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Wanguo International Mining Group Limited

萬國國際礦業集團有限公司

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 3939)

INTERIM RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

RESULTS HIGHLIGHT:

- Revenue increased by approximately 75.9% to approximately RMB581.2 million
- Gross profit increased by approximately 74.7% to approximately RMB278.6 million
- Gross profit margin was approximately 47.9%
- Net profit margin was approximately 30.9%
- Profit and total comprehensive income for the six months ended 30 June 2023 (or referred to as the "**reporting period**") attributable to owners of the Company increased by approximately 67.3% to approximately RMB159.3 million
- Basic earnings per share was approximately RMB17.8 cents (six months ended 30 June 2022: RMB11.4 cents)
- The Board did not declare an interim dividend (six months ended 30 June 2022: Nil)

Note: Compared to the six months ended 30 June 2022

INTERIM RESULTS

The board (the "Board") of directors (the "Directors") of Wanguo International Mining Group Limited (the "Company") is pleased to announce the following unaudited interim results of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as the "Group" or "We") for the six months ended 30 June 2023 together with comparative figures for the corresponding period in 2022.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six months ended 30 June 2023

		Six months en	Six months ended 30 June	
		2023	2022	
	Notes	RMB'000	RMB'000	
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	
Revenue	3	581,186	330,490	
Cost of sales		(302,554)	(171,037)	
Gross profit		278,632	159,453	
Other income		3,814	1,550	
Other gains and losses		(2,104)	(917)	
Distribution and selling expenses		(33,592)	(2,133)	
Administrative expenses		(49,886)	(47,843)	
Finance costs	4	(7,331)	(4,964)	
Profit before tax		189,533	105,146	
Income tax expense	5	(10,099)	(18,420)	
Profit for the period	6	179,434	86,726	
Other comprehensive income (expense) for the period which may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss: - Exchange differences on translation from				
functional currency to presentation currency		14,725	(1,848)	
Total comprehensive income for the period		194,159	84,878	

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (CONTINUED)

For the six months ended 30 June 2023

		Six months ended 30 June		
		2023		
	Notes	RMB'000	RMB'000	
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	
Profit (loss) for the period attributable to:				
Owners of the company		147,107	94,551	
Non-controlling interests		32,327	(7,825)	
		179,434	86,726	
Total comprehensive income (expense) for the period attributable to: Owners of the company Non-controlling interests		159,272 34,887	95,178 (10,300)	
		194,159	84,878	
Earnings per share				
Basic (RMB cents)	7	17.8	11.4	

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At 30 June 2023

	Notes	30.6.2023 <i>RMB'000</i> (Unaudited)	31.12.2022 <i>RMB'000</i> (Audited)
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment		738,864	727,004
Right-of-use assets		57,713	54,817
Mining rights		251,567	274,278
Exploration and evaluation assets		214,882	201,471
Other intangible asset		312,165	312,165
Intangible assets		3,617	3,723
Deposit for purchase of property, plant and equipment		35,915	34,872
Deferred tax assets		3,957	3,930
Restricted bank balances		3,237	3,227
		1,621,917	1,615,487
CURRENT ASSETS			
Inventories		213,358	157,821
Trade and other receivables	9	184,213	196,460
Bank balances and cash			
 cash and cash equivalents 		176,107	67,941
 restricted bank balances 		260	254
		573,938	422,476
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	142,719	138,475
Contract liabilities		32,547	67,651
Lease liabilities		723	215
Amounts due to related parties		5,404	3,894
Consideration payable to a former		,	,
non-controlling shareholder of a subsidiary		57,936	57,936
Dividend payable		82,800	_
Tax payable		13,542	29,407
Bank borrowings		192,273	189,444
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
		527,944	487,022

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (CONTINUED)

At 30 June 2023

	30.6.2023 <i>RMB'000</i> (Unaudited)	31.12.2022 <i>RMB'000</i> (Audited)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)	45,994	(64,546)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	1,667,911	1,550,941
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Lease liabilities	3,066	_
Deferred income	5,751	6,331
Deferred tax liabilities	89,534	86,866
Provisions for restoration costs	8,602	8,145
	106,953	101,342
CAPITAL AND RESERVES		
Share capital	67,881	67,881
Reserves	1,157,056	1,080,584
Equity attributable to owners of the Company	1,224,937	1,148,465
Non-controlling interests	336,021	301,134
TOTAL EQUITY	1,560,958	1,449,599
	1,667,911	1,550,941

NOTES TO THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

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

2. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Other than changes in accounting policies resulting from application of new and 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 June 2023 are the same as those followed in the preparation of the Group's annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Application of new and amendments to HKFRSs

In the current interim period, the Group has applied, for the first time, the following new and amendments to HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA which are mandatory effective for the annual period beginning on or after 1 January 2023 for the preparation of the Group's condensed consolidated financial statements:

HKFRS 17 (including the October 2020 and	Insurance Contracts
February 2022 Amendments to HKFRS 17)	

Amendments to HKFRS 10 and HKAS 28 Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and

its Associate or Joint Venture

Amendments to HKFRS 16 Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback

Amendments to HKAS 1 Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current and

related amendments to Hong Kong Interpretation 5 (2020)

Amendments to HKAS 1 and Disclosure of Accounting Policies

HKFRS Practice Statement 2

Amendments to HKAS 8 Definition of Accounting Estimates

Amendments to HKAS 12 Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities

arising from a Single Transaction

The application of the new and amendments to HKFRSs in the current period has had no material impact on the Group's financial performance and positions for the current and prior periods and on the disclosures set out in these condensed consolidated financial statements.

