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STYLAND HOLDINGS LIMITED

大凌集團有限公司*

(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 211)

(Warrant Code: 2403)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2023

The board of directors (the “**Directors**” or the “**Board**”) of Styland Holdings Limited (the “**Company**”) is pleased to announce the unaudited consolidated results of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as the “**Group**”) for the six months ended 30 September 2023 (the “**Review Period**”) together with the comparative figures as follows:

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

| | <i>Notes</i> | Six months ended | |
|--|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | | 2023 | 2022 |
| | | (Unaudited) | (Unaudited) |
| | | <i>HK\$'000</i> | <i>HK\$'000</i> |
| Turnover | | 120,962 | 136,054 |
| Revenue | 3 | 11,337 | 12,409 |
| Costs of brokerage services | | (1,044) | (1,232) |
| Other income | | 1,599 | 2,051 |
| Administrative expenses | | (25,743) | (28,066) |
| Selling and distribution expenses | | (2,628) | (2,081) |
| Change in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (“ FVTPL ”) | | (2,895) | (699) |
| Loss on disposal of financial assets at FVTPL | | (248) | (1,144) |
| Loss on disposal of a subsidiary | 13 | (783) | – |

| | | Six months ended | |
|--------------|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| | | 30 September | |
| | | 2023 | 2022 |
| | | (Unaudited) | (Unaudited) |
| <i>Notes</i> | | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 |
| | Expected credit losses (“ECL”) recognised in respect of loans receivable | (121) | (230) |
| | ECL recognised in respect of accounts receivable | (118) | (136) |
| | ECL recognised in respect of other receivables | (269) | (521) |
| | Reversal of ECL recognised in respect of loans receivable | 2,905 | 179 |
| | Reversal of ECL recognised in respect of accounts receivable | 18 | 293 |
| | Reversal of ECL recognised in respect of other receivables | 36 | 9 |
| | Finance costs | (8,704) | (5,622) |
| | | <u>(26,658)</u> | <u>(24,790)</u> |
| | Loss before taxation | 4 (26,658) | (24,790) |
| | Income tax expenses | 5 – | – |
| | | <u>(26,658)</u> | <u>(24,790)</u> |
| | Loss and total comprehensive expense for the period | <u>(26,658)</u> | <u>(24,790)</u> |
| | | <u>(26,658)</u> | <u>(24,790)</u> |
| | Loss per share | | |
| | – Basic and diluted loss per share | 7 (HK\$0.038) | (HK\$0.035) |
| | | <u>(HK\$0.038)</u> | <u>(HK\$0.035)</u> |

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

| | | At 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$'000</i> | At 31 March 2023 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--------------|--|--|
| | <i>Notes</i> | | |
| ASSETS AND LIABILITIES | | | |
| Non-current assets | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | | 5,263 | 5,979 |
| Investment properties | | 441,500 | 441,500 |
| Intangible assets | | – | – |
| Financial asset at FVTPL | 12 | 6,907 | 6,845 |
| Loans receivable | 8 | 22,103 | 30,693 |
| Deposits paid for acquisition of property, plant and equipment | | – | 105 |
| | | 475,773 | 485,122 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Loans receivable | 8 | 95,739 | 80,910 |
| Accounts receivable | 9 | 29,730 | 26,519 |
| Contract asset | | – | 471 |
| Other receivables, deposits and prepayments | | 9,653 | 8,296 |
| Financial assets at FVTPL | 12 | 9,522 | 9,097 |
| Financial asset at fair value through other comprehensive income (“FVOCI”) | 12 | – | – |
| Client trust funds | | 75,796 | 87,032 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 34,984 | 62,568 |
| | | 255,424 | 274,893 |
| Assets held for sale | 13 | – | 30,000 |
| | | 255,424 | 304,893 |
| Total assets | | 731,197 | 790,015 |

| | | At 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$'000</i> | At 31 March 2023 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|--------------|--|--|
| | <i>Notes</i> | | |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Accounts payable | <i>10</i> | 92,224 | 107,029 |
| Convertible bonds | <i>11</i> | – | 22,854 |
| Other payables and accruals | | 7,785 | 11,485 |
| Promissory notes payable | <i>14</i> | 10,000 | 20,000 |
| Loans | | 176,859 | 180,705 |
| Lease liabilities | | 4,471 | 4,447 |
| | | <u>291,339</u> | <u>346,520</u> |
| Net current liabilities | | <u>(35,915)</u> | <u>(41,627)</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | <u>439,858</u> | <u>443,495</u> |
| Non-current liabilities | | | |
| Promissory notes payable | <i>14</i> | 55,000 | 30,000 |
| Lease liabilities | | 384 | 2,363 |
| | | <u>55,384</u> | <u>32,363</u> |
| Net assets | | <u><u>384,474</u></u> | <u><u>411,132</u></u> |
| Equity | | | |
| Share capital | | 70,932 | 70,932 |
| Reserves | | 313,542 | 340,200 |
| Total equity | | <u><u>384,474</u></u> | <u><u>411,132</u></u> |

NOTES TO THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements of the Group have been prepared in accordance with the applicable disclosure requirements of Appendix 16 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “**Stock Exchange**”) (the “**Listing Rules**”), and with Hong Kong Accounting Standard (“**HKAS**”) 34 *Interim Financial Reporting* issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the “**HKICPA**”).

2. ADOPTION OF NEW OR AMENDED HKFRSs

The condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2023 have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies adopted in the Group’s annual consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, except for the adoption of the following new and amended Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“**HKFRSs**”) effective as of 1 April 2023. The Group has not earlier adopted any standards, interpretations or amendments that have been issued but are not yet effective.

| | |
|---|--|
| HKFRS 17 | Insurance Contracts and related amendments |
| Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKFRS Practice Statement 2 | Disclosure of Accounting Policies |
| Amendments to HKAS 8 | Definition of Accounting Estimates |
| Amendments to HKAS 12 | Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction |
| Amendments to HKAS 12 | International Tax Reform – Pillar Two Model Rules |

Except as disclosed below, the adoption of these amended HKFRSs had no material impact on how the results and financial position of the Group for the current and prior periods have been prepared and presented.

Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKFRS Practice Statement 2 “Disclosure of Accounting Policies”

The amendments to HKAS 1 require entities to disclose material accounting policy information instead of significant accounting policies in its financial statements. The amendments also provide some guidance on how material policy information are being identified and provide some examples of when accounting policy information is likely to be material.

