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凱聯國際酒店有限公司 Associated International Hotels Limited

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

(Stock Code: 105)

Preliminary Announcement of Interim Results for the six months ended 30 September 2020

(Expressed in Hong Kong dollars)

The Board of Directors would like to announce the unaudited consolidated results of the Group for the half year ended 30 September 2020. These results have been reviewed in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Review Engagements 2410, *Review of interim financial information performed by the independent auditor of the entity*, issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”), by KPMG, certified public accountants in Hong Kong, and the audit committee with no disagreement. The unmodified review report of the auditor is included in the interim report to be sent to members of the Company.

Consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income – unaudited

		Six months ended 30 September	
	Note	2020	2019
		\$'000	\$'000
Revenue	3	242,414	299,935
Cost of services		(55,050)	(45,156)
Gross profit		187,364	254,779
Other revenue	5(a)	5,720	6,746
Other net loss	5(b)	(4)	(1)
Administrative expenses		(14,916)	(16,273)
Profit from operations before valuation changes in investment properties		178,164	245,251
Valuation losses on investment properties		(784,129)	(573,026)
Loss from operations after valuation changes in investment properties		(605,965)	(327,775)
Finance costs	6(a)	(1,818)	(2,984)
Loss before taxation	6	(607,783)	(330,759)
Income tax	7	(28,382)	(38,889)
Loss and total comprehensive income for the period attributable to equity shareholders of the Company		(636,165)	(369,648)
Loss per share – basic and diluted	9	\$(1.77)	\$(1.03)

Details of dividends payable to equity shareholders of the Company are set out in note 8.

Consolidated statement of financial position – unaudited

	<i>Note</i>	At 30 September 2020		At 31 March 2020	
		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Non-current assets					
Fixed assets					
– Investment properties			11,411,840		12,195,550
– Other properties, plant and equipment			59,789		61,687
			11,471,629		12,257,237
Current assets					
Accounts receivable, deposits and prepayments	10	165,383		103,389	
Pledged bank deposits		13,158		2,956	
Cash and cash equivalents		510,207		421,903	
			688,748		528,248
Current liabilities					
Other payables and accruals	11	33,627		24,239	
Deposits received		164,784		173,511	
Provision for long service payments		1,659		1,747	
Dividends payable		90,000		–	
Current tax payable		19,979		13,615	
			310,049		213,112
Net current assets			378,699		315,136
Total assets less current liabilities			11,850,328		12,572,373
Non-current liabilities					
Bank loan – secured		200,000		200,000	
Government lease premiums payable		1,722		1,722	
Deferred tax liabilities		91,868		87,748	
			293,590		289,470
NET ASSETS			11,556,738		12,282,903
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Share capital			360,000		360,000
Reserves			11,196,738		11,922,903
TOTAL EQUITY			11,556,738		12,282,903

Notes:

1. Basis of preparation

The unaudited interim financial report has been prepared in accordance with the applicable disclosure provisions of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, including compliance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard (“HKAS”) 34, *Interim financial reporting*, issued by the HKICPA.

The interim financial report has been prepared in accordance with the same accounting policies adopted in the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020, except for the accounting policy changes that are expected to be reflected in the consolidated financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2021. Details of these changes in accounting policies are set out in note 2.

The preparation of an interim financial report in conformity with HKAS 34 requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses on a year to date basis. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The financial information relating to the financial year ended 31 March 2020 that is included in this preliminary announcement of interim results as comparative information does not constitute the Company’s statutory annual consolidated financial statements for that financial year but is derived from those financial statements. Further information relating to these statutory financial statements required to be disclosed in accordance with section 436 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance is as follows:

The Company has delivered the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2020 to the Registrar of Companies as required by section 662(3) of, and Part 3 of Schedule 6 to, the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

The Company’s auditor has reported on those consolidated financial statements. The auditor’s report was unqualified; did not include a reference to any matters to which the auditor drew attention by way of emphasis without qualifying its report; and did not contain a statement under sections 406(2), 407(2) or (3) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

2. Changes in accounting policies

The HKICPA has issued a number of amendments to Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) that are first effective for the current accounting period of the Group. Of these, the following developments are relevant to the Group:

- Amendments to HKFRS 3, *Definition of a business*
- Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKAS 8, *Definition of material*

None of these developments have had a material effect on how the Group’s results and financial position for the current or prior periods have been prepared or presented in the interim financial report.

The Group has not applied any new standard or interpretation that is not yet effective for the current accounting period.

