



香港經濟日報集團有限公司
HONG KONG ECONOMIC TIMES HOLDINGS LIMITED

Stock Code 00423



HONG KONG ECONOMIC TIMES HOLDINGS LIMITED

ANNUAL REPORT
2023/2024



The mission of the Group is to **become one** of the most **pre-eminent financial** and **business information** and **service providers** in Greater China

Contents

2	Corporate Information and Key Dates
4	Business Organisation Chart
5	HKET Holdings At A Glance Strategy and Core Business Domains
6	The Leading Edges Driving Business Excellence The Market Leaders
8	Awards
10	Chairman's Statement
12	Board of Directors
16	Corporate Governance
23	Management Discussion and Analysis
29	Directors' Report
36	Independent Auditor's Report
42	Audited Financial Statements
103	Five-year Financial Summary



Corporate Information and Key Dates

Board of Directors

Executive Directors

Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence (*Chairman*)

Ms. See Sau Mei Salome

Ms. Wong Ching

Non-executive Director

Mr. Chu Yu Lun

Independent Non-executive Directors

Mr. Lo Foo Cheung

Mr. O'Yang Wiley

Mr. Sin Hendrick

Company Secretary

Ms. Wong Ching *CPA, ACG, ACS*

Qualified Accountant

Ms. Chan Kit Man Fanny *FCPA, ACG, ACS*

Authorised Representatives

Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence

Ms. Wong Ching

Independent Auditor

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Certified Public Accountants

Registered Public Interest Entity Auditor

Audit Committee

Mr. O'Yang Wiley (*Chairman*)

Mr. Chu Yu Lun

Mr. Lo Foo Cheung

Nomination Committee

Mr. Sin Hendrick (*Chairman*)

Mr. Lo Foo Cheung

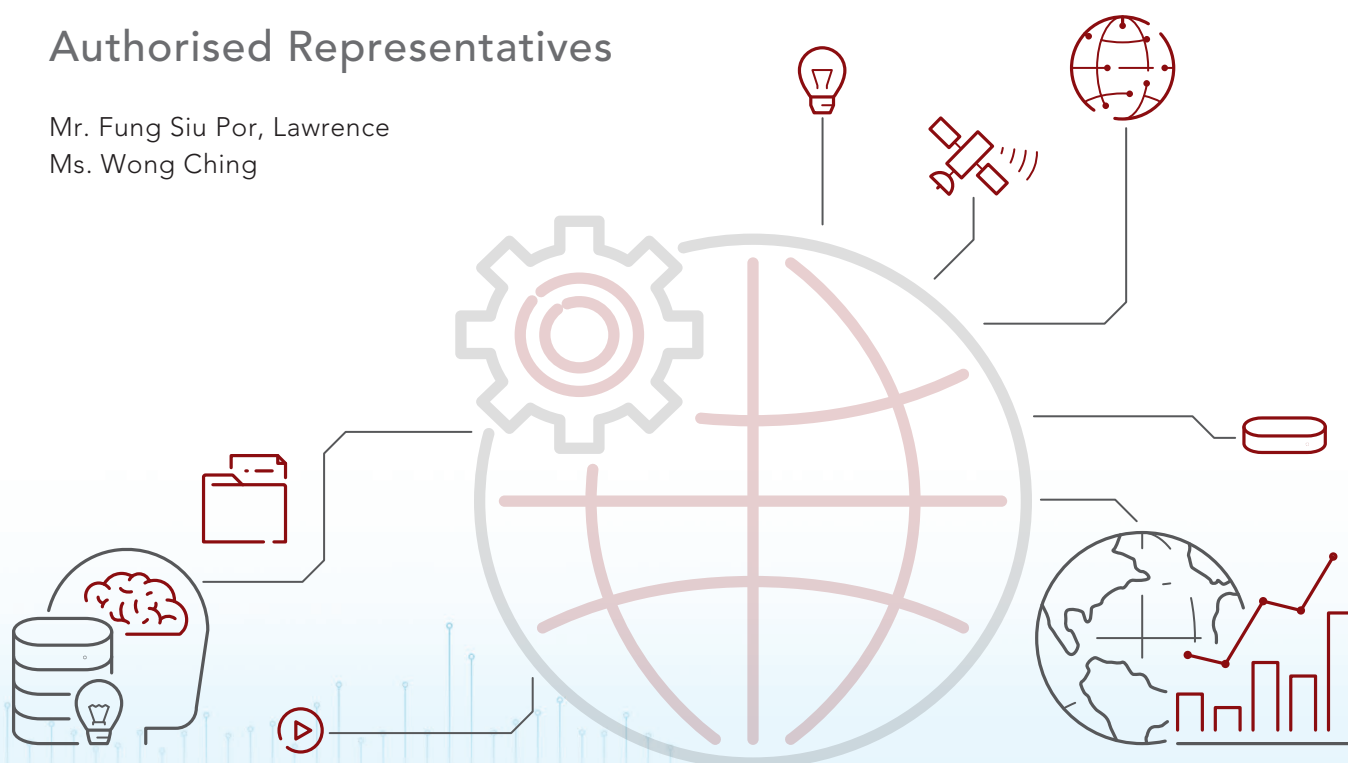
Mr. O'Yang Wiley

Remuneration Committee

Mr. Lo Foo Cheung (*Chairman*)

Mr. Chu Yu Lun

Mr. O'Yang Wiley



Registered Office

Cricket Square
Hutchins Drive
P.O. Box 2681
Grand Cayman KY1-1111
Cayman Islands

Head Office and Principal Place of Business

6th Floor, Kodak House II
321 Java Road
North Point
Hong Kong

Corporate Website

www.hketgroup.com

Email

groupinfo@hket.com

Stock Code

00423 HK

Principal Share Registrar and Transfer Office in Cayman Islands

Suntera (Cayman) Limited
Suite 3204, Unit 2A, Block 3
Building D, P.O. Box 1586
Gardenia Court, Camana Bay
Grand Cayman, KY1-1100
Cayman Islands

Branch Share Registrar and Transfer Office in Hong Kong

Tricor Investor Services Limited
17th Floor,
Far East Finance Centre
16 Harcourt Road
Hong Kong

Key Dates

Closure of Registers of Members

29 July 2024 to 1 August 2024
(for attending Annual General Meeting)

12 August 2024 to 14 August 2024
(for final dividend entitlement)

Annual General Meeting

1 August 2024

Proposed Payment of Final Dividend

6 September 2024

Business Organisation Chart

Media

Hong Kong Economic Times
 hket.com
 U Lifestyle
 CTgoodjobs
 Health Smart
 Apex Print



Financial News Agency, Information and Solutions

ET Net
 ET Trade
 ET Wealth
 EPRC



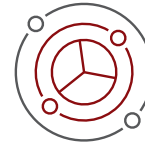
HKET Holdings At A Glance

Hong Kong Economic Times Holdings Limited (“HKET Holdings” / “the Group”) is a diversified multi-media company. Its core business – publication of the *Hong Kong Economic Times* (“HKET”) – was established in 1988. It is the leading financial newspaper in Hong Kong. Apart from newspapers and associated digital businesses, we also run a financial news agency, information and solutions business, ET Net, the leading financial news agency serving the professional market in Hong Kong and the Greater China; as well as operating in businesses of recruitment advertising and various lifestyle platforms. HKET Holdings was listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited on 3 August 2005 (Stock code: 00423).

Strategy and Core Business Domains

Taking advantage of the strong foundation and rich experiences of the Group, HKET Holdings strives to attain sustainable growth for the utmost benefit of shareholders by pursuance of diversification strategy through the following core business domains:

Finance



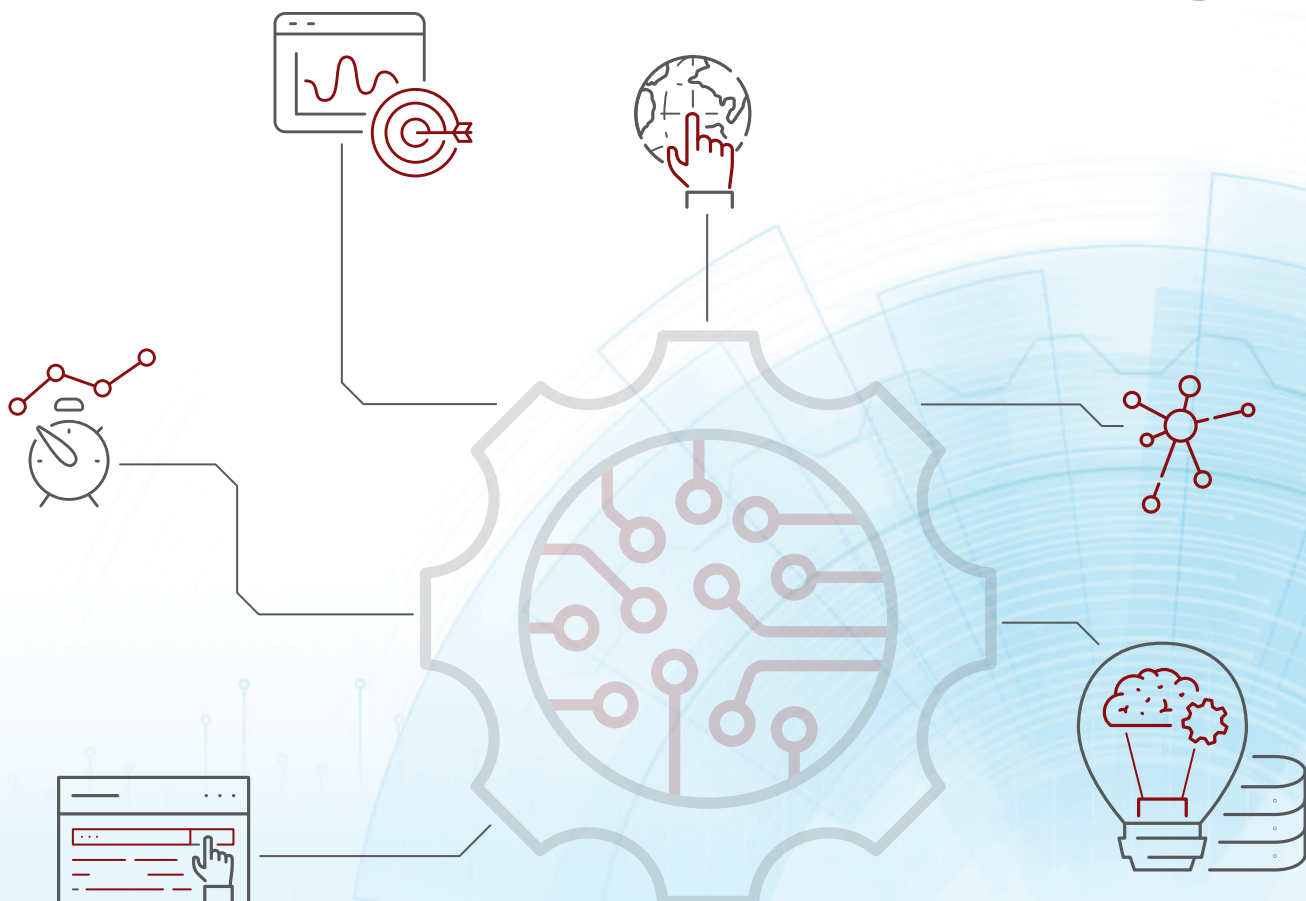
Property



Lifestyle



Talent



The Leading Edges

We always focus on building intimate market connection with our customers. In this financial year, the Group organised a number of remarkable events to demonstrate our strength in providing high-quality content and services, as well as strong brands.



HKET Excellence Awards by HKET

HKET Excellence Awards organised by *HKET* recognise enterprises with outstanding performance, exceptional contributions and achievements towards the economic or social development of Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area. At the same time, the Awards hope to foster industrial peers' mutual motivation, so as to promote the sustainable development of local enterprises and enhancement of product and service quality in a professional and innovative manner.



FinTech Awards by ET Net

The FinTech Awards 2023, organised by ET Net and held for the seventh year, are aimed at commending best FinTech practices and recognising outstanding FinTech professionals from Hong Kong-based companies. Our efforts in achieving excellent business performance and sustainable growth have earned widespread recognition in the market. This award is an acknowledgment of our commitment from the industries to maintain outstanding practices in all aspects of FinTech.



E-Brand Awards by HKET and U Lifestyle

"e-brand awards" aims to inspire and encourages Hong Kong brands to embrace creativity and technology in building a smarter lifestyle.



Banking & Finance Awards by HKET

The 8th edition of “Banking & Finance Awards” organised by *HKET* was held in 2023. The award recognises excellence and contributions of banking and finance organisations in providing outstanding services and products.



Best HR Awards by CTgoodjobs

“Best HR Awards” aims to recognise outstanding talent acquisition and development, thereby encouraging innovation and excellence among enterprises.



Driving Business Excellence

Our visionary teams always see customers first and are passionate to exceed their expectation. Over the years, with proliferation of diverse media, interactive content and ever-changing needs of customers, we make every endeavour to develop our digital businesses and react proactively to customer’s need through continuous enhancement of the related platforms.

The Market Leaders

Hong Kong Economic Times the financial daily

U Lifestyle the lifestyle platform

ET Net the financial news agency

ET Trade the securities & futures trading solution provider

ET Wealth the electronic funds database and wealth management system provider

EPRC the electronic property database provider

Apex Print the local printer for magazines and periodicals

Awards



HKET, ET Net and U Lifestyle won 11 awards in The 8th Media Convergence Awards including winner of

- Top 10 Media (HKET)
- Silver awards in "Online Media category (Overall)" (ET Net)



HKET and iMoney won 5 awards in 2023 Asia Pacific Institutional Press Awards including winner of

- Award for Best Newcomer (Chinese category)
- Journalist of the Year – Investment (Chinese category)
- Journalist of the Year – ESG (Chinese category)



hket.com and U Lifestyle recognised in Digital Media of the Year 2023

- 1st in "Finance" (hket.com)
- 1st in "Lifestyle" (U Lifestyle)
- 1st in "Travel" (U Lifestyle)



ET Net won in HKEX Market Data Awards 2023

- "Top Securities Data Vendor"



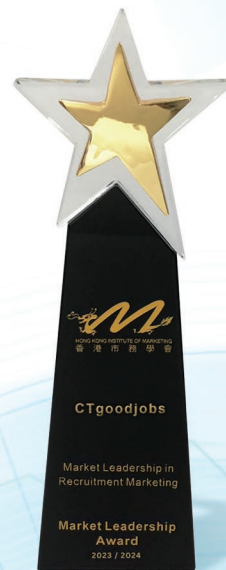
U Lifestyle won in Consumer Rights Reporting Awards 2023

- Grand Prize in "Best Use of Social Media in Consumer Advocacy"



ET Net won in The 6th Global Information Vendor Conference held by China Investment Information Services Limited of SHSE

- Information Vendor Award (Platinum)



CTgoodjobs won in HKIM Market Leadership Award 2023/2024

- Enterprise Market Leadership Award – Recruitment Marketing

HKET and CTgoodjobs won 6 awards in Spark Awards 2023

including 2 Gold, 3 Silver and 1 Bronze awards.

Chairman's Statement

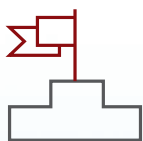
Dear Shareholders,

Geopolitical tensions and macroeconomic volatility continued to challenge the global and local economy. Trading volume of local stock market, dampened by a prolonged high interest rate environment and weak market sentiment, shrank further while fund raising activities remained extremely quiet. Local property market stayed lacklustre, with total number of transactions fell to record low level. Consumer sentiments improved but the changing consumption patterns of inbound visitors and local residents posed challenges to the local consumer market.

In such challenging economic environment, the Group's revenue for the year ended 31 March 2024 reduced by 10% to HK\$923.9 million. Profit attributable to shareholders for the financial year under review increased from HK\$27.5 million (after one-time item of the Employment Support Scheme subsidy granted by the Hong Kong Government of HK\$33.3 million) for the last financial year to HK\$54.2 million. The increase is mainly due to the one-time gain on disposal of a property of HK\$122.1 million, partly offset by non-cash impairment of Group's certain non-current assets of HK\$11.8 million and the write-down of deferred income tax assets of HK\$21.1 million. Excluding the one-time items in both years, results of the Group for the financial year under review turned to negative and recorded an increase in loss attributable to shareholders of HK\$29.2 million when compared to the last financial year.

Digitalisation continued to be the focal point of major industries in the local market. Revenue from the Group's digital platforms, information and solutions businesses contributed over 60% of the total revenue of the Group for the financial year under review, demonstrated the success of our digitalisation strategy in the recent years. The Artificial Intelligence ("AI") is integrated into businesses around the world at remarkable speed. To drive viewership and deepen our customer engagement as well as increase operational efficiency through automation, we will integrate more AI technology which will benefit our businesses in value creation, user experience as well as advancing our digital capabilities including data and analytical tools for quality content creation, audience behavior studies, advanced and predictive analytics, recommendation engines and cloud computing to accelerate the growth of digital businesses.

