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MONGOLIA ENERGY CORPORATION LIMITED

(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 276)

INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

The board of directors (the “**Board**”) of Mongolia Energy Corporation Limited (the “**Company**”) announces the condensed consolidated results of the Company and its subsidiaries (the “**Group**”) for the six months ended 30 September 2020 (the “**Financial Period**”) together with the comparative figures for the corresponding period in the previous year as follows:

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

		Six months ended 30 September 2020 HK\$'000 (unaudited)	2019 HK\$'000 (unaudited)
	Notes		
Revenue	3	268,869	800,146
Cost of sales		(169,373)	(434,834)
Gross profit		99,496	365,312
Other income	4	38,177	4,966
Other gains and losses	5	(8,797)	(2,834)
Administrative expenses		(73,121)	(74,532)
Changes in fair value on derivative component of convertible notes	13	(714,667)	81
Impairment loss on property, plant and equipment		(82,485)	(277,470)
Impairment loss on intangible assets		(9,142)	(29,432)
Impairment loss on right-of-use assets		(40)	(346)
Reversal of impairment loss on financial assets		56	11
Finance costs	6	(252,567)	(409,993)
Loss before taxation	8	(1,003,090)	(424,237)
Income tax expense	7	(4,603)	(62,829)
Loss for the period attributable to owners of the Company		(1,007,693)	(487,066)
Loss per share attributable to owners of the Company	9		(Restated)
– basic and diluted loss per share (HK\$)		(5.36)	(2.59)

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

	Six months ended	
	30 September	
	2020	2019
	<i>HK\$'000</i>	<i>HK\$'000</i>
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Loss for the period	(1,007,693)	(487,066)
Other comprehensive income (expense)		
Item that may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
– Exchange differences on translating foreign operations	<u>774</u>	<u>(16,681)</u>
Total comprehensive expense for the period		
attributable to owners of the Company	<u>(1,006,919)</u>	<u>(503,747)</u>

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 30 September 2020

		30 September 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> (unaudited)	31 March 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i> (audited)
	<i>Notes</i>		
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10	1,275,067	1,373,022
Right-of-use assets		6,976	9,839
Intangible assets	10	141,247	153,709
Exploration and evaluation assets		533	498
Interests in associates		–	–
Other asset		1,150	1,150
Deferred tax asset		6,018	3,499
		<u>1,430,991</u>	<u>1,541,717</u>
Current assets			
Inventories		231,274	241,365
Trade and bills receivables	11	205,436	120,365
Other receivables, prepayments and deposits		146,397	122,733
Prepaid taxation		–	4,396
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL")		42,293	51,597
Amount due from an associate		–	–
Cash and cash equivalents		51,744	61,782
		<u>677,144</u>	<u>602,238</u>
Current liabilities			
Trade payables	12	159,238	174,607
Other payables and accruals		147,511	138,307
Contract liabilities		16,618	5,027
Tax liabilities		3,848	–
Advances from a Director		1,778,614	1,709,372
Lease liabilities		3,938	6,110
Deferred income		1,532	1,469
		<u>2,111,299</u>	<u>2,034,892</u>
Net current liabilities		<u>(1,434,155)</u>	<u>(1,432,654)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>(3,164)</u>	<u>109,063</u>

		30 September 2020	31 March 2020
	<i>Notes</i>	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
		(unaudited)	(audited)
Non-current liabilities			
Convertible notes	13(a)	3,038,303	2,168,168
Loan note	13(b)	286,288	258,725
Deferred income		5,529	6,036
Deferred tax liabilities		26,346	27,981
Lease liabilities		1,251	2,115
		<u>3,357,717</u>	<u>2,463,025</u>
Net liabilities		<u>(3,360,881)</u>	<u>(2,353,962)</u>
Financed by:			
Capital and reserves			
Share capital		3,763	3,763
Reserves		<u>(3,364,644)</u>	<u>(2,357,725)</u>
Capital deficiencies attributable to owners of the Company		<u>(3,360,881)</u>	<u>(2,353,962)</u>

NOTES TO THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

While recognising the Group had net liabilities of approximately HK\$3,360.9 million and net current liabilities of approximately HK\$1,434.2 million, the directors of the Company (the “**Directors**”) have given careful consideration to the future liquidity of the Group. The Directors have reviewed the Group’s cash flow projections prepared by management. The cash flow projections cover a period of not less than 12 months from 30 September 2020 and include the below assumptions: (1) Mr. Lo Lin Shing, Simon (“**Mr. Lo**”), a substantial shareholder who has significant influence over the Group and being the Chairman and Director of the Company, has provided facilities amounting to HK\$1,900.0 million by way of advances to the Group. As at 30 September 2020, advances from a Director of HK\$1,778.6 million comprised principal amount and accrued interest of HK\$963.1 million and HK\$815.5 million respectively. The balance of the unutilised facilities of HK\$936.9 million remains valid until 31 March 2022 and Mr. Lo does not intend to demand repayment of the loan until the Company has sufficient cash to make repayment. The Directors are of the opinion that the Group will be able to meet its financial obligations as and when they fall due and accordingly the condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

1A. SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE CURRENT INTERIM PERIOD

The outbreak of COVID-19 and the subsequent quarantine measures as well as the travel restrictions imposed by many countries have had negative impacts on the global economy, business environment and directly and indirectly affect the operations of the Group. The Group had a temporary suspension of coal export from Mongolia to the People’s Republic of China (“**the PRC**”) since February 2020 due to the border restrictions in an effort to prevent the spread of the epidemic. The Group has resumed operation at normal capacity since August 2020. As such, the financial positions and performance of the Group were affected in different aspects, including reduction in revenue, production and profit from mining operation.

2. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for certain financial instruments, which are measured at fair values.

Other than additional accounting policies resulting from application of amendments to Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”), the accounting policies and methods of computation used in the condensed consolidated financial statements for the six months ended 30 September 2020 are the same as those applied in the preparation of the Group’s annual financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Application of amendments to HKFRSs

In the current interim period, the Group has applied the amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in HKFRS Standards and the following amendments to HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA, for the first time, which are mandatorily effective for the annual period beginning on or after 1 April 2020 for the preparation of the Group’s condensed consolidated financial statements:

Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8	Definition of Material
Amendments to HKFRS 3	Definition of a Business
Amendments to HKFRS 9, HKAS 39 and HKFRS 7	Interest Rate Benchmark Reform

Except as described below, the application of the Amendments to References to the Conceptual Framework in HKFRS Standards and the amendments to HKFRSs in the current period has had no material impact on the Group’s financial position and performance for the current and prior periods and/or on the disclosures set out in these condensed consolidated financial statements.

Impacts and application of Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8 “Definition of Material”

The amendments provide a new definition of material that states “information is material if omitting, misstating or obscuring it could reasonably be expected to influence decisions that the primary users of general purpose financial statements make on the basis of those financial statements, which provide financial information about a specific reporting entity.” The amendments also clarify that materiality depends on the nature or magnitude of information, either individually or in combination with other information, in the context of the financial statements taken as a whole.