3. Revenue

The principal activity of the Group is property investment.

Revenue represents gross rental income received and receivable from investment properties.

The Group’s customer base is diversified and does not include any customers with whom transactions have exceeded 10% of the Group’s revenue for the six months ended 30 September 2020 and 2019.

4. Segment information

The Group has a single reportable segment which is “Property leasing”. Accordingly, the business segment information for this sole reportable segment is equivalent to the consolidated figures.

No separate geographical information is presented as the Group’s revenue and results of property leasing were derived from Hong Kong.

5. Other revenue and net loss

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Other revenue		
Interest income	4,312	6,062
Management fee received from holding company	600	600
Compensation from early termination of leases	743	–
Others	65	84
	<u>5,720</u>	<u>6,746</u>
(b) Other net loss		
Net loss on disposals of fixed assets	<u>(4)</u>	<u>(1)</u>

6. Loss before taxation

Loss before taxation is arrived at after charging:

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Finance costs		
Interest on bank loan	1,672	2,838
Other borrowing costs	125	125
Interest on government lease premiums payable	21	21
	<u>1,818</u>	<u>2,984</u>
(b) Other items		
Depreciation charge		
– owned properties, plant and equipment	2,120	2,133
– right-of-use assets	–	14
Impairment losses on accounts receivable	13,957	–
	<u>13,957</u>	<u>–</u>

7. Income tax

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	\$'000	\$'000
Current tax		
Hong Kong Profits Tax	24,262	34,993
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	4,120	3,896
	<u>28,382</u>	<u>38,889</u>

The provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax is calculated at 16.5% (2019: 16.5%) of the estimated assessable profits for the six months ended 30 September 2020, except for the Company which is a qualifying corporation under the two-tiered Profits Tax rate regime. For the Company, the first \$2,000,000 of assessable profits are taxed at 8.25% and the remaining assessable profits are taxed at 16.5%. The provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax for the Company was calculated at the same basis in 2019.

8. Dividends

(a) Dividends payable to equity shareholders of the Company attributable to the interim period

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	\$'000	\$'000
Interim dividend declared after the interim period of \$0.25 per share (2019: \$0.56 per share)	90,000	201,600

The interim dividend declared after the interim period has not been recognised as a liability at the end of the reporting period.

(b) Dividends payable to equity shareholders of the Company attributable to the previous financial year, approved during the interim period

	Six months ended 30 September	
	2020	2019
	\$'000	\$'000
Final dividend in respect of the previous financial year, approved during the following interim period, of \$0.25 per share (year ended 31 March 2019: \$0.57 per share)	90,000	205,200

9. Loss per share – basic and diluted

The calculation of basic loss per share is based on the loss attributable to equity shareholders of the Company of \$636,165,000 (2019: \$369,648,000) and 360,000,000 (2019: 360,000,000) ordinary shares in issue during the period. There were no potential dilutive ordinary shares in existence during the six months ended 30 September 2020 and 2019.

10. Accounts receivable, deposits and prepayments

The ageing analysis of accounts receivable (net of allowance for credit losses) which was included in accounts receivable, deposits and prepayments as of the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	At 30 September 2020 \$'000	At 31 March 2020 \$'000
Current (Note)	133,604	76,609
Less than 1 month past due	11,346	8,292
1 to 3 months past due	9,130	9,445
More than 3 months but less than 12 months past due	2,332	1,362
More than 12 months past due	37	–
Amounts past due	22,845	19,099
Total accounts receivable, net of allowance for credit losses	156,449	95,708
Deposits and prepayments	8,934	7,681
	<u>165,383</u>	<u>103,389</u>

Note: The amount includes the receivable for lease incentives of \$133,293,000 (31 March 2020: \$76,067,000) which is not past due. The movement in the said receivable during the period will only affect the accounting revenue but not the contractual cash flows of the Group.

Debts are generally due on the 1st day of each month and 10 to 14 days are allowed for settlement or else interest will be charged. Legal action will be taken against past due debtors whenever the situation is appropriate.

11. Other payables and accruals

All of the other payables and accruals are expected to be settled within one year.

INTERIM DIVIDEND AND CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS

The Board has resolved that an interim dividend of \$0.25 per share (2019: \$0.56 per share) will be paid on Thursday, 7 January 2021 to members whose names appear on the register of members of the Company on Friday, 18 December 2020. The register of members of the Company will be closed for the purpose of determining entitlement to the said interim dividend from Wednesday, 16 December 2020 to Friday, 18 December 2020, both days inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares will be registered. All transfers accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's share registrar, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, Shops 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong not later than 4:30 p.m. (Hong Kong time) on Tuesday, 15 December 2020.