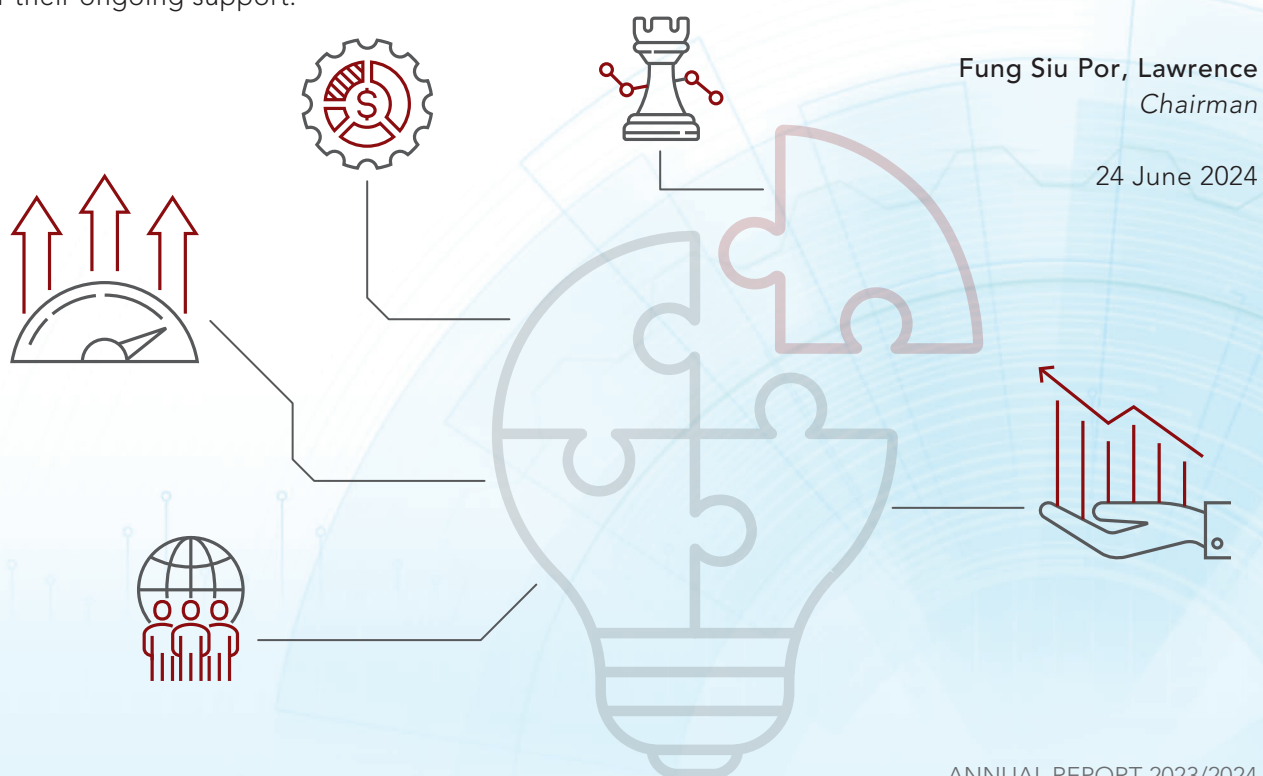
Dragged by the sluggish local stock and consumer markets, the financial news agency, information and solutions segment, the solid contributor of the Group, recorded a moderate decrease in net profit when compared with the preceding reporting year. Digitalisation remained to be the key focus of the banking and financial industries. As the leading market players, ET Net, ET Trade, ET Wealth and EPRC had captured the market trend and had secured several digital solutions projects in banks, securities and derivatives trading, wealth management, insurance and property data analysis for the year under review. The Group will continue its talent, innovation and technology inputs to meet the rising demand in these innovative digital solutions.



Looking ahead, some signs of improvement are emerging like lower inflation expectations in major economies, an increasing probability of interest rate cuts and the modest growth in global trade. However, uncertainties still persist, concerns over the pace of Mainland China's economic recovery and the continued challenges arising from ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly with the upcoming national elections in the US and in several other major countries around the world. The local property market turned active as market sentiment improved after the lifting of the cooling measures by the government in February 2024. The further revival of inbound tourism and the government's initiatives to boost consumer sentiment should provide some support to the local consumer market but the changing consumption patterns of inbound visitors and local residents continued to pose severe challenges. The Group will closely monitor the global and local economic and political situations, take a cautious and prudent approach in cost management, operational efficiency and financial discipline.

The Group maintained a strong financial position with no gearing. As at 31 March 2024, cash balance of the Group was approximately HK\$526.5 million. Amid a high interest rate environment, the Group achieved a 98% year-on-year increase in interest income. The Board recommends the payment of a final dividend of HK 7.0 cents per share, bringing the total dividend for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 to HK 10.0 cents per share. The Group is determined to maintain a sustainable dividend policy as well as strong liquidity to preserve its strength for strategic business investment and development, and support future growth opportunities.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated and reliable colleagues who have exhibited resilience, perseverance, hard work, professionalism and commitment throughout another challenging year. I also thank my fellow Board members for their unwavering trust and support; and our management team for their diligence, devotion, contributions and concerted effort. Last but not least, my gratefulness is to be given to our readers, viewers, customers, suppliers, business partners and investors for their ongoing support.



Ms. SEE Sau Mei Salome, aged 61, is the Managing Director of the Group. Ms. See joined the Group in 1989, responsible for the Group's marketing strategy and operations. She was later assigned to start and take charge of the Group's financial news agency, information and solutions businesses. Ms. See has over 30 years of solid experience in general business management. Prior to joining the Group, Ms. See worked in the regional marketing office of a multinational computer equipment corporation, Digital Equipment Limited, where she gained extensive experience in digital technology and a profound understanding of advanced networking. Ms. See obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree from Macquarie University, Australia. Ms. See is also a Committee Member of Antiquities Advisory Board for the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and a Member of the Board of M Plus Collections Limited.

Ms. WONG Ching, aged 50, joined the Group in 2000, and is the Company Secretary and Head of Finance of the Group. Ms. Wong has over 20 years of experience in accounting and financial management. Ms. Wong holds a Bachelor degree of Business Administration (majoring in Professional Accountancy) from The Chinese University of Hong Kong and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from University of London. Ms. Wong is a member of The Hong Kong Chartered Governance Institute and a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Prior to joining the Group, Ms. Wong had worked with an international audit firm.

Non-executive Director

Mr. CHU Yu Lun, aged 73, was appointed as a Non-executive Director in April 2005. He is also a Member of the Company's Audit Committee and Remuneration Committee. Mr. Chu is the founder and Chairman of the Adsale Group. Established in December 1977 in Hong Kong under the name of The Adsale People, the company was registered as Adsale People Limited in 1985. As an international trade media group in the Asia-Pacific region, the Adsale Group's major businesses include organising international trade fairs, publishing international trade journals, e-publications and industry websites. Mr. Chu has extensive experience in the exhibition industry. Mr. Chu received a Master degree in Business Administration at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1984 after his Bachelor degree in Science from The University of Hong Kong in 1973. For years, Mr. Chu has taken active participation in social activities personally and on behalf of his companies. He is formerly the Chair of the Global Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI) Asia Pacific Chapter, currently the Honorary Life President of Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Industry Association (HKECIA), and has been the Founding President of The Hong Kong University Science Alumni Association Limited and also previously served as Vice-President of Advisory Board on the Master degree in Business Administration program of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. His commitment in the industry granted him an award of "The Top Ten People in China Exhibition Industry 2001 & 2003". Mr. Chu is also a founder member and a director of Musketeers Education and Culture Charitable Foundation Limited. With his valuable contribution to the society and The University of Hong Kong, Mr. Chu received an Honorary University Fellowship from The University of Hong Kong in 2011.

Board of Directors

Independent Non-executive Directors

Mr. LO Foo Cheung, JP, aged 74, was appointed as an Independent Non-executive Director in April 2005. He is currently the Chairman of the Company's Remuneration Committee and a Member of the Company's Audit Committee and Nomination Committee. Mr. Lo is the founder and Chairman of FC Packaging Holding Limited, one of the leading can manufacturers in the Greater China. Mr. Lo has extensive experience in the industrial and manufacturing industry in Hong Kong and Mainland China. He is currently the Honorary President of The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, Honorary Standing Committee Member of The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce, Permanent Honorary Chairman of Jiangmen Association of Enterprises With Foreign Investment, Member of Wuyi University, Honorary Citizen of Guangzhou City, Foshan City and Jiangmen City, Director of Hok Hoi Library, Honorary President of Hong Kong Translation Society and Honorary Vice-Chairman of The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong – Foundation. Mr. Lo previously served as a Member of the Election Committee of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR"), Standing Committee Member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference of Heilongjiang Province, Qingdao City, Jiangmen City and Sanshui City, Council Member of Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Council Member of Hong Kong Productivity Council, a Member of the Business Advisory Group, Financial Secretary's Office, HKSAR, Committee Member of Business Facilitation Advisory Committee, HKSAR, Director and Chairman of Finance and Administration Committee of Hong Kong Design Centre, Committee Member of Small and Medium Enterprises Committee of Hong Kong, First Vice-President of The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong and Council Member of the Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency. Mr. Lo holds a Bachelor degree with honours in Social Science (1970) and a Master degree in Business Administration (1972) from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Mr. Lo was a winner of the Young Industrialist Award of Hong Kong in 1988.

Mr. O'YANG Wiley, aged 61, was appointed as an Independent Non-executive Director in October 2012. He is currently the Chairman of the Company's Audit Committee and a Member of the Company's Nomination Committee and Remuneration Committee. Mr. O'Yang is a Managing Director of Shanggu Securities Limited ("Shanggu Securities"), a licenced corporation under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) to carry on type 1 (dealing in securities), type 4 (advising on securities) and type 6 (advising on corporate finance) regulated activities and has extensive experience in the accounting, finance and legal fields. Prior to joining Shanggu Securities, Mr. O'Yang worked for various investment banks, including CMBC International Holdings Limited, a subsidiary of China Minseng Banking Corporation Limited, Kim Eng Securities (Hong Kong) Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Malayan Banking Berhad, UBS AG, Hong Kong Branch, J.P. Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) Limited and BNP Paribas Capital (Asia Pacific) Limited and held the positions of Managing Director and Executive Director. Prior to those, he was a Partner of Richards Butler, an international law firm. Mr. O'Yang also served as Independent Non-executive Directors of Midea Real Estate Holding Limited, D&G Technology Holding Company Limited, AB Builders Group Limited and Edvantage Group Holdings Limited, all listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, since October 2018, May 2019, June 2019 and February 2022 respectively. Mr. O'Yang also served as an Independent Non-executive Director of Tianyun International Holdings Limited, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, between November 2019 and May 2022. Mr. O'Yang graduated from The Chinese University of Hong Kong with a Bachelor of Social Science degree and a Master of Business Administration degree. He is also a fellow member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, a member of the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and a member of The Law Society of Hong Kong.

Mr. SIN Hendrick, MH, aged 49, was appointed as an Independent Non-executive Director in January 2022. He is currently the Chairman of the Company's Nomination Committee. Mr. Sin is a co-founder, an Executive Director and the Vice Chairman of CMGE Technology Group Limited, a company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and has been a Director and Vice Chairman of CMGE Group Limited since January 2011. Mr. Sin is also the Founding and Managing Partner of China Prosperity Capital Fund, a venture capital company with a primary focus on technology investment. Mr. Sin has over 26 years of experience in corporate management, finance and investment banking. Mr. Sin has been serving as an Independent Non-executive Director of Evergreen Products Group Limited, a hair product manufacturing company whose shares are listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange since June 2017. Besides, he also has been serving as an Independent Non-executive Director of China Tower Corporation Limited and Tianjin Development Holdings Ltd, all listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, since October 2022 and March 2023 respectively. Mr. Sin has been serving as an Independent Non-executive Director of 36 Kr Holdings Inc., a publishing and data company whose shares are listed on the NASDAQ since November 2019. Mr Sin graduated from Stanford University with a Master's degree in Engineering-Economic Systems and Operations Research, and received three Bachelor of Science degrees in Computer Science/Mathematics, Economics and Industrial Management from Carnegie Mellon University. Mr. Sin is (i) the President of the Internet Professional Association, (ii) the Executive Vice-chairman of the Hong Kong Software Industry Association, and (iii) a Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors. Mr. Sin has been appointed as a Standing Committee Member of the fourteenth session of Tianjin Municipal's Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Mr. Sin has also been appointed by the Government of HKSAR as an Election Committee Member. Mr. Sin was awarded the Young Industrialist Award of Hong Kong of 2018 by Federation of Hong Kong Industries. Mr. Sin was also awarded Linghang Outstanding Entrepreneur the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Award at "Leading 9+2" First Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development Forum in March 2021. In addition, Mr. Sin was awarded the InnoStars Award 2021 by Our Hong Kong Foundation in July 2022. Mr. Sin was also awarded the Medal of Honour by the Government of HKSAR in 2021 and has been elected as a deputy of the fourteenth National People's Congress on 15 December 2022.

Corporate Governance

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) was committed to maintain a high level of corporate governance standards and practices. The Company has complied with the provisions set out in the Corporate Governance Code (the “Code Provisions”) contained in Appendix 14 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Listing Rules”) except as stated and explained below.

Board of Directors

As at 31 March 2024, the Board comprised seven Directors, with three of them being Independent Non-executive Directors, representing more than one-third of the Board.

Executive Directors:

Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence (*Chairman*)
Ms. See Sau Mei Salome
Ms. Wong Ching

Non-executive Director:

Mr. Chu Yu Lun (*Members of Remuneration and Audit Committees*)

Independent Non-executive Directors:

Mr. Sin Hendrick (*Chairman of Nomination Committee*)
Mr. Lo Foo Cheung (*Chairman of Remuneration Committee and Members of Nomination and Audit Committees*)
Mr. O’Yang Wiley (*Chairman of Audit Committee and Members of Remuneration and Nomination Committees*)

The composition of the Board reflects a balance of skills, experience and diversity of perspectives appropriate to the requirements of the Company’s business. All Directors are aware of their collective and individual responsibilities to shareholders and have exercised their duties with care, skill and diligence for the best interests of the shareholders. Names and biographies of the Directors are set out on pages 12 to 15 under the section headed “Board of Directors” of this Annual Report.

Each of the Executive, Non-executive, and Independent Non-executive Directors has entered into a service contract with the Company and is subject to the rotational retirement and re-election requirements of the Company’s Articles of Association and the Code Provisions. Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence (the Chairman and Executive Director of the Company) and Mr. Chu Yu Lun (the Non-executive Director of the Company) have been business partners for years and have common interests in certain companies. Save as disclosed above, none of the Directors has any financial, business, family relationships or any relationships in other material aspects with each other.

Under Code C.2.1 of the Code Provisions, the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) should be separate and should not be performed by the same individual. The division of responsibilities between the Chairman and CEO should be clearly established and set out in writing. However, the Company has appointed Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence as both its Chairman and the CEO. The Board believes that vesting the roles of the Chairman and the CEO in the same person would allow the Company to be more effective and efficient in developing long-term business strategies and execution of business plans. The Board believes that the balance of power and authority is adequately ensured by the operation of the Board, which comprises experienced and high calibre individuals with a substantial number thereof being Non-executive Directors.

The Board is responsible for setting the Group’s strategic direction and overseeing the business performance of the Group while business operations are delegated to qualified management under the supervision of respective Executive Directors. The Board will ensure that the decision and direction made are implemented through the management, and that all significant business matters including but not limited to budgets, business plans, investment decisions, material capital expenditure are subject to the Board’s approval.

Board Diversity Policy

The Board has adopted its own board diversity policy (“Board Diversity Policy”). The Board Diversity Policy aimed to achieve diversity of the Board through consideration of a number of factors, including but not limited to gender, age, cultural and educational background, or professional experience. The Nomination Committee of the Company shall review the Board Diversity Policy as appropriate and make recommendations on any proposed revisions to the Board.

Board appointments will be based on objective criteria having due regard to the benefits of diversity of the Board.

Independence of Independent Non-executive Directors

Each Independent Non-executive Director has submitted to The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”) a written confirmation in respect of their independence in accordance with Rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules on their appointment. The Board has also received from each of the Independent Non-executive Directors a confirmation of his independence as required under the Listing Rules. The Board is of the opinion that all Independent Non-executive Directors are independent and appreciates the professional and valuable contributions they made to the Board and the Committees.

Corporate Governance

Directors' Training and Professional Development

All Directors are encouraged to participate in continuous professional development to develop and refresh their knowledge and skills.

Each newly appointed Director received a comprehensive, formal and tailored induction on appointment so as to ensure that he had a proper understanding of the Company's operation and business and was fully aware of his responsibilities and obligations under the Listing Rules and relevant regulatory requirements.

During the year, all Directors had attended various seminars, conferences or forums which were relevant to their respective duties and responsibilities or the businesses of the Company.

Board Proceedings

Directors' attendance record of Board, Committee and General Meetings:

Directors	Board	Audit Committee	Remuneration Committee	Nomination Committee	Annual General Meeting	Extraordinary General Meeting
(number of meetings attended/number of meetings held during respective Director's tenure)						
Executive Directors:						
Fung Siu Por, Lawrence	4/4				1/1	1/1
See Sau Mei Salome	4/4				1/1	1/1
Wong Ching	4/4				1/1	1/1
Non-executive Director:						
Chu Yu Lun	4/4	1/2	2/2		1/1	1/1
Independent Non-executive Directors:						
Lo Foo Cheung	4/4	2/2	2/2	1/1	0/1	1/1
O'Yang Wiley	4/4	1/2	2/2	1/1	1/1	1/1
Sin Hendrick	3/4			1/1	0/1	1/1

The Board intends to hold at least four meetings annually at approximately quarterly intervals. Notice of meeting, agenda (with consultation of members of the Board) and accompanying board papers are sent in full to all Directors in a timely manner before the intended date of each meeting. During the financial year ended 31 March 2024, four meetings were held.

Minutes of the Board Meetings are recorded by the secretary of the meeting in sufficient detail of the matters considered by the Board and decisions reached, including any concerns raised by Directors or dissenting views expressed. Draft and final version of minutes of Board Meetings are sent to all Directors for their comment and records respectively, in both cases within reasonable time after the Board Meeting is held.