The application of the amendments in the current period had no impact on the condensed consolidated financial statements. Changes in presentation and disclosures on the application of the amendments, if any, will be reflected on the consolidated financial statements, for the year ending 31 March 2021.

3. REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Group is principally engaged in mining, processing and sale of coal. Revenue represents income arising from the sale of coal to external customers located in PRC and Mongolia, and is recognised at a point in time when coals are delivered and accepted by the customers.

The Group's operating activities are focusing on the coal mining business. Information reported to the chief operating decision maker (i.e. the Executive Directors) for the purpose of resource allocation and performance assessment focuses on types of goods delivered. This is also the basis of organisation whereby the management has chosen to organise the Group.

Segment revenue and result

The following is an analysis of the Group's revenue and result by operating segment:

For the six months ended 30 September 2020

	Coal mining HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Segment revenue	<u>268,869</u>	<u>268,869</u>
Segment loss	<u>(7,008)</u>	(7,008)
Unallocated expenses (<i>Note</i>)		(21,428)
Other income		1,824
Other gains and losses		(9,314)
Changes in fair value on derivative component of convertible notes		(714,667)
Finance costs		<u>(252,497)</u>
Loss before taxation		<u>(1,003,090)</u>

For the six months ended 30 September 2019

	Coal Mining <i>HK\$'000</i>	Total <i>HK\$'000</i>
Segment revenue	<u>800,146</u>	<u>800,146</u>
Segment profit	<u>14,246</u>	14,246
Unallocated expenses (<i>Note</i>)		(25,941)
Other gains and losses		(2,679)
Changes in fair value on derivative component of convertible notes		81
Finance costs		<u>(409,944)</u>
Loss before taxation		<u>(424,237)</u>

Note:

Unallocated expenses mainly included staff costs for corporate office, office rental and legal and professional fees (2019: staff costs for corporate office, office rental and legal and professional fees).

The following is an analysis of the Group's assets by operating segment:

	30 September 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i>	31 March 2020 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Coal mining	<u>2,026,739</u>	<u>2,064,076</u>

4. OTHER INCOME

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Government grant (<i>Note (a)</i>)	3,965	2,426
Interest income	157	235
Sundry income (<i>Note (b)</i>)	34,055	2,305
	<u>38,177</u>	<u>4,966</u>

Notes:

- (a) During the period ended 30 September 2020, the grant received represents COVID-19-related grants provided by governments in Hong Kong and Mongolia to retain employees who may otherwise be made redundant and to support businesses affected by COVID-19 respectively. The grants are unconditional and granted on a discretionary basis to the Group during the period.

During the period ended 30 September 2019, a grant of HK\$2,426,000 (equivalent to approximately RMB2,162,000) were received for the foreign trade development, construction of warehouse and stabilizing employment.

- (b) During the period ended 30 September 2020, a subsidiary of the Group entered into a settlement agreement with an ex-exploration contractor in respect of the prepayment to be refunded in RMB30,000,000. The ex-exploration contractor has settled HK\$25,300,000 (equivalent to RMB22,500,000) in cash during the current period.

5. OTHER GAINS AND LOSSES

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Changes in fair value on financial assets at FVTPL	(9,304)	(2,538)
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(7)	—
Loss on written off of property, plant and equipment	—	(4)
Net exchange gain (loss)	514	(292)
	<u>(8,797)</u>	<u>(2,834)</u>

6. FINANCE COSTS

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Interest on advances from a Director	69,320	70,721
Interest on lease liabilities	216	291
Effective interest expense on convertible notes (<i>Note 13(a)</i>)	155,468	338,981
Effective interest expense on loan note (<i>Note 13(b)</i>)	27,563	—
	<u>252,567</u>	<u>409,993</u>

7. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Current tax:		
Mongolian corporate income tax	7,975	7,193
PRC Enterprise Income Tax (“EIT”)	—	3,967
Under provision in prior periods:		
PRC EIT	80	49
Deferred taxation	(3,452)	51,620
	<u>4,603</u>	<u>62,829</u>

No provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax has been made in the financial statements as the Group has no assessable profit for both periods.

Under the Law of the PRC on Enterprise Income Tax (the “EIT Law”) and Implementation Regulation of the EIT Law, the tax rate of the PRC subsidiaries is 25% on the estimated assessable profits (if any) for both periods. One of the Group’s subsidiaries, 新疆蒙科能源科技有限公司, is entitled to enjoy a preferential income tax rate of 15%, and will continue to benefit from this preferential income tax policy until 31 December 2020 under the “Tax incentives of Western Development Policy”.

Mongolian corporate income tax was calculated at 10% to the first Mongolian Tugrik (“MNT”) 6 billion (2019: 3 billion) of annual taxable income and 25% on the remaining annual taxable income for both periods.

The Company is not subject to any taxation in Bermuda. Bermuda levies no tax on the income of the Group.

8. LOSS BEFORE TAXATION

Loss before taxation has been arrived at after charging (crediting):

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Employee benefit expenses, including Directors' emoluments (net of reimbursement from a related party)	48,305	55,801
Less: employee benefit expenses capitalised in inventories	(9,930)	(19,916)
	<u>38,375</u>	<u>35,885</u>
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	15,462	15,320
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	3,432	2,419
Amortisation of intangible assets	<u>3,681</u>	<u>2,012</u>

9. LOSS PER SHARE

The calculation of basic and diluted loss per share is based on the following data:

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Loss attributable to owners of the Company, as used in the calculation of basic and diluted loss per share	<u>(1,007,693)</u>	<u>(487,066)</u>

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	'000	'000
		(Restated)
Number of shares		
Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purpose of basic and diluted loss per share (<i>Note (a)</i>)	<u>188,126</u>	<u>188,126</u>

Notes:

- The number of shares for the purpose of calculating the basic and diluted loss per share for the six months ended 30 September 2020 and 2019 have been adjusted to reflect the Capital Reorganisation as defined and set out in the interim report.
- The computation of diluted loss per share for both periods did not assume the exercise of share options or the conversion of the Company's outstanding convertible notes since assuming the exercise of the share options or the conversion of the convertible notes would result in a decrease in loss per share.

10. MOVEMENTS IN PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Property, Plant and Equipment

During the six months ended 30 September 2020, the Group spent approximately HK\$63,000 (2019: HK\$9,082,000), HK\$44,000 (2019: HK\$21,575,000), HK\$30,000 (2019: Nil), HK\$117,000 (2019: HK\$531,000), HK\$15,000 (2019: HK\$80,000), HK\$1,606,000 (2019: HK\$1,595,000) and HK\$201,000 (2019: HK\$10,766,000) on mining structures, construction in progress, leasehold improvements, computer equipment, furniture, fixtures and office equipment, plant, machinery and other equipment and motor vehicles respectively.

Intangible Assets

The intangible assets consist of software and exclusive right of use of a paved road.

There were no significant capital expenditures spent on intangible assets for either periods.

