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# **HYGIEIA GROUP LIMITED**

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability) (Stock Code: 1650)

## **CHANGE OF AUDITOR**

This announcement is made by the board (the "**Board**") of directors (the "**Directors**") of Hygieia Group Limited (the "**Company**") together with its subsidiaries (the "**Group**") pursuant to Rule 13.51(4) of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "**Listing Rules**").

### **RESIGNATION OF AUDITOR**

The Board met and deliberated the status and progress of the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2020 ("2020 Audit"). Despite the efforts made by the Company to communicate with PricewaterhouseCoopers ("PwC") and to meet their outstanding requests of, including the proactive efforts that the Company considers it made so far in relation to the engagement of an independent professional advisor to assist the audit committee of the Company (the "Audit Committee") in conducting an investigation into the relevant concerns raised by PwC, regrettably, there is still no consensus reached between the Company and PwC. The Company was unable to meet the deadline for the publication of the announcement in relation to the audited annual results of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2020 (the "2020 Audited Annual Results") by 31 March 2021 as required under Rules 13.49(1) and 13.49(2) of the Listing Rules.

The Board believes that it is in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders to move forward and complete the 2020 Audit as soon as possible and to apply for the resumption of trading in the Company's shares as soon as possible. Hence, the Board resolved to ask PwC to consider to resign as auditors and for the Company to engage another qualified external auditor to complete the 2020 Audit as soon as possible. After PwC is being notified of the Board's decision, as PwC considers they are not able to obtain any further information nor satisfactory explanations in connection with certain matters (as further explained below) and given the investigation is still ongoing (Company's clarification: the investigation not yet commenced as there is still no consensus reached between the Company and PwC as explained above), they are not able to determine and perform the necessary additional audit procedures which they believe are necessary to finalise the audit of the Company's consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 and to reasonably estimate the time required to complete the audit. After due and careful consideration, PwC agreed to resign as the auditor of the Company with effect from 16 April 2021.

Reference is made to the Company's announcements dated 18 March 2021 and 9 April 2021 (the "**Previous Announcements**"), which set out details of the Discretionary Investment Management Agreement (as defined in the Previous Announcements) and the requests made by PwC. According to PwC's letter of resignation dated 16 April 2021, PwC confirmed that they consider matters in relation to the Discretionary Investment Management Agreement and certain professional and consultancy services fees of HK\$9,775,000 paid by the Group to various service providers during the year as significant outstanding matters, and that the 2020 Audit has not been completed. Other than these matters stated in PwC's letter of resignation, the Board and the Audit Committee confirmed that there are no other matters in respect of the change of auditor which should be brought to the attention of the shareholders of the Company.

Despite the above, the Board would like to take this opportunity to express its gratitude and appreciation to PwC for their professional and quality services rendered to the Company during its tenure.

### **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

The Board further announces that, with the recommendation of the Audit Committee, HLB Hodgson Impey Cheng Limited ("HLB"), has been appointed as the new auditor of the Company with effect from 20 April 2021 to fill the casual vacancy following the resignation of PwC and to hold office until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company.

The Board wishes to emphasise that the operation of the Group remains normal. The Company had published its unaudited annual results for the year ended 31 December 2020 on 30 March 2021. The Company will publish further announcement(s) to inform the shareholders of the Company of any significant developments in respect of the publication of the 2020 Audited Annual Results as well as the expected dates for the publication of the 2020 Audited Annual Results as and when appropriate in compliance with the requirements of the Listing Rules.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to express its warm welcome to HLB on its appointment as the auditor of the Company.

#### CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF TRADING

Trading in the shares of the Company on the Stock Exchange has been suspended with effect from 9:00 a.m. on 1 April 2021 pending the publication of the announcement in relation to the 2020 Audited Annual Results by the Company.

By order of the Board Hygieia Group Limited Toh Eng Kui *Chairman* 

Singapore, 20 April 2021

As at the date of this announcement, the executive Directors are Mr. Toh Eng Kui, Mr. Hong Rui Sheng and Mr. Peh Poon Chew; and the independent non-executive Directors are Mr. Koh How Thim, Mr. Tan Wu Hao and Mr. Wong Yuk.