3. REVENUE AND SEGMENT INFORMATION

Operating segments are identified on the basis of internal reports about components of the Group that are regularly reviewed by the chief operating decision maker ("CODM"), being the executive directors of the Company, in order to allocate resources to segments and to assess their performance.

The Group mainly operates in the PRC and Solomon Islands, and all revenue is generated from, the PRC and Solomon Islands. The Group's principal non-current assets are located in the PRC and Solomon Islands.

Revenue represents revenue arising on sales of processed concentrates of various metals and electrolytic copper. All of the revenue of the Group is recognised at a point in time. An analysis of the Group's revenue from its major products for the reporting period is as follows:

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB '000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Sales of processed concentrates		
 Copper concentrates 	108,768	130,596
 Iron concentrates 	27,424	41,010
 Zinc concentrates 	46,441	39,685
 Sulfur concentrates 	18,434	43,152
 Gold in copper and zinc concentrates 	12,346	12,107
 Gold in lead concentrates 	27,916	11,127
 Silver in lead concentrates 	13,117	5,080
 Silver in copper and zinc concentrates 	8,118	12,221
 Lead concentrates 	5,654	2,723
 Sulfur and iron concentrates 	4,598	5,544
 Copper in lead concentrates 	1,284	847
 Zinc in lead concentrates 	380	_
– Gold doré	203,888	_
 Gold concentrates 	102,818	_
Sales of Electrolytic copper		26,398
	581,186	330,490
By revenue source		
 Own mined products 	537,538	293,967
- Sourced outside	43,648	36,523
	581,186	330,490

The Group mainly operates in the PRC and Solomon Islands, and all revenue is generated from the PRC and Solomon Islands. The Group's principal non-current assets are located in the PRC and Solomon Islands. Information about its revenue and non-current assets by geographical locations of operations are detailed below:

	Revo	enue		
	Six months e	Six months ended 30 June		nt assets*
	2023	2022	30.6.2023	31.12.2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB '000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
The PRC	274,480	330,490	1,013,108	1,026,755
Solomon Islands	306,706	_	591,364	574,973
Australia	_	_	3,813	56
Hong Kong			6,438	6,546
	581,186	330,490	1,614,723	1,608,330

^{*} Non-current assets excluded deferred tax assets and restricted bank balance.

4. FINANCE COSTS

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2023	
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Interest on bank borrowings	5,330	4,176
Interest on contract liabilities	1,920	770
Imputed interest expenses on lease liabilities	81	18
	7,331	4,964

5. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Current tax charge:		
PRC Enterprise Income Tax ("EIT")		
Current period	10,312	18,440
 Overprovision in respect of prior years 	(3,686)	_
Withholding tax	4,360	4,405
	10,986	22,845
Deferred tax credit		
- Current period	(887)	(4,425)
	10,099	18,420

No provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax has been made as the Group had no assessable profit subject to Hong Kong Profits Tax during both periods.

Under the Law of the PRC on Enterprise Income Tax (the "EIT Law") and Implementation Regulation of EIT Law, the tax rate of the PRC subsidiary was 25% during both periods.

Jiangxi Province Yifeng Wanguo Mining Company Ltd ("Yifeng Wanguo"), a subsidiary of the Company, is approved as an enterprise that satisfied the conditions as high and new technology enterprises and obtained the Certificate of High and New Technology Enterprises enjoying the preferential enterprise income tax rate of 15% for a consecutive three calendar years from 2018 to 2020. In November 2021, the Certificate has been extended for further 3 years and Yifeng Wanguo is entitled to the preferential rate for 2021, 2022 and 2023.

In addition, pursuant to the relevant rules and regulations, certain qualified research and development costs incurred by the Group during the period and endorsed by a local tax authority in the PRC is eligible for further deduction for PRC EIT up to 75% of the relevant costs incurred.

The tax charge for the reporting period can be reconciled to the profit before tax per the condensed consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income as follows:

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Profit before tax	189,533	105,146
Tax at the EIT rate of 25%	47,383	26,287
Tax effect of expenses not deductible for tax purpose	838	6,479
Tax effect of income not taxable for tax purpose	(28,954)	_
Income tax at concessionary rate	(7,738)	(13,094)
Tax effect of additional tax benefit on research and development expenses	(1,244)	(1,249)
Overprovision in respect of prior years	(3,686)	(3)
Withholding tax on distributable earnings of a subsidiary established in the PRC _	3,500	
Tax charge for the period	10,099	18,420

6. PROFIT FOR THE PERIOD

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	RMB'000	RMB '000
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
Profit for the period has been arrived at after charging the following items:		
Directors' emoluments	1,978	2,252
Other staff costs	27,381	30,463
Retirement benefit scheme contributions, excluding those of directors	1,312	1,223
Total staff costs	30,671	33,938
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	31,455	20,571
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	1,250	832
Amortisation of mining rights	26,819	533
Amortisation of intangible assets	106	106
Total depreciation and amortisation	59,630	22,042
Research and development costs	11,058	11,099
Cost of inventories recognised as an expense	302,554	171,037

7. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The calculation of basic earnings per share attributable to the owners of the Company is based on the following data:

2022
(Unaudited)
94,551
828,000

No diluted earnings per share are presented as there were no potential dilutive ordinary shares in issue during both periods.