Audit Committee

The Company established an Audit Committee in 2005 with written terms of reference which have been formulated and adopted and complied with the Code Provisions. The Audit Committee comprises Non-executive Director, Mr. Chu Yu Lun and two Independent Non-executive Directors, Mr. O'Yang Wiley as Committee Chairman and Mr. Lo Foo Cheung. The principal roles and functions of the Committee as set out in its terms of reference are available on both the Company's and the Stock Exchange's websites.

During the financial year ended 31 March 2024, the Audit Committee met twice. The Company's Chief Financial Officer, Financial Controller and External Auditor were invited to attend the meetings. The Committee has reviewed the annual report for the financial year ended 31 March 2023, External Auditor's remuneration, internal control system and interim results for the period ended 30 September 2023. The Committee also discussed and reviewed the key audit matters determined by the External Auditor under the new and revised auditor reporting standards under Hong Kong Standards on Auditing for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Chairman of the Audit Committee has reported to the Board on the findings of these reviews. The Board has not taken any view that is different from that of the Audit Committee.

Furthermore, the Committee has reviewed, inter alia, the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2024, the connected transactions, internal control system review, the report from External Auditor on the audit of the Group's Financial Statements and the re-appointment of External Auditor.

Remuneration Committee

The Company established a Remuneration Committee in 2005 with written terms of reference which have been formulated and adopted and complied with the Code Provisions. The Remuneration Committee comprises Non-executive Director, Mr. Chu Yu Lun, and two Independent Non-executive Directors, Mr. Lo Foo Cheung as Committee Chairman and Mr. O'Yang Wiley. The principal roles and functions of the Remuneration Committee as set out in its terms of reference are available on both the Company's and the Stock Exchange's websites.

The Remuneration Committee met twice during the financial year ended 31 March 2024 with the presence of all members to review and approve the remunerations and discretionary bonus payable to the Executive Directors and senior management for the financial year under review. The Committee Chairman has reported to the Board on the proceedings of the meeting.

Corporate Governance

Nomination Committee

The Company established a Nomination Committee in 2005 with written terms of reference which have been formulated and adopted and complied with the Code Provisions. The Nomination Committee comprises three Independent Non-executive Directors, Mr. Sin Hendrick as Committee Chairman, Mr. Lo Foo Cheung and Mr. O'Yang Wiley. The principal roles and functions of the Nomination Committee as set out in its terms of reference are available on both the Company's and the Stock Exchange's websites.

The Nomination Committee met once during the financial year ended 31 March 2024 with the presence of all the then members to review the size, structure and composition of the Board and made its recommendations to the Board on the re-appointment of Directors (not less than one-third of the Board) who are subject to retirement by rotation and eligible for re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Remuneration of Directors

The Directors' fees and all other emoluments paid or payable to the Directors during the year are set out on an individual and named basis in note 8(b) to the Audited Financial Statements of this Annual Report on page 68.

The Group's remuneration policy is set out in note 8(d) to the Audited Financial Statements of this Annual Report on page 70.

Securities Transactions of Directors

The Company confirmed the adoption of the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers as set out in Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules (the "Model Code"). All Directors confirmed their compliance with the required standard set out in the Model Code regarding directors' securities transactions throughout the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

Specific employees who are likely to be in possession of unpublished price-sensitive information of the Group are also subject to compliance with guidelines on no less exacting terms than the Model Code. No incident of non-compliance was noted by the Company for the period under review.

Directors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for the preparation of the Financial Statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and of the results and cash flow for that period and in compliance with relevant laws and disclosure provisions of the Listing Rules. In preparing the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, the Directors have selected appropriate accounting policies and applied them consistently; made judgements and estimates that are prudent and reasonable; and have prepared the Financial Statements on a going concern basis. The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Group.

External Auditor

The Group has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers as the Group's External Auditor since the financial year 2004/05. Their reporting responsibilities on the Financial Statements are set out in the Independent Auditor's Report of this Annual Report on pages 36 to 41.

During the period under review, the Group has incurred a total fee of HK\$2,720,000 in relation to the audit services provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers for the financial year 2023/24, which was approved by the Audit Committee and the Board. A fee of HK\$322,000 was also paid or payable to PricewaterhouseCoopers for other services.

PricewaterhouseCoopers will retire and offer themselves for re-appointment at the annual general meeting of the Company to be held on 1 August 2024.

The re-appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers as the External Auditor of the Group has been recommended by the Audit Committee and endorsed by the Board, subject to the approval of shareholders at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Risk Management and Internal Control

The Board acknowledges that it has overall responsibility for evaluating and determining the nature and extent of the risks it is willing to take in achieving the Group's strategic objectives, and maintaining appropriate and effective risk management and internal control systems. The Board oversees management in the design, implementation and monitoring of the risk management and internal control systems. Such systems are designed to manage rather than to eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. The Board had received from the management a confirmation on the effectiveness of these systems.

The Group has established an on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the significant risks of the Group in the areas of financial, operational and compliance. The Group's business units are responsible for identifying, assessing and monitoring risks associated with their respective units. The results of evaluation will be reported to the management of the Group through internal meetings. The management of the Group is responsible in assessing the impact of the risks identified to the Group and report to the Board on an annual basis.

The Group handles and disseminates inside information with due care. Employees are required to comply with confidentiality terms inside the Staff Handbook. Access to inside information is limited to employees at appropriate level and on need-to-know basis.

The Group maintains its internal audit function which reviews major operating and financial control and risk management system of the Group on an on-going and rotational basis covering all major operations of the Group. The results of the reviews are reported to the management of the Group.

Corporate Governance

Company Secretary

The Company Secretary is responsible for assisting the Board and respective Board Committees in their proceedings and advising the Board on corporate governance matters. During the year ended 31 March 2024, the Company Secretary has complied with the professional training requirements under the Code Provisions.

Shareholders' Rights and Investor Relation

The Board is committed to upholding shareholders' rights. Shareholders are informed of the Company's performance, operations and developments.

Pursuant to the Articles of Association of the Company, shareholders holding at the date of deposit of the requisition not less than one-tenth of the paid up capital of the Company carrying the right of voting at general meetings of the Company shall at all times have the right, by written requisition to the Board or the Secretary of the Company, to require an extraordinary general meeting to be called by the Board for the transaction of any business specified in such requisition. Shareholders may put forward proposals at general meetings of the Company in the same manner as set out above. The Board shall arrange the extraordinary general meeting to be held within two months after the deposit of such requisition. If within 21 days of such deposit the Board fails to proceed to convene such meeting, the requisitionists may themselves convene the meeting and reimburse the expenses so incurred from the Company.

Shareholders may propose a person other than a retiring director of the Company for election as a director of the Company at a general meeting by depositing a notice signed by the shareholder (other than the person to be proposed) duly qualified to attend and vote at the meeting for which such notice is given of his intention to propose such person for election and also a notice signed by the person to be proposed of his willingness to be elected at the head office or at the registration office provided that the minimum length of the period, during which such notice(s) are given, shall be at least 7 days and that (if the notices are submitted after the dispatch of the notice of the general meeting appointed for such election) the period for lodgment of such notice(s) shall commence on the day after the dispatch of the notice of the general meeting appointed for such election and end no later than 7 days prior to the date of such general meeting.

Shareholders may at any time direct their enquiries about the Company to the Board by writing to the Company's place of business in Hong Kong, 6th Floor, Kodak House II, 321 Java Road, North Point, Hong Kong or by email to groupinfo@hket.com. Shareholders may also put forward their enquiries to the Board at the general meetings of the Company.

During the year ended 31 March 2024, there is no significant change in the Company's constitutional documents. The Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are available on both the Company's and the Stock Exchange's websites.

Management Discussion and Analysis

Summary of Profit and Loss Account

	Year ended 31 March		% Change
	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000	
Revenue	923,894	1,022,922	-10%
Cost of sales	(551,907)	(600,116)	-8%
Gross profit	371,987	422,806	-12%
Gross profit margin	40.3%	41.3%	
Selling and distribution expenses	(196,472)	(203,140)	-3%
General and administrative expenses	(216,158)	(220,194)	-2%
Net reversal of impairment/(impairment losses) on financial assets	1,923	(845)	-327%
Impairment losses on non-current assets	(11,847)	–	N/A
Other income	1,842	35,900	-95%
Gain on disposal of a property	122,118	–	N/A
Operating profit	73,393	34,527	113%
Finance income – net	11,891	5,646	111%
Profit before income tax	85,284	40,173	112%
Income tax expense	(30,312)	(11,496)	164%
Profit for the year	54,972	28,677	92%
Non-controlling interests	(750)	(1,219)	-39%
Profit attributable to owners	54,222	27,458	97%
Net profit margin	6.0%	2.8%	

General

Geopolitical tensions and macroeconomic volatility continued to challenge the local economy. Trading volume of local stock market shrank further while fund raising activities remained extremely quiet. Local property market stayed lacklustre, with total number of transactions fell to record low level. Consumer sentiments improved but the changing consumption patterns of inbound visitors and local residents posed challenges to the local consumer market.

Management Discussion and Analysis

In this challenging environment, the Group's revenue for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 decreased by HK\$99.0 million or 10% over last financial year to HK\$923.9 million. Profit attributable to owners, included the one-time gain on disposal of a property, partly offset by non-cash impairment of the Group's certain non-current assets and the write-down of deferred income tax assets, increased from HK\$27.5 million to HK\$54.2 million.

Revenue

	Year ended 31 March		% Change
	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000	
Revenue:			
Advertising income	458,471	549,702	-17%
Circulation income	40,277	50,894	-21%
Service income	425,146	422,326	1%
Total	923,894	1,022,922	-10%

Advertising income, mainly contributed by the Group's digital platforms and printed publications, decreased by HK\$91.2 million or 17% to HK\$458.5 million from the last financial year. Local advertising market, adversely impacted by the sluggish local stock and property markets and the poor business and consumer sentiment, remained weak for the financial year under review. The change in spending style of inbound visitors and the growing trend of local residents "tripping north" to cities in the Mainland for shopping, dining and leisure activities, have adversely affected the local consumer market. Advertisers were cautious on their advertising spending by scaling down their promotional activities to align with the market conditions. Digital advertising, particularly mobile advertising, continued to be the focal point of the advertisers, was the largest contributor to the Group's advertising income.

Circulation income recorded a decrease of 21% from HK\$50.9 million to HK\$40.3 million for the financial year under review. The decrease was in line with most of the printed titles in the market during the year under review.

Service income for the year ended 31 March 2024 remained stable when compared to the last financial year. The Group's service income was mainly generated by the financial news agency, information and solutions businesses and the printing services of the Group's printing plants. Amid lacklustre local stock market performance, service income generated from financial news agency, information and solutions businesses was adversely affected and recorded a drop of 4% for the financial year under review. Service income from the printing services of Group's printing plants registered an increase of 5% for the year ended 31 March 2024 when compared to the preceding financial year, which demonstrated its success in the diversification of printing services in different business segments. The Group's printing plants were the only printing plants in the city equipped with full range of printing facilities for providing one-stop printing services to different businesses and organisations.

For the financial year ended 31 March 2024, over 60% of the Group's total revenue was generated from our digital platforms and information and solution businesses. The Group would continue its investment initiatives, by ploughing more resources into quality content, advanced technologies and digital talent development, so as to expand and solidify the success aimed at bringing in sustainable growth and long-term business development.

Operating Costs

Gross profit margin for the year ended 31 March 2024 declined by 1.0 percentage point from 41.3% for the year ended 31 March 2023 to 40.3%. Management would continue to monitor and streamline the cost structure, implement effective production control, rationalise and redeploy resources to improve efficiency and cost effectiveness of the Group's operations.

Staff costs, representing approximately 57% of the Group's total operating costs, maintained at the same level as compared to the last financial year. The salary increment in line with the general employment market, was offset by the decrease of headcount after a business and resources reorganisation for the financial year under review.

Content costs which mainly consisted of market data license fees of various exchanges, financial index providers and news agencies, constituting around 11% of the Group's total operating costs, maintained at the same level as in the last financial year. The amount was in line with the market data usage of customers who had subscribed for ET Net securities and derivative quotation services under the financial news agency, information and solutions segment.

Impairment Losses on Non-current Assets

The prolonged geopolitical uncertainties and volatile economic conditions continued to affect local business environment, particularly the media industry. In view of the performance of business units within the media segment was worse than expected, management considered that impairment indicators were identified. Based on the latest market conditions, management had performed impairment assessment for the carrying amounts of certain property, plant and equipment and investment properties as at 31 March 2024. The impairment assessment was carried out by determining the recoverable amounts of certain property plant and equipment and investment properties based on the higher of fair values less costs of disposal and value-in-use calculation. The carrying amounts of these non-current assets are written down to their recoverable amounts if the carrying amounts are greater than their estimated recoverable amounts. Management engaged independent qualified professional valuers to estimate the fair values less costs of disposal of the property, plant and equipment, based on market quotes from publicly available sources (the results are higher than the asset's value-in-use); and the market values of the properties in their existing state based on comparable property sale transactions, or market rents and yields applicable to the properties. The assessment resulted in impairment losses on non-current assets of HK\$11.8 million for the financial year under review.

Management Discussion and Analysis

Gain on Disposal of a Property

The Group owned several printing plants located at different sites for the provision of printing services for publications. The management of the Group noted there was a reduction in the market demand of newspaper printing, partly due to the digital transformation of printed media and partly due to the Group's strategic focus on digital platforms in the recent years. As such, the Group had undergone a consolidation of its printing facilities to rationalise and re-deploy resources so as to maximise the utilisation of its factory spaces in a more effective, efficient and productive manner. As a result, one of the Group's newspaper printing plants located at a property owned by the Group ("Property") ceased to operate in December 2023.

On 26 January 2024, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company ("Vendor") entered into a provisional agreement for sale and purchase with an independent third party ("Purchaser"), pursuant to which the Vendor agreed to sell, and the Purchaser agreed to acquire, the Property for a consideration of HK\$135.0 million ("Disposal"). The Disposal was completed on 27 March 2024 which resulted in a gain of HK\$122.1 million. The Group considered the Disposal represented a good opportunity to realise the value of the property at a reasonable price. The net proceed from the Disposal was applied as working capital of the Group, which further strengthened the Group's financial position.

Income Tax Expense

The effective tax rate of the Group for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 and 2023 were 35.5% and 28.6% respectively. The Group was principally subject to the standard profits tax rate of 16.5% which was applicable to companies incorporated in Hong Kong, the Group's major place of operation. The increase of effective tax rate was mainly caused by the write-down of deferred income tax assets of HK\$21.1 million and a change in the profitability mix of the Group's subsidiaries for the financial year under review. The gain on disposal of a property recorded in the current financial year was capital in nature and therefore non-taxable.

The management determined the deferred income tax assets for the carry forward of unused tax losses to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the unused tax losses and unused tax credits can be utilised. The write-down of deferred income tax assets was based on the best knowledge of profit projections of the Group and the extent of the Group's ability to utilise the tax benefits from the tax losses carried forwards in the future.

Profit/(Loss) Attributable to Owners

Profit attributable to owners of the Group, after excluding gain on disposal of a property of HK\$122.1 million, partly offset by the impairment losses on certain non-current assets of HK\$11.8 million and the write-down of deferred income tax assets of HK\$21.1 million ("One-time Items"), turned to negative and recorded an increase in loss attributable to owners of HK\$29.2 million, when compared to the last financial year, after the exclusion of the one-time Employment Support Scheme subsidy granted by the Hong Kong Government under the Anti-epidemic Fund ("ESS Subsidy") of HK\$33.3 million in 2022.

Media segment recorded negative operating results after excluding the One-time Items, an increase of loss attributable to owners of HK\$24.7 million when compared to the last financial year, after excluding the one-time ESS Subsidy of HK\$27.4 million in 2022. The increase was mainly attributable to the decrease of advertising income resulted from the weak market sentiment amid the sluggish property and financial markets and change of spending patterns of inbound visitors and local residents. New and continued investments in technology, talent and innovation have made us more agile and resilient. The Group would continue its investment initiatives in digital platforms with focus on customer experience, value creation and digital capability enhancement to expand our market share in digital advertising.

Financial news agency, information and solutions segment, the solid contributor to the Group, recorded a decrease in net profit of HK\$7.8 million for the year ended 31 March 2024 when comparing to the preceding reporting year, after excluding the one-time ESS Subsidy of HK\$5.9 million in 2022. The decrease was mainly attributable to the decrease of advertising income from its digital platform and the market data subscription income amid the sluggish advertising market and local stock market respectively. This segment, capturing the market trend of digitalisation, had secured several digital financial solution and data analytic projects in banks, securities and derivatives trading, wealth management, insurance and property data analysis for the year under review. The Group will continue its talent, innovation and technology inputs to meet the rising demand in these innovative digital solutions.

Liquidity and Capital Resources

(in HK\$ million)	As at 31 March	
	2024	2023
Net current assets	483.7	415.5
Term deposits and cash and cash equivalents	526.5	464.2
Owners' equity	886.2	871.2
Gearing ratio	N/A	N/A
Current ratio	3.07 times	2.52 times

The Group's net current assets as at 31 March 2024 increased by HK\$68.2 million from HK\$415.5 million to HK\$483.7 million. The increase was resulted from the proceeds received from the disposal of a property of the Group, offsetting against the decrease in operating results of the Group for the financial year under review.

Net cash generated in investing activities was HK\$53.4 million. During the year, the Group had purchased an investment property at a consideration of approximately HK\$15.7 million and other property, plant and equipment of approximately HK\$9.2 million. The Group had also disposed of a property situated at Tai Ping Industrial Centre to an independent third party for net proceeds of approximately HK\$131.9 million. Term deposits with original maturities of over three months have been increased by HK\$65.8 million as at 31 March 2024.