Recoverable Amount Assessment on Khushuut Related Assets

At the end of the reporting period, the Group engaged a qualified professional valuer (the “**Independent Valuer**”), who is not connected with the Group, to determine the recoverable amount of its property, plant and equipment, intangible assets and right-of-use assets related to the Khushuut mine operations (collectively referred to as “**Khushuut Related Assets**”). For the purposes of recoverable amount assessment to assess whether there have been reversal or further impairment, the Khushuut Related Assets are treated as a cash generating unit, which represents the Group’s coking coal mining operation in Western Mongolia. The recoverable amount of the Khushuut Related Assets has been determined based on a value-in-use calculation, using discounted cash flow analysis. Key assumptions used in the calculation include the current selling price for coking coal, growth rate, discount rate and estimated timeline for commercial coal products.

The Directors instructed the Independent Valuer to use the information and assumptions provided by the management, including the predicted average coking coal price for the forthcoming four-year period, cost structure and production capacity of the Khushuut Related Assets. According to the recoverable amount assessment, impairment loss amounting to HK\$91,667,000 (2019: 307,248,000) was recognised in the condensed consolidated statement of profit or loss in the current period against the respective assets on a pro-rata basis with reference to their carrying values.

11. TRADE AND BILLS RECEIVABLES

	30 September 2020 HK\$'000	31 March 2020 HK\$'000
Trade receivables	127,255	13,329
Bills receivables	75,792	97,135
Accrued income (<i>Note</i>)	<u>3,014</u>	<u>10,563</u>
	206,061	121,027
Less: allowance for credit losses	<u>(625)</u>	<u>(662)</u>
	<u><u>205,436</u></u>	<u><u>120,365</u></u>

Note:

Income was accrued on the basis that coals are delivered and accepted by the customer. Invoice will be issued within 3 months.

The Group allows a credit period of 30-60 days to its customers upon issue of invoices, except for new customers, where payment in advance is normally required.

The following is an aged analysis of trade receivables, bill receivables and accrued income net of allowance for credit losses:

	30 September 2020 HK\$'000	31 March 2020 HK\$'000
0 to 30 days	155,370	35,916
31 to 60 days	23,405	318
61 to 90 days	17,733	39,181
Over 90 days	<u>8,928</u>	<u>44,950</u>
	<u><u>205,436</u></u>	<u><u>120,365</u></u>

12. TRADE PAYABLES

The aged analysis of trade payables presented based on invoice date at the end of reporting period is as follows:

	30 September 2020 HK\$'000	31 March 2020 HK\$'000
0 to 30 days	41,324	43,437
31 to 60 days	42,186	29,968
61 to 90 days	2,196	21,414
Over 90 days	73,532	79,788
	<u>159,238</u>	<u>174,607</u>

13. CONVERTIBLE NOTES AND LOAN NOTE

(a) Convertible notes

The movement of the debt and derivative components of convertible notes for the period/year is set out below:

	Debt components		Derivative components		Total	
	30 September 2020 HK\$'000	31 March 2020 HK\$'000	30 September 2020 HK\$'000	31 March 2020 HK\$'000	30 September 2020 HK\$'000	31 March 2020 HK\$'000
At beginning of the period/year	1,493,058	3,546,316	675,110	81	2,168,168	3,546,397
Issuance of convertible notes	–	1,473,848	–	1,052,796	–	2,526,644
Modification gain on the GI and CTF Convertible Notes	–	(249,444)	–	–	–	(249,444)
Interest charge	155,468	644,190	–	–	155,468	644,190
Transaction costs on issuance of convertible notes	–	(859)	–	–	–	(859)
Changes in fair value on derivative component	–	–	714,667	(377,767)	714,667	(377,767)
Derecognition of the 3% ZV Convertible Note	–	(574,860)	–	–	–	(574,860)
Derecognition of the 3% CTF and 3% GI Convertible Notes	–	(3,346,133)	–	–	–	(3,346,133)
At end of the period/year	<u>1,648,526</u>	<u>1,493,058</u>	<u>1,389,777</u>	<u>675,110</u>	<u>3,038,303</u>	<u>2,168,168</u>

2020 Convertible Notes with maturity date 6 March 2025

In prior years, the Company issued HK\$2,424,822,000 3% convertible note to Chow Tai Fook Nominee Limited (“CTF”) (the “**3% CTF Convertible Note**”), HK\$542,315,000 3% convertible note to Golden Infinity Co., Ltd. (“**Golden Infinity**”) (the “**3% GI Convertible Note**”) and HK\$499,878,000 3% convertible note to another independent third party (the “**3% ZV Convertible Note**”). These convertible notes were matured on 21 November 2019.

CTF and Golden Infinity Convertible Notes

On 21 November 2019, the Company entered into standstill agreements with CTF and Golden Infinity respectively to extend the time of repayment of all amounts outstanding under the 3% CTF Convertible Note and 3% GI Convertible Note from 21 November 2019 to 21 May 2020. The conversion options expired on 21 November 2019. A modification gain of HK\$249,444,000 was recognised in profit or loss in relation to this non-substantial convertible notes modification during the year ended 31 March 2020.

On 28 November 2019, the Company entered into subscription agreements with CTF and Golden Infinity, which conditionally agreed to subscribe for the new 5-year 3% convertible notes subject to the fulfilment of certain conditions. The new convertible notes would have an aggregate principal amount equal to the outstanding principal amount plus accrued interest under the 3% GI Convertible Note and the 3% CTF Convertible Note as at the issue date of the new convertible notes.

Details of the subscriptions are set out in the announcement issued by the Company on 28 November 2019.

On 6 March 2020, the Company issued convertible notes with a principal of HK\$2,809,671,052 and HK\$628,387,371 to CTF and Golden Infinity respectively (the “**2020 Convertible Notes**”). The commitment by the Group to issue, and by the 2020 Convertible Notes holders to subscribe for, the 2020 Convertible Notes was accounted for as a derivative from 28 November 2019 to 6 March 2020 with a cumulative fair value gain of HK\$797,546,000 recognised in profit or loss during the year ended 31 March 2020.

The standstill agreements with CTF and Golden Infinity expired on 6 March 2020. The 3% GI Convertible Note, the 3% CTF Convertible Note as well as the aforementioned derivative to issue the 2020 Convertible Notes were derecognised on the same date, resulting in a derecognition gain of HK\$21,943,000 recognised in profit or loss. No cash flows resulted from this transaction other than the payment of transaction costs amounting to HK\$859,000 during the year ended 31 March 2020.

The 2020 Convertible Notes with principal amount of HK\$3,438,058,423 have a maturity period of five years from issue date to 6 March 2025. They can be converted into 1 ordinary share of the Company of HK\$0.02 each for every HK\$1.2 at the holders’ option at any time since the issue date up to the date immediately prior to their maturity date. The outstanding principal amount would be redeemed at par value on the maturity date or at the issuer’s option to redeem at par plus outstanding coupon payment at any time between the issue date and the maturity date. Interest of 3% per annum will be paid in arrears on the maturity date.