8. DIVIDENDS

During the period, the Company recognised the following dividends as distribution:

	Six months e	ended 30 June
	2023 <i>RMB'000</i> (Unaudited)	2022 <i>RMB</i> '000 (Unaudited)
Final dividend for the year ended 31 December 2022: RMB10.00 cents per share (2022: RMB10.10 cents per share for the year ended 31 December 2021)	82,800	83,628

The board of directors of the Company does not recommend an interim dividend for both periods.

9. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	Note	30.6.2023 RMB'000	31.12.2022 RMB'000
	TVOIC	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
Trade receivables from contracts with customers	(a)	10,449	13,151
Amount due from a related company	(b)	3	3
Amount due from a non-controlling shareholder	(c)	23,996	23,569
Prepayments and other receivables			
- prepayments to major subcontractors	(d)	67,000	88,515
- prepayments to other suppliers	(e)	41,866	43,000
- Other receivables	-	40,899	28,222
	-	173,764	183,309
Total trade and other receivables	:	184,213	196,460

(a) Trade receivables

No trade receivables are past due at the end of the reporting period. The Group does not hold any collateral over these balances.

The ECL for trade receivables as at 30 June 2023 and 31 December 2022 have been assessed collectively based on the trade debtors' aging, grouped by debtor balances that are not yet past due and different aging brackets of numbers of days past due (if any). Based on the assessment of the management of the Group, allowance for credit losses from the trade receivables as at 30 June 2023 and 31 December 2022 is insignificant.

(b) Amount due from a related company

The balance is due from a company wholly owned and controlled by Mr. Gao Mingqing, the Chief Executive of the Company. The balance is interest free, unsecured and repayable on demand.

(c) Amount due from a non-controlling shareholder

The amount is non-trade in nature, unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

(d) Prepayments to major subcontractors

Included in the balance is prepayment of subcontracting fee to mining subcontractors by the subsidiaries Gold Ridge Mining Limited ("GRML") and Yifeng Wanguo for mining of ores, which amounted to approximately Nil (as at 31 December 2022: RMB100,000) and RMB67,000,000 (as at 31 December 2022: RMB88,415,000) respectively as at 30 June 2023.

(e) Prepayments to other suppliers

Included in the balance is prepayment to suppliers of metal concentrates for trading which amounted to approximately RMB29,930,000 (as at 31 December 2022: RMB25,160,000) and prepayment to suppliers of raw materials which amounted to approximately RMB7,522,000 (as at 31 December 2022: RMB11,999,000) as at 30 June 2023.

For long-term customers with good credit quality and payment history, the Group allows credit periods of no longer than 60 days for sales of certain products. For others, the Group generally requests for deposits in advance from customers.

The following is an aging analysis of trade receivables, presented based on the invoice dates.

		30.6.2023 <i>RMB'000</i> (Unaudited)	31.12.2022 <i>RMB'000</i> (Audited)
Within 30 days		10,449	13,073
Over 90 days	-		78
	:	10,449	13,151
10. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES			
	Note	30.6.2023 <i>RMB'000</i> (Unaudited)	31.12.2022 <i>RMB'000</i> (Audited)
Trade payables	(i)	67,505	83,109
Bills payables	(ii)	19,900	
Trade and bills payables	-	87,405	83,109
Value-added tax, resource tax and other tax payables		12,947	12,454
Payables for construction in progress and property, plant and equipment		21,342	20,067
Accrued expenses and other payables - Accrued expenses		4,639	2,497
Accrued expensesAccrued staff cost		6,724	6,099
Other payables	-	9,662	14,249
	-	55,314	55,366
Total trade and other payables	:	142,719	138,475

The following is analysis of trade payables by age, presented based on the delivery dates.

	30.6.2023 <i>RMB'000</i> (Unaudited)	31.12.2022 <i>RMB</i> '000 (Audited)
W/41: 20 1	25 150	41.000
Within 30 days	37,178	41,920
31-60 days	16,070	10,398
61-90 days	3,373	16,555
91-180 days	1,455	12,674
Over 180 days	9,429	1,562
_	67,505	83,109
The following is an aged analysis of bills payables based on the date of issue of bills:		
	30.6.2023	31.12.2022
	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
91-180 days	19,900	
	19,900	_

Notes:

⁽i) The average credit period on purchase of goods is 30 days upon delivery. No interest is charged on overdue trade payable.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

BUSINESS REVIEW

Our Group is principally engaged in the business of mining, ore processing and sale of concentrates products in the PRC and Solomon Islands.

Currently, we, through our wholly-owned subsidiaries, own the entire equity interest in Jiangxi Province Yifeng Wanguo Mining Company Limited ("Yifeng Wanguo") which in turn owns the Xinzhuang copper-lead-zinc mine, an operating mine located in Jiangxi Province, the PRC ("Xinzhuang Mine") in which we conduct underground mining. The Xinzhuang Mine has a substantial volume of non-ferrous polymetallic mineral resources. Products of our Group primarily include copper concentrates, iron concentrates, zinc concentrates, sulfur concentrates, lead concentrates as well as by-products of gold and silver.

The Group has, on 13 July 2017, completed acquisition of 51% attributable interest of Xizang Changdu County Dadi Mining Company Limited ("Xizang Changdu"), which owns the lead-silver mine in Walege of Changdu Country, the PRC ("Walege Mine") in which we may further exploit for open-pit and underground mining. The Walege Mine has a significant volume of mineral resources of lead and silver.

In addition, the Group has on 30 April 2020, completed acquisition of 77.78% interest of AXF Gold Ridge Pty Limited, which owns 90% interest of a gold ridge mine located in the Solomon Islands ("Gold Ridge Mine") in which we may further exploit for open-pit and underground mining. The Gold Ridge Mine has a substantial volume of mineral resources of gold.

