

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited take no responsibility for the contents of this announcement, make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaim any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this announcement.



i-CABLE COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

Stock Code: 1097

Interim Results Announcement For the six months ended June 30, 2009

Results Highlights

- Consumer sentiment was badly shaken by the poor state of the economy.
- Advertiser sentiment was similarly shaken to affect the entire media sector.
- As a result, consolidated operating profit decreased by HK\$39 million year-on-year but improved by HK\$122 million half-on-half to return to profitability.
- The first half of 2009 was a more direct reflection of the current state of the business. The second half of 2008 had been marked by non-recurring items and included discontinued businesses.
- For the core business, total revenue decreased by 13% year-on-year and 8% half-on-half. Operating profit decreased by 47% year-on-year but improved by HK\$81 million half-on-half.
- Migration to a more secure encryption system is expected to be completed by October to better protect the Pay TV revenue.
- High definition TV service is being rolled out this month to coincide with the opening of the new European soccer season and the climax of the US PGA Tour season.
- Subscriber and revenue development have gained renewed momentum. Together, they are establishing a firmer and more resilient business base for the upcoming months.
- Non-core businesses reported lower revenue due to discontinued units. Results from the continuing units improved.

GROUP RESULTS

The unaudited Group profit attributable to Shareholders for the six months ended June 30, 2009 amounted to HK\$5 million, as compared to HK\$26 million for the corresponding period in 2008. Basic and diluted earnings per share were both HK\$0.002 for 2009, as compared to both HK\$0.013 last year.

The Board has resolved not to declare any interim dividend for the six months ended June 30, 2009 (2008 interim dividend: Nil).

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

A. Review of 2009 Interim Results

The Group has returned to profitability despite the harsh economic environment.

Consolidated turnover decreased by 19% to HK\$862 million.

Operating costs before depreciation decreased by 16% to HK\$722 million. Programming costs decreased by 8%, network costs decreased by 9%, selling, customer service, general and administrative expenses decreased by 21% and cost of sales decreased by 68%.

Depreciation decreased by 16% to HK\$139 million to follow the steady trend in recent years.

Net profit of HK\$5 million was achieved (2008: HK\$26 million), after reporting a net loss of HK\$137 million in the second half of 2008.

Basic earnings per share were 0.2 cents as compared to 1.3 cents in 2008.

B. Segmental Information

Pay Television

Subscribers increased by 30,000 or 3% in the period to 947,000. Turnover decreased by 15% to HK\$595 million, mainly attributable to dilution from lower yield subscriptions. Operating costs after depreciation decreased by 7% to HK\$594 million. Operating profit of HK\$1 million improved by HK\$56 million half-on-half to return to profitability (2008: HK\$61 million).

Internet & Multimedia

Broadband subscribers decreased by 6,000 or 2% in the period to 260,000 and the Voice conveyance service maintained at 150,000 lines. Turnover decreased by 10% to HK\$266 million. Operating costs after depreciation decreased by 8% to HK\$185 million primarily due to lower depreciation charges. Operating profit of HK\$81 million increased by 46% from HK\$55 million in second-half last year (2008: HK\$93 million).

C. Liquidity and Financial Resources

As of June 30, 2009, the Group had net cash of HK\$621 million, as compared to HK\$545 million a year ago.

The consolidated net asset value of the Group as at June 30, 2009 was HK\$2,058 million, or HK\$1 per share.

The Group's assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses were mainly denominated in Hong Kong dollars or U.S. dollars and the exchange rate between these two currencies has remained pegged.

Capital expenditure during the period amounted to HK\$125 million, 84% higher than the same period last year. Major items included new set-top-boxes for the new generation transmission encryption system as well as television production facilities for High Definition channels.

The Group's ongoing capital expenditure and new business development will be funded by cash to be generated from operations and, if needed, bank borrowings or other external sources of funds. The Group also had total short-term bank credit facilities of approximately HK\$32 million which remained unutilised as of June 30, 2009.

