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If you have sold or transferred all your shares in Lai Fai International Holdings Limited (the "Company"), you should at once hand this circular to the purchaser or to the bank, stockbroker or other agent through whom the sale was effected for transmission to the purchaser or transferee.

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(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

# GENERAL MANDATES TO REPURCHASE SHARES AND TO ISSUE NEW SHARES

The notice convening the annual general meeting of the Company to be held at Oregon Room, The American Club, 47/F, Two Exchange Square, Central, Hong Kong on 30th April 2003 (Wednesday) at 4:30 p.m. is set out in the last 3 pages of the Company's annual report 2002.

A form of proxy for use at the annual general meeting is enclosed with this circular.

This circular will remain on the "Latest Company Announcements" page of the GEM website for at least seven days from its date of publication.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GROWTH ENTERPRISE MARKET ("GEM") OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF HONG KONG LIMITED (THE "STOCK EXCHANGE")

GEM has been established as a market designed to accommodate companies to which a high investment risk may be attached. In particular, companies may list on GEM with neither a track record of profitability nor any obligation to forecast future profitability. Furthermore, there may be risks arising out of the emerging nature of companies listed on GEM and the business sectors or countries in which the companies operate. Prospective investors should be aware of the potential risks of investing in such companies and should make the decision to invest only after due and careful consideration. The greater risk profile and other characteristics of GEM mean that it is a market more suited to professional and other sophisticated investors.

Given the emerging nature of companies listed on GEM, there is a risk that securities traded on GEM may be more susceptible to high market volatility than securities traded on the Main Board and no assurance is given that there will be a liquid market in the securities traded on GEM.

The principal means of information dissemination on GEM is publication on the internet website operated by the Stock Exchange. Listed companies are not generally required to issue paid announcements in gazetted newspapers. Accordingly, prospective investors should note that they need to have access to the GEM website in order to obtain up-to-date information on GEM-listed issuers.

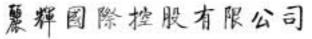
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#### LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN



### LAI FAI INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS LIMITED



(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

Executive Directors:

LI Shui (Executive Chairman)

LEE You

Non-executive Directors:

Yoshitaka KITAO (Honorary Non-executive Chairman)

YU Kam Kee, Lawrence, M.B.E., J.P.

TY Siao Kian, George

Independent Non-executive Directors:

MAK Tak Cheong, Edmund CHE King Lun, Frankly

Principal office:

Rear Portion of G/F

Grandview Garden

71-77 Pau Chung Street

Tokwawan

Kowloon

Hong Kong

Registered Office:

Century Yard, Cricket Square

**Hutchins Drive** 

P.O. Box 2681 GT

George Town, Grand Cayman

**British West Indies** 

27th March 2003

To shareholders of Lai Fai International Holdings Limited (the "Company")

Dear Sir or Madam,

# GENERAL MANDATES TO REPURCHASE SHARES AND TO ISSUE NEW SHARES

#### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this circular is to seek your approval of ordinary resolutions to enable the directors (the "Directors") of Lai Fai International Holdings Limited (the "Company") to exercise the powers of the Company to repurchase the Company's fully paid up shares of HK\$0.10 each (the "Shares") representing up to a maximum of 10% of the existing issued share capital of the Company at the date of passing the resolution, to grant a general mandate to the Directors to issue new shares up to a maximum of 20% of the issued share capital of the Company at the date of passing the resolution and to increase the number of shares which the

#### LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN

Directors may issue under their general mandate by the number of shares repurchased. The resolutions will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting of the Company to be held on 30th April 2003 (the "Annual General Meeting").

This circular gives details regarding the proposed general mandates for the repurchase of shares and to issue new shares of the Company.

This circular, for which the directors of Lai Fai International Holdings Limited collectively and individually accept full responsibility, includes particulars given in compliance with the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Growth Enterprise Market of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited for the purpose of giving information with regard to Lai Fai International Holdings Limited. The directors, having made all reasonable enquiries, confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief: (1) the information contained in this circular is accurate and complete in all material respects and not misleading; (2) there are no other matters the omission of which would make any statement in this circular misleading; and (3) all opinions expressed in this circular have been arrived at after due and careful consideration and are founded on bases and assumptions that are fair and reasonable.