Operating performance

The following tables set forth the volume of respective products sold at the Xinzhuang Mine and Gold Ridge Mine during the six months ended 30 June 2023 compared to the corresponding period in 2022.

	Xinzhuang Mine Six months ended 30 June			
			June	
	2023	2022		
	Volume	Volume	Changes	
	(tonnes)	(tonnes)	(approximate %)	
Copper in copper concentrates	1,338	2,275	(41.2)	
Zinc in zinc concentrates	3,728	1,765	111.2	
Iron concentrates	38,295	48,615	(21.2)	
Sulfur concentrates	116,626	117,182	(0.5)	
Lead in lead concentrates	734	323	127.2	
Sulfur and iron concentrates	16,794	16,360	2.7	
Gold in concentrates (kg)	95	79	20.3	
Silver in concentrates (kg)	4,780	5,497	(13.0)	
Copper in concentrates (kg)	139	69	101.4	
Zinc in concentrates (kg)	286	_	N/A	

Type of products sold

Gold Ridge Mine Six months ended 30 June

	2023	2022	Changes
	Volume	Volume	(approximate %)
Gold Doré (kg)	608	_	N/A
Gold Concentrates (tonnes)	8,448	_	N/A

The following table sets forth the volume of ores mined and processed at our Xinzhuang Mine and Gold Ridge Mine during the six months ended 30 June 2023 and 2022 respectively.

		Xinzhuang Mine		Gold Rid	lge Mine	
	Six n	nonths ended 30 J	June	Six months en	nded 30 June	
	2023	2022		2023	2022	
	Volume	Volume	Changes	Volume	Volume	Changes
	(tonnes)	(tonnes)	(approximate %)	(tonnes)	(tonnes)	(approximate %)
Volume of ores mined	491,437	506,320	(2.9)	613,655		N/A
Volume of ores processed	481,598	495,602	(2.8)	721,269	_	N/A

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, the production of copper-iron processing plant in Xinzhuang Mine was temporarily disrupted due to the upgrading of wastewater treatment facilities to satisfy new emission requirement, which resulted in drop in sales volume of copper in copper concentrates and iron concentrates. This has been offset by the surge in zinc in zinc concentrates and lead in lead concentrates sold, following the completion of upgrade in lead-zinc processing plant in last year.

Gold Ridge Mine has commenced trial production and exported gold dore in the fourth quarter of 2022 so there were no gold products sold or ore processed during the six months ended 30 June 2022.

EXPANSION IN EXISTING MINES

Xinzhuang Mine

We had completed our expansion plan as disclosed in the prospectus of the Company dated 28 June 2012 in Xinzhuang Mine, reaching 600,000 tpa in both mining capacity and processing capacity. We are now in the progress of upgrading its capacity to 900,000 tpa.

During the first half of 2023, Yifeng Wanguo has improved wastewater treatment facilities, resulting in emission concentrations of thallium fluoride below 2 microgram/L (well-below industry standard). It has obtained a 900,000 tpa safety production permit issued by the Jiangxi Provincial Department of Emergency Management (江西省應急管理廳) in May 2023, with the mine's mining permit extended to the deep level of -500m.

Walege Mine

During the first half of 2023, the Group organised several rounds of panel discussion in reviewing the draft Environmental Protection and Land Reclamation Programme of Walege Mine prepared by the external consultant. The Group launched and appointed consultants to prepare a soil and water conservation programme (水土保持方案) and a safety pre-evaluation report (工程安全預評價報告) etc for its intended mining and processing activities.

Gold Ridge Mine

Flotation production has been steadily ramping up towards its design capacity during this trial production phase. Further plant modification and upgrade is underway to improve the metallurgy process. We anticipate additional circuits installation to be completed in the second half of this year. In consultation with Golder Associates, construction of the tailings dry stack facility is progressing well, with the first phase completed and operational, and the second phase expected to be completed by the end of the year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

			Six month en	ded 30 June		
		Trading of			Trading of	
	Concentrates	electrolytic			electrolytic	
	products,	copper			copper	
	gold doré	and other			and other	
	and gold	concentrate		Concentrates	concentrate	
	concentrates	(sourced		products	(sourced	
	(own mined)	outside)	2023 Total	(own mined)	outside)	2022 Total
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Revenue	537,538	43,648	581,186	293,967	36,523	330,490
Cost of sales	(259,037)	(43,517)	(302,554)	(134,537)	(36,500)	(171,037)
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	. , , ,	` ' '	, , ,	, , ,	
Gross profit	278,501	131	278,632	159,430	23	159,453
Gross profit margin	51.8%	0.3%	47.9%	54.2%	0.1%	48.2%

Revenue, cost of sales, gross profit and gross profit margin

The Group's overall revenue reported an increase by approximately 75.9% from approximately RMB330.5 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB581.2 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, which was primarily due to the increase in sales generated by Gold Ridge Mine. Our cost of sales increased by 77.0% from approximately RMB171.0 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB302.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023 which was mainly driven by the corresponding increase in sales from Gold Ridge Mine.

The overall gross profit of the Group increased by approximately 74.7% from approximately RMB159.5 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB278.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023. The overall gross profit margin decreased from approximately 48.2% for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately 47.9% for the six months ended 30 June 2023. Such slight decrease was mainly resulted from the decrease in gross profit margin of Xinzhuang Mine.