BUSINESS REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

- The Group achieved a profit from operations before valuation changes in investment properties of \$178.2 million for the half year ended 30 September 2020, representing a decrease of approximately 27.4% compared with the corresponding period of last year. The decrease was mainly due to decrease in rental income from iSQUARE compared to the corresponding period of last year. Since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in Hong Kong, the Group has been granting various rental concessions to most of the tenants, which in turn have caused a negative impact to the cash flows of the Group. For accounting standard purposes, all rental concessions are being amortised over the remaining terms of the respective leases.
- Valuation losses on investment properties for the half year ended 30 September 2020 amounted to \$784.1 million, compared with the valuation losses of \$573.0 million for the corresponding period of last year. The valuation losses will only affect the accounting profit or loss but not the cash flows of the Group.
- The Group recorded a loss attributable to equity shareholders of \$636.2 million, compared with a loss attributable to equity shareholders of \$369.6 million for the corresponding period of last year.
- iSQUARE is a commercial complex housing retail, entertainment, food and beverage establishments. Rental income from iSQUARE amounted to approximately \$242.4 million for the half year ended 30 September 2020, representing a decrease of approximately 18.6% compared with the corresponding period of last year. The occupancy rate at 30 September 2020 was approximately 82.8% (30 September 2019: 92.6%).
- The total equity for the Group at 30 September 2020 was \$11,556.7 million, compared with \$12,282.9 million at 31 March 2020.
- On 7 October 2013, the Company entered into a facility agreement with a bank comprising of a 3-year term loan facility of up to \$200 million and a 3-year revolving loan facility of up to \$100 million both at floating interest rate. On 30 August 2016, the Company entered into a supplemental agreement with the bank for extension of the facilities for three years to 8 October 2019. In compliance with certain conditions, the facilities have been further extended for two additional years to 8 October 2021. At 30 September 2020, the banking facilities were utilised to the extent of \$200 million (31 March 2020: \$200 million) and the Group's gearing ratio (calculated as total bank loans divided by total equity) was 1.7% (31 March 2020: 1.6%).
- At 30 September 2020, the total number of employees of the Group, excluding the staff employed by Cushman & Wakefield Property Management Limited for general building and property management of iSQUARE, was 38 (30 September 2019: 36) and the related costs incurred during the period were approximately \$10.7 million (30 September 2019: \$11.7 million). The decrease in the related costs was mainly attributable to the wage subsidy under the Employment Support Scheme of the Hong Kong government.

- Save as disclosed in this announcement, there has been no further material change to the information contained in the Company's annual report for the year ended 31 March 2020 which necessitates additional disclosure to that made herein.

OUTLOOK

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact negatively on the Hong Kong economy. Hong Kong leasing market is in a very difficult situation and management believes lower rental value will be inevitable. Management will continue to take appropriate measures to cope with current situation. It is anticipated that the adverse impact on rental income from iSQUARE and the results from operations of the Group for the second half year will continue.

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION BY THE COMPANY AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES OF ITS LISTED SECURITIES

There were no purchases, sales or redemptions of the Company's listed securities by the Company or any of its subsidiaries during the six months ended 30 September 2020.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODE

In the opinion of the Directors, the Company throughout the six months ended 30 September 2020 complied with all the code provisions, where applicable, set out in the Corporate Governance Code in Appendix 14 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited ("Listing Rules"), except for the deviations as disclosed hereunder:

- Code Provision A.1.8: Appropriate insurance cover in respect of legal action against directors should be arranged

Currently, the Company does not have insurance cover for legal action against its Directors. The Board believes that with the current risk management and internal control systems and the close supervision of the management, the Directors' risk of being sued or getting involved in litigation in their capacity as Directors is relatively low. Benefits to be derived from taking out insurance may not outweigh the cost. Despite it, every Director is, subject to the provisions of the applicable laws, indemnified out of the assets of the Company against all costs, charges, expenses, losses and liabilities he/she may sustain or incur in or about the execution of his/her office or otherwise in relation thereto pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Company. In view of the above, the Board considers that the Directors' exposure to risk is manageable.