D. Contingent Liabilities

At June 30, 2009, there were contingent liabilities in respect of guarantees, indemnities and letters of awareness given by the Company on behalf of subsidiaries relating to overdraft and guarantee facilities of banks up to HK\$78 million, of which only HK\$46 million have been utilised by the subsidiaries.

E. Human Resources

The Group had a total of 2,851 employees at the end of June 2009 (2008: 2,991). Total gross amount of salaries and related costs incurred in the corresponding period amounted to HK\$354 million (2008: HK\$379 million).

With pay for performance culture, we nurture professionals and talents to strive for excellence.

The Group actively participates in community affairs. We were awarded the “Caring Company Scheme 5 Years Plus Logo” by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service in recognition of our continuous commitment in corporate social responsibility.

F. Competition and Operating Environment

The operating environment remained austere with competition coming from both without and within the Pay TV market. Free digital terrestrial television continued to expand coverage albeit at a slower pace, competing indirectly with Pay TV, but there is yet to be any significant impact on our business.

The Group will continue to invest in unique programming to achieve positive subscriber growth in the Pay TV sector. Broadband competition has not eased, with mobile operators having joined the crowded marketplace as well.

G. Outlook

There are signs that the Group’s main businesses began to recover in the first half. However, these are still early signs and whether these will turn into a sustainable trend will much depend on the macro economy and the competitive landscape.

The Group, in any case, has been prepared for an unfavourable external environment. We have built a new defence system against piracy; given a new look to our entertainment platform; and will launch our own High Definition service showcasing prized premium content this month.

These initiatives have given us confidence in bracing for inclement climate if the economy continues to turn worse; or fresh impetus to grow our business when the economy recovers.

CODE ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

During the financial period under review, all the code provisions set out in the Code on Corporate Governance Practices contained in Appendix 14 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities (the “Listing Rules”) on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”) were met by the Company, except in respect of one code provision providing for the roles of chairman and chief executive officer to be performed by different individuals. The deviation is deemed necessary as, given the nature and size of the Company’s business, it is at this stage considered to be more efficient to have one single person to hold both positions. The Board of Directors believes that the balance of power and authority is adequately ensured by the operations of the Board which comprises experienced and high calibre individuals, a substantial proportion thereof being independent Non-executive Directors.

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT
For the six months ended June 30, 2009

	Note	2009 HK\$'000	2008 HK\$'000
Turnover	(2,3)	861,655	1,069,143
Programming costs		(379,287)	(412,584)
Network expenses		(120,513)	(132,727)
Selling, general and administrative and other operating expenses		(201,743)	(254,844)
Cost of sales		(20,614)	(64,149)
Profit from operations before depreciation		139,498	204,839
Depreciation		(138,730)	(164,788)
Profit from operations	(3)	768	40,051
Interest income		152	3,837
Finance costs		(1)	(2)
Impairment loss on investment		(1,006)	(623)
Non-operating (expenses)/income	(4)	(1,164)	1,010
Share of profit of associate		805	-
(Loss)/profit before taxation	(4)	(446)	44,273
Income tax	(5)	5,528	(18,135)
Profit after taxation		5,082	26,138
Attributable to:			
Equity shareholders of the Company		4,910	25,998
Minority interests		172	140
Profit after taxation		5,082	26,138
Dividends payable to equity shareholders attributable to the period			
Final dividend of 5 cents per share in respect of the previous financial year, approved and paid during the period		-	100,617
Earnings per share			
Basic	(6)	0.2 cents	1.3 cents
Diluted	(6)	0.2 cents	1.3 cents

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
For the six months ended June 30, 2009