The 2020 Convertible Notes contain two components, a debt component and a derivative component with a conversion option derivative of the holders and a prepayment option derivative of the issuer. The effective interest rate of the debt component is 21.82%. The conversion option derivative held by the holders is measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss as the conversion options does not meet the fixed-for-fixed criteria. Furthermore, the Company may at any time before the maturity date by written notices to the holders, redeem the principal amount of 2020 Convertible Notes (in whole or in part) with accrued interest. The fair value of the prepayment option held by the Group was immaterial as at 6 March 2020, 31 March 2020 and 30 September 2020.

Binomial Valuation Model is used for the valuation of the conversion option derivative component. The major inputs into the model were as follows:

	30 September 2020	31 March 2020
Stock price	HK\$0.89	HK\$0.44
Exercise price	HK\$1.2	HK\$1.2
Volatility (<i>Note (i)</i>)	79.15%	74.19%
Dividend yield	0%	0%
Option life (<i>Note (ii)</i>)	4.43 years	4.93 years
Risk free rate	0.17%	0.57%

Notes:

- (i) The volatility used in the model was determined by reference to the historical volatility of the Company's share price.
- (ii) The option life was based on the maturity date of the notes.

The fair value of the derivative component of 2020 Convertible Notes was determined with reference to a valuation report carried out by an Independent Valuer.

No conversion was made during both periods.

3% ZV Convertible Note

Details of 3% ZV Convertible Note are set out in Note 13(b).

2014 Convertible Notes with maturity date 21 November 2019

In prior years, the Company issued HK\$200 million 5% convertible note to Golden Infinity (the “**5% GI Convertible Note**”), HK\$200 million 5% convertible note to CTF (the “**5% CTF Convertible Note**”), HK\$2 billion 3% convertible note to CTF (the “**3% CTF Convertible Note**”) and HK\$466.8 million 3.5% convertible notes to other parties (the “**3.5% OZ Convertible Note**”).

On 19 September 2014, the Company entered into the subscription agreements with CTF, Golden Infinity and the holders of the 3.5% OZ Convertible Note, who conditionally agreed to subscribe for new 5-year 3% convertible notes at the subscription price which would be used for full settlement of the outstanding principal amount and accrued interest of the 5% GI Convertible Note, the 3% CTF Convertible Note, the 3.5% OZ Convertible Note and the 5% CTF Convertible Note.

On 21 November 2014, the Company issued convertible notes at HK\$2,424,822,000, HK\$542,315,000 and HK\$499,878,000 to CTF, Golden Infinity and the holders of the 3.5% OZ Convertible Note respectively (the “**2014 Convertible Notes**”). The 5% GI Convertible Note, 5% CTF Convertible Note, 3% CTF Convertible Note and 3.5% OZ Convertible Note were derecognised on the same date.

The 2014 Convertible Notes with principal amount of HK\$3,467,015,000 has a maturity period of five years from the issue date to 21 November 2019. They could be converted into 1 ordinary share of the Company of HK\$0.02 each for every HK\$0.87 (adjusted) at the holders’ option at any time between the issue date and the maturity date. The outstanding principal amount would be redeemed at par value on the maturity date or at the issuer’s option redeemed at par plus outstanding coupon payment at any time between the issue date and the maturity date. Interest of 3% per annum will be paid in arrears on the maturity date.

The 2014 Convertible Notes contained two components, a debt component and a derivative component with a conversion option derivative of the holders and a callable option derivative of the issuer. The effective interest rate of the debt component is 19.96%. The derivative component with a conversion option derivative of the holders was measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss as the conversion options does not meet the fixed-for-fixed criteria. Furthermore, the Company may at any time before the maturity date by written notices to the holders, redeem the principal amount of 2014 Convertible Notes (in whole or in part) with accrued interest. The fair value of the derivative component with a callable option derivative considered was immaterial as at 31 March 2019.

Binomial Valuation Model is used for valuation of the derivative component. The major inputs into the model are as follows:

	31 March 2019
Stock price	HK\$0.14
Exercise price	HK\$0.87
Volatility (<i>Note (i)</i>)	61.59%
Dividend yield	0%
Option life (<i>Note (ii)</i>)	0.64 years
Risk free rate	1.42%

Notes:

- (i) The volatility used in the model was determined by reference to the historical volatility of the Company's share price.
- (ii) The option life was based on the maturity date of the notes.

The fair value of the derivative component of 2014 Convertible Notes was determined with reference to a valuation report carried out by an Independent Valuer.

No conversion was made on the maturity date of the notes.

(b) Loan Note

The 3% ZV Convertible Note matured on 21 November 2019. On 21 November 2019, Mr. Lo took up the full amount owing to the 3% ZV Convertible Note holder through Ruby Pioneer Limited ("**Ruby Pioneer**"). Ruby Pioneer was a wholly-owned company of Mr. Lo as at 21 November 2019. Immediately after the aforesaid taking up, the Company and Ruby Pioneer entered into a standstill agreement pursuant to which Ruby Pioneer agreed to extend the note for five years from 21 November 2019 to 21 November 2024 at coupon rate of 3% per annum. This transaction is accounted for as an extinguishment of the 3% ZV Convertible Note and the recognition of the new loan note to Ruby Pioneer. The new loan note is unsecured and has an effective interest rate of 22.37%. A derecognition gain of HK\$334,220,000 is recognised directly in equity as a deemed capital contribution from Mr. Lo as at 31 March 2020. No cash flows resulted from this transaction for the year ended 31 March 2020.

14. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

During the year ended 31 March 2013, the Company and MoEnCo disputed the services provided and the amount charged by the former mining contractor and accordingly, refused to settle the contractor fees as claimed by the former mining contractor.

The former mining contractor issued two writs of summons on 14 February 2013 and 30 May 2013 claiming for the total sum of approximately HK\$93.7 million. In May 2015, the former mining contractor applied to High Court to amend its statements of claim under the two writs by amending, among others, (i) the currency of the claims from MNT to United States dollars; and (ii) the amount of the claims to include the alleged contractor's fees up to October 2014. According to amended statement of claims, total claims under two writs were at approximately HK\$198.9 million. The two actions were subsequently consolidated and the amount claimed has been reduced to approximately HK\$105.6 million and approximately HK\$50.0 million was provided for in the consolidated financial statements as at 30 September 2020 (2019: HK\$50.0 million). Based on the opinion provided by legal counsel of the Company, the Directors consider that the payment of the remaining balance is not probable.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

The Directors do not recommend payment of an interim dividend for the Financial Period (2019: Nil).

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

RESULTS ANALYSIS

Revenue

In the Financial Period, the Group's revenue was HK\$268.9 million (2019: HK\$800.1 million). The significant decrease of revenue was principally due to the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic which had resulted in widespread of travel restrictions and quarantines imposed in mainland China and Mongolia during the Financial Period. This had negatively impacted the Group's mining operations. During the Financial Period, the Group sold approximately 224,600 tonnes (2019: 618,800 tonnes) of clean coking coal and approximately 14,100 tonnes (2019: 77,200 tonnes) of thermal coal and approximately 34 tonnes (2019: 100 tonnes) of raw coal. The average selling prices of clean coking coal, thermal coal and raw coal net of sales tax were approximately HK\$1,194.0 (2019: HK\$1,288.1), HK\$46.5 (2019: HK\$38.6) and HK\$647.7 (2019: HK\$702.1) per tonne respectively.