In March 2021, HKICPA issued HKFRS Practice Statement 2 “Making Materiality Judgements” to provide entities with non-mandatory guidance on how to make materiality judgements when preparing their general purpose financial statements in accordance with HKFRS. HKFRS Practice Statement 2 was subsequently revised to provide guidance and examples on how to apply the concept of materiality to accounting policy disclosures.

The amendments to HKAS 1 are effective for annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 January 2023 and are applied prospectively. Except for the disclosures of accounting policies may need to be revised to cope with the above changes, in the opinion of the Directors, the amendments have no other material impact on the condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Amendments to HKAS 8 “Definition of Accounting Estimates”

The amendments clarify how entities should distinguish changes in accounting policies from changes in accounting estimates by introducing a definition for accounting estimates, which is now defined as “monetary amounts in the financial statements that are subject to measurement uncertainty”.

Besides, the amendments also clarify the relationship between accounting policies and accounting estimates by specifying that an entity develops an accounting estimate to achieve the objective set out by an accounting policy. Accounting estimates typically involve the use of judgements or assumptions based on latest available reliable information. A change in accounting estimate that results from new information or new development is not correction of an error. Therefore, the effects of a change in an input or a measurement technique used to develop an accounting estimate are changes in accounting estimates if they do not result from the correction of prior period errors. In addition, two illustrative examples are added to illustrate how to apply the new definition of accounting estimates.

The amendments are effective for annual reporting period beginning on or after 1 January 2023 and are applied prospectively. In the opinion of the Directors, the amendments have no material impact on the condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

Issued but not yet effective HKFRSs

At the date of authorisation of these condensed consolidated interim financial statements, certain new and amended HKFRSs have been published but are not yet effective, and have not been adopted early by the Group.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Amendments to HKFRS 10 and HKAS 28 | Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture ³ |
| Amendments to HKFRS 16 | Lease liabilities in a Sales and Leaseback ¹ |
| Amendments to HKAS 1 | Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current and related amendments to Hong Kong Interpretation 5 ¹ |
| Amendments to HKAS 1 | Non-current Liabilities with Covenants ¹ |
| Amendments to HKAS 7 and HKFRS 7 | Supplier Finance Arrangements ¹ |
| Amendments to HKAS 21 | Lack of Exchangeability ² |
| HK Interpretation 5 (Revised) | Presentation of Financial Statements – Classification by the Borrower of a Term Loan that Contains a Repayment on Demand Clause ¹ |

¹ Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024

² Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025

³ Effective date not yet determined

The Directors anticipate that all of the pronouncements will be adopted in the Group’s accounting policy for the first period beginning on or after the effective date of the pronouncement. The adoption of these new and amended HKFRSs are not expected to have a material impact on the Group’s condensed consolidated interim financial statements.

3. REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION

Information reported to the executive Directors, being the chief operating decision makers, for the purposes of resource allocation and assessment of segment performance, focuses on the types of services provided or products traded. The Group's reportable segments under HKFRS 8 are as follows:

- the financial services segment engages in securities and futures dealing, brokerage financing, corporate finance, asset management and other financing services;
- the mortgage financing segment engages in corporate and personal financing that are secured by real properties;
- the insurance brokerage segment engages in insurance brokerage services and acting as a mandatory provident fund (“MPF”) intermediary services;
- the property development and investment segment engages in property development and letting of properties; and
- the securities trading segment engages in trading of securities and derivative products.

Details of the Group's turnover and revenue are analysed as follows:

| | Six months ended 30 September | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | (Unaudited) | (Unaudited) |
| | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 |
| Financial services | | |
| Fee and commission income from: | | |
| Brokerage income | 1,913 | 2,384 |
| Corporate finance | | |
| – Sponsor fee income | 204 | – |
| – Placing and underwriting services income | – | 511 |
| Interest income from brokerage financing and other financing | <u>1,831</u> | <u>2,233</u> |
| | 3,948 | 5,128 |
| Mortgage financing | | |
| Interest income from mortgage financing | 6,664 | 6,950 |
| Insurance brokerage | | |
| Commission income | 208 | 209 |
| Securities trading | | |
| Dividend income | <u>517</u> | <u>122</u> |
| Revenue for the period | 11,337 | 12,409 |
| Proceeds from trading of securities | <u>109,625</u> | <u>123,645</u> |
| Turnover for the period | <u>120,962</u> | <u>136,054</u> |

During the Review Period, the Group derived revenue recognised over time and at a point in time from its fee and commission income from securities and futures brokerage, insurance brokerage, asset management and corporate finance as follows:

| | Six months ended 30 September | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | (Unaudited) | (Unaudited) |
| | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 |
| Timing of revenue recognition | | |
| – at a point in time | 2,121 | 3,104 |
| – over time | <u>204</u> | <u>–</u> |
| | <u>2,325</u> | <u>3,104</u> |

Segment revenues and results

The following is an analysis of the Group's revenues and results by reportable segments.

For the six months ended 30 September 2023

| | Financial services <i>HK\$'000</i> | Mortgage financing <i>HK\$'000</i> | Insurance brokerage <i>HK\$'000</i> | Property development and investment <i>HK\$'000</i> | Securities trading <i>HK\$'000</i> | Eliminations <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Segment revenue: | | | | | | | |
| Revenue from external customers | 3,948 | 6,664 | 208 | - | 517 | - | 11,337 |
| Inter-segment revenue | 235 | - | - | - | - | (235) | - |
| | <u>4,183</u> | <u>6,664</u> | <u>208</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>517</u> | <u>(235)</u> | <u>11,337</u> |
| Segment results | (7,994) | 4,581 | (365) | (2,294) | (3,092) | - | (9,164) |
| Unallocated income | | | | | | | 15 |
| Unallocated expenses | | | | | | | <u>(17,509)</u> |
| Loss before taxation | | | | | | | <u><u>(26,658)</u></u> |

For the six months ended 30 September 2022

| | Financial services <i>HK\$'000</i> | Mortgage financing <i>HK\$'000</i> | Insurance brokerage <i>HK\$'000</i> | Property development and investment <i>HK\$'000</i> | Securities trading <i>HK\$'000</i> | Eliminations <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Segment revenue: | | | | | | | |
| Revenue from external customers | 5,128 | 6,950 | 209 | - | 122 | - | 12,409 |
| Inter-segment revenue | 164 | - | - | - | - | (164) | - |
| | <u>5,292</u> | <u>6,950</u> | <u>209</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>122</u> | <u>(164)</u> | <u>12,409</u> |
| Segment results | (9,057) | 2,938 | (523) | (1,698) | (2,282) | - | (10,622) |
| Unallocated income | | | | | | | 6 |
| Unallocated expenses | | | | | | | <u>(14,174)</u> |
| Loss before taxation | | | | | | | <u><u>(24,790)</u></u> |