The Group had distributed the final dividend declared for the financial year ended 31 March 2023 and interim dividend for the six months period ended 30 September 2023 amounting to an aggregate total of HK\$43.2 million.

Management Discussion and Analysis

The Group had no gearing (being total interest bearing liabilities divided by total assets) as at 31 March 2024 and 2023.

As at 31 March 2024, the Group had a cash balance of HK\$526.5 million as compared to HK\$464.2 million as at 31 March 2023. Majority of the cash was placed under short-term deposits with banks in Hong Kong and was held in Hong Kong dollars or in United States dollars. The Group had no material exposure to foreign exchange fluctuations.

The Group has a strong balance sheet and cash position to enable it to meet its business needs, support its investment plans, and fulfill the dividend payment policy as well as weather the currently challenging operating and economic environment. We will continue to maintain prudent and disciplined financial and cash flow management.

Outlook

Digitalisation continued to be the focal point of major industries in the local market. The Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) is integrated into businesses around the world at remarkable speed. To drive viewership and deepen our customer engagement as well as increase operational efficiency through automation, we will integrate more AI technology which will benefit our businesses in value creation, user experience as well as advancing our digital capabilities including data and analytical tools for quality content creation, audience behavior studies, advanced and predictive analytics, recommendation engines and cloud computing to accelerate the growth of digital businesses.

Looking ahead, some signs of improvement are emerging like lower inflation expectations in major economies, an increasing probability of interest rate cuts and the modest growth in global trade. However, uncertainties still persist, concerns over the pace of Mainland China’s economic recovery and the continued challenges arising from ongoing geopolitical tensions, particularly with the upcoming national elections in the US and in several other major countries around the world. The local property market turned active as market sentiment improved after the lifting of the cooling measures by the government in February 2024. The further revival of inbound tourism and the government’s initiatives to boost consumer sentiment should provide some support to the local consumer market but the changing consumption patterns of inbound visitors and local residents continued to pose severe challenges.

The Group will closely monitor the global and local economic and political situations, take a cautious and prudent approach in cost management, operational efficiency and financial discipline. The Group maintained a strong financial position with no gearing. As at 31 March 2024, cash balance of the Group was approximately HK\$526.5 million. We are determined to maintain a sustainable dividend policy as well as strong liquidity to preserve its strength for strategic business investment and development, and support future growth opportunities.

Employees

As at 31 March 2024, the Group had 1,184 employees (31 March 2023: 1,340 employees). The Directors believe that employees are the most valuable assets of the Group and competitive remuneration packages are offered to retain quality staff. Employee benefits include medical insurance, discretionary bonus, provident fund schemes and other staff benefits.

Directors' Report

The Directors of Hong Kong Economic Times Holdings Limited (the "Company") submit their report together with the audited financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as the "Group") for the year ended 31 March 2024 (the "Financial Statements").

Principal Activities

The principal activity of the Company is investment holding. The activities of the Company's principal subsidiaries are set out in note 24 to the Financial Statements.

Business Review

An analysis of the Group's performance for the year ended 31 March 2024 by operating segment is set out in note 6 to the Financial Statements.

A review of the Group's business during the year and discussion of the Group's performance and its financial position including an indication of likely future development of the Group's business are provided in the section headed "Management Discussion and Analysis" on pages 23 to 28 of this Annual Report.

The Group is committed to operate in a sustainable manner while balancing the interests of its various stakeholders including employees, customers and suppliers. This includes promoting employee benefits and development, emphasising safety working environments to employees, ensuring quality products and services and developing mutual beneficial relationships with suppliers.

The Group is committed to protecting the environment and improving the environmental performance in compliance with applicable environmental laws and practices. The Group had integrated environmental considerations into the Group's business processes seeking for a sustainable development. Details of the discussion on the Group's environmental policies and performance, its compliance with relevant laws and regulations are set out in the "Environmental, Social and Governance Report" of the Group.

The Group has complied with the relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the Group.

Financial Results

The results of the Group for the year and the state of affairs of the Company and the Group as at 31 March 2024 are set out on pages 42 to 102.

Directors' Report

Dividend Distributions

During the year, an interim dividend distribution from the distributable reserves of HK 3.0 cents per share, totalling HK\$12,948,000 was paid on 8 December 2023.

The Directors recommend a payment from the distributable reserves of the Company a final dividend of HK 7.0 cents per share in respect of the year ended 31 March 2024 to the shareholders whose names appear on the Register of Members of the Company at the close of business on 14 August 2024, amounting to HK\$30,212,000. The final dividend, payable on 6 September 2024, is subject to the approval of the shareholders of the Company at the forthcoming annual general meeting to be held on 1 August 2024.

Reserves

Movements in the reserves of the Group and of the Company during the year are set out on page 46 of and in note 28(b) to the Financial Statements.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements in property, plant and equipment of the Group are set out in note 14 to the Financial Statements.

Share Capital

Details of the number of authorised and issued shares of the Company are set out in note 23 to the Financial Statements.

Distributable Reserves

Distributable reserves of the Company as at 31 March 2024, calculated under the Cayman Islands Companies Act, amounted to HK\$190,777,000 (2023: HK\$187,456,000) including share premium and retained earnings.

Pre-emptive Rights

There is no provision for pre-emptive rights under the Company's Articles of Association or the laws of the Cayman Islands, which would oblige the Company to offer new shares on a pro-rata basis to existing shareholders.

Five-year Financial Summary

A summary of the results and of the assets and liabilities of the Group for the last five financial years is set out in the section headed "Five-year Financial Summary" in this Annual Report.

Purchase, Sale or Redemption of the Company's Shares

The Company has not redeemed any of its shares during the year. Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased or sold any of the Company's shares during the year.

Directors

The Directors of the Company during the year and up to the date of this report were:

Executive Directors

Mr. FUNG Siu Por, Lawrence (*Chairman*)
Ms. SEE Sau Mei Salome
Ms. WONG Ching

Non-executive Director

Mr. CHU Yu Lun

Independent Non-executive Directors

Mr. LO Foo Cheung
Mr. O'YANG Wiley
Mr. SIN Hendrick

Details of the profile of each member of the Board are set out in the section headed "Board of Directors" in this Annual Report.

In accordance with Article 87 of the Company's Articles of Association, Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence, Ms. Wong Ching and Mr. O'Yang Wiley shall retire from office and, are eligible for re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Directors' Service Contracts

None of the Directors who are proposed for re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting has a service contract with the Company which is not determinable within one year without payment of compensation, other than statutory compensation.

Directors' Report

Directors' Interests in Contracts

No contract of significance in relation to the Group's business to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries was a party and in which a Director of the Company had a material interest, whether directly or indirectly, subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year.

Directors' Interests in Shares, Underlying Shares and Debentures

As at 31 March 2024, the interests and short positions of each Director and chief executive in the shares, underlying shares and debentures of the Company and its associated corporations (within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance ("SFO")), as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company under Section 352 of Part XV of the SFO or otherwise notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") were as follows:

(a) Long positions in ordinary shares of HK\$0.10 each of the Company

Name of Directors	Capacity/ Nature of interest	Number of shares held	Percentage of number of issued shares of the Company
Mr. FUNG Siu Por, Lawrence (Note 1)	Corporate	54,359,000	12.595%
Mr. CHU Yu Lun (Note 2)	Corporate	87,435,000	20.258%
Mr. LO Foo Cheung	Beneficial owner	740,000	0.171%

Note 1: The interests in the 54,359,000 shares are in respect of the deemed corporate interests held by Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence through Golden Rooster Limited which is wholly owned by Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence and his wife, Ms. Lee Suk Wai Alexandra. For the purpose of Part XV of the SFO, Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence is therefore deemed interested in the shares held by Golden Rooster Limited.

Note 2: The interests in the 87,435,000 shares are in respect of the deemed corporate interests held by Mr. Chu Yu Lun through Sky Vision Investments Limited which is wholly owned by Mr. Chu Yu Lun and his wife, Ms. Chow Chiu Hing. For the purpose of Part XV of the SFO, Mr. Chu Yu Lun is therefore deemed interested in the shares held by Sky Vision Investments Limited.

All interests stated above represent long positions in the shares of the Company.

(b) Long positions in underlying shares of the Company

At no time during the year was the Company or any of its subsidiaries a party to any arrangements to enable the Directors and chief executive of the Company (including their spouses or children under 18 years of age) to acquire benefits by means of acquisition of shares or underlying shares in, or debentures of, the Company or any other body corporate.

Save as disclosed above, at no time during the year was the Company or any of its subsidiaries a party to any arrangements to enable the Directors and chief executive of the Company (including their spouses or children under 18 years of age) to hold any interests or short positions in the shares or underlying shares in, or debentures of, the Company or its associated corporation required to be disclosed pursuant to the SFO or otherwise notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code.

Substantial Shareholders' Interests in Shares and Underlying Shares

The register of substantial shareholders required to be kept under Section 336 of Part XV of the SFO shows that as at 31 March 2024, the Company had been notified of the following substantial shareholders' interests and short positions, being 5% or more of the Company's number of issued shares. These interests are in addition to those disclosed above in respect of Directors and chief executive:

Name of Substantial Shareholders	Number of ordinary shares held (long position)	Percentage of number of issued shares of the Company
Sky Vision Investments Limited (Note 1)	87,435,000	20.258%
MaMa Charitable Foundation Limited	58,169,000	13.478%
Golden Rooster Limited (Note 2)	54,359,000	12.595%
WEBB David Michael (Note 3)	43,214,000	10.013%
The University of Hong Kong	43,160,000	10.000%
Preferable Situation Assets Limited (Note 3)	25,321,200	5.867%

Note 1: Sky Vision Investments Limited is wholly owned by Mr. Chu Yu Lun and his wife, Ms. Chow Chiu Hing. For the purpose of Part XV of the SFO, Mr. Chu Yu Lun and Ms. Chow Chiu Hing are therefore deemed interested in the shares held by Sky Vision Investments Limited.

Note 2: Golden Rooster Limited is wholly owned by Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence and his wife, Ms. Lee Suk Wai Alexandra. For the purpose of Part XV of the SFO, Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence and Ms. Lee Suk Wai Alexandra are therefore deemed interested in the shares held by Golden Rooster Limited.

Note 3: Mr. Webb David Michael held 17,893,000 shares as beneficial owner and, as Preferable Situation Assets Limited is wholly owned by Mr. Webb David Michael, he is deemed to be interested in the 25,321,000 shares held by Preferable Situation Assets Limited for the purpose of Part XV of the SFO.

Save as disclosed above, as at 31 March 2024, according to the register of interests required to be kept by the Company under Section 336 of Part XV of the SFO, there was no person, other than the Directors and chief executive of the Company, whose interests are set out in the paragraph headed "Directors' Interests in Shares, Underlying Shares and Debentures" above, who had any interests or short positions in the shares or underlying shares of the Company.

Directors' Report

Management Contracts

No contracts concerning the management and administration of the whole or any substantial part of the business of the Company were entered into or existed during the year.

Major Suppliers and Customers

The percentages of the Group's purchases and sales during the year attributable to the Group's major suppliers and customers are as follows:

Purchases	
– the largest supplier	7%
– five largest suppliers combined	25%
Sales	
– the largest customer	4%
– five largest customers combined	11%

None of the Directors, their associates or any shareholders (which to the knowledge of the Directors owns more than 5% of the Company's share capital) had an interest in the major suppliers or customers noted above.

Connected Transactions

The Group has not entered into any certain related party transactions which constitute connected transactions of the Company under the Listing Rules.

Competing Business

As at 31 March 2024, none of the Directors and directors of the Company's subsidiaries, or their respective associates had interests in businesses, other than being a director of the Company and/or its subsidiaries and their respective associates, which compete or are likely to compete, either directly or indirectly, with the businesses of the Company and its subsidiaries as required to be disclosed pursuant to the Listing Rules, except for the interests held by Mr. Chu Yu Lun and Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence, both Directors of the Company, in Adsale Publishing Limited which is engaged in the publication of industrial magazines catered for readers in the textile and apparel, plastic and rubber, and machinery industries. Mr. Chu is also a director of Adsale Publishing Limited.

Sufficiency of Public Float

Based on the information that is publicly available to the Company and within the knowledge of the Directors, the Company has maintained sufficient public float of more than 25% of the Company's issued shares as at the date of this Annual Report.

Compliance with Corporate Governance Code

In the opinion of the Directors, the Company has complied with the code provisions set out in the Corporate Governance Code (the “Code Provisions”) contained in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules for the year ended 31 March 2024 except as stated and explained below.

Under Code C.2.1 of the Code Provisions, the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) should be separate and should not be performed by the same individual. The division of responsibilities between the Chairman and CEO should be clearly established and set out in writing. However, the Company has appointed Mr. Fung Siu Por, Lawrence as both its Chairman and the CEO. The Board believes that vesting the roles of the Chairman and the CEO in the same person would allow the Company to be more effective and efficient in developing long-term business strategies and execution of business plans. The Board believes that the balance of power and authority is adequately ensured by the operation of the Board, which comprises experienced and high calibre individuals with a substantial number thereof being Non-executive Directors.

Auditor

The Financial Statements have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers who retire and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment. A resolution will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting of the Company to re-appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers as auditor of the Company.

On behalf of the Board
Fung Siu Por, Lawrence
Chairman

Hong Kong, 24 June 2024

Independent Auditor's Report



羅兵咸永道

To the Shareholders of Hong Kong Economic Times Holdings Limited
(incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

Opinion

What we have audited

The consolidated financial statements of Hong Kong Economic Times Holdings Limited (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (the "Group"), which are set out on pages 42 to 102, comprise:

- the consolidated balance sheet as at 31 March 2024;
- the consolidated income statement for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the consolidated cash flow statement for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the consolidated financial statements, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

Our opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 March 2024, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing (“HKSA”) issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the HKICPA’s Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (“the Code”), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

The key audit matter identified in our audit is related to provision of impairment of trade receivables.

Key Audit Matter	How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter
<p>Provision for impairment of trade receivables</p> <p><i>Refer to note 4.1 (b) (Credit risk), note 5 (Critical accounting estimates and judgements) and note 18 (Trade receivables) to the consolidated financial statements.</i></p> <p>As at 31 March 2024, the Group has gross trade receivables of HK\$136.0 million. Provision is made for lifetime expected credit losses on trade receivables.</p>	<p>We obtained an understanding of management internal control and impairment assessment process of trade receivables and assessed the inherent risk of material misstatement by considering the degree of estimation uncertainty and level of other inherent risk factors.</p> <p>We evaluated and validated the key controls performed by management over the credit control procedures, including its procedures on periodic review on aged trade receivables, and assessment on the expected credit loss allowance of trade receivables.</p>

Independent Auditor's Report

Key Audit Matters (Continued)

Key Audit Matter	How our audit addressed the Key Audit Matter
<p>Provision for impairment of trade receivables (Continued)</p> <p>Management applied judgement in assessing the expected credit losses. Receivables relating to customers with known financial difficulties or significant doubt on collection of receivables are assessed individually for provision for impairment allowance. Expected credit losses are also estimated by grouping the remaining receivables based on the shared credit risk characteristics and collectively assessed for the likelihood of recovery, taking into account the nature of the customer, and applying expected credit loss rates to the respective gross carrying amounts of the receivables. The expected credit loss rates are determined based on the external default data of customers of similar nature, and are adjusted to reflect current and forward-looking information such as macroeconomic factors affecting the ability of the customers to settle the receivables.</p> <p>We focused on auditing of the provision for impairment of trade receivables due to the magnitude of the trade receivables, the higher degree of estimation uncertainty and subjectivity in management's judgement involved in determining the expected credit loss allowance of the trade receivables. The inherent risk in relation to the determining of the expected credit loss allowance of the trade receivables is considered significant due to subjectivity of significant assumptions used, and significant judgements involved in selecting data.</p>	<p>We evaluated the outcome of prior period assessment of impairment of trade receivables to assess the effectiveness of management's estimation process.</p> <p>We tested on a sample basis, the accuracy of ageing profile of trade receivables by checking to the underlying sales invoices.</p> <p>We corroborated and validated management's assessment on the expected credit loss allowance of trade receivables based on the correspondence with the customers, independent research on credit information and market research regarding the relevant forward-looking information such as macroeconomic factors used in management's assessment.</p> <p>Based on the above procedures, we found that the estimation and judgement made by management in respect of the expected credit loss allowance for trade receivables were supportable by the available evidence.</p>

Other Information

The directors of the Company are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all of the information included in the annual report other than the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Directors and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

Independent Auditor's Report

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. We report our opinion solely to you, as a body, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements (Continued)

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Mr. CHAN Tak Wai, Daniel.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Certified Public Accountants

Hong Kong, 24 June 2024

Audited Financial Statements

Consolidated Income Statement

	Note	Year ended 31 March	
		2024	2023
		HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Revenue	6	923,894	1,022,922
Cost of sales	7	(551,907)	(600,116)
Gross profit		371,987	422,806
Selling and distribution expenses	7	(196,472)	(203,140)
General and administrative expenses	7	(216,158)	(220,194)
Net reversal of impairment/(impairment losses) on financial assets		1,923	(845)
Impairment losses on non-current assets	14 & 15	(11,847)	–
Other income	6	1,842	35,900
Gain on disposal of a property	25	122,118	–
Operating profit		73,393	34,527
Finance income	9	12,174	6,142
Finance costs	9	(283)	(496)
Finance income – net	9	11,891	5,646
Profit before income tax		85,284	40,173
Income tax expense	10	(30,312)	(11,496)
Profit for the year		54,972	28,677
Profit attributable to:			
Owners of the Company		54,222	27,458
Non-controlling interests		750	1,219
		54,972	28,677
Earnings per share attributable to owners of the Company (expressed in HK cents)			
Basic and diluted	11	12.56	6.36

The above consolidated income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Note	Year ended 31 March	
		2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Profit for the year		54,972	28,677
Other comprehensive income/(loss):			
Item that may be reclassified to profit or loss			
Currency translation differences arising from foreign operations		(489)	(627)
Item that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss			
Remeasurement of long service payment provision	13	4,411	32
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year, net of tax		3,922	(595)
Total comprehensive income for the year		58,894	28,082
Total comprehensive income attributable to:			
Owners of the Company		58,144	26,863
Non-controlling interests		750	1,219
		58,894	28,082

The above consolidated statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Audited Financial Statements

Consolidated Balance Sheet

		As at 31 March	
		2024	2023
	Note	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	14	428,943	442,148
Investment properties	15	20,449	42,176
Deferred income tax assets	16	2,255	23,538
Deposits paid for property, plant and equipment		–	248
		451,647	508,110
Current assets			
Inventories	17	15,497	20,264
Trade receivables	18	132,358	169,907
Deposits and other receivables		19,556	17,617
Prepayments		18,219	14,486
Tax recoverable		4,849	2,680
Term deposits with original maturities of over three months	19	314,420	248,649
Cash and cash equivalents	19	212,049	215,509
		716,948	689,112
Current liabilities			
Trade payables	20	22,644	24,764
Fees in advance	6	116,291	124,743
Accruals, other payables and provisions	21	90,339	113,139
Lease liabilities	22	1,773	10,565
Current income tax liabilities		2,208	360
		233,255	273,571
Net current assets		483,693	415,541
Total assets less current liabilities		935,340	923,651

		As at 31 March	
	Note	2024	2023
		HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Equity attributable to owners of the Company			
Share capital	23	43,160	43,160
Reserves		843,026	828,042
		886,186	871,202
Non-controlling interests		21,970	21,220
Total equity		908,156	892,422
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred income tax liabilities	16	19,261	18,867
Lease liabilities	22	363	1,403
Other non-current liabilities	13	7,560	10,959
		27,184	31,229
Total equity and non-current liabilities		935,340	923,651

The consolidated financial statements on pages 42 to 102 were approved by Board of Directors on 24 June 2024 and were signed on its behalf.