Cost of Sales

Cost of sales includes mining costs, coal processing costs, transportation costs, costs on disposal of coal refuse and other relevant operating expenses. The cost of sales for the Financial Period was HK\$169.4 million (2019: HK\$434.8 million). The decrease was primarily due to the reduction in sales volume during the Financial Period. It was divided into cash costs of HK\$162.9 million (2019: HK\$423.6 million) and non-cash costs of HK\$6.5 million (2019: HK\$11.2 million).

Gross Profit

Gross profit ratio for the Financial Period was declined to 37.0% (2019: 45.7%). The decrease in gross profit ratio was mainly attributable to the decline in average selling price of clean coking coal during the Financial Period.

Other Income

During the Financial Period, a subsidiary of the Group entered into a settlement agreement with an ex-exploration contractor (the “**Contractor**”) in respect of legal claims on prepaid contract deposit of approximately HK\$33.9 million (equivalent to RMB30.0 million). Under the settlement agreement, the Contractor agreed to refund the deposit by instalments. The refund was treated as other income since the deposit was fully written off in previous financial years for accounting purpose.

Other Gains and Losses

The net loss was mainly due to the fair value loss of HK\$9.3 million arising from an investment in a Hong Kong listed company (2019: HK\$2.5 million).

Changes in Fair Value on Derivative Component of Convertible Notes

The convertible notes issued by the Company in last financial year (the “**2020 Convertible Notes**”) containing both debt and derivative components. The conversion option derivative of the 2020 Convertible Notes requires remeasurement at the end of each reporting period and a resulting loss in fair value change amounting to HK\$714.7 million was then recognized in the Financial Period. The major inputs into the binomial valuation model to work out the valuation of the conversion option derivative have been disclosed in the notes to the condensed consolidated financial statements.

Recoverable Amount Assessment on Khushuut Related Assets (“Mine Assets”)

At the end of the Financial Period, an independent qualified professional valuer was engaged by the Group to determine the recoverable amount of the Mine Assets. The recoverable amount of the Mine Assets is based on the discounted cash flow model that incorporates best estimates made by the management of the Group on price trend of coking coal, coking coal grades, production capacity and rates, future capital expenditure, inflation rate and production costs over the mine life of the Khushuut mine, etc. The cash flow projection covers the expected life of the whole operation. Major assumptions including selling prices trend, operating and capital costs, sales volume, inflation rates and discount rate are particularly important; the determination of the recoverable amount is relatively sensitive to changes in these important assumptions.

Key changes in assumptions used in the discounted cash flow model as at 30 September 2020 and 31 March 2020 are set out as below:

	<i>Notes</i>	30 September 2020	31 March 2020
Discount rate	(a)	24.25%	25.09%
Average current coking coal price per tonne	(b)	US\$117	US\$133
Inflation rate	(c)	2.38%	2.38%
Predicted average annual growth rate of the coking coal price for the forthcoming four-year period since period/year ended	(d)	3.06%	0.18%

Notes:

- (a) The discount rate is derived from the Group's weighted average cost of capital ("WACC") with appropriate adjustments made to reflect the risks specific to the Khushuut Coal Mine. The WACC takes into account both cost of debt and equity, and weighted based on the Group's and comparable peer companies' average capital structure. The cost of equity is derived from the expected return on investment by the Group's investors and based on publicly available market data of comparable peer companies. The cost of debt is based on the borrowing cost of interest-bearing borrowings of comparable peer companies. The change of discount rate from last year was a combined result of the updates on the WACC including the risk-free rate and other risk premium factors. The risk-free rate adopted was the yield of China 10-year government bond as at 30 September 2020. The risk premium factors are to reflect the business risks of the Khushuut Coal Mine;
- (b) The average current coking coal price was updated based on latest sales contracts;
- (c) Inflation rate was updated by reference to external market research data; and
- (d) The average annual growth rate was updated based on latest publicly available market data. For the remaining period of the discounted cash flow model, the growth rate is the same as the inflation rate.

In pursuant to the recoverable amount assessment, a charge of impairment amounted to HK\$91.7 million was made in the Financial Period (2019: a charge of HK\$307.2 million).

Finance Costs

The major components in the finance costs were the effective interest expenses on convertible notes, interest charge on advances from a Director and a loan note. The interest charge on the debt component of the convertible notes issued by the Company was calculated at an effective interest rate of 21.82% per annum (2019: 19.96%). The interest charge on the advances from a Director was calculated at the Hong Kong prime rate plus 3% per annum, which was same as previous financial years. The interest of the loan note is charged at an effective interest rate of 22.37% per annum (2019: Nil).

MARKET REVIEW

Coking coal, also known as metallurgical coal, is principally used in steel industry. It is a vital ingredient in the steel making process. Our coking coal demand is predominantly in China; therefore, the steel market performance in China in turn affects our production and planning.

According to the data of the National Bureau of Statistics of China (“NBS”), under the serious challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the complicated external conditions, the Gross Domestic Product (“GDP”) of China in the first half of the year recorded a year on year decline of 1.6%. The fall was mainly dragged by the shrinkage of China’s economy in the first quarter which was a decline of 6.8% year on year at the height of the pandemic, but soon it showed a sign of recovery by the growth of 3.2% in the second quarter. The economic performance of China in the first half of the year is within anticipation when the trade tensions with the US and the global COVID-19 pandemic were still raging.

Under the adverse economic environment, the global crude steel production was only able to achieve 1,347 million tonnes for the first nine months in 2020, a contraction of 3.2% according to the recent data of the World Steel Association. China remained the biggest crude steel producing country in the world during this period, producing 782 million tonnes and accounting for 58% of the world’s crude steel production, up 4.5% compared with the same period in 2019. It was mainly due to the rapid recovery of the steel-consuming sectors of China in April after the COVID-19 outbreak, driven mainly by construction, in particular infrastructure investment, as the PRC government has put forward several new infrastructure initiatives.

For the first nine months of 2020, the steel products export volume of China was 40.39 million tonnes, a drop of 19.6% compared with 50.26 million tonnes year on year. The value of the export had decreased by 20.4% to US\$33.19 billion during this period. Steel products of China are mainly exported to developing countries mostly in Asia.

In respect of the coal industry of China, the income of the coal mining and washing sectors recorded a fall of 11.8% in the first half of 2020 compared with the same period last year while the profit shrank 31.2%. Despite the adverse impact of COVID-19, China's raw coal production recorded a slight 0.6% increase to 1.81 billion tonnes in the first half of this year notwithstanding the first quarter decline of 0.5%. According to the data of the NBS, coal import into China for the first half of the year was 174 million tonnes, up 12.7% compared with that of 2019 while the coal export was 1.74 million tonnes, a decrease of 41.7%. In respect of coking coal, the import into China for the first six months was 38.12 million tonnes, an increase of 5.3% year on year. The demand of coking coal continued to show a steady demand. However, due to the practice of import restrictions in September, the import volume recorded 6.72 million tonnes, a decrease of 6.28% from August and also a drop of 15.7% year on year. The total volume of coking coal import of China for the first nine months was 59.4 million tonnes, which was a fall of 2.6% year on year.