Other segment information

For the six months ended 30 September 2023

| | Financial services HK\$'000 | Mortgage financing HK\$'000 | Insurance brokerage HK\$'000 | Property development and investment HK\$'000 | Securities trading HK\$'000 | Unallocated HK\$'000 | Total HK\$'000 |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Amounts included in the measurement of segment profit or loss or segment assets: | | | | | | | |
| Change in fair value of financial assets at FVTPL | - | - | - | - | (2,973) | 78 | (2,895) |
| Loss on disposal of financial assets at FVTPL | - | - | - | - | (248) | - | (248) |
| ECL recognised in respect of loans receivable | (121) | - | - | - | - | - | (121) |
| ECL recognised in respect of accounts receivable | (118) | - | - | - | - | - | (118) |
| ECL recognised in respect of other receivables | (269) | - | - | - | - | - | (269) |
| Reversal of ECL recognised in respect of loans receivable | 505 | 2,400 | - | - | - | - | 2,905 |
| Reversal of ECL recognised in respect of accounts receivable | 18 | - | - | - | - | - | 18 |
| Reversal of ECL recognised in respect of other receivables | - | 36 | - | - | - | - | 36 |
| Bad debt recovery for loans receivable | - | 356 | - | - | - | - | 356 |
| Depreciation – owned assets | (95) | (4) | (2) | (198) | - | (321) | (620) |
| Depreciation – right-of-use assets | (457) | (140) | - | - | - | (104) | (701) |
| Loss on disposals of property, plant and equipment | - | - | (3) | - | - | - | (3) |
| Loss on disposal of a subsidiary | - | - | - | (783) | - | - | (783) |
| (Loss)/gain on exchange difference, net | (84) | - | - | - | 1 | (6) | (89) |
| Addition to non-current assets (<i>note</i>) | - | - | - | 211 | - | 399 | 610 |
| Amounts regularly provided to the chief operating decision maker but not included in the assessment of segment profit or loss or segment assets: | | | | | | | |
| Interest income | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 15 |
| Finance costs | (80) | (3) | - | - | - | (8,621) | (8,704) |

Note: The amounts excluded the additions to loans receivable and financial assets at FVTPL.

For the six months ended 30 September 2022

| | Financial services <i>HK\$'000</i> | Mortgage financing <i>HK\$'000</i> | Insurance brokerage <i>HK\$'000</i> | Property development and investment <i>HK\$'000</i> | Securities trading <i>HK\$'000</i> | Unallocated <i>HK\$'000</i> | Total <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Amounts included in the measurement of segment profit or loss or segment assets: | | | | | | | |
| Change in fair value of financial assets at FVTPL | - | - | - | - | (768) | 69 | (699) |
| Loss on disposal of financial assets at FVTPL | - | - | - | - | (1,144) | - | (1,144) |
| ECL recognised in respect of loans receivable | (230) | - | - | - | - | - | (230) |
| ECL recognised in respect of accounts receivable | (136) | - | - | - | - | - | (136) |
| ECL recognised in respect of other receivables | (521) | - | - | - | - | - | (521) |
| Reversal of ECL recognised in respect of loans receivable | 179 | - | - | - | - | - | 179 |
| Reversal of ECL recognised in respect of accounts receivable | 293 | - | - | - | - | - | 293 |
| Reversal of ECL recognised in respect of other receivables | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | 9 |
| Bad debt recovery for loans receivable | 21 | - | - | - | - | - | 21 |
| Depreciation – owned assets | (182) | (4) | (2) | (161) | - | (279) | (628) |
| Depreciation – right-of-use assets | (1,222) | (140) | - | - | - | (462) | (1,824) |
| Loss on disposals of property, plant and equipment | - | - | - | - | - | (4) | (4) |
| (Loss)/gain on exchange difference, net | (171) | - | - | - | - | 5 | (166) |
| Addition to non-current assets (<i>note</i>) | 245 | - | - | 1,834 | - | 1,059 | 3,138 |
| Amounts regularly provided to the chief operating decision maker but not included in the assessment of segment profit or loss or segment assets: | | | | | | | |
| Interest income | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 6 |
| Finance costs | (130) | (7) | - | - | - | (5,485) | (5,622) |

Note: The amounts excluded the additions to loans receivable and financial assets at FVTPL.

4. LOSS BEFORE TAXATION

Loss before taxation is arrived at after charging:

| | Six months ended 30 September | |
|---|-------------------------------|---------------|
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | (Unaudited) | (Unaudited) |
| | HK\$'000 | HK\$'000 |
| Depreciation of property, plant and equipment | | |
| – owned assets | 620 | 628 |
| – right-of-use assets | 701 | 1,824 |
| Loss on disposals of property, plant and equipment | 3 | 4 |
| Lease payments for short-term leases | 87 | 127 |
| Salaries, allowances and other benefits (including retirement benefit scheme contributions) | 15,071 | 14,745 |
| | <u>15,071</u> | <u>14,745</u> |

5. INCOME TAX EXPENSES

No provision for Hong Kong profits tax has been made in the condensed consolidated interim financial statements for the Review Period and for the six months ended 30 September 2022 as the Company and its subsidiaries either have available losses brought forward from prior years to offset the assessable profits generated or did not generate any assessable profits arising from Hong Kong during the respective periods.

6. DIVIDENDS

The Board did not recommend a payment of interim dividend for the Review Period (2022: nil).

7. LOSS PER SHARE

The calculation of basic loss per share for the Review Period was based on the loss for the Review Period of HK\$26,658,000 (2022: HK\$24,790,000) and the weighted average number of 709,315,013 ordinary shares (2022: 709,315,013 ordinary shares) in issue for the Review Period.

Diluted loss per share for the Review Period was the same as its basic loss per share. The computation of diluted loss per share had not assumed the conversion of convertible bonds since the conversion would result in a decrease in loss per share.

Diluted loss per share for the six months ended 30 September 2022 was the same as its basic loss per share. The computation of diluted loss per share had not assumed the conversion of convertible bonds or exercise of share options since both the conversion price for convertible bonds and the exercise price for the share options were higher than the average market price of the shares for the Review Period.