#### GENERAL MANDATE FOR REPURCHASE OF SHARES

The Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Growth Enterprise Market (the "GEM Listing Rules") of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") contain provisions to regulate the repurchase by companies with primary listing on the Growth Enterprise Market ("GEM") operated by the Stock Exchange of their own shares (the "Share Buy Back Rules"). In accordance with the Share Buy Back Rules, this circular contains an explanatory statement to provide you with requisite information reasonably necessary to enable you to make an informed decision on whether to vote for or against resolution set out as Resolution 6 in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting which will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting. For the purpose of this circular, the term "shares" shall have the meaning ascribed thereto under the Code on Share Repurchases which mean shares of all classes and securities which carry a right to subscribe for or purchase shares.

#### GENERAL MANDATE TO ISSUE SHARES

The resolution set out as Resolution 5 in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting for the granting of a general mandate to the Directors to allot, issue and deal with new Shares up to a maximum of 20% of the issued share capital of the Company at the date of passing the resolution; in addition, subject to a separate approval of shareholders of the resolution set out as Resolution 7 in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting, the number of Shares purchased by the Company under the Repurchase Proposal will also be added to the 20% general mandate as mentioned above.

#### LETTER FROM CHAIRMAN

The resolution set out as Resolution 7 in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting relates to the extension of the general mandate to be granted to the Directors to issue new Shares during the relevant period by adding to it the number of Shares purchased under the Repurchase Proposal, if any.

#### PROXY ARRANGEMENT

A form of proxy for use at the Annual General Meeting is enclosed with this circular. To be valid, the form of proxy must be completed in accordance with the instructions printed thereon and deposited, together with the power of attorney or other authority (if any) under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy of such power of attorney or authority, at the Company's branch share registrar and transfer office in Hong Kong, Tengis Limited, G/F, Bank of East Asia Harbour View Centre 56 Gloucester Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong not less than 48 hours before the time appointed for holding the meeting.

#### RECOMMENDATION

The Directors consider that the Repurchase Proposal and the granting and the extension of the general mandate to issue new Shares are in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders and accordingly recommend that all shareholders to vote in favour of the resolutions set out as Resolutions 5 to 7 in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

Yours faithfully,
On behalf of the Board of
Lai Fai International Holdings Limited
Li Shui

Executive Chairman

The following is the explanatory statement which is required to be sent to shareholders under the Share Buy Back Rules in connection with the proposed general mandate for repurchase of shares.

#### (i) GEM Listing Rules

The GEM Listing Rules permit companies with a primary listing on GEM to purchase their securities subject to certain restrictions. Repurchases must be funded out of funds legally available for the purpose and in accordance with the company's constitutional documents and the applicable laws of the jurisdiction in which the company is incorporated or otherwise established. Any repurchase will be made out of funds of the company legally permitted to be utilized in this connection, including out of the profits of the company or out of the proceeds of a fresh issue of shares made for the purpose of the repurchase or, if so authorised by its articles of association subject to the Companies Law of the Cayman Islands, out of capital. Any premium payable on a repurchase over the par value of the shares to be purchased must be provided for out of the profits of the Company or out of the Company's share premium account, or, if so authorised by its articles of association and subject to the provisions of the Companies Law of the Cayman Islands, out of capital.

#### (ii) The Repurchase Proposal

The resolution set out as Resolution 6 in the notice convening the Annual General Meeting which will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting relates to the granting of a general and unconditional mandate (the "Repurchase Mandate") to the Directors to repurchase, on GEM or any other stock exchange on which the shares of the Company may be listed and recognized by the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong, Shares up to a maximum of 10% of the issued share capital of the Company at the date of passing the resolution (the "Repurchase Proposal").

The Repurchase Mandate would continue in force until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company unless it is rescinded at such meeting or until revoked or varied by ordinary resolution of the shareholders of the Company in a general meeting prior to the next annual general meeting of the Company, whichever occurs first.

#### (iii) Reasons for Repurchase

Although the Directors have no present intention of repurchasing the Shares, they believe that it is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders for the Directors to have a general authority from the shareholders to enable the Company to repurchase Shares in the market. Such repurchase may, depending on the market conditions and

funding arrangement at the time, lead to an enhancement of the net assets value of the Company and/or its earnings per Share and will only be made when the Directors believe that such a repurchase will benefit the Company and its shareholders.

#### (iv) Share Capital

As at 27th March 2003, being the latest practicable date prior to the printing of this circular (the "Latest Practicable Date"), the issued share capital of the Company comprised 128,000,000 Shares.

Subject to the passing of the Repurchase Mandate, the Company would be allowed under the Repurchase Proposal to repurchase Shares up to a maximum of 12,800,000 Shares on the basis that no further Shares will be issued whether as a result of the exercise of any options granted under the share option scheme adopted by the Company on 5th February 2003 as stated in its prospectus issued on 11th February 2003 or otherwise repurchased prior to the date of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

#### (v) Funding of Repurchases

In repurchasing Shares, the Company may only apply funds legally available for such purpose in accordance with the memorandum and articles of association of the Company and the applicable laws of the Cayman Islands.