Mongolia's economy experienced a contraction of 9.7% year on year in the first half of 2020 due to restrictive coronavirus measures. According to the data of the National Statistics Office of Mongolia, Mongolia traded with 141 countries from all over the world in the first nine months this year. The total trade export and import turnover recorded a decrease of 13.4% and 14.6% respectively. China was still the largest trading partner of Mongolia. There were US\$3.78 billion in export of goods from Mongolia to China while the import of goods from China to Mongolia was US\$1.46 billion during this period. These accounted for 73.5% of Mongolia's total export and 37.2% of import, which is 57% of Mongolia's total trade turnover. Coal remains the major export item of Mongolia.

Coal production in Mongolia for the first nine months of 2020 was 22.9 million tonnes, a decrease of 40.7% compared with the same period last year. Approximately 19.9 million tonnes of coal produced were exported, which was a fall of 30.9% year on year. The deterioration was mainly due to Mongolia's lock down under the impact of COVID-19. About 96% of the coal exported from Mongolia was shipped to China. According to the data of China Customs, it supplied 16.5 million tonnes of coking coal to China from January to September this year.

According to the World Bank in its report "From Containment to Recovery: Economic Update for East Asia and the Pacific, October 2020", the Mongolian economy is projected to contract by 2.4% in 2020 under the impact of COVID-19 and weak external demand. The mining and services sectors have suffered the greatest impact. Under the COVID-19 restrictions, Mongolia is unable to fulfil its goal to export 40 million tonnes of coal this year. Mongolia is one of the top coking coal suppliers to China. Therefore, we expect the Mongolian government to actively promote its mineral export to boost its economy in the coming year.

BUSINESS REVIEW

Coal Sales

Under the impact of the COVID-19, our coal sales amounts decreased approximately HK\$531.3 million during the Financial Period compared with the same period last year.

Coal Production

During the Financial Period, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only approximately 270,800 bank cubic meters (“**BCM**”) of overburden were removed for the purpose of exposing the coal seams for the subsequent coal mining works (2019: 4,668,100 BCM). Production of coking coal (before processing) and thermal coal were approximately 279,100 tonnes and 57,000 tonnes respectively (2019: 884,200 tonnes and 128,500 tonnes).

Coal Processing

During the Financial Period, approximately 295,600 tonnes of ROM coal (2019: 896,500 tonnes) were processed by the dry coal processing plant, producing approximately 272,100 tonnes of raw coking coal (2019: 713,300 tonnes). The average recovery rate was 92.1%. The raw coking coal would then stand for export to Xinjiang for further washing before delivery to our customers.

In Xinjiang, approximately 306,100 tonnes of raw coking coal (2019: 846,500 tonnes) were processed by the washing plant, producing approximately 248,600 tonnes of clean coking coal (2019: 653,700 tonnes). The average recovery rate was 81.2%.

Customers and Sales

The Customers of our coking coal are all in Xinjiang. In respect of our major customer, the actual sales price and quantity to be delivered have to be negotiated and mutually agreed from time to time, monthly in general, between the parties. Clearing is based on the actual clean coking coal delivered after washing, and on this basis, we sold 169,900 tonnes of clean coking coal to this customer during the Financial Period. It accounted for approximately 76.0% of our revenue in the Financial Period.

In respect of our other customers, we negotiated the sales and delivery orders shortly before delivery under the then prevailing market price and our quantity of coal available.

We had three customers in Xinjiang for our coking coal during the Financial Period.

Licences

During the Financial Period, we maintained nine mining licences, of which eight are for our Khushuut operations, and two exploration licences. Please refer to the section headed “EXPLORATION AND MINING CONCESSIONS OF THE GROUP” in our recent annual report for further details.

Legal and Political Aspects

The COVID-19 has impacted the globe and no country is spare from it. Fortunately, due to various effective measures taken by the Mongolian Government since the beginning of this year to prevent the outbreak of the disease, there was no local contracted case in Mongolia during the Financial Period.

To limit the social and economic impact by the pandemic, the Government of Mongolia presented its economic and social stimulus plans in March including complete exemptions from paying social insurance premiums and personal income tax as well as the corporate income tax from the majority of businesses for a certain period of time. The package further includes monthly allowances to eligible private businesses, reduce loan interest rates for rural economy, government guarantees for some categories of borrowers and child allowances for households. The Government has also arranged funding for various promotion schemes such as the Emergency Relief and Employment Support Project.

During the COVID-19 epidemic, Mongolia and China mutually extended much “good neighbors” relationship. Mongolian President Battulga made a special visit to China at the most severe time of the epidemic in February 2020, expressing support for China and making monetary and material donation. Two virtual conferences for Mongolia-China cooperation in response to COVID-19 pandemic was held in May and July 2020 which were attended by representatives of border, customs, specialized inspection, trade and transport agencies. In addition, at the invitation of Mongolian Minister of Foreign Affairs N. Enkhtaivan, Wang Yi, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, paid an official visit to Mongolia in the mid of September. During the official visit, the foreign ministers of the two countries pledged closer ties on mutual trade and economic cooperation between China and Mongolia. Under the framework of mutual economic cooperation, the parties agreed to continue easing the transportation of goods and people under the coronavirus restrictions and agreed on a temporary “Green Gateway” border crossing procedure to be adhered to. This allows visitors of Mongolia and China to enter their respective countries for taking part in bilateral trade, logistics, manufacturing, maintenance, and development projects amid COVID-19.

By the end of August, the newly formed Government presented its 2020-2024 Programme which confirms the Government’s priority of developing the responsible, socially benefitting and transparent extractive industry. In its 2020-2024 Programme, the new Government pledges to “consistently protect the interests of foreign investors and support foreign investment in leading economic sectors and mega-projects such as infrastructure, mining, energy, food, agriculture and tourism, and promote their access to soft loans and grants”. In line with this objective, an ad hoc committee in the Parliament has been formed to promote foreign investment and trade, including identifying overlapping and gaps in relevant laws, and structural, organizational and budgetary challenges that impede the foreign investment in Mongolia.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Money Laundering has removed Mongolia from the EU grey list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes. To hit this target, the Government of Mongolia adopted Resolution No.350 in 2017 to ensure tax transparency, information exchange, and the implementation of international rules to combat tax evasion, as well as joining “Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes” of OECD as a member country. In line with the organization’s recommendations, the legal framework for information exchange, transparency, cooperation, and tax evasion has been incorporated into domestic legislation as part of the tax reform package.

Therefore, active policies have been seen rolling out to encourage foreign investment and to strengthen the trade and social relationship of China and Mongolia. This helps to promote the export of mineral products from Mongolia to China.

