers, there is no significant concentration of credit risk. Trade receivables are non-interest-bearing.

	As at	As at
	30 September	31 March
	2008	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Trade receivables	427,001	284,224
Impairment	(173)	(224)
	426,828	284,000

9. Trade receivables (Continued)

An aged analysis of the trade receivables as at the balance sheet date, based on the invoice date and net of provision, is as follows:

	As at 30 September 2008 HK\$'000	As at 31 March 2008 HK\$'000
Trade receivables:		
Within 90 days	307,923	187,933
91 to 180 days	4,413	411
181 to 360 days	720	690
Over 360 days	419	419
	313,475	189,453
Retention receivables	113,353	94,547
	426,828	284,000
10. Trade payables and accruals	As at 30 September 2008 HK\$'000	As at 31 March 2008 HK\$'000
Trade payables:		
Within 30 days	245,685	82,236
31 to 90 days	14,385	12,212
91 to 180 days	8,221	4,609
Over 180 days	7,420	1,826
	275,711	100,883
Retention payables	15,663	22,894
Accruals	205,654	98,190
	497,028	221,967

11. Share capital

	As at 30 September 2008 HK\$'000	As at 31 March 2008 HK\$'000
Authorised:		
2,000,000,000 ordinary shares of HK\$0.10 each	200,000	200,000
Issued and fully paid:		
At 1 April 2008: 837,465,903 ordinary shares		
of HK\$0.10 each	83,746	83,746
Issue of 750,000 shares under a share		
option scheme	75	
At 30 September 2008: 838,215,903 ordinary shares	83,821	83,746

During the period ended 30 September 2008, share options were exercised resulting in 750,000 shares being issued (2007: Nil), with exercise proceeds of HK\$615,000 (2007: Nil).

12. Contingent liabilities

	As at	As at
	30 September	31 March
	2008	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Guarantees in respect of performance bonds	219,852	135,760
Guarantees in respect of mortgage facilities granted to third parties	102,118	281,409
	321,970	417,169

The Group had issued guarantees in respect of mortgage facilities granted by certain banks relating to the mortgage loans arranged for certain purchasers of properties developed by the Group. The Group's obligations under such guarantees will cease upon the issuance of the building ownership certificates of such properties.

13. Commitments

	As at	As at
	30 September	31 March
	2008	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
(a) Capital expenditure		
Authorised, but not contracted for	9,301	8,858
Contracted, but not provided for	20,577	198,953
	29,878	207,811
(b) Commitments under non-cancellable operating leases for land and buildings to make payments:		
Within one year	10,774	11,091
In the second to fifth years inclusive	5,619	7,416
	16,393	18,507

In addition, the Group had contracted, but not provided for, commitments in respect of construction works relating to properties under development amounting to HK\$506,121,000 as at 30 September 2008 (31 March 2008: HK\$577,593,000).

14. Related party transactions

For the six months ended 30 September 2008, compensation to key management personnel of the Group amounted to HK\$13,935,000 (2007: HK\$12,390,000).

Corporate Governance

The Company has complied with the code provisions set out in the Code on Corporate Governance Practices ("the CG Code") contained in Appendix 14 to the Listing Rules save for the following deviations:

Code Provision A4.1 stipulates that non-executive directors should be appointed for a specific term subject to re-election.

The independent non-executive directors of the Company are not appointed for a specific term but are subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at the annual general meeting of the Company in accordance with the Bye-laws of the Company. As such, the Board is of the view that the non-executive directors of the Company need not be appointed for a specific term.

Code Provision A4.2 stipulates every director should be subject to retirement by rotation at least once every three years.

According to the Bye-laws of the Company, at each annual general meeting, one third of the directors shall retire from office by rotation provided that notwithstanding anything therein. The chairman of the Board and the managing director of the Company shall not be subject to retirement by rotation or taken into account in determining the number of directors to retire. As continuation is a key factor to the successful long term implementation of business plans, the Board believes that the roles of the chairman and the managing director provide the Group with strong and consistent leadership and allow more effective planning and execution of long-term business strategy. As such, the Board is of the view that the chairman of the Board and the managing director of the Company should not be subject to retirement by rotation.

Audit Committee

The Group's audit committee comprises three members, Mr. Fan Chor Ho Paul, Mr. Tse Man Bun and Mr. Lung Chee Ming George who are independent non-executive directors of the Company. The Chairman of the Audit Committee is Mr. Fan Chor Ho Paul.

The primary duties of the Audit Committee are to review and supervise the financial reporting process and internal control system of the Company, nominate and monitor external auditors and provide advice and comments to the directors.

The unaudited interim financial statements of the Group for the six months ended 30 September 2008 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee.

Model Code

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") contained in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules. Having made specific enquiries, all Directors confirmed that they have complied with the Model Code during the period.

Purchase, Sale or Redemption of Listed Securities of the Company

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

By Order of the Board Francis Cheung Chairman

Hong Kong, 16 December 2008

As at the date of this announcement, the members of the Board comprise six executive Directors, namely (i) Mr. Francis Cheung, (ii) Mr. Fung Chiu Chak Victor, (iii) Mr. David Chien, (iv) Miss Jennifer Kwok, (v) Mr. Chiu Chin Hung, and (vi) Mr. Wong Kay, and three independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Fan Chor Ho Paul, Mr. Tse Man Bun and Mr. Lung Chee Ming George.