It is presently proposed that any purchase of the Shares would be made out of profits of the Company or the proceeds of a fresh issue made for the purpose or out of capital provided that on the day immediately following the date of repurchase the Company is able to pay its debts as they fall due in the ordinary course of business.

If the Repurchase Mandate were to be exercised in full at the currently prevailing market value, it would not have a material adverse impact on the working capital or gearing position of the Company as compared with the position disclosed in its most recent Audited Pro forma Combined Results for the year ended 31st December 2002.

#### (vi) Share Prices

The highest and lowest prices at which the Shares have been traded on the Stock Exchange from 26th Feb 2003 (commencement date of dealings in the Company's Shares on GEM) to 27th March 2003 (the Latest Practicable Date) were as follows:

	Share j	Share prices	
	Highest	Lowest	
	HK\$	HK\$	
2003			
26th February to 28th February	1.04	0.97	
1st March to 27th March	0.96	0.86	

#### (vii) Takeovers Code Consequences

If the Repurchase Mandate were exercised in full, the percentage shareholding of the substantial shareholders of the Company before and after such repurchase would be as follows:

Substanital Shareholders	Notes	Before repurchase	After repurchase
Li Shui	1	36.66%	40.33%
Best Perfect International Limited	1	40.20%	44.22%
Softbank Corp.	2	22.22%	24.44%
Artfolio Corporation	2	21.84%	24.02%
Softbank Investment International			
(Strategic) Limited	3	10.96%	12.06%

- Best Perfect International Limited, an investment holding company incorporated in the British
  Virgin Islands with limited liability on 31st January 2002 and is legally and beneficially owned by
  Li Shui and Lee You as to 91.20% and 8.80%, respectively, both of whom are executive Directors of
  the Company.
- Artfolio Corporation, formerly known as SBF Auction Inc., a company incorporated in Japan with limited liability on 1st November 2000 and is owned as to 84.02% and 15.98% by Softbank Finance Corporation ("Softbank Finance") and Softbank Internet Technology Fund No. 2 ("Softbank Fund"), respectively.

Softbank Finance, a corporation incorporated in Japan on 24th March 1999 and is owned as to 100% by Softbank Corp., a corporation incorporated in Japan and whose shares are listed on the First Session of the Tokyo Stock Exchange Inc.. Softbank Corp. is regarded as the ultimate shareholder of Artfolio.

Softbank Fund, a discretionary investment fund managed by Softbank Investment Corporation, a corporation incorporated in Japan on 8th July 1999 and whose shares are listed on the First Session of the Tokyo Stock Exchange Inc..

3. Softbank Investment International (Strategic) Limited, a company incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability and whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange.

In the event that the Directors exercise the proposed repurchase Mandate in full, then (if the present shareholdings otherwise remained the same), the increase in shareholdings of the substantial shareholders as set out above would not give rise to an obligation to make a mandatory offer under Rule 26 of the Takeovers Code.

#### (viii) Share Repurchases by the Company

The Company had not purchased any of its shares since 26th Feb 2003 (commencement date of dealings in the Company's Shares on GEM) prior to the date of this circular.

#### (ix) General Information

- (a) None of the Directors nor, to the best of their knowledge having made all reasonable enquiries, any of their associates, has any present intention to sell any Shares to the Company or any of its subsidiaries.
- (b) The Directors have undertaken to the Stock Exchange that, so far as the same may be applicable, they will exercise the Repurchase Mandate in accordance with the GEM Listing Rules and the applicable laws of Hong Kong and the Cayman Islands.
- (c) If as a result of a repurchase of Shares a shareholder's proportionate interest in the voting rights of the Company increases, such increase will be treated as an acquisition for the purposes of the Hong Kong Code on Takeovers and Mergers ("Takeover Code") issued by the Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong. As a result, a shareholder, or group of shareholders acting in concert, depending on the level of increase of the shareholders' interest, could obtain or consolidate control of the Company and become obliged to make a mandatory offer in accordance with Rule 26 of the Takeover Code. Save as aforesaid, the Directors are not aware of any consequences under the Takeover Code as a result of the exercise of the Repurchase Mandate.
- (d) No connected person (as defined in the GEM Listing Rules) has notified the Company that he has a present intention to sell Shares to the Company, or has undertaken not to do so, if the Repurchase Mandate is exercised.