Legal disputes with Thiess Mongolia LLC (formerly Leighton LLC) (“Thiess”)

In respect of the claim of US\$13.5 million lodged by Thiess since 2013, there have not been any substantial case developments since the exchange of the Supplemental Witness Statements in May 2018. The parties have also yet to agree on the list of issues to be addressed in the expert report. However, we received a Notice of Intention to Proceed with these proceedings (“**Notice**”) by Thiess at the end of July. Subsequent to that, we received its further request to amend its Statement of Claims by inserting a clause under the mining agreement which provides that the Group should not withhold payments because of the existence of a dispute. We will respond by filing our amended Defence and we will continue to pursue the case to protect our best interest.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Liquidity and Financial Resources

In preparing the condensed consolidated financial statements, the Directors have given careful consideration of the future liquidity of the Group. While recognising that the Group had net liabilities of HK\$3,360.9 million and net current liabilities of approximately HK\$1,434.2 million as at 30 September 2020, the Directors are of the opinion that the Group will be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due for the foreseeable future given that: (1) Mr. Lo Lin Shing, Simon (“**Mr. Lo**”), a substantial shareholder and chairman of the Company who has significant influence over the Group, has provided facilities amounting to HK\$1,900.0 million. The balance of the unutilised facilities of HK\$936.9 million as at 30 September 2020 remains valid until 31 March 2022; and (2) Mr. Lo does not intend to demand immediate repayment of his advances to the Company. The borrowings of the Group as at 30 September 2020 were convertible notes, loan note and advances from Mr. Lo in aggregate of HK\$5,103.2 million (31 March 2020: HK\$4,136.3 million). Apart from advances from Mr. Lo which are unsecured and classified as current liabilities, the convertible notes and loan note are classified as non-current liabilities. As at 30 September 2020, the cash and bank balances of the Group were HK\$51.7 million (31 March 2020: HK\$61.8 million) and the liquidity ratio was 0.32 (31 March 2020: 0.30).

Property, Plant and Equipment

The decrease in the carrying values of the property, plant and equipment was due to the charge of impairment loss amounting to HK\$82.5 million (2019: HK\$277.5 million). During the Financial Period, the Group had incurred capital expenditures of approximately HK\$2.1 million (2019: HK\$43.6 million).

Trade and Bills Receivables

The Group allows a credit period of 30 to 60 days for trade receivables and the maturity dates for bills receivables should be within 180 days or less. As at 30 September 2020, the majority of the trade receivables were within our credit period. For the bills receivables, they were non-interest bearing bank acceptance bills with settlement being guaranteed by the licensed banks in the PRC.

Inventories

The production and sales of the Group were back to normal gradually since August 2020. The Group kept a higher level inventory level at the end of the Financial Period in order to cater for the normal sales activities afterwards.

Other Receivables, Prepayments and Deposits

It mainly comprised prepaid value added tax of HK\$115.7 million (31 March 2020: HK\$106.2 million) to be refunded by the government of Mongolia.

Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

As at 30 September 2020, the fair value of the financial assets at fair value through profit or loss was HK\$42.3 million (31 March 2020: HK\$51.6 million), which was approximately 2.0% (31 March 2020: 2.4%) of the total assets of the Group. It represents the Group's interest in Beijing Beida Jade Bird Universal Sci-Tech Company Limited (the "Jade Bird"), a company listed in Hong Kong. The principal activities of Jade Bird and its subsidiaries are engaging in the technology research, development, marketing and sale of embedded system products and related products in security and fire alarm systems. The Group's investment is approximately 6.13% (31 March 2020: 6.13%) of the total issued share capital of Jade Bird. During the Financial Period, the Group did not receive any dividend from Jade Bird. The decrease in carrying value of the financial assets at fair value through profit or loss was mainly due to the fair value loss of HK\$9.3 million (2019: HK\$2.5 million).

Other Payables and Accruals

The major components were balance payments of capital expenditures due to construction companies and a balance payment for acquisition of an iron ore exploration right in 2009.

Charge on Group's Assets

There was no charge on the Group's assets as at 30 September 2020 (31 March 2020: Nil).

Gearing Ratio

As at 30 September 2020, the gearing ratio of the Group was 2.4 (31 March 2020: 1.9) which was calculated based on the Group's total borrowings to total assets.

Foreign Exchange

The Group mainly operates in Mongolia, Hong Kong and Mainland China. The Group's assets and liabilities are principally denominated in Mongolian Tugrik, Hong Kong dollar, Renminbi and United States dollar. The Group does not have a foreign currency hedging policy. However, the management will monitor foreign exchange exposure and consider hedging significant currency exposure should the need arise.

Contingent Liabilities

As at 30 September 2020, there were no material changes to the nature of the Group's contingent liabilities and they were all related to the legal claims made by a former mining contractor in 2013.

OUTLOOK

The COVID-19 continues to cast its shadow on all aspects of lives of the people around the globe. It is quite certain that the economies of almost all countries have been hit by the epidemic in 2020. The International Monetary Fund ("IMF") projects under its latest World Economic Outlook report that the global economy would contract by 4.4% in 2020. Although it has adjusted upward from the adverse impact in its June forecast, the IMF further points out that the projection is still subject to uncertainties, including the possibility of resurgence of the virus, growing restrictions on trade and investment, as well as rising geopolitical uncertainty.

Under the impact of COVID-19, the economic performance of China soon recovered in the second quarter from its badly hit first quarter after re-opening of most factories and resumption of industries. Economic recovery continued to pick up in the third quarter as activities normalized amid effective control of the epidemic and the government measures in stimulating demand and consumption. According to the NBS, China's GDP expanded 4.9% year on year in the third quarter, bringing the growth of 0.7% for the first three quarters of 2020 notwithstanding the contraction recorded in the first quarter of the year. Based on the trend of various indicators, the IMF predicts China's economy would grow by 1.9% in 2020, which should be the forefront country on the track of economic recovery.

In respect of global steel demand, the World Steel Association forecasts that steel demand will contract 2.4% in 2020, but it will gain recovery of 4.1% in 2021. China's steel demand is expected to increase by 8% in 2020, aided by government infrastructure stimulus and a strong property market. In 2021, the infrastructure and housing projects will continue to support steel demand. Given China has a structural shortage of premium quality coking coal for its steel industry, we expect China to have a reasonable stable demand from Mongolia to supply quality coking coal till the end of this year and throughout 2021.

As seen and reflected from our results in the Financial Period, same as many other industries, we have been hard hit by the global outbreak of COVID-19, which has resulted in widespread of travel restrictions and quarantines imposed in mainland China, Mongolia and Hong Kong. Our coking coal export to China was halted since February this year and only managed to resume at the end of May. This has brought our performance down by 66.4% in revenue compared with the same period last year. However, during this challenging period, we were thankful to both the Chinese and Mongolian governments which made every endeavor to strike a balance among public health protection, social measures and border control for import and export. Mongolia has implementing the "Green Gateway" temporary customs regulation with the Chinese Government for increasing capacity of coal deliveries, and our export volume had been gradually restored to normal since this August.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the economy of Mongolia to a substantial extent. Its GDP has been down 9.7% year on year in the first half of the year due to the restrictive COVID-19 measures. The whole year GDP of 2020 is predicted to contract 2 to 4% but will be recovered at a growth rate of 8.2% next year. Due to the impact of the epidemic, Mongolia is unable to achieve its coal export of 40 million tonnes this year. During the meeting between the foreign ministers of China and Mongolia in September, both countries have pledged to advance cooperation in epidemic response and to promote cultural and economic ties. Based on the speedy economic recovery of China and the mutual understanding of both countries, the Mongolian government is planning to increase coal exports to 42 million tonnes in 2021, which will bring MNT 1.3 trillion revenue to its country from coal export in 2021.