Fung Siu Por, Lawrence
Chairman

See Sau Mei Salome
Director

The above consolidated balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Audited Financial Statements

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

	Attributable to owners of the Company								Non-controlling interests	Total equity
	Share capital	Share premium	Merger reserve	Capital reserve	Currency translation reserve	Other reserves	Retained earnings	Total		
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Balance at 1 April 2022	43,160	8,007	69,944	6,120	1,036	9,030	748,044	885,341	20,281	905,622
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,458	27,458	1,219	28,677
Other comprehensive income/(loss)										
Currency translation differences arising from foreign operations	-	-	-	-	(627)	-	-	(627)	-	(627)
Remeasurement of long service payment provision	-	-	-	-	-	32	-	32	-	32
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	-	-	-	-	(627)	32	27,458	26,863	1,219	28,082
Transactions with owners										
Final dividend for the year ended 31 March 2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	(28,054)	(28,054)	-	(28,054)
Dividend declared by a subsidiary for the year ended 31 March 2022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(280)	(280)
Interim dividend for the year ended 31 March 2023	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12,948)	(12,948)	-	(12,948)
Balance at 31 March 2023	43,160	8,007	69,944	6,120	409	9,062	734,500	871,202	21,220	892,422
Balance at 1 April 2023	43,160	8,007	69,944	6,120	409	9,062	734,500	871,202	21,220	892,422
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,222	54,222	750	54,972
Other comprehensive income/(loss)										
Currency translation differences arising from foreign operations	-	-	-	-	(489)	-	-	(489)	-	(489)
Remeasurement of long service payment provision	-	-	-	-	-	4,411	-	4,411	-	4,411
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	-	-	-	-	(489)	4,411	54,222	58,144	750	58,894
Transactions with owners										
Final dividend for the year ended 31 March 2023	-	-	-	-	-	-	(30,212)	(30,212)	-	(30,212)
Interim dividend for the year ended 31 March 2024	-	-	-	-	-	-	(12,948)	(12,948)	-	(12,948)
Balance at 31 March 2024	43,160	8,007	69,944	6,120	(80)	13,473	745,562	886,186	21,970	908,156

The above consolidated statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

	Note	Year ended 31 March	
		2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	25(a)	6,648	88,414
Interest paid	9	(283)	(496)
Hong Kong profits tax paid		(8,957)	(11,092)
Net cash (used in)/generated from operating activities		(2,592)	76,826
Cash flows from investing activities			
Bank interest received	9	12,174	6,142
Purchases of property, plant and equipment and investment properties		(24,929)	(25,784)
Deposits paid for purchase of property, plant and equipment		–	(248)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	25(b)	131,943	16
Increase in term deposits with original maturities of over three months		(65,771)	(150,459)
Net cash generated from/(used in) investing activities		53,417	(170,333)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Principal elements of lease payments	25(c)	(10,636)	(11,840)
Interim dividend paid to owners of the Company		(12,948)	(12,948)
Final dividend paid to owners of the Company		(30,212)	(28,054)
Dividend paid to non-controlling interests		–	(280)
Net cash used in financing activities		(53,796)	(53,122)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(2,971)	(146,629)
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes, net		(489)	(627)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		215,509	362,765
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	19	212,049	215,509

The above consolidated cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

The Company was incorporated in the Cayman Islands on 15 February 2005 as an exempted company with limited liability under the Companies Act, Chapter 22 (Law 3 of 1961, as consolidated and revised) of the Cayman Islands with registered office at Cricket Square, Hutchins Drive, P.O. Box 2681, Grand Cayman KY1-1111, Cayman Islands.

The Company is an investment holding company. The principal activities of its subsidiaries are the printing and publishing of newspapers and magazines and operation of their associated digital businesses; the operation of recruitment advertising and lifestyle platforms; and the provision of electronic financial and property market information services.

The Company's shares are listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

These consolidated financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars ("HK\$" or "HK dollars"), unless otherwise stated.

2. Basis of preparation

2.1 Compliance with HKFRS and Hong Kong Companies Ordinance

The consolidated financial statements of Hong Kong Economic Times Holdings Limited have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance Cap. 622.

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements in conformity with HKFRSs requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the consolidated financial statements are disclosed in note 5.

2.2 Historical cost convention

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

2. Basis of preparation (Continued)

2.3 Amended standards adopted by the Group

The Group has applied the following amended standards for its financial year commencing from 1 April 2023:

HKAS 1 and HKFRS practice statement 2	Disclosure of accounting policies (amendments)
HKAS 8	Definition of accounting estimates (amendments)
HKAS 12	Deferred tax related to assets and liabilities arising from a single transaction (amendments)

The amendments listed above did not have any impact on the amounts recognised in prior years and are not expected to significantly affect the current or future years.

2.4 Amended standards not yet adopted

Certain amendments to accounting standards have been published that are not mandatory for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 and have not been early adopted by the Group:

		Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after
HKAS 1	Classification of liabilities as current or non-current (amendments)	1 January 2024
HKFRS 16	Lease liability in a sale and leaseback (amendments)	1 January 2024

The expected impacts from the adoption of the above amendments are still being assessed by the management, and management is not yet in a position to state whether they would have a significant impact on the Group's financial performance and position.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Summary of material accounting policy information

The material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

3.1 Property, plant and equipment

Buildings comprise mainly offices and factories. All property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment loss, if any. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of any component accounted for a separate asset is derecognised when replaced. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the consolidated income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation on property, plant and equipment is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their costs over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Buildings	20 to 50 years
Leasehold improvements	5 to 30 years or over the unexpired period of the lease, whichever is shorter
Plant and machinery	3 to 15 years
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	3 to 10 years
Motor vehicles	2 to 5 years
Network and computer equipment	3 to 5 years

The assets' useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount (see note 3.3).

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount of the relevant asset. These are recognised in the consolidated income statement.

3. Summary of material accounting policy information (Continued)

3.2 Investment properties

Investment properties, principally comprising leasehold land and buildings, are held for long-term rental yields, and that are not occupied by the Group.

Investment properties are initially measured at cost, including related transaction costs. Subsequent expenditure is charged to the carrying amount of the asset only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the asset will flow to the Group and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance costs are expensed in the consolidated income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Investment properties are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment loss, if any. They are depreciated using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives or over the unexpired periods of the leases, whichever is shorter.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount of the relevant asset. These are recognised in the consolidated income statement.

3.3 Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets that are subject to depreciation or amortisation are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or group of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each balance sheet date.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Summary of material accounting policy information (Continued)

3.4 Financial assets

3.4.1 Classification

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured subsequently at fair value (either through other comprehensive income or through profit or loss), and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on the entity's business model for managing the financial assets and the contractual terms of the cash flows.

For assets measured at fair value, gains and losses will either be recorded in profit or loss or other comprehensive income. For investments in equity instruments that are not held for trading, this will depend on whether the Group has made an irrevocable election at the time of initial recognition to account for the equity investment at fair value through other comprehensive income.

The Group reclassifies debt investments when and only when its business model for managing those assets changes.

3.4.2 Recognition and derecognition

Regular way purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on trade-date, the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

3. Summary of material accounting policy information (Continued)

3.4 Financial assets (Continued)

3.4.3 Measurement

At initial recognition, the Group measures a financial asset at its fair value plus, in the case of a financial asset not at fair value through profit or loss ("FVPL"), transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial asset. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at FVPL are expensed in profit or loss.

Debt instruments

Subsequent measurement of debt instruments depends on the Group's business model for managing the asset and the cash flow characteristics of the asset. The Group classifies its debt instruments as amortised cost. Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest are measured at amortised cost. Interest income from these financial assets is included in finance income using the effective interest rate method. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition is recognised directly in the consolidated income statement. Impairment losses are presented as separate line item in the consolidated income statement.

3.4.4 Impairment

The Group assesses on a forward looking basis the expected credit losses ("ECL") associated with its debt instruments carried at amortised cost. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk.

For trade receivables, the Group applies the simplified approach permitted by HKFRS 9, which requires expected lifetime losses to be recognised from initial recognition of the receivables.

For other financial assets carried at amortised cost, the loss allowance recognised is based on the 12-month ECL. It is the portion of lifetime expected credit loss that results from default events on a financial instrument that are possible within 12 months after the balance sheet date. However, when there has been a significant increase in credit risk since origination, the allowance will be based on the lifetime ECL.

3.5 Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. Net realisable value is the estimated selling price in the ordinary course of business, less the estimated cost of completion and the estimated costs necessary to make the sale.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Summary of material accounting policy information (Continued)

3.6 Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business. If collection of trade and other receivables is expected in one year or less (or in the normal operating cycle of the business if longer), they are classified as current assets. If not, they are presented as non-current assets.

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at the amount of consideration that is unconditional unless they contain significant financing components, when they are recognised at fair value. The Group holds the trade receivables with the objective of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore measures them subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Details about the Group's impairment policies and the calculation of the loss allowance are provided in note 4.1(b)(ii).

3.7 Current and deferred income tax

The income tax expense for the year is the tax payable on the current period's taxable income based on the applicable income tax rate for each jurisdiction adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences and unused tax losses.

(a) Current income tax

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of the tax laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date in the countries where the Company and its subsidiaries operate and generate taxable income. Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation and considers whether it is probable that a taxation authority will accept an uncertain tax treatment. The Group measures its tax balances either based on the most likely amount or the expected value, depending on which method provides a better prediction of the resolution of the uncertainty.

(b) Deferred income tax

Deferred income tax is provided in full, using the liability method, on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the consolidated financial statements. However, deferred tax liabilities are not recognised if they arise from the initial recognition of goodwill. Deferred income tax is also not accounted for if it arises from initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction other than a business combination that at the time of the transaction affects neither accounting nor taxable profit or loss. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

3. Summary of material accounting policy information (Continued)

3.7 Current and deferred income tax (Continued)

(b) *Deferred income tax* (Continued)

Deferred tax assets are recognised only if it is probable that future taxable profit amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Deferred tax liabilities and assets are not recognised for temporary differences between the carrying amount and tax bases of investments in foreign operations where the company is able to control the timing of the reversal of the temporary differences and it is probable that the differences will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset where there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax assets and liabilities and where the deferred tax balances relate to the same taxation authority. Current tax assets and tax liabilities are offset where the entity has a legally enforceable right to offset and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Current and deferred tax is recognised in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, the tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

3.8 Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as finance costs.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

3. Summary of material accounting policy information (Continued)

3.9 Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for the rendering of services in the ordinary course of the Group's activities.

If contracts involve the sale of multiple elements, the transaction price will be allocated to each performance obligation based on their relative stand-alone selling price.

The Group recognised revenue as follows:

(a) *Sales of goods*

Circulation income, comprises the sales of newspapers, magazines and books, are recognised at a point in time when control of the products has transferred, being when the products are delivered to the customers, the customer has accepted the products, the collection of the related consideration is probable and there is no unfulfilled obligation that could affect the customer's acceptance of the products.

A receivable is recognised when the goods are delivered as this is the point in time that the consideration is unconditional because only the passage of time is required before the payment is due.

A contract liability is recognised when a customer pays consideration, or is contractually required to pay consideration and the amount is already due, before the Group recognises the related revenue. The Group recognised its contract liabilities as fees in advance in the consolidated balance sheet.

(b) *Provision of services*

Revenue from providing services includes:

- Income from advertisement is recognised overtime when the relevant advertisement in newspapers, magazines and online are published since the customers simultaneously receive and consume benefit provided by the Group;
- Service income derived from the provision of printing services and sales of products, are recognised at point in time when the services are rendered;
- Service income derived from the provision of information subscription services, solution and other related maintenance services and provision of professional training, are recognised over time when the services are rendered since the customers simultaneously receive and consume benefit provided by the Group.

3. Summary of material accounting policy information (Continued)

3.9 Revenue recognition (Continued)

(b) *Provision of services (Continued)*

If the contract includes a monthly fee, revenue is recognised in the amount to which the Group has a right to invoice. Customers are invoiced on a monthly basis and consideration is payable when invoiced.

A contract liability is recognised when a customer pays consideration, or is contractually required to pay consideration and the amount is already due, before the Group recognises the related revenue. The Group recognised its contract liabilities as fees in advance in the consolidated balance sheet.

(c) *Rental income*

Rental income receivable under operating leases is recognised in the consolidated income statement in equal installments over the accounting periods covered by the lease term, except where an alternative basis is more representative of the pattern of benefits to be derived from the leased asset. Lease incentives granted are recognised in the consolidated income statement as an integral part of the aggregate net lease payments receivable. Contingent rentals are recognised as income in the accounting period in which they are earned.

(d) *Finance income*

Finance income is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset except for financial assets that subsequently become credit-impaired. For credit-impaired financial assets the effective interest rate is applied to the net carrying amount of the financial asset (after deduction of the loss allowance).

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

4. Financial risk management

4.1 Financial risk factors

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including foreign exchange risk and interest rate risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Group's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Group's financial performance. The Group has not used derivative financial instruments to hedge its risk exposures to changes in foreign currency exchange rates and interest rates.

(a) Market risk

(i) Foreign exchange risk

Most of the income and expenditures of the Group are denominated in HK dollars. Certain transactions are denominated in United States dollars ("US dollars") and Renminbi ("RMB"). The value of HK dollars is pegged to that of US dollars and hence, the Group does not have any material foreign exchange exposure in this regard. The Group's exposure to RMB is considered to be minimal, as there are no significant assets and liabilities denominated in RMB.

The Group has not implemented or entered into any type of instruments or arrangements to hedge against currency exchange fluctuations for the year under review. As at 31 March 2024 and 2023, the Group did not have any outstanding hedging instruments.

(ii) Interest rate risk

Financial instruments at variable rates expose the Group to cash flow interest rate risk. Financial instruments at fixed rates expose the Group to fair value interest rate risk.

Except for bank deposits grouped under 'term deposits with original maturities of over three months' and 'cash and cash equivalents' in the consolidated balance sheet, the Group has no other significant interest-bearing assets or liabilities.

Since there is no borrowing in the Group and short-term bank deposits are under short maturity terms, the cash flow interest rate risk is considered to be low.

At 31 March 2024, it is estimated that a general increase/decrease of 50 basis points in interest rates, with all other variables held constant, would increase/decrease the Group's profit for the year by approximately HK\$658,000 (2023: HK\$986,000), in respect of interest income on floating rate bank deposits.

4. Financial risk management (Continued)

4.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(b) Credit risk

The Group's credit risk arises from its bank deposits, deposits and other receivables and trade receivables.

(i) Risk management

To mitigate the risk arising from banks, the Group places its deposits to certain reputable banks with a minimum rating of "investment grade" ranked by an independent party.

The Group manages its credit risk associated with trade receivables through the application of credit approvals, credit ratings and monitoring procedures.

Credit sales are only made to customers with appropriate credit history or high credit standing while sales to new customers or customers of low credit standing are usually made on an advance payment or cash on delivery basis.

In addition, trade receivables balances are monitored on an ongoing basis and the Group's exposure to bad debts is not significant.

No credit limits were exceeded during the year, and management does not expect any losses from non-performance by these counterparties.