8. LOANS RECEIVABLE

| | As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) HK\$'000 | As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) HK\$'000 |
|---|--|--|
| Securities dealing and brokerage services: | | |
| – Secured margin loans | 14,144 | 14,031 |
| – Unsecured margin loans | 1,942 | 1,930 |
| Less: ECL allowance | <u>(1,951)</u> | <u>(2,334)</u> |
| | <u>14,135</u> | <u>13,627</u> |
| Financing businesses: | | |
| – Secured mortgage loans | 99,081 | 96,980 |
| – Secured loans | 2,922 | 2,922 |
| – Unsecured loans | 14,104 | 12,875 |
| Less: ECL allowance | <u>(12,400)</u> | <u>(14,801)</u> |
| | <u>103,707</u> | <u>97,976</u> |
| | <u>117,842</u> | <u>111,603</u> |
| The Group's loans receivable, net of ECL allowance, are analysed into: | | |
| – Non-current assets | 22,103 | 30,693 |
| – Current assets | <u>95,739</u> | <u>80,910</u> |
| | <u>117,842</u> | <u>111,603</u> |

There were no significant movements in the ECL allowance of loans receivable during the Review Period.

At 30 September 2023, the loan balances of mortgage financing and other financing services, net of ECL allowances, were HK\$98,622,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$94,164,000) and HK\$5,085,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$3,812,000) respectively.

No aging analysis is disclosed in relation to securities dealing and brokerage service as in the opinion of the Directors, an aging analysis does not give additional value in view of the nature of the business of securities dealing and brokerage services.

The maturity analysis for the carrying amount of loans receivable in the financing businesses, net of ECL allowance, based on contractual maturity dates, is as follows:

| | As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$'000</i> | As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| On demand or within 1 year | 81,604 | 67,283 |
| Over 1 year but not more than 5 years | 9,000 | 8,220 |
| Over 5 years | 13,103 | 22,473 |
| | <u>103,707</u> | <u>97,976</u> |

9. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

| | As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$'000</i> | As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|---|---|---|
| Accounts receivable | 32,517 | 29,206 |
| Less: ECL allowance | (2,787) | (2,687) |
| | <u>29,730</u> | <u>26,519</u> |
| Balance relating to: | | |
| – Securities and futures dealing and brokerage services | 29,602 | 26,230 |
| – Others | 128 | 289 |
| | <u>29,730</u> | <u>26,519</u> |

An aging analysis of the Group's accounts receivable, net of ECL allowance, based on the trade dates/invoice dates is as follows:

| | As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) <i>HK\$'000</i> | As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) <i>HK\$'000</i> |
|--|---|---|
| Within 6 months | 27,090 | 24,204 |
| Over 6 months but not more than 1 year | 1,545 | 1,613 |
| Over 1 year | 1,095 | 702 |
| | <u>29,730</u> | <u>26,519</u> |

10. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Accounts payable are mainly in relation to securities and futures dealing and brokerage services. Included in accounts payable represented HK\$91,628,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$106,657,000) which are interest-bearing at the bank deposit savings rates per annum and are repayable on demand. The remaining amounts are non-interest bearing and repayable demand. No aging analysis was disclosed as, in the opinion of the Directors, an aging analysis does not give additional value in view of the nature of the business of securities and futures dealing and brokerage services.

The Group's accounts payable that are not denominated in the functional currency of the respective group entities are as follows:

| | As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) HK\$'000 | As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) HK\$'000 |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| United States dollar ("USD") | 17,060 | 9,661 |
| New Taiwan dollar | 29,945 | 31,109 |
| Renminbi | 345 | 471 |
| Canadian dollar | – | 25 |
| Great British Pound | 158 | 160 |

11. CONVERTIBLE BONDS

| | Liabilities Component HK\$'000 | Equity Component HK\$'000 | Total HK\$'000 |
|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| At 1 April 2023 (audited) | 22,854 | 2,433 | 25,287 |
| Interest at effective interest rate (unaudited) | 830 | – | 830 |
| Interest paid (unaudited) | (684) | – | (684) |
| Matured and redeemed | (23,000) | (2,433) | (25,433) |
| At 30 September 2023 (unaudited) | – | – | – |

For more details about the convertible bonds, please refer to the note 29 to the consolidated financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023 contained in the Annual Report 2022/23 of the Company.

12. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The following table provides an analysis of financial instruments that are measured at the reporting date on a recurring basis, categorised into the three-level fair value hierarchy as defined in HKFRS 13 Fair Value Measurements. The level into which a fair value measurement is classified is determined with reference to the observability and significance of the inputs used in the valuation technique as follows:

- Level 1 fair value measurements are those derived from quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 fair value measurements are those derived from inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the assets or liabilities, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices).
- Level 3 fair value measurements are those derived from valuation techniques that include inputs for the assets or liabilities that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

| | Level 1 HK\$'000 | Level 2 HK\$'000 | Level 3 HK\$'000 | Total HK\$'000 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| As at 30 September 2023 (unaudited) | | | | |
| Financial assets | | | | |
| Financial assets at FVTPL | | | | |
| – Listed securities (<i>note a</i>) | 9,522 | – | – | 9,522 |
| – Investment in a life insurance policy (<i>note b</i>) | – | 6,907 | – | 6,907 |
| Financial asset at FVOCI | | | | |
| – An unlisted equity security (<i>note c</i>) | – | – | – | – |
| | <u>9,522</u> | <u>6,907</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>16,429</u> |

As at 31 March 2023 (audited)

| | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|----------|---------------|
| Financial assets | | | | |
| Financial assets at FVTPL | | | | |
| – Listed securities (<i>note a</i>) | 9,097 | – | – | 9,097 |
| – Investment in a life insurance policy (<i>note b</i>) | – | 6,845 | – | 6,845 |
| Financial asset at FVOCI | | | | |
| – An unlisted equity security (<i>note c</i>) | – | – | – | – |
| | <u>9,097</u> | <u>6,845</u> | <u>–</u> | <u>15,942</u> |

- Note a:* The fair values of the listed securities were determined based on the quoted market bid prices available on the relevant exchange.
- Note b:* The Group can terminate the policy at any time and receive cash back based on the cash value of the policy at the date of termination (“**Cash Value**”). The Cash Value is determined by the premium paid plus accumulated interest earned minus the accumulated insurance policy charges and any applicable surrender charge. The fair value of the investment in the life insurance policy is determined by reference to the Cash Value as provided by the insurance company at the reporting date.
- Note c:* As at 30 September 2023, the investment in the unlisted equity security represented the equity interest in a private entity that offers the Group the opportunity for return through distribution and is measured at fair value. The fair value of the unlisted equity investment is determined using the approach of the net asset value of the entity. The effects of the unobservable inputs are not significant.