Although our production and export have been gradually improved, the coming winter is an invariable season inefficient for long haul transportation. In addition, Mongolia has recently reported its first local COVID-19 case and immediately implements a country lockdown in November until early December. Fortunately, our coal export has not been restricted under the lockdown but both sides of the governments are taking the strictest preventive measures in response to the export and import process to ensure no transmission of the virus in the course of shipping. We anticipate this may again slow down our coal export process and impact the amount imported into Xinjiang from time to time under the unpredictable waves of COVID-19. We will, nevertheless, do our best in planning and production to catch up our performance by riding on the track of economic rebound of China and Mongolia for the remaining of this financial year.

As we are only concentrating on coal mining, and under the unforeseeable impact of the epidemic, the Board considers that it is the right time to look for other business opportunities to broaden our revenue base, in order to diversify any unexpected risks of single industry faced by the Group and to add value for our shareholders. We have set up a task force to identify new business ventures.

HUMAN RESOURCES

As at 30 September 2020, excluding site and construction workers directly employed by our contractors, the Group employed 644 full-time employees in Hong Kong, Mongolia, and the PRC. Remuneration packages are structured to take into account the level and composition of pay and the general market conditions in the respective geographical locations and businesses in which the Group operates. The remuneration policies of the Group are reviewed on a periodic basis. Apart from the retirement scheme, year-end bonus, and share options are awarded to the employees according to performance of the Group, assessment of individual performance, and industry practice. Appropriate training programs are also offered for staff training and development.

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

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

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The Board recognises the importance of maintaining a high standard of corporate governance practice to protect and enhance the benefits of the shareholders. The Board and the management of the Company have collective responsibilities to maintain the interest of the shareholders and the sustainable development of the Group. The Board also believes that good corporate governance practices can facilitate growth of a company under a healthy governance structure and strengthen the confidence of the shareholders and investors.

During the Financial Period, the Company had applied the principles of and complied with the code provisions of the Corporate Governance Code (the “**CG Code**”) as set out in Appendix 14 to the Listing Rules on the Stock Exchange, save for the following deviations:

- i. Code provision A.4.1 of the CG Code stipulates that non-executive directors should be appointed for a specific term and subject to re-election.

None of the existing non-executive Directors is appointed for a specific term which constitutes a deviation from the code provision A.4.1 of the CG Code. However, they are subject to retirement by rotation in accordance with the Bye-laws of the Company. Therefore, the Company considers that sufficient measures have been taken to ensure the Company's corporate governance practices are no less exacting than those set out in the CG Code.

- ii. Code provisions A.5.1 to A.5.4 of the CG Code require a nomination committee to be set up, chaired by the chairman of the board or an independent non-executive director to review the structure, size and composition of the board at least annually to complement the issuer's corporate strategy.

The Company has not set up a nomination committee as required. The Board considers that it should be the responsibility of the full Board to collectively review, deliberate on and approve the structure, size and composition of the Board and appointment of the Directors. The Board has already set out the criteria for selection of a Director under its nomination policy for recruitment of Board members. In addition, according to By-laws of the Company, any newly appointed Directors are required to offer themselves for re-election at the next general meeting. In addition, the shareholders' right to nominate a director candidate and participation in the re-election of Director by way of poll voting at the annual general meeting ("**AGM**") can further ensure a right candidate to be selected.

- iii. Code provision E.1.2 of the CG Code stipulates that the chairman of the board should attend the AGM.

Due to other business engagement, the Chairman was unable to attend the 2020 AGM. The Chairman of the Audit and Remuneration Committees of the Company took the chair of the 2020 AGM and answered questions raised by the shareholders. The AGM provides a channel for communication between the Board and the shareholders. Other than the AGM, the shareholders may communicate with the Company through the contact methods listed on the Company's website.

COMPLIANCE WITH MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTION

The Company has adopted its own Code for Securities Transactions by Directors (the "**Code**"), which are on terms no less exacting than those set out in the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules (the "**Model Code**"). The Code is sent to each Director on his/her initial appointment and from time to time when the same is amended or restated.

The Company has also established written guidelines on terms no less exacting than the Model Code (the "**Employees' Guidelines**") for securities transactions by relevant employees of the Group who are likely to be in possession of unpublished inside information of the Company.

To enhance corporate governance transparency, the Code and the Employees' Guidelines have been published on the Company's website at www.mongolia-energy.com.

During the period of sixty days immediately preceding and including the publication date of the annual results or, if shorter, the period from the end of the relevant financial year up to and including the publication date of the annual results, all the Directors and the relevant employees are restricted to deal in the securities and derivatives of the Company until such results have been published.

During the period of thirty days immediately preceding and including the publication date of the half year results or, if shorter, the period from the end of the half year period up to and including the publication date of the half year results, all the Directors and relevant employees are restricted to deal in the securities and derivatives of the Company until such results have been published.

The Company Secretary and the Legal and Compliance Department will send reminders prior to the commencement of such period to all the Directors and relevant employees respectively.

It is stipulated under the Code and/or the Employees' Guidelines that all dealings of the Company's securities must be conducted in accordance with the provisions stated therein. Under the Code, the Directors are required to notify the Chairman and receive a dated written acknowledgement before dealing in the securities and derivatives of the Company, and in the case of the Chairman himself, he must notify the designated Director and receive a dated written acknowledgement before any dealings.

Having made specific enquiry by the Company, all the Directors confirmed that they had complied with the required standards as set out in the Model Code and the Code regarding directors' securities transactions during the Financial Period. Besides, no incident of non-compliance by the relevant employees was noted by the Company for the six months ended 30 September 2020.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee of the Company currently comprises three independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Lau Wai Piu (Chairman of the Audit Committee), Mr. Tsui Hing Chuen, William *JP*, and Mr. Lee Kee Wai, Frank. Chairman of the Audit Committee has appropriate professional qualifications, accounting and related financial management expertise.

The Audit Committee had reviewed the unaudited condensed consolidated financial statements of the Group for the six months ended 30 September 2020.

By Order of the Board
Mongolia Energy Corporation Limited
Tang Chi Kei
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 25 November 2020

*As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises eight Directors, including Mr. Lo Lin Shing, Simon, Ms. Yvette Ong, Mr. Lo, Rex Cze Kei and Mr. Lo, Chris Cze Wai as executive Directors, Mr. To Hin Tsun, Gerald as non-executive Director, and Mr. Tsui Hing Chuen, William *JP*, Mr. Lau Wai Piu and Mr. Lee Kee Wai, Frank as independent non-executive Directors.*