(ii) Impairment of financial assets

Trade receivables of the Group are subject to the ECL model. While bank deposits and other financial assets at amortised cost are also subject to the impairment requirements of HKFRS 9, the identified impairment loss was immaterial.

Trade receivables

The Group applies the HKFRS 9 simplified approach to measuring ECL which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for all trade receivables. The Group measures the ECL on a combination of both individual and collective basis.

- Measurement of ECL on individual basis

Receivables relating to customers with known financial difficulties or significant doubt on collection of receivables are assessed individually for provision for impairment allowance.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

4. Financial risk management (Continued)

4.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(b) Credit risk (Continued)

(ii) Impairment of financial assets (Continued)

Trade receivables (Continued)

- Measurement of ECL on individual basis (Continued)

The following table represents the gross carrying amount and the provision for impairment in respect of the individually assessed receivables as at 31 March 2024 and 2023.

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Gross carrying amount	3,008	6,583
Provision for impairment	(2,916)	(5,160)
Net carrying amount	92	1,423

- Measurement of ECL on collective basis

The Group also estimates the provision for ECL on a collective basis by grouping the trade receivables based on shared credit loss risk characteristics and collectively assessed for likelihood of recovery, taking into account the nature of the customer, and applying ECL rates to respective gross carrying amounts of the receivables.

The ECL rates are based on external default data of the customers of similar nature and are adjusted to reflect current and forward looking information on factors affecting the ability of the customers to settle the receivables. The provision for loss allowance was approximately HK\$688,000 (31 March 2023: approximately HK\$3,219,000) based on expected credit loss rates up to 6.5% applied on different groupings of customers.

Impairment losses on trade receivables are presented as 'net impairment losses on financial assets' in the consolidated income statement. When a trade receivable is uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account for trade receivables. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the same line item.

4. Financial risk management (Continued)

4.1 Financial risk factors (Continued)

(b) Credit risk (Continued)

(ii) Impairment of financial assets (Continued)

Cash and cash equivalents, term deposits with original maturities of over three months and other financial assets at amortised cost

For cash and cash equivalents, term deposits with original maturities of over three months and other financial assets at amortised cost, management considers that its credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition with reference to the counterparty historical default rate and current financial position. The impairment provision is determined based on the 12-month expected credit losses which is close to zero (31 March 2023: same).

(c) Liquidity risk

The Group's policy is to regularly monitor current and expected liquidity level to ensure that it maintains sufficient reserves of cash and cash equivalents to meet its liquidity requirements.

As at 31 March 2024 and 2023, the Group does not have undrawn borrowing facilities.

The table below analyses the Group's non-derivative financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the balance sheet date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

	Less than 1 year HK\$'000	Between 1 and 2 years HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
At 31 March 2024			
Trade payables	22,644	–	22,644
Other accruals and payables	47,508	–	47,508
Lease liabilities	1,862	386	2,248
At 31 March 2023			
Trade payables	24,764	–	24,764
Other accruals and payables	54,303	–	54,303
Lease liabilities	10,829	1,427	12,256

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

4. Financial risk management (Continued)

4.2 Capital management

The Group's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the Group's ability to continue as a going concern in order to provide returns for owners and benefits for other stakeholders and to maintain an optimal capital structure to reduce the cost of capital.

In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Group may adjust the amount of dividends paid to shareholders, return capital to shareholders or issue new shares.

Consistent with others in the industry, the Group monitors capital on the basis of gearing ratio. This ratio is calculated as total interest bearing liabilities divided by total assets. Total interest bearing liabilities are calculated as total borrowings including current and non-current bank borrowings as shown in the consolidated balance sheet. Total assets are calculated as 'total assets' as shown in the consolidated balance sheet.

As at 31 March 2024 and 2023, the Group had no borrowings.

4.3 Fair value estimation

The carrying amounts of the financial assets of the Group, including cash and cash equivalents, term deposits with original maturities of over three months and trade and other receivables; and financial liabilities including trade and other payables and lease liabilities approximate their fair values due to their short-term maturities. Lease liabilities that are expected to be settled more than 12 months after reporting date are initially measured on a present value basis by discounting the balance to net present value using the Group's incremental borrowing rate.

The fair values less costs of disposal of property, plant and equipment and investment properties are measured by level of the following fair value measurement hierarchy:

- (i) Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1).
- (ii) Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices) (level 2).
- (iii) Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs) (level 3).

The fair values of property, plant and equipment and investment properties are determined by using valuation techniques, such as quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar property, plant and equipment and investment properties, or the income capitalisation method. These valuation techniques maximise the use of observable market data where it is available and rely as little as possible on entity specific estimates. If all significant inputs required to value an asset are observable, the asset is included in level 2.

5. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

(a) Deferred income tax assets

Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled. Deferred income tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the temporary differences can be utilised.

The Group's management determines the deferred income tax assets based on the enacted or substantively enacted tax rates (and laws) and the best knowledge of profit projections of the Group for coming years during which the deferred income tax assets are expected to be utilised. In assessing the amount of deferred income tax assets that need to be recognised, the Group considers future taxable income and ongoing prudent and feasible tax planning strategies. In the event that the Group's estimates of projected future taxable income and benefits from available tax strategies are changed, or changes in current tax regulations are enacted that would impact the timing or extent of the Group's ability to utilise the tax benefits of net operating loss carry forwards in the future, adjustments to the recorded amount of net deferred income tax assets and income tax expense would need to be made. In addition, management will revisit the assumptions and profit projections at the balance sheet date.

(b) Provision for impairment of trade receivables

The Group makes provision for impairment of trade receivables based on assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates. The Group uses judgement in making these assumptions and selecting the inputs to the impairment calculation, based on the Group's past history, existing market conditions as well as forward-looking estimates at the balance sheet date.

(c) Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amounts may not be recoverable. The recoverable amounts have been determined based on the higher of value-in-use calculations and fair values less costs of disposal. These calculations require the use of judgements and estimates.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

5. Critical accounting estimates and judgements (Continued)

(c) Impairment of non-financial assets (Continued)

Management's judgement is required in the area of asset impairment particularly in assessing: (i) whether an event has occurred that may indicate that the related asset values may not be recoverable; (ii) whether the carrying amount of an asset can be supported by the recoverable amount, being the higher of fair value less costs of disposal and net present value of future cash flows which are estimated based upon the continued use of the asset in the business; (iii) the appropriate key assumptions to be applied in preparing cash flow projections including whether these cash flow projections are discounted using an appropriate rate; and (iv) the appropriate market value of an asset to be applied in estimating the fair value less costs of disposal. Changing the assumptions selected by management in assessing impairment, including the discount rates or the growth rate assumptions in the cash flow projections, could materially affect the net present value used in the impairment test and as a result affect the Group's financial condition and results of operations.

6. Revenue, other income and segment information

An analysis of the Group's revenue and other income for the year is as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Revenue		
Advertising income	458,471	549,702
Circulation income	40,277	50,894
Service income	425,146	422,326
	923,894	1,022,922
Other income		
Rental income from investment properties	1,770	2,532
Government subsidies (note)	–	33,296
Others	72	72
	1,842	35,900
Total revenue and other income	925,736	1,058,822

Note: During the year ended 31 March 2023, government subsidies recognised were primarily related to subsidies received from the Hong Kong Government under the Anti-epidemic Fund. There were no unfulfilled conditions and other contingencies attached to the receipts of these subsidies.

6. Revenue, other income and segment information (Continued)

The Group has recognised the following liabilities related to contracts with customers:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Fees in advance	116,291	124,743

The following table shows revenue recognised in relation to contract liabilities during the years ended 31 March 2024 and 2023 related to carried forward contract liabilities at the beginning of the year:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Revenue recognised in relation to contract liabilities at the beginning of the year – fees in advance	115,450	112,141

The chief operating decision-maker has been identified as the CEO of the Group. He reviews the Group's internal reporting in order to assess performance and allocate resources. Management has determined the operating segments based on these reports.

The Group has two reportable segments:

- (i) Media segment – principally engaged in the printing and publication of newspapers, magazines and books and the operation of digital platforms, including recruitment, finance and lifestyle. This segment generates advertising income, circulation income and service income from these publications and digital platforms.
- (ii) Financial news agency, information and solutions segment – principally engaged in the provision of electronic financial and property market information and related solutions and generates service income from provision of information subscription services, solutions and other related maintenance services.

The chief operating decision-maker assesses the performance of the operating segments based on their respective segment results.

The accounting policies of the operating segments are the same as those described in the summary of significant accounting policies.

Sales between segments are carried out at arm's length.

More than 90% of the Group's activities are carried out in Hong Kong and more than 90% of the Group's assets and liabilities are located in Hong Kong. Accordingly, no analysis by geographical basis for the relevant years is presented.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

6. Revenue, other income and segment information (Continued)

The segment results for the years ended 31 March 2024 and 2023 are as follows:

	Media		Financial news agency, information and solutions		Corporate		Total	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
REVENUE								
Revenue	625,871	702,630	302,625	325,144	–	–	928,496	1,027,774
Inter-segment transactions	(829)	(1,057)	(3,773)	(3,795)	–	–	(4,602)	(4,852)
Revenue – from external customers	625,042	701,573	298,852	321,349	–	–	923,894	1,022,922
RESULTS								
Profit/(loss) for the year	23,859	(13,158)	27,269	40,979	3,844	856	54,972	28,677
OTHER INCOME								
Gain on disposal of a property	122,118	–	–	–	–	–	122,118	–
EXPENSES								
Impairment losses on non-current assets	(11,847)	–	–	–	–	–	(11,847)	–

The Group is domiciled in Hong Kong. All revenue from external customers is attributed to Hong Kong. The Group's revenue by geographical location is determined by the respective places of domicile of the relevant group entities which include Hong Kong and Mainland China.

The total non-current assets other than deferred income tax assets located in Hong Kong and other locations are HK\$448,714,000 (2023: HK\$484,191,000) and HK\$678,000 (2023: HK\$381,000), respectively.

7. Expenses by nature

Expenses included cost of sales, selling and distribution expenses and general and administrative expenses are analysed as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Charging		
Staff costs including Directors' and CEO's remuneration (note 8)	548,622	585,253
Content costs	110,843	115,594
Cost of inventories sold or consumed (note 17)	86,894	92,325
Auditors' remuneration		
– Audit services	2,720	2,720
– Non-audit services	322	322
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment and investment properties (notes 14 and 15)	39,215	41,650
(Gain)/loss on disposal of plant and equipment (note 25(b))	(34)	25
Direct operating expenses arising from investment properties that generate rental income (note 15)	173	372
Provision for obsolete inventories	21	12
Inventories written off	89	61

8. Staff costs including Directors' and CEO's remuneration

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Wages, salaries and bonuses	522,572	552,941
Unutilised pay leave	(179)	(143)
Pension costs – defined contribution plans (note a)	23,543	24,106
Long service payment (note 13)	2,686	8,349
Total	548,622	585,253

(a) Pension costs – defined contribution plans

Contributions totalling approximately HK\$2,688,000 (2023: HK\$2,925,000) were payable to the MPF and another occupational retirement scheme at the year end.

No forfeited contributions were utilised for the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: nil). Furthermore, no forfeited contributions were available at the year end to reduce future contributions (2023: nil).

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

8. Staff costs including Directors' and CEO's remuneration (Continued)

(b) Directors' and CEO's remuneration

The benefit and interests of each Director and the CEO, disclosed pursuant to Section 383 of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622), and Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation (Cap. 622G) and the Listing Rules, is set out below:

	For the year ended 31 March 2024				
	Salaries HK\$'000	Fees HK\$'000	Discretionary bonuses HK\$'000	Employer's contributions to pension scheme HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
<u>Executive Directors</u>					
Mr. FUNG Siu Por, Lawrence (note (i))	3,588	–	336	179	4,103
Ms. SEE Sau Mei Salome	3,588	–	336	179	4,103
Ms. WONG Ching	3,060	–	288	18	3,366
<u>Non-executive Director</u>					
Mr. CHU Yu Lun	–	158	–	–	158
<u>Independent Non-executive Directors</u>					
Mr. LO Foo Cheung	–	158	–	–	158
Mr. O'YANG Wiley	–	190	–	–	190
Mr. SIN Hendrick	–	158	–	–	158
Total	10,236	664	960	376	12,236

8. Staff costs including Directors' and CEO's remuneration (Continued)

(b) Directors' and CEO's remuneration (Continued)

	For the year ended 31 March 2023				
	Salaries HK\$'000	Fees HK\$'000	Discretionary bonuses HK\$'000	Employer's contributions to pension scheme HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Executive Directors					
Mr. FUNG Siu Por, Lawrence (note (i))	3,816	–	432	191	4,439
Ms. SEE Sau Mei Salome	3,816	–	432	191	4,439
Mr. CHAN Cho Biu (note (ii))	1,042	–	–	47	1,089
Ms. WONG Ching	3,240	–	367	18	3,625
Non-executive Director					
Mr. CHU Yu Lun	–	165	–	–	165
Independent Non-executive Directors					
Mr. LO Foo Cheung	–	165	–	–	165
Mr. O'YANG Wiley	–	200	–	–	200
Mr. SIN Hendrick	–	165	–	–	165
Total	11,914	695	1,231	447	14,287

Note (i): The Director is also the CEO, hence no separate disclosure in respect of the remuneration of the CEO has been made (2023: same).

Note (ii): Mr. Chan Cho Biu retired as executive director of the Company on 11 August 2022.

During the year, no payments or benefits in respect of termination of directors' services, remuneration in respect of accepting office as director, emoluments in respect of director's other services in connection with the management of the affairs of the Company or its subsidiaries and other benefits were paid or made, directly or indirectly, to the directors; nor are any payable (2023: nil). No consideration was provided to or receivable by third parties for making available directors' services (2023: nil). There are no loans, quasi-loans or other dealings in favour of the directors, their controlled bodies corporate and connected entities (2023: nil).

Except for those disclosed elsewhere in the consolidated financial statements, no director of the Company had a material interest, directly or indirectly, in any significant transactions, arrangements and contracts in relation to the Company's business to which the Company was or is a party that subsisted at the end of the year or at any time during the year (2023: same).

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

8. Staff costs including Directors' and CEO's remuneration (Continued)

(c) Five highest paid individuals

The five individuals whose remuneration were the highest in the Group for the year include three (2023: three) Executive Directors whose remuneration are reflected in the analysis presented above. The remuneration to the remaining two (2023: two) individuals during the year is as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Wages and salaries	3,913	4,171
Discretionary bonuses	304	411
Pension costs – defined contribution plans	36	36
	4,253	4,618

The emoluments fell within the following bands:

	Number of individuals	
	2024	2023
Emoluments band (in HK dollars) HK\$2,000,001 – HK\$2,500,000	2	2

(d) Group remuneration policy

The primary goal of the Group's remuneration policy is to attract, retain and motivate talented individuals to contribute to the success of our businesses. The Directors' and CEO's remuneration is reviewed by the Remuneration Committee and/or the Board (in the case of Non-executive Directors) from time to time having regard to the performance of the Group, the duties and responsibilities concerned and the prevailing market conditions.

9. Finance income and costs

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Finance income		
Bank interest income	12,174	6,142
Finance costs		
Interest on leases	(283)	(496)
Finance income – net	11,891	5,646

10. Income tax expense

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Current income tax		
Hong Kong profits tax	8,659	10,388
China enterprise income tax	16	14
Over provisions in prior years	(40)	(70)
Total current income tax	8,635	10,332
Deferred income tax (note 16)	21,677	1,164
Income tax expense	30,312	11,496

(a) Hong Kong profits tax

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 16.5% (2023: 16.5%) on the estimated assessable profit for the year.

(b) The China enterprise income tax

The China enterprise income tax is calculated at the rate of 25% (2023: 25%) on the profits for the China statutory financial reporting purposes, adjusted for those items which are not assessable or deductible for the China enterprise income tax purposes.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

10. Income tax expense (Continued)

- (c) The tax on the Group's profit before income tax differs from the theoretical amount that would arise using the tax rate of Hong Kong as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Profit before income tax	85,284	40,173
Calculated at tax rate of 16.5% (2023: 16.5%)	14,072	6,629
Effect of difference on tax rate arising from the operations in Mainland China	(79)	42
Effect of two-tiered profits tax rates regime (note (i))	(165)	(165)
Income not subject to tax	(21,540)	(6,588)
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	1,929	488
Utilisation of previously unrecognised deferred tax assets	(468)	(533)
Tax losses for which no deferred income tax assets were recognised	14,338	11,693
Derecognition of unutilised tax losses	22,265	–
Over provisions in prior years	(40)	(70)
Income tax expense	30,312	11,496

Note (i):

For the years ended 31 March 2024 and 2023, Hong Kong profits tax of the qualified entity of the Group is calculated in accordance with the two-tiered profits tax rates regime. Under the two-tiered profits tax rates regime, the first HK\$2 million of assessable profits of qualifying corporation under Hong Kong profits tax will be taxed at 8.25%, and assessable profits above HK\$2 million will be taxed at 16.5%. The assessable profits of other Hong Kong entities of the Group not qualifying for the two-tiered profits tax rates regime will continue to be taxed at the rate of 16.5% (2023: same).

11. Earnings per share

The calculation of basic earnings per share for current year is based on the profit attributable to owners of the Company of HK\$54,222,000 (2023: HK\$27,458,000) and the number of 431,600,000 (2023: 431,600,000) shares in issue during the year.

Diluted earnings per share are the same as basic earnings per share as there were no dilutive potential ordinary shares for the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: same).