During the Review Period, there were no transfers between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3.

The Directors consider that the carrying amounts of other financial assets and financial liabilities which are mature within one year and measured at amortised cost in the condensed consolidated interim financial statements approximate their fair values in view of their short-term or immediate maturities. For financial assets and financial liabilities with over one year of maturity, the Directors consider that there is no significant change to their discount rate and its carrying amounts approximate the fair values.

13 ASSETS CLASSIFIED AS HELD FOR SALE AND DISPOSAL OF A SUBSIDIARY

During the year ended 31 March 2023, the Directors intended to dispose of the entire equity interest in Ocean View Villa Limited (formerly known as Hoowin Limited) (“**Ocean View**”), an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of the Company which engages in property investment business in Hong Kong. Negotiations with interested party have taken place. The Directors expected that it was highly probable that the assets attributable to the business of Ocean View would be sold within twelve months and classified it as an asset held for sale and was presented separately in the consolidated statement of financial position.

Subsequent to 31 March 2023, the Group entered into a conditional provisional agreement with an independent third party to dispose the entire equity interest in Ocean View (the “**Disposal**”). Details of the Disposal were set forth in the Company’s announcements dated 3 April 2023 and 3 July 2023, and circular dated 25 May 2023.

The assets of Ocean View classified as assets held for sale as at 31 March 2023 are as follows:

| | 2023 HK\$’000 |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Investment property | 30,000 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 207 |
| Write-down to fair value less costs to sales | (207) |
| | <hr/> |
| Total assets classified as held for sale | 30,000 <hr/> <hr/> |

As at 31 March 2023, the investment property was pledged to secure the loan of HK\$11,162,000.

On 30 June 2023, the Group completed the Disposal for a consideration of HK\$30,000,000. The net assets of Ocean View at the date of disposal were as follows:

| | 2023 HK\$'000 |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Consideration received: | |
| Total consideration received | <u>30,000</u> |
| Net assets disposed of: | |
| Investment property | <u>30,000</u> |
| Loss on disposal of a subsidiary: | |
| Consideration received | 30,000 |
| Net assets disposed of | (30,000) |
| Transaction costs | <u>(783)</u> |
| Loss on disposal | <u><u>(783)</u></u> |
| Net cash inflow arising on disposal: | |
| Consideration received | 30,000 |
| Transaction costs | <u>(783)</u> |
| | <u><u>29,217</u></u> |

14 PROMISSORY NOTES PAYABLE

As at 30 September 2023, the promissory notes bore interest at 8% (31 March 2023: range from 5% to 8%) per annum and were repayable as follows:

| | As at 30 September 2023 (Unaudited) HK\$'000 | As at 31 March 2023 (Audited) HK\$'000 |
|---|---|--|
| Within one year | 10,000 | 20,000 |
| After one year but within two years | <u>55,000</u> | <u>30,000</u> |
| | 65,000 | 50,000 |
| Less: Repayable within one year | <u>(10,000)</u> | <u>(20,000)</u> |
| Carrying amount shown under non-current liabilities | <u><u>55,000</u></u> | <u><u>30,000</u></u> |

15. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

As at 30 September 2023, the Group had no material contingent liabilities.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Results

During the Review Period, the Group's turnover was approximately HK\$120,962,000 as compared to approximately HK\$136,054,000 for the corresponding period in 2022, while the loss attributable to the owners of the Company was approximately HK\$26,658,000 as compared to the loss of approximately HK\$24,790,000 for the corresponding period in 2022.

Review of Operations

- **Financial Services**

The Group is a reputable financial service provider. To offer our clients a wide range of financial products and services, we hold a total of five licenses granted by the Securities and Futures Commission (the "SFC"), namely Type 1 (Dealing in Securities), Type 2 (Dealing in Futures Contracts), Type 4 (Advising on Securities), Type 6 (Advising on Corporate Finance) and Type 9 (Asset Management).

- **Brokerage**

There were two main factors in the Review Period that weakened investors' sentiment. One of these factors was the geopolitical tension, in particular, the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The other factor was the interest rate hikes in the United States. The Federal Reserve has kept interest rates at more than 5% during the Review Period. In Hong Kong, the prime rate quoted by The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited has been adjusted upwards twice during the Review Period, and these prime rate increases have impacted the Hong Kong stock market. The Hang Seng Index exhibited high volatility in the Review Period with an overall decrease over 2,500 points. The average daily turnover of the market for the nine months ended 30 September 2023 was approximately HK\$110 billion, a decrease of approximately 11% when compared to approximately HK\$124 billion for the nine months ended 30 September 2022.

We provide our clients with brokerage service in stock investment as well as subscribing for new shares in initial public offerings ("IPOs"). To accommodate to our clients' growing interest in investing in the global market, we offer our clients brokerage services for investing in shares that are listed in the Chinese mainland markets and overseas markets including Australia, Canada, Euronext, Germany, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and most of the Asian markets.

To facilitate clients' need to hedge against their investments in stock market, we offer brokerage service for futures investment products in the Review Period. In conjunction with our brokerage service to allow our clients to invest in China A-shares through the Stock Connects, we also offer clients brokerage service to invest in MSCI China A 50 Connect Index Futures contracts, providing an efficient risk management tool for investors to manage their Stock Connect China A-shares equity exposure.

During the Review Period, we have taken extra effort in building up our client base. The number of our active clients has increased by approximately 22% when compared to the corresponding period in 2022. However, due to the reduced activities in the IPO market and the decrease of average daily turnover in the Hong Kong stock market in the Review Period, our performance in the brokerage business was below our expectation.

During the Review Period, we managed the securities dealing turnover of approximately HK\$0.86 billion.

- ***Brokerage Financing and Other Financing***

We offer our clients brokerage financing services for investments in stocks as well as for subscribing for new shares in IPO. To facilitate our clients' placement of their orders through our online trading platform, our brokerage financing service has been extended to our selected online margin and cash clients. We are committed to implementing effective credit control procedures and have complied with the tightened margin-financing rules required by the SFC.

As at 30 September 2023, the net balance of the brokerage financing loans stood at approximately HK\$32,936,000. In light of the sluggishness of the IPO market in Hong Kong in 2023, the Group did not record significant interest income from the IPO financing. In the Review Period, we managed to maintain a healthy brokerage loan portfolio. We kept the bad debt provision for our brokerage financing business at an immaterial level with our effective credit policy.

