

Corporate Governance Report

The Company is committed to the establishment of good corporate governance practices and procedures. The corporate governance principles of the Company emphasizes accountability and transparency and are adopted in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.

Code on Corporate Governance Practices

The Company complied with the Code on Corporate Governance Practices (the “CG Code”) of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Listing Rules”) throughout the year ended 31 December 2006 with the exception that the Non-executive Directors are not appointed for a specific term and the Articles of Association of the Company does not provide that (a) every director, including those appointed for a specific term, should be subject to retirement by rotation at least once every three years; and (b) all directors appointed to fill a casual vacancy should be subject to election by shareholders at the first general meeting of the Company after their appointment. In view of good corporate governance practices, all Non-executive Directors have agreed to comply with the Listing Rules and that their term of appointment will be limited accordingly. Furthermore, every director of the Company, including those appointed for a specific term, voluntarily retires from his office by rotation at least once every three years notwithstanding that he is not required to do so by the Articles of Association of the Company. Amendments to the Articles of Association of the Company have been proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in order to bring the Articles of Association of the Company in line with the changes brought about by the amendments to the Listing Rules as well as the provisions of the CG Code.

Board Composition and Board Practices

The board of directors of the Company (the “Board”) is composed of 9 Directors, including the Chairman who is an Executive Director, 3 additional Executive Directors, 3 Independent Non-executive Directors and 2 Non-executive Directors, one-third of the Board is Independent Non-executive Directors and a majority of them have appropriate professional qualifications, or accounting or related financial management expertise. Their biographies and relevant relationships amongst them are set out in the Biographical Details of Directors Section on pages 8 to 9 of this Annual Report and Directors’ and Chief Executives’ Interests and Short Positions in Shares, Underlying Shares and Debentures Section on pages 12 to 15 of this Annual Report.

Review will be made regularly on the Board composition to ensure that it has a balance of skills and experience appropriate for the requirement of the business of the Company and its subsidiaries (the “Group”). Also, a balanced composition of Executive Directors and Non-executive Directors is maintained to ensure independence and effective management. The Company has satisfied the relevant provision of the Listing Rules in having one of the Independent Non-executive Directors with appropriate accounting qualifications and expertise to chair the Audit Committee.

The Company had received from each of the Independent Non-executive Directors, Mr. David John Blackett, Ms. Wong Siu Yin, Elizabeth and Mr. Cheng Hong Kei an annual confirmation of his/her independence pursuant to Rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules and the Company still considers the Independent Non-executive Directors to be independent.

A formal written procedure and policy have been adopted by the Board for the appointment of new directors. When selecting potential candidates for directors, skill, experience, expertise, his devotion of time and conflicts of interests are the key factors for consideration. No Nomination Committee has been set up, and hence, the nomination and selection process are performed by the Board. The Board meets at least once a year in discussing whether the composition, size, structure of the Board is adequate. The Board met once in 2006 with all Directors present. According to the Articles of Association of the Company, one-third, but not exceeding one-third of Directors are subject to re-election. Non-executive Directors are not appointed for a specific term. These deviate from the CG Code in which it states that all Non-executive Directors must be appointed for a specific term and all Directors must rotate at least once every three years.

The Board is jointly responsible for the formulation of the Group’s strategy, overseeing the management of the business and affairs of the Group.

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The roles of the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer are exercised by separate individuals with a view to reinforce their independence and accountability. Key and important decisions shall be fully discussed at the board meetings. All Directors have been fully consulted about any matters proposed for inclusion in the agenda. The Chairman has delegated the responsibility for drawing up the agenda for each board meeting to the Company Secretary. With the support of the Executive Directors and the Company Secretary, the Chairman seeks to ensure that all Directors are properly briefed on issues arising at board meetings and receive adequate and reliable information in a timely manner.

Daily operation and managing of the business of the Group, inter alia, the implementation of strategies are delegated to the executive committee, comprising of all of the Executive Directors. They report periodically to the Board their work and business decisions.

The Board meets regularly and held five meetings in 2006:

	Attendance
Executive Directors	
Ng Hung Sang (Chairman)	4/5
Richard Howard Gorges	5/5
Cheung Choi Ngor	5/5
Ng Yuk Fung, Peter	5/5
Non-executive Directors	
David Michael Norman	4/5
Ng Yuk Mui, Jessica	4/5
Independent Non-executive Directors	
David John Blackett	3/5
Wong Siu Yin, Elizabeth	5/5
Cheng Hong Kei	5/5

Notice of at least fourteen days is given to the Directors for regular meetings, while Board papers are sent to the Directors not less than three days before the intended date of a board or board committee meeting. The Directors can attend meetings in person or through other means of electronic communication in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company. The Company Secretary ensures that the procedures and all applicable rules and regulations are strictly and fully complied with. Minutes of board meetings and meetings of board committees are kept by the Company Secretary and are available for inspection at any reasonable time on reasonable notice by any Director.