	2009 HK\$'000	2008 HK\$'000
Profit for the period	<u>5,082</u>	<u>26,138</u>
Other comprehensive income for the period		
Translation of foreign subsidiaries' financial statements	106	2,940
Change in fair value of available-for-sale securities	<u>(207)</u>	<u>1,571</u>
	<u>(101)</u>	<u>4,511</u>
Total comprehensive income for the period	<u>4,981</u>	<u>30,649</u>
Attributable to:		
Equity shareholders of the Company	4,793	30,264
Minority interests	<u>188</u>	<u>385</u>
Total comprehensive income for the period	<u>4,981</u>	<u>30,649</u>

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

At June 30, 2009

	Note	At June 30, 2009 (unaudited) HK\$'000	At December 31, 2008 (audited) HK\$'000
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment		1,141,331	1,157,171
Programming library		139,126	132,789
Other intangible assets		4,006	4,006
Interest in associate		39,008	39,111
Deferred tax assets	(7)	333,374	330,029
Other non-current assets		60,418	171,810
		<u>1,717,263</u>	<u>1,834,916</u>
Current assets			
Inventories		4,741	5,693
Accounts receivable from trade debtors	(8)	52,012	74,329
Deposits, prepayments and other receivables		273,991	164,678
Amounts due from fellow subsidiaries		1,997	1,831
Cash and cash equivalents		621,353	689,636
		<u>954,094</u>	<u>936,167</u>
Current liabilities			
Amounts due to trade creditors	(9)	65,995	72,117
Accrued expenses and other payables		228,011	294,865
Receipts in advance and customers' deposits		125,129	139,005
Current taxation		1,795	5,207
Amounts due to fellow subsidiaries		77,476	99,109
Amount due to immediate holding company		5,648	4,897
		<u>504,054</u>	<u>615,200</u>
Net current assets		<u>450,040</u>	<u>320,967</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>2,167,303</u>	<u>2,155,883</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred tax liabilities	(7)	79,399	81,815
Other non-current liabilities		29,795	19,552
		<u>109,194</u>	<u>101,367</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>2,058,109</u>	<u>2,054,516</u>
Capital and reserves			
Share capital		2,011,512	2,012,340
Reserves		41,735	37,502
Total equity attributable to equity shareholders of the Company		2,053,247	2,049,842
Minority interests		4,862	4,674
TOTAL EQUITY		<u>2,058,109</u>	<u>2,054,516</u>

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
For the six months ended June 30, 2009

	Attributable to equity shareholders of the Company											
	Share capital HK\$'000	Share premium HK\$'000	Special capital reserve HK\$'000	Exchange reserve HK\$'000	Capital redemption reserve HK\$'000	Fair value reserve HK\$'000	Revenue reserve HK\$'000	Other reserve HK\$'000	Total reserves HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000	Minority interests HK\$'000	Total equity HK\$'000
Balance at January 1, 2008*	2,016,792	4,838,365	13,867	1,142	2,442	2,883	(4,606,121)	(2,603)	249,975	2,266,767	4,474	2,271,241
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	2,695	-	1,571	25,998	-	30,264	30,264	385	30,649
Dividend approved in respect of the previous	-	-	-	-	-	-	(100,617)	-	(100,617)	(100,617)	-	(100,617)
Share repurchased and cancelled	(4,452)	-	-	-	4,452	-	(6,692)	2,594	354	(4,098)	-	(4,098)
Share repurchase expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	(22)	9	(13)	(13)	-	(13)
Transfer to special capital reserve	-	-	12	-	-	-	(12)	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at June 30, 2008*	2,012,340	4,838,365	13,879	3,837	6,894	4,454	(4,687,466)	-	179,963	2,192,303	4,859	2,197,162

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
For the six months ended June 30, 2009