- Code Provision A.2.1: The roles of chairman and chief executive should be separated and performed by two individuals

Mr Cheong Hooi Hong is both the Chairman and chief executive of the Company. To avoid concentration of power and authority in any one individual, day-to-day management of the Company's business is shared by Executive Directors whilst formulation of objectives and strategic decisions are collectively made by the Board. In addition, the Board comprises three Independent Non-executive Directors with differing expertise/calibre who can provide a "check and balance" effect on the management through their high attendance at board meetings and therefore ensuring a balance of power. Given consideration to the aforesaid, the Board of Directors is of the view that the current structure does not have any adverse effect on the Company and believes that this structure enables the Group to make and implement decisions promptly and efficiently.

- Code Provision B.1.5: Remuneration details of senior management should be disclosed by band in annual reports

The remuneration details of the senior management are not disclosed by band in the annual report. To ensure they are remunerated at a reasonable but not excessive rate, none of them is involved in deciding his/her own remuneration or related to the remuneration committee members (who are authorised to collectively determine the remuneration of the senior management based on a number of factors set out in the Company's remuneration policy). The Directors consider that the non-disclosure does not pose any negative impact on the Company. On the contrary, the disclosure of the remuneration details of the senior management may cause undue comparison among staff members, and would unnecessarily provide highly sensitive and confidential information to competitors and other third parties looking to recruit the senior management. In light of the above, the Directors are of the view that the disclosure of such information would neither provide pertinent information in furtherance of corporate governance, nor be in the interests of the members of the Company.

- Code Provision C.2.5: Issuer should have an internal audit function and review the need for one in case of its absence annually

At present, the Company does not have an internal audit function. The Board reviewed the need for setting up an internal audit function in March 2020 and considered that there was no such an immediate need after taking into account the Group's current circumstances, such as the focused nature and geographical spread of business, the relatively simple operating structure and small size of the Group and the close involvement and supervision of the management in daily operation, which could provide sufficient risk management and internal control for the Group. Despite it, the Board has taken initiatives to promote the adequacy and effectiveness of the risk management and internal control systems by creating a control environment across the Group (such as building up a corporate culture based on sound business ethics and accountability through the implementation of "whistle-blowing" arrangements and procedure manuals with defined roles, responsibilities and reporting lines) and putting control activities in place (such as conducting group-wide risk assessment exercise biannually). In addition, where the external auditor of the Company considers any internal controls that are relevant to the audit of the financial statements, it will report to the audit committee any significant deficiencies in internal control identified during the audit.

In view of the above considerations and the potential cost to be involved, the Board is of the opinion that it is not cost effective to set up and maintain an internal audit function and that the existing control mechanism could justify its absence for the time being. Nonetheless, the Board will review the need for an internal audit function on an annual basis.

- Code Provision F.1.3: The company secretary should report to the board chairman and/or the chief executive

Instead of reporting to the Chairman (who is also the chief executive of the Company), the company secretary reports directly to the Deputy Chairman. Since the company secretary is located in the same office as the Deputy Chairman and they work closely on a day-to-day basis, direct reporting to the Deputy Chairman can provide for a prompt and timely response to issues which require immediate attention. On the other hand, the Chairman keeps having ongoing discussion and dialogue with the Deputy Chairman on business affairs, in particular corporate governance and financial issues, which enables him to fully understand the operation of the Company and manage it in an effective manner. Taking into account of the above, the Board considers that the current reporting line is apposite to the Company.

MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules as its code for dealing in securities in the Company by its Directors (“Model Code”). Specific enquiry has been made to all Directors of the Company as to whether they have complied with or whether there has been any non-compliance with the Model Code, and all Directors have confirmed compliance with the required standard set out in the Model Code during the six months ended 30 September 2020.

PUBLICATION OF INTERIM RESULTS AND INTERIM REPORT

This announcement is published on the websites of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (<http://www.hkexnews.hk>) and the Company (http://aihl.etnet.com.hk/eng/ca_calendar.php). The interim report for the six months ended 30 September 2020 which contains all information required by the Listing Rules will be despatched to members of the Company and made available on the above websites in due course.

By order of the Board
Associated International Hotels Limited
Ng Sau Fong
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 27 November 2020

As at the date of this announcement, Mr Cheong Hooi Hong, Mr Cheong Kheng Lim, Mr Cheong Keng Hooi, Mr Cheong Sim Lam and Miss Cheong Chong Ling are executive directors, and Mr Chow Wan Hoi, Paul, Mr Wong Yiu Tak and Mr Lee Chung are independent non-executive directors.

Note: The translation into Chinese language of this announcement is for reference only. In case of any inconsistency, the English version shall prevail.