(i) Concentrates products, gold doré and gold concentrates (own mined)

			Six month en	ded 30 June		
		Gold Ridge			Gold Ridge	
	Xinzhuang	Mine		Xinzhuang	Mine	
	Mine	gold doré		Mine	gold doré	
	Concentrates	and gold		Concentrates	and gold	
	products	concentrates	2023 Total	products	concentrates	2022 Total
	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000	RMB'000
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Revenue	230,832	306,706	537,538	293,967	_	293,967
Cost of sales	(124,593)	(134,444)	(259,037)	(134,537)	_	(134,537)
Gross profit	106,239	172,262	278,501	159,430	_	159,430
Gross profit margin	46.0%	56.2%	51.8%	54.2%	N/A	54.2%

Xinzhuang Mine – concentrates products

Revenue from sales of concentrates products decreased by approximately 21.5% from approximately RMB294.0 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB230.8 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

For the six months ended 30 June 2023, we sold 1,338 tonnes of copper in copper concentrates, 38,295 tonnes of iron concentrates and 3,728 tonnes of zinc in zinc concentrates, compared to 2,275 tonnes, 48,615 tonnes and 1,765 tonnes respectively for the six months ended 30 June 2022, representing decreases of approximately 41.2% and 21.2% for copper in copper concentrates and iron concentrates respectively which were principally attributable to the suspension of copper-iron processing plant, and an increase of approximately 111.2% for zinc in zinc concentrates due to the completion of the reconstruction of lead-zinc processing plant in relation to the 900,000 tpa expansion plan.

The average prices of copper in copper concentrates, iron concentrates and zinc in zinc concentrates for the six months ended 30 June 2023 were RMB54,167, RMB716 and RMB12,457 per tonne respectively, compared to RMB57,405, RMB844 and RMB16,748 per tonne respectively for the six months ended 30 June 2022, representing decreases of approximately 5.6%, 15.2% and 25.6% respectively. Despite China easing its zero-COVID policies, signs of economic weakness persisted, leading to a slump in copper, zinc and iron prices.

The cost of sales of concentrates products decreased by approximately 7.4% from approximately RMB134.5 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB124.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, which was in line with the decrease in sales.

The gross profit of concentrates products for the six months ended 30 June 2023 was approximately RMB106.2 million, which represented a decrease of approximately 33.4% compared to approximately RMB159.4 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022. The gross profit margin decreased from approximately 54.2% for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately 46.0% for the six months ended 30 June 2023. Such decrease was mainly attributable to the decline in the selling price of certain concentrates.

Gold Ridge Mine – gold doré and gold concentrates

Starting from November 2022, Gold Ridge Mine exported gold doré from the heap leach operation. Revenue from sales of gold doré and gold concentrates for the six months ended 30 June 2023 was approximately RMB306.7 million and the cost of sales was approximately RMB134.4 million, resulting in a gross profit of approximately RMB172.3 million and gross profit margin of approximately 56.2% for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

(ii) Trading of electrolytic copper and lead and other concentrates (sourced outside)

Revenue from trading of electrolytic copper, electrolytic lead and other concentrates increased by approximately 19.5% from approximately RMB36.5 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB43.6 million during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

The corresponding cost of sales of electrolytic copper, electrolytic lead and other concentrates increased by approximately 19.2% from approximately RMB36.5 million during the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB43.5 million during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

The gross profit of trading of electrolytic copper, electrolytic lead and other concentrates increased by approximately 4.7 times from approximately RMB23,000 during the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB131,000 during the six months ended 30 June 2023. The gross profit margin increased from approximately 0.1% for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately 0.3% for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Other income

Our other income comprised mainly bank interest income of approximately RMB2.6 million, incentives received from a local governmental authority of approximately RMB0.5 million and government grant and subsidy to Yifeng Wanguo in relation to the mining technology improvement of approximately RMB0.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023. Other income increased by approximately RMB2.2 million compared with the corresponding period in 2022, which was attributable to the increase in bank interest income.

Other gains and losses

Our other gains and losses increased by approximately RMB1.2 million from losses of approximately RMB0.9 million to losses of approximately RMB2.1 million, which comprised mainly unrealised exchange loss of approximately RMB1.9 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023 as a result of the translation of Australian dollars and Hong Kong dollars into Renminbi, whereas for the six months ended 30 June 2022, unrealised exchange loss of approximately RMB0.9 million was incurred as a result of the translation of Australian dollars and Hong Kong dollars into Renminbi.

Distribution and selling expenses

Our distribution and selling expenses increased by approximately 15 times from approximately RMB2.1 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB33.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023. The increase was mainly attributable to the increase in the railway and transportation fees, export duty, refinery charges and royalties as a result of the increase in the sales volume of gold doré and gold concentrates.

Administrative expenses

Our administrative expenses increased by approximately 4.4% from approximately RMB47.8 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB49.9 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023. The increase was principally attributable to the increase in staff costs, travelling expenses and diesel oil fees incurred by Gold Ridge Mine and increase in research and development expenses incurred by Yifeng Wanguo with respect to certain research project on improvement of metal extraction and mining techniques.

Finance costs

Our finance costs increased by approximately 46.0% from approximately RMB5.0 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB7.3 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, primarily due to the increase in interest on contract liabilities of approximately RMB1.2 million and interest expenses derived from bank borrowings which were newly drawn down during the period.