	Attributable to equity shareholders of the Company										Minority interests HK\$'000	Total equity HK\$'000
	Share capital HK\$'000	Share premium HK\$'000	Special capital reserve HK\$'000	Exchange reserve HK\$'000	Capital redemption reserve HK\$'000	Fair value reserve HK\$'000	Revenue reserve HK\$'000	Other reserve HK\$'000	Total reserves HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000		
Balance at January 1, 2009*	2,012,340	4,838,365	13,881	4,095	6,894	-	(4,823,737)	(1,996)	37,502	2,049,842	4,674	2,054,516
Total comprehensive income for the period	-	-	-	90	-	(207)	4,910	-	4,793	4,793	188	4,981
Share of post-acquisition reserve of associate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(908)	(908)	(908)	-	(908)
Share repurchased and cancelled	(828)	-	-	-	828	-	(474)	-	354	(474)	-	(474)
Share repurchase expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	(6)	-	(6)	(6)	-	(6)
Transfer to special capital reserve	-	-	17	-	-	-	(17)	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at June 30, 2009*	<u>2,011,512</u>	<u>4,838,365</u>	<u>13,898</u>	<u>4,185</u>	<u>7,722</u>	<u>(207)</u>	<u>(4,819,324)</u>	<u>(2,904)</u>	<u>41,735</u>	<u>2,053,247</u>	<u>4,862</u>	<u>2,058,109</u>

* Included in the Group's revenue reserve is positive goodwill written off against reserves in prior years amounting to HK\$197,785,000.

** The special capital reserve is non-distributable and it should be applied for the same purposes as the share premium account.

NOTES TO THE INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

(1) Basis of preparation and comparative figures

The unaudited interim financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Main Board Listing Rules of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, including compliance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard 34 “Interim financial reporting” issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”).

The HKICPA has issued certain new and revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) that are first effective or available for early adoption for the current accounting periods of the Group. We believe the adoption of these new and revised HKFRSs will not have a material impact on the Group’s financial position or results of operations.

The interim financial report has been prepared in accordance with the same accounting policies adopted in the 2008 annual financial statements, except for the accounting policy changes that are expected to be reflected in the 2009 annual financial statements.

(2) Turnover

Turnover comprises principally subscription and related fees for Pay TV and Internet services, Internet Protocol Point wholesale services and also includes advertising income net of agency deductions, channel service and distribution fees, programme licensing income, film exhibition and distribution income, network maintenance income, and other related income.

(3) Segment information

Substantially all the activities of the Group are based in Hong Kong and below is an analysis of the Group's revenue and result by principal activity for the six months ended June 30:

	Pay TV		Internet and multimedia		Unallocated		Total	
	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Revenue from external customers	583,528	692,255	260,293	291,202	17,834	85,686	861,655	1,069,143
Inter-segment revenue	11,429	6,267	5,229	3,425	1,223	3,133	17,881	12,825
Reportable segment revenue	594,957	698,522	265,522	294,627	19,057	88,819	879,536	1,081,968
Reportable segment result	801	61,005	80,719	92,773	(80,321)	(111,457)	1,199	42,321
Inter-segment elimination							(431)	(2,270)
Profit from operations							768	40,051
Interest income							152	3,837
Finance costs							(1)	(2)
Impairment loss on investment							(1,006)	(623)
Non-operating (expenses)/income							(1,164)	1,010
Share of profit of associate							805	-
Income tax							5,528	(18,135)
Profit after taxation							5,082	26,138

(4) (Loss)/profit before taxation

(Loss)/profit before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting):

	Six months ended June 30,	
	2009	2008
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Depreciation		
- assets held for use under operating leases	9,169	11,355
- other assets	129,561	153,433
	138,730	164,788
Amortisation of programming library*	47,326	62,222
Amortisation of other intangible assets	-	2,192
Staff costs	339,246	359,067
Contributions to defined contribution retirement plans	15,653	15,578
Cost of inventories	5,937	13,014
Auditors' remuneration	458	2,123
<i>Non-operating expenses/(income)</i>		
Net loss/(gain) on disposal of property, plant and equipment	1,164	(1,010)

* Amortisation of programming library is included within programming costs in the consolidated results of the Group.