12. Dividends

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Dividends attributable to the year		
Interim dividend paid of HK 3.0 cents (2023: HK 3.0 cents) per ordinary share	12,948	12,948
Proposed final dividend of HK 7.0 cents (2023: HK 7.0 cents) per ordinary share	30,212	30,212
	43,160	43,160
Dividends paid during the year	43,160	41,002

A final dividend in respect of the year ended 31 March 2024 of HK 7.0 cents per ordinary share, amounting to a total dividend of HK\$30,212,000, is to be proposed at the annual general meeting on 1 August 2024. This proposed dividend is not reflected as a dividend payable in the consolidated balance sheet.

13. Other non-current liabilities

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Long service payment provision	7,560	10,959

Long service payment provision represents the long service payment obligations for its employees in Hong Kong.

Pension costs are assessed using the projected unit credit cost method. The pension costs are charged to the consolidated income statement (note 8) so as to spread the regular costs as at 31 March 2024 and 2023 over the service lives of employees. A full valuation of the defined benefit obligation based on the projected unit credit cost method has been carried out by Mercer (Hong Kong) Limited, an independent qualified actuary, and the pension costs are charged to the consolidated income statement.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

13. Other non-current liabilities (Continued)

The amounts recognised in the consolidated balance sheet are determined as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Present value of the long service payment provision	7,560	10,959

Movements in the present value of the long service payment provision are as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
At beginning of the year	10,959	3,078
Current service costs	1,441	144
Past service costs (note)	857	8,157
Interest expense	388	48
Remeasurement:		
– Gain from changes in demographic assumptions	(3,780)	–
– Gain from changes in financial assumptions	(1,493)	(786)
– Loss from experience adjustments	862	754
Actual benefits paid	(1,674)	(436)
At end of the year	7,560	10,959

Note: The Legislative Council passed the Employment and Retirement Schemes Legislation (Offsetting Arrangement) (Amendment) Bill 2022 on 9 June 2022 to abolish the use of the accrued benefits of employers' mandatory contributions under the MPF to offset severance payment (SP) and long service payment (LSP) ("MPF offsetting arrangement"). The Government has announced that the abolition of MPF offsetting arrangement will take effect on 1 May 2025. The abolition of MPF offsetting arrangement resulted in past service costs payable arising from plan amendments, which has been recognised in the consolidated income statement during the year ended 31 March 2023.

The amounts recognised in the consolidated income statement are as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Current service costs	1,441	144
Past service costs	857	8,157
Interest expense	388	48
Total expenses recognised in the consolidated income statement	2,686	8,349

13. Other non-current liabilities (Continued)

The cumulative amounts of remeasurement of long service payment provision recognised in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income are as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
At beginning of the year	(9,062)	(9,030)
Remeasurement for the year	(4,411)	(32)
At end of the year	(13,473)	(9,062)

The principal actuarial parameters used are as follows:

	2024	2023
Discount rate	4.00%	4.00%
Expected inflation rate	3.00%	3.00%

The sensitivity of the defined benefit obligation to changes in significant parameters is:

	Change in assumption	Impact on defined benefit obligation
Discount rate	Increase by 0.25%	Decrease 2.53%
	Decrease by 0.25%	Increase 2.62%
Expected inflation rate	Increase by 0.50%	Increase 0.16%
	Decrease by 0.50%	Decrease 0.28%

The above sensitivity analyses are based on a change in an assumption while holding all other parameters constant. In practise, it is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the parameters may be correlated. When calculating the sensitivity of the defined benefit obligation to significant actuarial parameters, the same method (present value of the defined benefit obligation calculated with the projected unit credit cost method at the balance sheet date) has been applied as when calculating the pension liability recognised within the consolidated balance sheet.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

14. Property, plant and equipment

	Buildings HK\$'000	Leasehold improvements HK\$'000	Plant and machinery HK\$'000	Furniture, fixtures and equipment HK\$'000	Motor vehicles HK\$'000	Network and computer equipment HK\$'000	Right-of-use assets HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
At 1 April 2022								
Cost	170,095	35,002	129,938	190,877	3,624	114,443	298,382	942,361
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(49,282)	(28,791)	(106,514)	(174,363)	(2,144)	(101,734)	(42,957)	(505,785)
Net book value at 1 April 2022	120,813	6,211	23,424	16,514	1,480	12,709	255,425	436,576
At 31 March 2023								
Net book value at 1 April 2022	120,813	6,211	23,424	16,514	1,480	12,709	255,425	436,576
Additions	-	830	5,422	11,945	369	7,218	20,705	46,489
Depreciation	(5,375)	(2,678)	(6,083)	(8,376)	(475)	(5,898)	(11,991)	(40,876)
Disposals	-	-	-	(12)	(28)	(1)	-	(41)
Net book value at 31 March 2023	115,438	4,363	22,763	20,071	1,346	14,028	264,139	442,148
At 31 March 2023								
Cost	170,095	35,832	122,210	199,445	3,872	121,378	297,965	950,797
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(54,657)	(31,469)	(99,447)	(179,374)	(2,526)	(107,350)	(33,826)	(508,649)
Net book value at 31 March 2023	115,438	4,363	22,763	20,071	1,346	14,028	264,139	442,148
At 31 March 2024								
Net book value at 1 April 2023	115,438	4,363	22,763	20,071	1,346	14,028	264,139	442,148
Additions	-	2,515	10	3,760	248	2,974	744	10,251
Transfer from investment properties (note (i))	2,710	-	-	-	-	-	33,833	36,543
Depreciation	(5,081)	(2,522)	(5,972)	(8,434)	(520)	(4,967)	(11,459)	(38,955)
Disposals	(8,508)	-	-	(12)	-	-	(1,271)	(9,791)
Impairment (note (ii))	(296)	(2,063)	-	(1,801)	(39)	(4,008)	(3,046)	(11,253)
Net book value at 31 March 2024	104,263	2,293	16,801	13,584	1,035	8,027	282,940	428,943
At 31 March 2024								
Cost	154,957	38,201	122,156	200,603	4,120	124,257	328,786	973,080
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(50,694)	(35,908)	(105,355)	(187,019)	(3,085)	(116,230)	(45,846)	(544,137)
Net book value at 31 March 2024	104,263	2,293	16,801	13,584	1,035	8,027	282,940	428,943

14. Property, plant and equipment (Continued)

The carrying amounts of buildings and leasehold land in 'right-of-use assets' as at 31 March 2024 are approximately HK\$385,311,000 (2023: HK\$367,675,000). Fair values of these buildings and leasehold land are approximately HK\$882,900,000 (2023: HK\$995,900,000) as valued by an independent professionally qualified valuer, on an open market value and existing state basis.

Note (i):

During the year ended 31 March 2024, investment properties of HK\$36,543,000 have been reclassified to property, plant and equipment as a result of change in usage.

Note (ii):

The prolonged geopolitical uncertainties and volatile economic conditions continued to affect local business environment, particularly the media industry. In view of the performance of business units within the media segment was worse than expected, management considered that indicators of potential impairment of certain property, plant and equipment and investment properties of these cash-generating units ("CGUs") existed as at 31 March 2024. Management carried out an impairment assessment on these CGUs by determining the recoverable amounts based on the higher of fair values less costs of disposal and value-in-use ("VIU") calculation. The Group engaged independent qualified professional valuers to estimate the fair values less costs of disposal of the plant and equipment based on market quotes from publicly available sources; and the market values of the properties in their existing state based on comparable property sale transactions, or market rents and yields applicable to the properties, which are higher than the asset's VIU of these CGUs. The properties are included in level 2 in the fair value hierarchy. The significant observable input is HK\$11,413 per saleable square foot and HK\$12,796 per saleable square foot for the property and the investment properties respectively. During the year ended 31 March 2024, an impairment loss on property, plant and equipment and investment properties of HK\$11,253,000 and HK\$594,000 was recognised in the consolidated income statement respectively.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

15. Investment properties

	Total HK\$'000
At 1 April 2022	
Cost	45,405
Accumulated depreciation	(2,455)
Net book value at 1 April 2022	42,950
Net book value at 1 April 2022	42,950
Depreciation	(774)
Net book value at 31 March 2023	42,176
At 31 March 2023	
Cost	45,405
Accumulated depreciation	(3,229)
Net book value at 31 March 2023	42,176
Net book value at 1 April 2023	42,176
Additions	15,670
Transfer to property plant and equipment (note 14(i))	(36,543)
Depreciation	(260)
Impairment (see below)	(594)
Net book value at 31 March 2024	20,449
At 31 March 2024	
Cost	23,858
Accumulated depreciation and impairment	(3,409)
Net book value at 31 March 2024	20,449

The fair values of investment properties as at 31 March 2024 are approximately HK\$44,000,000 (2023: HK\$67,000,000) as valued by an independent qualified professional valuer, on the market values of the investment properties in their existing state based on comparable property sale transactions, or market rents and yields applicable to the investment properties. For the impairment assessment on investment properties, please refer to note 14(ii).

15. Investment properties (Continued)

The amounts recognised in the consolidated income statement are as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Rental income (note 6)	1,770	2,532
Direct operating expenses arising from investment properties that generate rental income (note 7)	173	372

Details of investment property as at 31 March 2024:

Address of the property	Type	Lease term
Unit 7B, 7th Floor, Tai Ping Industrial Centre, 67 Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, New Territories	Industrial building	Long
Workshop No. 3, 10th Floor, Kodak House II, No. 39 Healthy Street East, North Point, Hong Kong	Workshop unit	Long

Details of investment property as at 31 March 2023:

Address of the property	Type	Lease term
Unit 7B, 7th Floor, Tai Ping Industrial Centre, 67 Ting Kok Road, Tai Po, New Territories	Industrial building	Long
Workshop No. 12, 10th Floor, Kodak House II, No. 39 Healthy Street East, North Point, Hong Kong	Workshop unit	Long

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

16. Deferred income tax

The analysis of deferred income tax assets and deferred income tax liabilities is as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Deferred income tax assets	2,255	23,538
Deferred income tax liabilities	(19,261)	(18,867)
	(17,006)	4,671

The movement in deferred income tax assets and liabilities during the year, without taking into consideration the offsetting of balances within the same tax jurisdiction, is as follows:

Deferred income tax liabilities

	Accelerated tax depreciation HK\$'000	Others HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
At 1 April 2022	(18,335)	(4,822)	(23,157)
Recognised in the consolidated income statement	(1,644)	244	(1,400)
At 31 March 2023	(19,979)	(4,578)	(24,557)
Recognised in the consolidated income statement	1,961	240	2,201
At 31 March 2024	(18,018)	(4,338)	(22,356)

16. Deferred income tax (Continued)

Deferred income tax assets

	Tax losses HK\$'000	Others HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
At 1 April 2022	28,250	742	28,992
Recognised in the consolidated income statement	(193)	429	236
At 31 March 2023	28,057	1,171	29,228
Recognised in the consolidated income statement	(23,040)	(838)	(23,878)
At 31 March 2024	5,017	333	5,350

Deferred income tax assets are recognised for tax loss carry-forwards to the extent that the realisation of the related tax benefit through the future taxable profits is probable. The Group did not recognise deferred income tax assets of approximately HK\$91,913,000 (2023: HK\$55,719,000) in respect of tax losses amounting to HK\$555,569,000 (2023: HK\$336,356,000) that can be carried forward against future taxable income. The tax losses of HK\$552,691,000 from Hong Kong subsidiaries have no expiry date while other tax losses from the subsidiaries in Mainland China amounting to HK\$1,931,000, HK\$273,000, HK\$236,000 and HK\$438,000 will expire in 2025, 2026, 2027 and 2028 respectively.

17. Inventories

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Raw materials	9,700	16,553
Finished goods	5,985	3,878
Less: provision for obsolete inventories	(188)	(167)
	15,497	20,264

The cost of inventories recognised as expense and included in 'cost of sales' amounted to HK\$86,894,000 (2023: HK\$92,325,000).

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

18. Trade receivables

The ageing analysis of trade receivables based on invoice date is as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
0 to 30 days	51,928	63,577
31 to 60 days	32,625	42,088
61 to 90 days	16,098	17,645
Over 90 days	35,311	54,976
Trade receivables, gross	135,962	178,286
Less: provision for impairment of trade receivables	(3,604)	(8,379)
	132,358	169,907

The carrying amounts of trade receivables are reasonable approximation of their fair values. Majority of the trade receivables are denominated in HK dollars.

The credit period granted by the Group to its trade customers ranges from 0 to 90 days.

The movement in provision for impairment of trade receivables during the year is as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
At beginning of the year	8,379	7,927
(Reversal of provision)/provision made for impairment	(2,344)	642
Amounts written off as uncollectible	(2,431)	(190)
At end of the year	3,604	8,379

The bad debt directly written off of HK\$421,000 is charged to the consolidated income statement for the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023: HK\$203,000).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date is the carrying value of trade receivables mentioned above. The Group does not hold any collateral as security.

19. Cash and cash equivalents and term deposits with original maturities of over three months

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Cash at bank and on hand	212,049	215,509
Cash and cash equivalents	212,049	215,509
Term deposits with original maturities of over three months	314,420	248,649
Total	526,469	464,158
Maximum exposure to credit risk	526,126	463,790
Denominated in:		
– HK dollars	472,184	411,344
– RMB	11,210	11,302
– US dollars and other currencies	43,075	41,512
	526,469	464,158

The Group's weighted effective interest rate on term deposits was 4.95% (2023: 3.93%) per annum with an average maturity of 275 (2023: 295) days.

The Group's bank balances and cash of approximately HK\$11,102,000 (2023: HK\$11,126,000) as at 31 March 2024 were denominated in RMB and kept with banks in Mainland China. The remittance of these funds out of Mainland China is subject to the foreign exchange restrictions imposed by the government of Mainland China.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

20. Trade payables

The ageing analysis of trade payables by overdue day is as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
0 to 30 days	12,565	21,367
31 to 60 days	4,127	740
61 to 90 days	3,596	554
Over 90 days	2,356	2,103
	22,644	24,764

The carrying amounts of trade payables approximate their fair values. Majority of the trade payables are denominated in HK dollars.

21. Accruals, other payables and provisions

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Staff costs accruals and provisions	42,831	58,836
Other accruals and payables	47,508	54,303
	90,339	113,139

The carrying amounts of accruals, other payables and provisions approximate their fair values. Majority of the accruals, other payables and provisions are denominated in HK dollars.

22. Leases

(i) Amounts recognised in the consolidated balance sheet

The consolidated balance sheet shows the following amounts relating to leases:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Right-of-use assets		
Leasehold land	281,048	252,238
Properties	1,892	11,901
	282,940	264,139
	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Lease liabilities		
Current	1,773	10,565
Non-current	363	1,403
	2,136	11,968
	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Lease liabilities		
Properties	2,136	11,968

During the year ended 31 March 2024, additions to the right-of-use assets were HK\$742,000 (2023: HK\$20,705,000).

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

22. Leases (Continued)

(ii) Amounts recognised in the consolidated income statement

The consolidated income statement shows the following amounts related to leases:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Depreciation charge of right-of-use assets		
Leasehold land	761	714
Properties	10,698	11,277
	11,459	11,991
	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Interest on lease liabilities (note 9)	283	496

The total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 31 March 2024 are HK\$10,919,000 (2023: HK\$12,336,000), including the payment of principal elements and interest elements of lease liabilities amounting to HK\$10,636,000 (2023: HK\$11,840,000) and HK\$283,000 (2023: HK\$496,000) respectively.

(iii) The Group's leasing activities

The Groups leases various properties. Rental contracts are typically made for fixed periods of 1 to 3 years. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. The lease agreements do not impose any covenants.

23. Share capital

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Authorised: 2,000,000,000 shares of HK\$0.10 each	200,000	200,000
Issued and fully paid: 431,600,000 shares of HK\$0.10 each	43,160	43,160

24. Subsidiaries

Particulars of the principal subsidiaries at 31 March 2024 are as follows:

Company name	Country/place of incorporation/ establishment	Principal activities and country/place of operation	Issued and fully paid up share capital/registered capital	Effective interest held
Apex Print Limited	Hong Kong	Provision of printing services in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$75,000,000	100%
Asianway (Far East) Limited	Hong Kong	Properties holding in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$100	100%
Career Times Online Limited	Hong Kong	Provision of recruitment advertising services in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$2	100%
EPRC Limited	Hong Kong	Provision of electronic property market database to the professional market in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$100	100%
ET Net Limited	Hong Kong	Provision of electronic financial information services in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$2 and non-voting deferred shares HK\$10,000	96.04%
ET Net News Agency Limited	Hong Kong	Provision of electronic financial information services in Mainland China	Ordinary HK\$100	96.04%
ET Trade Limited	Hong Kong	Provision of equities and derivatives trading solutions in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$10,000	96.04%
ET Wealth Limited	Hong Kong	Provision of funds market database and solutions to the professional market in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$100	96.04%

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

24. Subsidiaries (Continued)

Company name	Country/place of incorporation/ establishment	Principal activities and country/place of operation	Issued and fully paid up share capital/registered capital	Effective interest held
Hong Kong Economic Times Limited	Hong Kong	Publication of newspapers, magazines and books and operation of lifestyle platforms in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$100	100%
Health Smart Limited	Hong Kong	Operation of a health portal in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$100	100%
Honley Limited	Hong Kong	Properties holding in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$100	100%
Safe City Limited	Hong Kong	Properties holding in Hong Kong	Ordinary HK\$100	100%
港涇通經濟訊息諮詢(上海)有限公司# (ET Net Economic Information Consulting (Shanghai) Co., Limited)	Mainland China	Provision of economic information consulting services in Mainland China	Registered capital RMB\$2,500,000	96.04%
環富通科技(深圳)有限公司# (ET Wealth Technology (Shenzhen) Limited)	Mainland China	Operation of computer software research and development centre in Mainland China	Registered capital HK\$1,000,000	96.04%
深圳港經廣告傳播有限公司# (HKET Advertising (Shenzhen) Limited)	Mainland China	Provision of advertising services in Mainland China	Registered capital HK\$1,000,000	100%

A wholly foreign owned enterprise in Mainland China

25. Notes to the consolidated cash flow statement

(a) Cash generated from operations

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Profit before income tax	85,284	40,173
Adjustments for:		
– Depreciation of property, plant and equipment and investment properties (note 7)	39,215	41,650
– (Gain)/loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment (see below)	(122,152)	25
– Finance income (note 9)	(12,174)	(6,142)
– Finance costs (note 9)	283	496
– Net (reversal of impairment)/impairment losses on financial assets	(1,923)	845
– Impairment losses on property, plant and equipment and investment properties (notes 14 and 15)	11,847	–
– Provision for obsolete inventories (note 7)	21	12
– Inventories written off (note 7)	89	61
– Provision for long service payment	2,686	8,349
– Unrealised exchange loss/(gain)	42	(27)
Changes in working capital:		
– Decrease in inventories	4,657	3,369
– Decrease in trade receivables, deposits and other receivables and prepayments	33,800	6,110
– Decrease in trade payables, fees in advance and accruals, other payables and provisions	(35,027)	(6,507)
Cash generated from operations	6,648	88,414

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

25. Notes to the consolidated cash flow statement (Continued)

(b) Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment

In the consolidated cash flow statement, proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment comprise:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Net book amount (note 14)	9,791	41
Gain on disposal of a property (note below)	122,118	–
Gain/(loss) on disposal of plant and equipment (note 7)	34	(25)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment	131,943	16

Note: On 26 January 2024, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company (“Vendor”) entered into a provisional agreement for sale and purchase with an independent third party (“the Purchaser”), pursuant to which the Vendor agreed to sell, and the Purchaser agreed to acquire a property for a cash consideration of HK\$135,000,000 (the “Disposal”). The Disposal was completed on 27 March 2024, and a gain on disposal of HK\$122,118,000 was recognised in the consolidated income statement.