In addition to the brokerage financing services, our financial service segment also includes other financing services to clients pursuant to the Money Lenders Ordinance. As at 30 September 2023, the net balance of loans receivable for other financing services was approximately HK\$5,085,000. Out of HK\$5,085,000, approximately HK\$3,812,000 involved two clients to whom the loans were granted in the financial year ended 31 March 2020. These two loans were secured or backed by listed securities and/or provision of personal guarantees given by third parties. Because of their long-overdue status, the Group was in the legal process against the clients and/or the guarantors with a view to recovering such debts. No new loans under other financing services were granted for the financial years ended 31 March 2021, 2022 and 2023, and during the Review Period.

Approximately HK\$1,227,000 out of HK\$5,085,000 represented one client to whom two mortgage loans of HK\$3,520,000 and HK\$3,530,000, and one unsecured loan of HK\$125,000 were granted under mortgage financing business in the financial year ended 31 March 2023. The two mortgage loans were secured by two residential properties. During the Review Period, such client was in financial difficulty and sold the two residential properties to repay to the Group. The outstanding amount of approximately HK\$1,227,000 was reclassified under other financing services as at 30 September 2023. The Group was still in the process to recover such outstanding amount from such client.

- ***Corporate Finance***

The Group's corporate finance services comprises acting as sponsor for IPOs, acting as financial adviser and compliance adviser for listed companies, and assisting clients to raise funds in the equity and debt capital markets.

During the Review Period, global IPO activities were impacted by increased market volatility and other unfavorable market conditions, along with the high interest rate environment. The Group has worked as the financial adviser for a GEM Board company to advise on the Listing Rules' requirement for its intention to transfer its listing from GEM Board to Main Board. The Group is also the sponsor for such GEM Board company to handle such transfer.

In addition to provision of sponsor and financial adviser services, the Group has also participated in certain placing, underwriting and sub-underwriting activities for our clients in the equity capital market. After the reopening of the border between Mainland China and Hong Kong, our corporate finance team has restarted its business visits to potential clients in Mainland China to explore business opportunities.

- ***Asset Management***

Hong Kong has long been a preferred regional hub for asset management because of its proximity to Mainland China and its tax incentive policy for fund management companies. Hong Kong itself is also a member of Greater Bay Area (the "GBA"), which provides great opportunity for its development of wealth management service. With the Wealth Management Connect, investors from Mainland China in the GBA and/or Hong Kong can access to various investment products of each other's markets.

The Group, as an asset management service provider under the license granted by the SFC, may set up a fund investing in the market or industry specified by the clients based on each client's own unique investment needs and goals. As a fund manager, the Group may also provide our clients attractive, tailor-made investment solutions, which would allow the clients to diversify their investments, minimise their investment risk, and get a competitive return on their investments.

- ***Mortgage Financing***

Other than the other financing service we provided under the financial services segment, the Group has also engaged in its mortgage financing business under the Money Lenders Ordinance since 2011.

To enhance our competitive edge in the marketplace and to provide our clients with greater flexibility, we offer three classes of loans, namely first, second and third mortgage loans. Usually, a client is required to offer his/her residential property in Hong Kong as collateral for the mortgage loan. As at 30 September 2023, the Group had 46 individual clients who were referred to it by its registered referral agents. The clients are Hong Kong residents of different background and education levels.

During the Review Period, the geopolitical tension and interest rate hikes continued to bring hurdles and uncertainties to the global economy as well as the market sentiment in Hong Kong. Facing such market volatility, the Group continued its strategy of maintaining a healthy portfolio as its first priority with a view to preserve its financial strength aiming for long-term profitability when the economy recovers. By maintaining a relatively lower size of its loan portfolio at approximately HK\$98,622,000 as at 30 September 2023, the Group did not relax its efforts in complying with the relevant ordinance and guidelines.

The loan sizes contained in the portfolio as at 30 September 2023 ranged from approximately HK\$100,000 to approximately HK\$5,683,000, and the amounts due from the single largest and the five largest clients were approximately HK\$9,333,000 and HK\$27,733,000 respectively, representing approximately 9.3% and 27.8% of such balance.

The interest rates offered to clients ranged from 6.0% to 26.4% per annum in our mortgage loan portfolio as at 30 September 2023. They were fixed based on the classes and tenors of the mortgage loans, the backgrounds, financial position, source and stability of income of the clients. The interest income for the Review Period was HK\$6,664,000.

- ***Insurance Brokerage***

The Group engages in the distribution of insurance products to corporate and individual clients as well as acting as an MPF intermediary.

During the Review Period, our insurance brokerage business has not improved in terms of its profitability even after the reopening of border between the Mainland China and Hong Kong. The Group would continue to review the development direction of its insurance brokerage business including the possibility of realisation of such investment, which would allow the Group to reallocate its resources to other developments.

- ***Property Development and Investment***

As at 31 March 2023, the Group held two investment properties, one of which is located at Sai Kung, Hong Kong (the “**Sai Kung Property**”) and another of which is located at Fei Ngo Shan Road, Hong Kong (the “**Fei Ngo Shan Property**”).

On 3 April 2023, the Group entered into a conditional provisional agreement for the sale and purchase of the entire equity interest of Ocean View Villa Limited (formerly known as Hoowin Limited) (“**Ocean View**”), which owns the Sai Kung Property, at a consideration of HK\$30,000,000 (the “**Disposal**”). On 30 June 2023, the Group completed the Disposal which resulted in a loss on disposal of approximately HK\$783,000. Proceeds upon the Disposal were utilised as intended. Details of the Disposal are set forth in the Company’s announcements dated 3 April 2023 and 3 July 2023, and circular dated 25 May 2023.

The Fei Ngo Shan Property has a gross site area of more than 16,000 square feet and is located at the low-density luxurious section. As at 30 September 2023, the market value of the Fei Ngo Shan Property was approximately HK\$441,500,000. The Group expects that the Fei Ngo Shan Property would contribute to the Group a stable source of rental income in the foreseeable future.

- ***Securities Trading***

As at 30 September 2023, the Group held a portfolio of listed securities investments consisting of 34 securities, which were engaged in the sectors of (i) financials; (ii) information technology; (iii) consumer discretionary; (iv) healthcare; (v) properties and construction; and (vi) others. The net realised and unrealised losses were approximately HK\$248,000 and approximately HK\$2,973,000, respectively, for the Review Period.

Prospects

The general economic conditions are expected to be challenging and uncertain in view of the geopolitical tension, high interest rates and weak investment sentiment.

As far as geopolitical tension is concerned, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has still been in progress. We have not seen any sign of ceasing nor any concession or ceasefire agreements likely to be reached. The recent outbreak of Israel-Gaza conflict has brought another shock to global markets. Although market reaction has been modest so far, it is still uncertain if such conflict could escalate into a broader regional conflict, which may have significant implications.