Directors have full access to information on the Group and are able to obtain independent professional advice whenever necessary.

Model Code for Securities Transactions

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors set out in Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules for Directors. In addition, the Board has established similar guidelines for relevant employees who are likely in possession of unpublished price sensitive information in relation to the Group or its securities.

All Directors have confirmed, following specific enquiry by the Company, their compliance with the required standard of dealings and its code of conduct regarding securities transactions by directors throughout the year ended 31 December 2006.

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Internal Control

Recognising that a well-designed and effective system of internal control is crucial to safeguard the assets of the Company and the shareholders' investment and to ensure the reliability of financial reporting as well as compliance with the relevant requirement of the Listing Rules, the Directors also acknowledge that they have overall responsibility for the Company's internal control, financial control and risk management and shall monitor its effectiveness from time to time. Therefore, a team, comprising qualified accountants, has been organised to carry out the internal audit function of the Company ("IA Team").

Based on the assessment of risk exposure, the IA Team formulates audit plans quarterly and ensures the audit programs cover key internal control areas of key operating subsidiaries on a rotational basis for the review by the Audit Committee on a regular interval. The scopes and timing of audit review is usually determined according to risk assessment. Special reviews may also be performed on areas of concern identified by management or the Audit Committee from time to time. Communication channel has been established between the IA Team and the Audit Committee members.

IA Team monitors the internal control procedures and systems of the Group and reports its findings and recommendations, if any, to Audit Committee on a regular interval. During the year, the trading and manufacturing segment, financial services segment together with the media and publications business segment of the Group were reviewed, recommended remedial actions, distinguishing specific incidents from control weakness that require procedural changes or enhancements to prevent recurrence were proposed and addressed in the internal control report which was presented by the IA Team for review by Audit Committee and the Board.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for preparing the financial statements of the Group. The Directors ensure the preparation of the financial statements of the Group are in accordance with statutory requirements and applicable accounting standards.

The statement of the Auditors of the Company about their reporting responsibilities on the financial statements of the Group is set out in the Independent Auditors' Report on page 22 of this Annual Report.

Auditors' Remuneration

For the year ended 31 December 2006, the Auditors of the Company will receive approximately HK\$4,500,000 for audit service. Non-audit services provided by the Auditors was approximately HK\$370,000 in 2006.

Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee was set up on 21 April 2005 and comprises 4 Non-executive Directors, out of which 3 of them are Independent Non-executive Directors. The Remuneration Committee members are Ms. Wong Siu Yin, Elizabeth (Committee Chairman), Mr. Cheng Hong Kei, Mr. David John Blackett and Mr. David Michael Norman. The Remuneration Committee met once in 2006 and was attended by all Committee members. The policies for the remuneration of Executive Directors and the Senior Management were reviewed by the Remuneration Committee. Remuneration, including basic salaries, discretionary performance bonus and other emolument of the Executive Directors and Senior Management is based on skill, knowledge, involvement and performance of the individuals by reference to the Company's performance and profitability, as well as industry practice. Granting share options is considered as one of the means for giving long term motivation and incentive to and for retaining staff.

Remuneration, comprising directors' fees, of Non-executive Directors is subject to annual assessment for shareholders' approval at the annual general meeting. Reimbursement is allowed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with the performance of their duties including attendance at board meetings and committee meetings.

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Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises 4 Non-executive Directors, out of which 3 of them are Independent Non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Cheng Hong Kei (Committee Chairman), Mr. David John Blackett, Ms. Wong Siu Yin, Elizabeth and Mr. David Michael Norman.

The Audit Committee meets regularly and held three meetings in 2006:

	Attendance
Non-executive Directors	
David Michael Norman	2/3
Independent Non-executive Directors	
Cheng Hong Kei (Committee Chairman)	3/3
David John Blackett	2/3
Wong Siu Yin, Elizabeth	3/3

The principal duties of the Audit Committee include the review of the Group's audit plan and process with the Auditors, the independence of Auditors, the Group's financial statements and system of internal control in accordance with its terms of reference, which is substantially the same as the CG Code.

The Audit Committee is satisfied with their review of the audit fees, the independence of the Auditors and recommended to the Board the re-appointment of Auditors in 2007 at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

The Group's annual results for the year ended 31 December 2006 were reviewed by the Audit Committee.