Income tax expense

Our income tax expense was approximately RMB10.1 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023, consisting of PRC corporate income tax payable of approximately RMB10.3 million, withholding tax payable of approximately RMB4.4 million, overprovision in respect of prior year of RMB3.7 million and deferred tax credit of approximately RMB0.9 million. Our income tax expense was approximately RMB18.4 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022, consisting of PRC corporate income tax payable of approximately RMB18.4 million, withholding tax payable of approximately RMB4.4 million and deferred tax credit of approximately RMB4.4 million.

The decrease in our income tax expense for the six months ended 30 June 2023 was primarily due to the decrease in the PRC corporate income tax expense as a result of the decrease in operating profit which were subject to PRC corporate income tax.

Profit for the period

As a result of the foregoing, our profit after taxation increased by approximately 106.9% or approximately RMB92.7 million, from approximately RMB86.7 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB179.4 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023. The increase was mainly attributable to the increase in sale of gold doré and gold concentrates and their profits contribution from Gold Ridge Mine.

Our net profit margin increased from approximately 26.2% for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately 30.9% for the six months ended 30 June 2023. Such increase was mainly due to rise in revenue and profit generated from sales of gold doré and gold concentrates with high profit margin.

Profit attributable to owners of our Company

The profit attributable to the owners of our Company increased by approximately 55.5% or approximately RMB52.5 million, from approximately RMB94.6 million for the six months ended 30 June 2022 to approximately RMB147.1 million for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Liquidity and financial resources

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, the Group's net cash generated from operating activities was approximately RMB166.3 million (net cash used in operating activities for the six months ended 30 June 2022: approximately RMB2.4 million) and the Group's bank balances and cash was approximately RMB176.1 million as at 30 June 2023 (as at 31 December 2022: approximately RMB67.9 million). Such increase in bank balances and cash was mainly attributable to the increase in sales from Gold Ridge Mine and better management on trade and other receivables.

Included in bank balances and cash, approximately RMB11.7 million (as at 31 December 2022: approximately RMB2.7 million) was denominated in Hong Kong dollars, Australian dollars, Solomon Islands dollars and US dollars.

Borrowings

As at 30 June 2023, the Group had secured bank borrowings of approximately RMB152.3 million and unsecured bank borrowings of approximately RMB40.0 million in aggregate with maturity from one year to five years and effective interest rate of approximately 4.96%.

Gearing ratio

The Group had a gearing ratio of approximately 11.4% (representing total bank borrowings and payables to former non-controlling shareholder of a subsidiary divided by total assets) as at 30 June 2023. The gearing ratio was approximately 12.1% as at 31 December 2022. The decrease in gearing ratio was mainly attributable to the increase in bank balances and cash and inventories of approximately RMB163.7 million.

Capital expenditure

Capital expenditure mainly included purchase of mining and processing equipment, construction of mining structures at the Gold Ridge Mine as well as payment for exploration and evaluation assets. For the six months ended 30 June 2023, capital expenditure of approximately RMB48.2 million has been incurred (for the six months ended 30 June 2022: approximately RMB51.6 million).

Contractual obligations and capital commitment

As at 30 June 2023, the Group's capital commitment amounted to approximately RMB31.8 million, representing a increase of approximately RMB25.0 million as compared to approximately RMB6.8 million as at 31 December 2022, which was primarily due to the prospecting activities carrying out at Gold Ridge Mine and purchase of production machines for Xinzhuang Mine and Gold Ridge Mine.

Contingent liabilities

As at 30 June 2023, the Group did not have any material contingent liabilities or guarantees.

Significant investments, acquisitions and disposals of subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures

Save as disclosed in this announcement, the Group had no significant investments, or material acquisition and disposal of subsidiaries, associated and joint ventures during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Future plan for material investments and capital assets

Save as disclosed in this announcement, the Group does not have any plan authorised by the board of Directors (the "Board") for material investments or additions of capital assets as at the date of this announcement.

Charge on group assets

As at 30 June 2023, the Group's mining right, right-of-use assets and buildings with carrying value of approximately RMB72.3 million (as at 31 December 2022: approximately RMB74.7 million) were pledged to secure the Group's bank borrowings and facilities.

Exposure to fluctuations in exchange rates

The Group's businesses are located primarily in the PRC and Solomon Islands and most of the transactions are conducted in Renminbi, US dollars and Australian dollars. Except for certain Group's bank balances and cash, other receivables and other payables denominated in Hong Kong dollars, Australian dollars, Solomon Islands dollars and US dollars, the majority of the Group's assets and liabilities are denominated in Renminbi.

As Renminbi fluctuated against Hong Kong dollars and Australian dollars in a limited extent during the reporting period, the Group had no material adverse exposure to foreign exchange fluctuations during the six months ended 30 June 2023. We have not used any foreign currency hedge arrangement or other derivatives to hedge against exchange rates risk.

Interest rate risk

Our bank borrowings are denominated in Renminbi and Hong Kong dollars borrowed from domestic commercial banks at interest rates that are determined by reference to the benchmark interest rates set by the People's Bank of China ("PBoC") and Hong Kong Interbank Offered Rate ("HIBOR") respectively. Interest rates on our bank loans are subject to adjustments by our lenders in accordance with changes in the PBoC benchmark rates and HIBOR. We are exposed to interest rate risk resulting from changes in interest rates on our short-term and long-term bank borrowings. Increases in benchmark interest rates will increase the interest rates on our bank loans. Increases in interest rates will increase our expense on outstanding borrowings and the cost of new borrowings, and therefore could have a material adverse effect on our financial results. We have not used any interest rate swaps or other derivatives to hedge against interest rate risk.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

The Board did not declare an interim dividend for both periods.

EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION POLICY

As at 30 June 2023, the Group employed approximately 785 employees, excluding the independent third-party contractor which is responsible for underground mining work in Xinzhuang Mine and mining and drilling works at Gold Ridge Mine. Remuneration is determined and reviewed based on fair principles with reference to market conditions and individual performances.

The Group also provides other benefits to its employees include social insurance together with housing provident funds for our PRC employees, contributions to statutory mandatory provident funds for our Hong Kong employees, superannuation for our Australia employees and national provident funds for our Solomon Islands employees.

EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND MINING ACTIVITIES

Xinzhuang Mine

Mineral exploration

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, the exploration activities in the Xinzhuang Mine were within 4-29 exploration line. We have completed underground geological drilling of 14,771 m, with drill size of 60-108 mm for the six months ended 30 June 2023. We have also finished tunnel drilling of 410 m and completed adit mapping of 932 m. For the six months ended 30 June 2023, approximately RMB6.3 million was incurred for the mineral exploration.

Development

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, the Group incurred development expenditure of approximately RMB7.5 million.

Detailed breakdown of development expenditure is as follows:

	RMB' (million)
Mining structures	6.5
Machinery and electronic equipment for processing plants	0.8
Motor vehicles	0.2
	7.5

Mining activities

Type of concentrates sold

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, we processed a total of 481,598 tonnes of ore in the Xinzhuang Mine. The following table shows the volume of our concentrates products sold during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Volume

Copper in copper concentrates	1,338 tonnes
Iron concentrates	38,295 tonnes
Zinc in zinc concentrates	3,728 tonnes
Sulfur concentrates	116,626 tonnes
Lead in lead concentrates	734 tonnes
Sulfur and iron concentrates	16,794 tonnes
Gold in copper concentrates	22 kg
Silver in copper concentrates	1,473 kg
Silver in zinc concentrates	84 kg
Gold in lead concentrates	73 kg
Sliver in lead concentrates	3,223 kg
Copper in lead concentrates	139 kg
Zinc in lead concentrates	286 kg

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, Xinzhuang Mine incurred expenditures for mining and processing activities of approximately RMB72.1 million (30 June 2022: approximately RMB76.9 million) and approximately RMB46.0 million (30 June 2022: approximately RMB41.2 million) respectively. The unit expenditures for mining and processing activities were approximately RMB149.6/t (30 June 2022: approximately RMB151.9/t) and approximately RMB95.5/t (30 June 2022: approximately RMB83.0/t) respectively. The decrease in unit expenditure for mining activities was mainly attributable to decrease in safety production fees such as pandemic prevention and control. The increase in unit expenditure for processing activities was mainly attributable to increase in cost of materials such as forged steel grinding balls, explosives and chemical products.

Walege Mine

We own 51% attributable interest of Xizang Changdu which in turn owns the Walege Mine in which we may further exploit for open-pit and underground mining. The Walege Mine has a significant volume of mineral resources of lead and silver. The Group is in the progress of converting its exploration license to mining license.

Mineral exploration

No exploration was conducted during the six months ended 30 June 2023. During the six months ended 30 June 2023, the main activities were license maintenance as well as application or conversion of exploration license to mining license.

Development

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, Walege Mine incurred development expenditure of approximately RMB0.7 million mainly in respect of various experts discussion and meetings for reviewing the draft Environmental Protection and Land Reclamation Programme of Walege Mine. The Group appointed consultants to prepare a soil and water conservation programme (水土保持方案) and a safety pre-evaluation report (工程安全預評價報告) etc for the mining and processing activities.

Mining activities

Since the Walege Mine is still in development stage, no mining activities occurred for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

Gold Ridge Mine

Mineral exploration

In order to upgrade and increase mineral resources within our Mining Lease area as well as to undertake metallurgical recovery optimization test works, the Gold Ridge Mine continued with the drilling program at the Charivunga deposit (CVG) launched in 2019. As at 30 June 2023, 42 diamond drill holes ("**DDH**") (totally 18,229.29 meters) were completed, of which 4,255,83 meters were completed in the first half of 2023. The drilling results are promising with resource increase expected. Final resource update model and reserve will be published once we complete the designed DDHs and review by geologists.

Geological survey works along the Chovohio River commenced in March 2023, for alluvial gold prospect. Five alluvial gold ore bodies were identified, showing promising potential commercial mining value.

During the first half of 2023, expenditure of mineral exploration was approximately RMB19.6 million. The expenditure includes direct drilling costs, energy cost and assay cost.

Development

During the first half of 2023, the Gold Ridge Mine incurred development expenditure of RMB36.8 million mainly in respect of the construction of the tailings dry stacking facility, gold room refurbishment and improvement to flotation plant water supply and tailings discharge pipe works.

Detailed breakdown of development expenditure is as follows:

	RMB' (million)
Mining structures	11.0
Buildings	12.2
Machinery and electronic equipment for processing plants	12.3
Motor vehicles	1.3
	36.8

Mining activities

Gold Ridge Mine commenced heap leach plant trial production in August 2022, and flotation plant trial production from 1 January 2023.

During the first half of 2023, the flotation plant processed a total of 721,269 tonnes of ore and produced approximately 18,441 dry metric tonnes of gold concentrates (with an average grade above 25g/t).

Knelson gravity circuit and heap leach plant produced approximately 784 kg of gold doré. As at 30 June 2023, we sold approximately 608 kg of gold doré (averaging 78.3% gold and 19.2% silver) to ABC refinery (Australia). During the six months ended 30 June 2023, Gold Ridge Mine incurred expenditures for mining and processing activities of approximately RMB68.3 million (or AUD14.6 million) and RMB57.1 million (or AUD12.2 million) respectively. The unit of expenditures for mining and processing activities were approximately RMB111.8/t (or AUD23.9/t) and RMB79.6/t (or AUD17.0/t) respectively.