As to high interest rates, despite an increase of 25 basis points in July 2023, the Federal Reserve has kept the target range for the interest rate at a 22-year high of 5.25% to 5.5% in its meeting in September 2023. Although such decision is within market expectations, it is generally expected that there could be another hike in 2023. Interest rates in Hong Kong could be affected as Hong Kong dollar is pegged with United States dollar.

While the prospects remain uncertain due to recent development of geopolitical tension and high interest rates, we expect that investment sentiment in Hong Kong could still be conservative in the near term, and the economic growth in Hong Kong could still be constrained. The Group would persistently implement cautious and prudent measures to face possible market changes and look for potential investment opportunities, so as to enhance values to our shareholders.

Financial Review on Liquidity, Financial Resources, Capital Structure and pledge of assets

As at 30 September 2023, the Group's net asset value was approximately HK\$384,474,000 (31 March 2023: approximately HK\$411,132,000) and cash at bank and in hand were approximately HK\$34,984,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$62,568,000) of which approximately 91% was held in Hong Kong dollar, approximately 6% in US dollar, approximately 1% in New Taiwan dollar and approximately 2% in Renminbi.

As at 30 September 2023, the Group had bank overdraft of approximately HK\$7,820,000 (31 March 2023: Nil), bank loans of approximately HK\$142,190,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$154,555,000), other loans of approximately HK\$26,849,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$26,150,000), promissory notes payable of approximately HK\$65,000,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$50,000,000) and lease liabilities of approximately HK\$4,855,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$6,810,000). As at 31 March 2023, the Group had convertible bonds of approximately HK\$22,854,000, which bore interest at 6% per annum, were mature and redeemed in full in August 2023. The gearing ratio, calculated on the basis of the Group's total borrowings to the shareholders' fund, was about 0.64 (31 March 2023: 0.63).

As at 30 September 2023,

- (i) bank loans of approximately HK\$137,764,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$138,888,000) were interest-bearing at 1.9% (31 March 2023: 1.9%) per annum over Hong Kong Interbank Offered Rate (“**HIBOR**”), and were secured by the Fei Ngo Shan Property with a carrying value of approximately HK\$441,500,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$441,500,000);
- (ii) bank loans of approximately HK\$4,426,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$4,505,000) were interest-bearing at 1% per annum over Secured Overnight Financing Rate (31 March 2023: 1% per annum over London Interbank Offered Rate), were secured by the Fei Ngo Shan Property with a carrying value of approximately HK\$441,500,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$441,500,000), rental proceeds in respect of the Fei Ngo Shan Property, and an investment in a life insurance policy of the Group with a carrying amount of approximately HK\$6,907,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$6,845,000), and were guaranteed by the Company;
- (iii) other loans were interest-bearing at 2.75% (31 March 2023: 2.75%) above the Hong Kong Dollar Best Lending Rate per annum and secured by sub-charges/ sub-mortgages on the first legal charges/mortgages of properties charged/ mortgaged to the loans receivable of the group with carrying amount of approximately HK\$32,249,000 (31 March 2023: HK\$32,438,000) and jointly guaranteed by the Company and an entity within the Group;

- (iv) promissory notes payable bore interest at 8% (31 March 2023: range from 5% to 8%) per annum; and
- (v) the applicable interest rates for lease liabilities ranged from 2.80% to 6.89% (31 March 2023: 1.65% to 6.89%).

As at 31 March 2023, bank loans of approximately HK\$11,162,000 were interest-bearing at 2.75% per annum below Hong Kong Dollar Best Lending Rate as determined by the bank, and were secured by the Sai Kung Property with a carrying value of HK\$30,000,000 and the Company's corporate guarantee. During the Review Period, such bank loans were fully repaid subsequent the Disposal.

Credit Risk

For the financial services businesses, the Group is strictly in compliance with the Securities and Futures Ordinance (the "SFO"). Margin financing loans are granted to customers based on their individual assessment of financial status, repayment records and the liquidity of collaterals placed by them. The applicable interest rate charged to the customer will be determined based on these factors. Generally, margin loans will be demanded for repayment once a customer fails to maintain the maintenance margin, or fails to repay the loan or any sum that is due to the Group.

For the Group's other financing service under its financial services segment, the loan may be secured by listed securities or a personal guarantee given by a third party. The market value of a client's listed securities as collaterals or the financial ability of the guarantor will be assessed before a loan drawdown.

Under the Group's mortgage financing business, the loans are usually secured by residential properties in Hong Kong. To lower the Group's exposure to the credit risk, the percentage of loan-to-value ("LTV") for the new drawdown in general will be within 80%. To have a more reliable market value of a client's property, the Group will obtain two verbal valuations from two reputable appraisers while the lower one, the written report of which will be issued prior to loan drawdown, will be used as the current market value in the calculation of LTV. The Chief Executive Officer's additional approval is required for a drawdown with the LTV exceeding 80%. Onsite inspection of the proposed mortgaged property will be conducted by our Loan Managers if the Credit Manager thinks it necessary before loan disbursement.

For the Group's financing businesses, the management will from time to time assess whether the credit risk of the loan receivables has increased significantly since their initial recognition. Other than the adverse effect to the economic environment arising from COVID-19, the factors to be considered for possible loan impairment include the clients' repayment track record and updated financial position, and the changes in market value of the clients' collaterals, and financial ability of their guarantors. After a drawdown, the management team will closely monitor the client's repayment status. When there is any default in repayment, the Group will contact such client via phone to urge him/her to settle the overdue amounts without further delay. In case the default in

repayment persists, legal demand letters will be sent to the client through our lawyer(s). Accounts will be passed to debt collection agent(s) if a client does not give a positive response about the repayment plan or scheme such as loan restructuring or providing additional collateral. The Group will then take legal action against the client or his/her guarantor for recovery of debt. The Group will also take legal actions to enforce the possession of the defaulted client's property for auction if the loan is secured by a property.

For the insurance brokerage business, clients are required to pay premiums or fees to insurance companies directly, and the technical representatives of the Group would follow up clients' payment status to ensure that their payments are made on time to the insurance companies.