(5) Income tax

The provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax is calculated at 16.5% (2008: 16.5%) of the estimated assessable profits for the period. Taxation for the overseas subsidiaries is charged at the appropriate current rate of taxation ruling in the relevant countries. The income tax charge for the six months ended June 30 represents:

	2009 HK\$'000	2008 HK\$'000
Current tax provision – overseas	233	581
Net deferred tax (income)/expenses	(5,761)	17,554
	<u>(5,528)</u>	<u>18,135</u>

(6) Earnings per share

The calculation of basic earnings per share is based on the profit attributable to equity shareholders of the Company of HK\$5 million (2008: HK\$26 million) and the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period of 2,011,856,289 (2008: 2,012,885,941).

(i) Weighted average number of ordinary shares

	At June 30, 2009	At June 30, 2008
Issued ordinary shares at January 1	2,012,340,400	2,016,792,400
Effect of shares repurchased	<u>(484,111)</u>	<u>(3,906,459)</u>
Weighted average number of ordinary shares at end of period	<u>2,011,856,289</u>	<u>2,012,885,941</u>

The calculation of diluted earnings per share is based on the weighted average number of ordinary shares of 2,011,856,289 (2008: 2,012,885,941) after adjusting for the effects of all dilutive potential ordinary shares.

(7) Deferred tax in the balance sheet

The components of deferred tax (assets)/liabilities recognised in the consolidated balance sheet and the movements during the period are as follows:

Deferred tax arising from:	Depreciation allowances in excess of related depreciation HK\$'000	Tax losses HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
At January 1, 2009	108,653	(356,867)	(248,214)
Charged/(credited) to consolidated profit and loss account (Note 5)	(7,467)	1,706	(5,761)
At June 30, 2009	101,186	(355,161)	(253,975)
	At June 30, 2009 HK\$'000	At December 31, 2008 HK\$'000	
Net deferred tax assets recognised on the balance sheet	(333,374)	(330,029)	
Net deferred tax liabilities recognised on the balance sheet	79,399	81,815	
	(253,975)	(248,214)	

(8) Accounts receivable from trade debtors

An ageing analysis of accounts receivable from trade debtors (net of allowance for doubtful debts) is set out as follows:

	At June 30, 2009 HK\$'000	At December 31, 2008 HK\$'000
0 to 30 days	33,268	27,860
31 to 60 days	3,820	16,651
61 to 90 days	8,203	12,843
Over 90 days	6,721	16,975
	<u>52,012</u>	<u>74,329</u>

The Group has a defined credit policy. The general credit terms allowed range from 0 to 90 days.

(9) Amounts due to trade creditors

An ageing analysis of amounts due to trade creditors is set out as follows:

	At June 30, 2009 HK\$'000	At December 31, 2008 HK\$'000
0 to 30 days	12,632	22,757
31 to 60 days	12,033	38,307
61 to 90 days	20,941	6,658
Over 90 days	20,389	4,395
	<u>65,995</u>	<u>72,117</u>

(10) Review of results

The unaudited interim financial report for the six months ended June 30, 2009 has been reviewed with no disagreement by the Audit Committee of the Company.

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF SHARES

Set out below are particulars of certain repurchases (all occurred in March 2009) by the Company of its own ordinary shares made on the Stock Exchange during the financial period:-

Total number of shares repurchased	Highest price paid per share (HK\$)	Lowest price paid per share (HK\$)	Total Price Paid (HK\$)
828,000	0.58	0.56	474,400

The above repurchases were made for the purpose of achieving an increase in the consolidated net asset value and/or earnings per share of the Company.

Save as disclosed above, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased, sold or redeemed any listed securities of the Company during the financial period under review.

By Order of the Board
Wilson W. S. Chan
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, August 11, 2009

As at the date of this announcement, the Board of Directors of the Company comprises Mr. Stephen T. H. Ng, Mr. William J. H. Kwan and Mr. Paul Y. C. Tsui, together with three independent non-executive Directors, namely, Mr. T. K. Ho, Mr. Patrick Y. W. Wu and Mr. Anthony K. K. Yeung.