(c) Changes in financial liabilities arising from financing activities

Movements in lease liabilities are analysed as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
At beginning of the year	11,968	3,159
Finance costs (note 9)	283	496
Cash flows		
– Principal elements of payments	(10,636)	(11,840)
– Interest paid	(283)	(496)
Non-cash changes		
– Additions of lease liabilities	742	20,705
– Unrealised exchange loss/(gain)	62	(56)
At end of the year	2,136	11,968

26. Commitments

(a) Capital commitments at the balance sheet date but not yet incurred are as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Property, plant and equipment		
Contracted but not yet provided for	953	953
Authorised but not yet contracted for	325	58
	1,278	1,011

(b) Commitments under operating leases as lessee

The future aggregate minimum rental payments under non-cancellable operating leases as at 31 March 2024, not later than one year, are HK\$724,000.

(c) Commitments under operating leases as lessor

The future aggregate minimum rental receivables under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Not later than one year	499	1,740
Later than one year and not later than five years	277	139
	776	1,879

27. Contingent liability

A subsidiary of the Group, which is engaged in the provision of printing services for publications, was named as one of the defendants who were alleged to be infringing intellectual property in a legal proceeding submitted to the High Court on 18 October 2022. The claim amount is not specified by the plaintiff. Management, based on legal advice from an external legal counsel, believes that it is impracticable to evaluate the likely outcome of the case and to estimate the financial effect to the Group as it is still at an early stage of the proceedings.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

28. Balance sheet and reserve movements of the Company

(a) Balance sheet of the Company

	Note	As at 31 March 2024 HK\$'000	2023 HK\$'000
Non-current assets			
Investments in subsidiaries	24	71,236	178,627
		71,236	178,627
Current assets			
Deposits and other receivables		959	858
Prepayments		180	180
Amounts due from subsidiaries		1,017,465	847,262
Term deposits with original maturities of over three months		21,000	88,000
Cash and cash equivalents		85,448	40,209
		1,125,052	976,509
Current liabilities			
Accruals, other payables and provisions		530	507
Amounts due to subsidiaries		955,701	917,893
		956,231	918,400
Net current assets		168,821	58,109
Total assets less current liabilities		240,057	236,736
Equity attributable to owner of the Company			
Share capital		43,160	43,160
Reserves	28(b)	196,897	193,576
Total equity		240,057	236,736

The balance sheet of the Company was approved by the Board of Directors on 24 June 2024 and were signed on its behalf.

Fung Siu Por, Lawrence
Chairman

See Sau Mei Salome
Director

28. Balance sheet and reserve movements of the Company (Continued)

(b) Reserve movements of the Company

	Share premium HK\$'000	Capital reserve HK\$'000	Retained earnings HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
At 1 April 2022	155,434	6,120	65,340	226,894
Profit for the year	–	–	7,684	7,684
Final dividend for the year ended 31 March 2022	–	–	(28,054)	(28,054)
Interim dividend for the year ended 31 March 2023	–	–	(12,948)	(12,948)
At 31 March 2023	155,434	6,120	32,022	193,576
At 1 April 2023	155,434	6,120	32,022	193,576
Profit for the year	–	–	46,481	46,481
Final dividend for the year ended 31 March 2023	–	–	(30,212)	(30,212)
Interim dividend for the year ended 31 March 2024	–	–	(12,948)	(12,948)
At 31 March 2024	155,434	6,120	35,343	196,897

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies

The list of other potentially material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

29.1 Subsidiaries

29.1.1 Consolidation

Subsidiaries are all entities over which the Group has control. The Group controls an entity when the Group is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the Group. They are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases. The acquisition method of accounting is used to account for business combinations by the Group (refer to note 29.1.1(a)).

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies (Continued)

29.1 Subsidiaries (Continued)

29.1.1 Consolidation (Continued)

Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the transferred asset. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

Non-controlling interests in the results and equity of subsidiaries are shown separately in the consolidated income statement, consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated balance sheet and consolidated statement of changes in equity respectively.

(a) Business combinations

The acquisition method of accounting is used to account for all business combinations, regardless of whether equity instruments or other assets are acquired. The consideration transferred for the acquisition of a subsidiary comprises the:

- fair values of the assets transferred
- liabilities incurred to the former owners of the acquired business
- equity interests issued by the group
- fair value of any asset or liability resulting from a contingent consideration arrangement, and
- fair value of any pre-existing equity interest in the subsidiary.

Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are, with limited exceptions, measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date. The group recognises any non-controlling interest in the acquired entity on an acquisition-by-acquisition basis either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquired entity's net identifiable assets.

Acquisition-related costs are expensed as incurred.

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies (Continued)

29.1 Subsidiaries (Continued)

29.1.1 Consolidation (Continued)

(a) Business combinations (Continued)

The excess of the:

- consideration transferred,
- amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquired entity, and
- acquisition-date fair value of any previous equity interest in the acquired entity over the fair values of the net identifiable assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. If those amounts are less than the fair values of the net identifiable assets of the business acquired, the difference is recognised directly in profit or loss as a bargain purchase.

Where settlement of any part of cash consideration is deferred, the amounts payable in the future are discounted to their present value as at the date of exchange. The discount rate used is the entity's incremental borrowing rate, being the rate at which a similar borrowing could be obtained from an independent financier under comparable terms and conditions. Contingent consideration is classified either as equity or a financial liability. Amounts classified as a financial liability are subsequently remeasured to fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss.

If the business combination is achieved in stages, the acquisition date carrying value of the acquirer's previously held equity interest in the acquiree is remeasured to fair value at the acquisition date. Any gains or losses arising from such remeasurement are recognised in profit or loss.

(b) Changes in ownership interests

The Group treats transactions with non-controlling interests that do not result in a loss of control as transactions with equity owners of the Group. A change in ownership interest results in an adjustment between the carrying amounts of the controlling and non-controlling interests to reflect their relative interests in the subsidiary. Any difference between the amount of the adjustment to non-controlling interests and any consideration paid or received is recognised in a separate reserve within equity attributable to owners of the Company.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies (Continued)

29.1 Subsidiaries (Continued)

29.1.1 Consolidation (Continued)

(b) Changes in ownership interests (Continued)

When the Group ceases to consolidate an investment because of a loss of control, any retained interest in the entity is remeasured to its fair value with the change in carrying amount recognised in profit or loss. This fair value becomes the initial carrying amount for the purposes of subsequently accounting for the retained interest as an associate, joint venture or financial asset. In addition, any amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income in respect of that entity are accounted for as if the Group had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities. This may mean that amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income are reclassified to profit or loss or transferred to another category of equity as specified/ permitted by applicable HKFRSs.

29.1.2 Separate financial statements

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less impairment. Cost includes direct attributable costs of investment. The results of subsidiaries are accounted for by the Company on the basis of dividend received and receivable.

Impairment testing of the investments in subsidiaries is required upon receiving dividends from these investments if the dividend exceeds the total comprehensive income of the subsidiary in the period the dividend is declared or if the carrying amount of the investment in the separate financial statements exceeds the carrying amount in the consolidated financial statements of the investee's net assets including goodwill.

29.2 Segment reporting

Operating segments are reported in a manner consistent with the internal reporting provided to the chief operating decision-maker. The chief operating decision-maker, who is responsible for allocating resources and assessing performance of the operating segments, has been identified as the Chief Executive Officer of the Group who makes strategic decisions.

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies (Continued)

29.3 Foreign currency translation

(a) *Functional and presentation currency*

Items included in the financial statements of each of the Group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (the "functional currency"). The consolidated financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars, which is the Company's functional and the Group's presentation currency.

(b) *Transactions and balances*

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency at year-end exchange rates are generally recognised in the consolidated income statement.

(c) *Group companies*

The results and financial position of all the group entities (none of which has the currency of a hyperinflationary economy) that have a functional currency different from the presentation currency are translated into the presentation currency as follows:

- (i) assets and liabilities for each balance sheet presented are translated at the closing rate at the date of that balance sheet;
- (ii) income and expenses for each income statement are translated at average exchange rates (unless this average is not a reasonable approximation of the cumulative effect of the rates prevailing on the transaction dates, in which case income and expenses are translated at the rate on the dates of the transactions); and
- (iii) all resulting currency translation differences are recognised in other comprehensive income.

Goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on the acquisition of a foreign entity are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign entity and translated at the closing rate. Currency translation differences arising are recognised in other comprehensive income.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies (Continued)

29.4 Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the consolidated balance sheet when there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

29.5 Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the consolidated cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks with original maturities of three months or less are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

29.6 Share capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Incremental costs directly attributable to the issue of new shares or options are shown in equity as a deduction, net of tax, from the proceeds.

29.7 Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid. Trade and other payables are presented as current liabilities unless payment is not due within 12 months after the financial year. They are recognised initially at their fair values and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

29.8 Employee benefits

(a) *Employee leave entitlements*

Employee entitlements to annual leave are recognised when they accrue to employees. A provision is made for the estimated liability for annual leave as a result of services rendered by employees up to the balance sheet date.

Employee entitlements to sick leave and maternity leave are not recognised until the time of leave.

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies (Continued)

29.8 Employee benefits (Continued)

(b) Long service payments

The Group's net obligation in respect of long service payments to its employees in Hong Kong upon cessation of their employment in certain circumstances under the Hong Kong Employment Ordinance is the amount of future benefits that the employees have earned in return for their services in the current and prior periods.

The obligation is calculated using the projected unit credit cost method, discounted to its present value and reduced by entitlements accrued under the Group's retirement schemes that are attributed to contributions made by the Group. The discount rate is the yield at each balance sheet date of Hong Kong Government's Exchange Fund Notes which have terms to maturity approximating the terms of the related liability. The expected costs of these benefits are accrued over the period of employment using the same accounting methodology as used for defined benefit plans.

The current service cost of the defined benefit plan, recognised in the consolidated income statement in employee benefit expense reflects the increase in the defined benefit obligation results from employee service in the current year, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements.

Past-service costs are recognised immediately in the consolidated income statement.

The interest expenses are calculated by applying the discount rate to the balance of the defined benefit obligation. This cost is included in employee benefit expense in the consolidated income statement.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustment and changes in actuarial assumptions are charged or credited to equity in other comprehensive income in the period in which they arise.

(c) Pension obligations

The Group operates defined contribution plans, including a mandatory provident fund scheme ("MPF") in Hong Kong, the assets of which are generally held in separate trustee-administered funds.

In addition, pursuant to the government regulations in Mainland China, the Group is required to contribute an amount to certain retirement benefit schemes for those employees in Mainland China. The local municipal government undertakes to assume the retirement benefits obligations of those employees of the Group. Contributions to these retirement benefits schemes are charged to the consolidated income statement as incurred.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies (Continued)

29.8 Employee benefits (Continued)

(c) Pension obligations (Continued)

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Group pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. The Group has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

The Group pays contributions to publicly or privately administered pension insurance plans on mandatory, contractual or voluntary basis. The Group's contributions to the defined contribution retirement plans are expensed as incurred. The Group's contributions to all these plans except for the MPF and the plans in Mainland China are reduced by contributions forfeited by those employees who leave the scheme prior to vesting fully in the contributions. The Group has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

29.9 Government grants

Grants from the government are recognised at their fair values where there is a reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and the Group will comply with all attached conditions.

29.10 Leases

(a) As a lessee

The Group leases various properties including offices and workshops. Lease terms are negotiated on an individual basis and contain a wide range of different terms and conditions. The lease agreements do not impose any covenants, but leased assets may not be used as security for borrowing purposes.

Leasehold land is included in right-of-use assets. Leases are recognised as a right-of-use asset (included in property, plant and equipment) and a corresponding liability at the date on which the leased asset is available for use by the Group. Each lease payment is allocated between the liability and finance cost. The finance cost is charged to the consolidated income statement over the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability for each period. Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the shorter of the assets useful life and the lease terms on a straight-line basis.

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies (Continued)

29.10 Leases (Continued)

(a) As a lessee (Continued)

Assets and liabilities arising from a lease are initially measured on a present value basis. Lease liabilities include the net present value of the following lease payments:

- fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments), less any lease incentives receivable;
- variable lease payment that are based on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- amounts expected to be payable by the Group under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of a purchase option if the Group is reasonably certain to exercise that option; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising that option.

The lease payments are discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate can be determined, or the Group's incremental borrowing rate.

Right-of-use assets are measured at cost comprising the following:

- the amount of the initial measurement of the lease liability;
- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, less any lease incentives received;
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to be incurred by the lease in dismantling and removing the underlying asset.

Payments associated with short-term leases are recognised on a straight-line basis as an expense in the consolidated income statement. Short-term leases are leases with a lease term of 12 months or less.

Audited Financial Statements

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

29. Summary of other potentially material accounting policies (Continued)

29.10 Leases (Continued)

(a) As a lessee (Continued)

Extension options are included in the property leases across the Company. These terms are used to maximise operational flexibility in terms of managing contracts. All extension options held are exercisable only by the Company and not by the respective lessor. The Company considers all facts and circumstances that create an economic incentive to exercise an extension option in determining the lease term. The assessment is reviewed if a significant event or a significant change in circumstances occurs which affects the assessment.

(b) As a lessor

When an asset is leased out under an operating lease, the asset is included in the consolidated balance sheet based on the nature of the asset. Lease income on operating leases is recognised over the term of the lease on a straight-line basis.

29.11 Dividend distribution

Dividend distribution to the Company's shareholders is recognised as a liability in the Group's and Company's financial statements in the period in which the dividends are approved by the Company's shareholders or directors, where appropriate.

29.12 Related parties

For the purpose of these consolidated financial statements, a party is considered to be related to the Group if the Group has the ability, directly or indirectly, to control the party or exercise significant influence over the party in making financial and operating decisions, or vice versa, or where the Group and the party are subject to common control. Related parties may be individuals (being members of key management personnel, significant owners and/or their close family members) or other entities and include entities which are under the significant influence of related parties of the Group where those parties are individuals.

Five-year Financial Summary

(in HK\$ millions, except per share amounts)	Year ended 31 March				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Operating Results					
Revenue	924	1,023	1,044	1,000	1,132
Gross profit	372	423	462	416	444
Operating profit	73	34	51	26	20
Finance income – net	12	6	1	2	3
Profit before income tax	85	40	52	28	23
Income tax (expense)/credit	(30)	(12)	(18)	5	(11)
Profit for the year	55	28	34	33	12
Attributable to					
– equity holders of the Company	54	27	33	31	10
– non-controlling interests	1	1	1	2	2
	55	28	34	33	12
Earnings per share (in HK cents)	12.56	6.36	7.65	7.16	2.45
Assets and Liabilities					
Non-current assets	452	508	503	494	591
Current assets	717	689	695	701	622
Total assets	1,169	1,197	1,198	1,195	1,213
Other liabilities	(261)	(305)	(292)	(285)	(308)
Total liabilities	(261)	(305)	(292)	(285)	(308)
Net assets	908	892	906	910	905
Equity holders' fund	886	871	886	891	888
Non-controlling interests	22	21	20	19	17
Total equity	908	892	906	910	905

Five-year Financial Summary

Key Financial Ratio	Year ended 31 March				
	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Gross profit margin	40.3%	41.3%	44.3%	41.6%	39.2%
Operating profit margin	7.9%	3.4%	4.9%	2.6%	1.8%
Net profit margin	6.0%	2.8%	3.3%	3.3%	1.1%
Gearing ratio	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Current ratio	3.07 times	2.52 times	2.56 times	2.66 times	2.34 times
Quick ratio	3.01 times	2.44 times	2.47 times	2.60 times	2.21 times