Compliance and Operational Risks

The Group has put in place effective internal control systems for its operations. Under the financial services businesses, the relevant monitoring teams comprised licensed responsible officers registered under the SFO and management who have acted in compliance with the SFO have been set up to monitor the operations and the settlement matters of traded financial products and cash, and to provide clients services of the regulated activities. As at 30 September 2023, the number of responsible officers of the Group for each regulated activity under the SFO were as follows:

| Type of license | Regulated activity | Number of responsible officers |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Type 1 | Dealing in securities | 4 |
| Type 2 | Dealing in futures contracts | 1 |
| Type 4 | Advising on securities | 4 |
| Type 6 | Advising on corporate finance | 3 |
| Type 9 | Asset management | 3 |

In order to safeguard clients' interests and comply with the requirements of the SFO, our monitoring teams have carried out ongoing checks and verifications so that we are able to maintain our service standard at a satisfactory level. During the Review Period, the financial services operation of the Group had complied with the SFO. Clients were satisfied with our services.

For the Group's other financing service under its financial services segment, in addition to the review on clients' personal information, such as copies of their identity cards and residential addresses, the clients' listed securities that are used as collateral must be under the Group's custody. In the case of a provision of personal guarantee, the Group will also review the guarantor's financial position. If the guarantor owns a property, land search will be made for the proof of property ownership.

The Group has its internal assessment and work procedure in granting a mortgage loan. When a client is referred to the Group by its registered referral agent, a loan application form setting out the potential client's personal information and financial position, including his/her source of income and amount of income, the market value of the property as collateral, and details of the outstanding mortgage (if any) with banks or other financing company will be submitted to the director who is responsible for the mortgage financing business for approval. Together with the loan application form, the following documents will be verified or reviewed: (i) copy of identity card or passport; (ii) copy of income proof, such as tax demand note, salary payroll receipt, employment contract or tenancy agreement; (iii) copy of residential address proof of the latest three months, such as utility bills, tax return or bank statement; (iv) legal search for the credit worthiness assessment; and (v) land search report for the proof of property ownership.

In addition to the know-your-client procedure, the Group will also observe the requirement to comply with the anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing regulations for its financing businesses. For our mortgage financing business, to promote clients' awareness of the requirements of the Money Lenders Ordinance, a Summary of Provisions of the Money Lenders Ordinance will be attached, for client's reference, to the loan agreement to be entered between the Group and its client. For the Review Period, our operation had complied with the Money Lenders Ordinance and the applicable guidelines.

Under the insurance brokerage business, the responsible officer and the technical representatives are registered under the Insurance Ordinance, and they are required to act in compliance with that ordinance.

Interest Rate Risk

During the Review Period, the Group's borrowings bore interest at either fixed interest rates or floating interest rates. Its risk arises from the interest payments which were charged according to floating interest rates. The Group monitors its interest rate exposure regularly to ensure that the underlying risk is within an acceptable range.

Liquidity Risk

The Group's policy is to regularly assess the current and expected liquidity requirements of the Group and to ensure that it maintains reserves of cash, readily realisable marketable securities and adequate committed lines of funding from major financial institutions to meet its liquidity requirements. As at 30 September 2023, the amount of undrawn banking facilities of the Group was approximately HK\$18,753,000.

Price Risk

The Group is exposed to listed equity price risk arising from individual equity investments classified as financial assets at fair value through profit and loss. This risk results from the decrease in the levels of equity indices and the value of the individual securities. The Group's investments in listed shares are valued at the quoted market prices. The Group continues to monitor the movements in equity prices and will consider hedging the risk exposure should the need arise.

Foreign Exchange Exposure

During the Review Period, the Group's business activities as well as its assets and liabilities were mainly denominated in Hong Kong dollar, US dollar, New Taiwan dollar and Renminbi. In light of (i) the exchange rate peg between the Hong Kong dollar and US dollar; (ii) the offset each other for assets and liabilities that were denominated in New Taiwan dollar; and (iii) the immaterial balance of assets or liabilities denominated in Renminbi when compared to the Group's total assets or liabilities, the Group considers its foreign exchange risk immaterial for the Review Period.

Cyber Security Risk

The Group defines its cyber security risk as the risk to the Group's assets and operations due to the potential unauthorised access, use, disruption, modification or destruction of its operation systems.

In addition to the designated information technology ("IT") employee who is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Group's server and online trading systems, the Group also engages an external IT consultancy company which advises the Group on maintaining a high level of risk control with respect to cyber security risk. This external IT consultancy also provides us advanced IT support and useful suggestions for the improvement or enhancement of our internal computer system to reduce the probability of cyber security risk.

The Group subscribes its trading operation systems from outside system service providers, and backs up the transaction records and clients' information on a daily basis. A back-up restoration test will be carried out as the management may from time to time determine. Also, we will assess the access right to operation systems by the management on a regular basis with a view to prevent unauthorised access or use of the systems.

The IT employee will perform the cyber security risk evaluation and report it to the management for review. To promote the awareness of the cyber security risk surrounding our operation systems, we provide our staff the latest cyber security risk information and relevant training from time to time.

Staff

As at 30 September 2023, the Group had 63 employees. During the Review Period, the Group's remuneration packages were structured with reference to prevailing market practice and individual merits. Salaries have been reviewed periodically based on the employees' performance appraisals and other relevant factors. The Group also maintains certain staff benefit plans including medical insurance, hospitalisation scheme and mandatory provident fund.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Company is committed to uphold good corporate governance practices and considers effective corporate governance an essential element to the Group's success. To uphold that belief, the Company keeps enhancing its corporate governance.

Save as disclosed below, in the opinion of the Directors, the Company had complied with the code provisions in the Corporate Governance Code contained in Appendix 14 to the Listing Rules and there have been no material deviations from the Corporate Governance Code during the Review Period.

Code Provision C.1.6 – One independent non-executive Director was unable to attend the special general meeting held on 15 September 2023 as he had other engagements.

Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors

The Board has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the “**Model Code**”) as set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules as its own code for securities transactions by Directors. All members of the Board have confirmed, following specific enquiry by the Company, that they have complied with the required standard as set out in the Model Code during the Review Period.

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF THE COMPANY'S LISTED SECURITIES

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries had purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company's listed securities during the Review Period.

REVIEW BY AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Company has an Audit Committee comprising three independent non-executive Directors (the “**INEDs**”). The Audit Committee has reviewed the unaudited interim financial statements for the Review Period and has discussed the financial related matters with the management.

On behalf of the Board
Li Hancheng
Non-executive chairman

Hong Kong, 24 November 2023

As at the date of this announcement, the executive Directors are Mr. Cheung Hoo Win and Mr. Ng Yiu Chuen, and the INEDs are Mr. Li Hancheng, Mr. Lo Tsz Fung Philip and Ms. Ling Sui Ngor.

* *For identification purpose only*