PROSPECT

We intend to continue to grow our business into a leading non-ferrous mining company in the PRC and South Pacific region through the following major strategies.

Growing production at our mine and outsourcing our mining works

The scale of our production operation in the Xinzhuang Mine has increased to our targeted mining capacity and processing capacity of 600,000 tpa by end of 2014 and is now on the final stage of upgrading the mining capacity to 900,000 tpa. We planned to further upgrade the mining capacity to 1,000,000 tpa in coming years. To minimise costs, we will continue to outsource our underground mining works to third-party contractors.

Horizontal expansion through future acquisitions of new mines

We intend to further expand our mineral resources and ore reserves through the acquisitions of new mines. We will consider and balance assessment criteria carefully in respect of our acquisition targets, in order to pursue acquisitions prudently with a view to further growing our business and maximising returns to the Shareholders.

OUTLOOK

In the first half of 2023, global commodity prices fell sharply, with non-ferrous metal prices leading the decline. The general decline in commodity prices is closely related to the slowdown in developed economies such as Europe and the United States, global monetary tightening, and the dissipation of supply disruptions brought about by epidemics and geopolitical crises. Looking ahead, it is believed that the domestic non-ferrous metals market has experienced a period of active de-stocking, the inventory pressure weakened in the aftermath of the market, and replenishment activities may occur, and the slowdown in the overseas Fed interest rate hikes means that the financial attributes of commodities suppression weakened, and non-ferrous metal prices would have a possibility of a staged rebound. However, due to the poor economic growth prospects in Europe and the United States, especially the banking crisis to the European and American economy in the fourth quarter of 2022 and the risk of recession, the non-ferrous metal prices in the second half of 2023 may be only a staged rebound, rather than has bottomed out.

Gold price has climbed in the first half of 2023, and was up as much as 9% for the period in April. As of the end of June, the price is up around 4% year to date, sitting near US\$1,920 per ounce.

The rise has been attributed to rising interest rates and stock market volatility, as well as instability in the banking sector. Buying gold during an economic slowdown is an age-old trend because, unlike other investment options like stocks, the value of gold tends to rise as investors seek safe haven assets. The demand for safe haven assets may continue to be elevated for the foreseeable future. Earlier this year, a well-known banker predicted that the price of gold could rise to \$2,200 per ounce by March 2024.

COMPLIANCE WITH CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODE

The Company is committed to maintaining high standards of corporate governance and has complied with all material code provisions of the Corporate Governance Code (the "CG Code") as set out in Appendix 14 to the Rules (the "Listing Rules") Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") throughout the six months ended 30 June 2023, except for the deviation from code provision C.2.1 of the CG Code in respect of segregation of the roles of chairman and chief executive officer as mentioned below.

According to code provision C.2.1 of the CG Code, the roles of chairman and chief executive officer should be separate and should not be performed by the same individual. Mr. Gao Mingqing, in addition to his duties as the chairman of the Company, is also responsible for the strategic planning and overseeing all aspects of the Group's operations as the chief executive officer of the Company. This constitutes a deviation from code provision C.2.1 of the CG Code. Mr. Gao Mingqing as one of the founders of the Group has extensive experience and knowledge in the core business of the Group and his duties for overseeing the Group's operations is clearly beneficial to the Group. The Board considers that this structure will not impair the balance of power and authority between the Board and the management of the Group.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS

The Company has adopted a code of conduct (the "Code of Conduct") regarding securities transactions by the Directors on terms no less exacting than the required standard of dealings as set out in the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") contained in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules. Having made specific enquiries with all Directors, all Directors have confirmed that they had complied with the Model Code and the required standard set out in the Code of Conduct during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

The Company has also established written guidelines on terms no less exacting than the Model Code (the "Employees Written Guidelines") for securities transactions by relevant employees who are likely to possess inside information of the Company. No incident of non-compliance of the Employees Written Guidelines by the relevant employees was noted by the Company for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

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

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company's listed securities during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS BY THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The audit committee of the Board (the "Audit Committee") comprises three independent non-executive Directors, namely Mr. Tsang Wai Hung, Mr. Wong Chi Ming Ming and Mr. Wang Xin. The purpose of the establishment of the Audit Committee is for reviewing and supervising the financial reporting process, and risk management and internal control of the Group. The Audit Committee has reviewed the unaudited interim results of the Group for the six months ended 30 June 2023 and considered that they were prepared in compliance with the relevant accounting standards, and that the Company has made appropriate disclosure thereof under the requirements of the Listing Rules.

PUBLICATION OF THE INTERIM RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT AND INTERIM REPORT

The interim results announcement is published on the website of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited at www.hkexnews.hk and the Company's website at www.wgmine.com. The 2023 interim report of the Company containing all the information required by the Listing Rules will be despatched to the Shareholders and published on the above websites in due course.

By Order of the Board

Wanguo International Mining Group Limited

Gao Mingqing

Chairman

Hong Kong, 15 August 2023

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Mr. Gao Mingqing (Chairman), Mr. Liu Zhichun, Mr. Wang Renxiang and Ms. Wang Nan as executive Directors; and Mr. Tsang Wai Hung, Mr. Wong Chi Ming Ming and Mr. Wang Xin as independent non-executive Directors.