

## Corporate Governance Practices

The Company is committed to ensuring high standards of corporate governance in the interests of shareholders and devotes considerable effort to identifying and formalising best practices. This Report describes how the Company has applied the principles of the Code on Corporate Governance Practices (the "Code") contained in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules.

The Company has complied throughout the year ended 31 December 2006 with the Code Provisions except that, with respect to Code Provision A.4.1, non-executive Directors of the Company are not appointed for a specific term but are subject (save for those appointed pursuant to Section 8 of the MTR Ordinance) to retirement by rotation and re-election at the Company's annual general meetings in accordance with Articles 87 and 88 of the Company's Articles of Association. As there are currently nine Directors subject to the requirement to retire by rotation, and one-third of them shall retire at each annual general meeting of the Company (subject to re-election by the shareholders), each of these Directors is effectively appointed for a term of approximately three years.

## The Board of Directors

The overall management of the Company's business is vested in the Board. Pursuant to the Articles of Association and the Protocol adopted by the Board, the Board has delegated the day-to-day management of the Company's business to the Executive Directorate, and focuses its attention on matters affecting the Company's overall strategic policies, finances and shareholders. These include financial statements, dividend policy, significant changes in accounting policy, annual operating budget, certain material contracts, strategies for future growth, major financing arrangements and major investments, risk management strategies, treasury policies and fare structures.

The Board comprises 11 members, consisting of one executive Director (the Chief Executive Officer) and ten non-executive Directors, of whom six are independent non-executive Directors. In this regard, the Company exceeds the requirement of the Listing Rules which requires every board of directors of a listed issuer to have at least three independent non-executive directors.

Following the Board's decision to split the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Raymond Ch'ien Kuo-fung, a Member of the Board, was appointed as the non-executive Chairman of the Company with effect from 21 July 2003 for a term of three years. In July 2006, he was re-appointed as the non-executive Chairman of the Company with effect from 21 July 2006 until 31 July 2007.

Mr. Chow Chung-kong was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Company with effect from 1 December 2003 for a term of three years. He was also appointed as a Member of the Board on the same date. His contract as the Chief Executive

Officer of the Company was renewed for a further term of three years with effect from 1 December 2006.

Two of the other non-executive Directors (being the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and the Commissioner for Transport) are appointed by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR. Another non-executive Director, Mr. Frederick Ma Si-hang, is the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury of the Government of the HKSAR. The Government of the HKSAR through The Financial Secretary Incorporated, holds approximately 76% of the issued share capital of the Company.

Coming from diverse business and professional backgrounds, the non-executive Directors actively bring their valuable experience to the Board for promoting the best interests of the Company and its shareholders. On the other hand, the independent non-executive Directors contribute to ensuring that the interests of all shareholders of the Company are taken into account by the Board and that relevant issues are subjected to objective and dispassionate consideration by the Board. The Company has received confirmation from each independent non-executive Director about his/her independence under the Listing Rules, and continues to consider each of them to be independent.

Each Director ensures that he/she can give sufficient time and attention to the affairs of the Company. They are requested to disclose the number and nature of offices held in public companies or organisations and other significant commitments as well as their identity to the Company twice a year.

Biographies of the Members of the Board and the Executive Directorate are set out on pages 70 to 74. None of the Members of the Board and the Executive Directorate has any relationship (including financial, business, family or other material or relevant relationships) between each other, although Commissioner for Transport (Mr. Alan Wong Chi-kong) and Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Dr. Sarah Liao Sau-tung) were appointed by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR, and Mr. Frederick Ma Si-hang was appointed by The Financial Secretary Incorporated, and Ms. Christine Fang Meng-sang sits on various government advisory committees.

As permitted under its Articles of Association, the Company has arranged Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance for which Members of the Board and officers of the Company do not have to bear any excess.

## Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

The posts of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer are distinct and separate (please refer to the respective appointment of Dr. Raymond Ch'ien Kuo-fung as the non-executive Chairman of the Company, and Mr. Chow Chung-kong as the Chief Executive Officer of the Company and a Member of the Board on this page). The non-executive Chairman is responsible for chairing and managing the operations of the Board, as well as monitoring

the performance of the Chief Executive Officer and Members of the Executive Directorate. Apart from ensuring that adequate information about the Company's business is provided to the Board on a timely basis, the Chairman also ensures that the non-executive Directors make an effective contribution at Board meetings. As head of the Executive Directorate, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible to the Board for managing the business of the Company.

The Chairman held a meeting on 7 March 2006 with all of the non-executive directors without the presence of Members of the Executive Directorate (including the Chief Executive Officer) to discuss the responsibilities of the Board, proceedings at Board Meetings and the performance of Members of the Executive Directorate. Another meeting was held by the Chairman on 13 March 2007.

### Board Proceedings

The Board meets in person regularly, and all Members of the Board have full and timely access to relevant information and may take independent professional advice at the Company's expense, if necessary, in accordance with the approved procedures. The draft agenda for regular Board meetings is prepared by the Legal Director & Secretary and approved by the Chairman of the Company. Members of the Board are advised to inform the Chairman or the Legal Director & Secretary not less than one week before the relevant Board meeting if they wish to include a matter in the agenda of the meeting. The date of the Board meetings for the following year is usually fixed by the Legal Director & Secretary and agreed by the Chairman some time in the third quarter of each year.

At each regular Board meeting, Members of the Executive Directorate together with senior managers report to the Board on their business, including the operations, project progress, financial performance, corporate governance and outlook. The Chief Executive Officer also submits his Executive Summary, which focuses on the overall strategies and principal issues of the Company, to the Board. These reports, together with the discussions at Board meetings, provide information to enable all Members of the Board to make informed decisions for the benefit of the Company. The agenda together with board papers is sent in full at least 3 days before the intended date of the Board Meeting.

All Members of the Board have access to the advice and services of the Legal Director & Secretary, who is responsible for ensuring that the correct Board procedures are followed and advises the Board on all corporate governance matters. The Members of the Board also have full access to all Members of the Executive Directorate as and when they consider necessary.

In 2006, the Board held eight meetings. The proposed merger between the Company and KCRC was discussed at three Board

meetings by the Members of the Board who did not have conflicts of interest. In addition, two special meetings solely on the proposed merger were held involving Members of the Board who did not have conflicts of interest. The Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and Mr. Frederick Ma Si-hang, the Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, were invited to attend one of those special meetings to express the Government's views on the proposed merger. They left the special meeting before the other Members of the Board, who did not have conflicts of interest, discussed the issues involved. Regular updates on other matters relating to the proposed merger (e.g. progress of the Legislative Council's Bills Committee meetings and other in-house integration activities such as staff briefing sessions and establishment of new committees) were also provided by relevant Members of Executive Directorate at board meetings.

The attendance record of each Member of the Board is set out below:

Directors	Attendance of Board meetings in 2006
<b>Non-executive Directors</b>	
Dr. Raymond Ch'ien Kuo-fung (Chairman)	10/10
Commissioner for Transport (Alan Wong Chi-kong)	8/8
Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Dr. Sarah Liao Sau-tung)	8/8*
* 3 meetings were attended by the alternate directors	
Frederick Ma Si-hang	8/8†
† 5 meetings were attended by his alternate directors	
<b>Independent Non-executive Directors</b>	
Professor Cheung Yau-kai	8/10
David Gordon Eldon	9/10
Christine Fang Meng-sang	9/10
Edward Ho Sing-tin	8/10
Lo Chung-hing	10/10
T. Brian Stevenson	7/10
<b>Executive Director</b>	
Chow Chung-kong (Chief Executive Officer)	10/10

The minutes of Board meetings are prepared by the Secretary of the meeting with details of the matters considered by the Board and decisions reached, including any concerns raised by the Members of the Board or dissenting views expressed. The draft minutes are circulated to all Members of the Board for their comment within a reasonable time after the meeting. The approved procedure is that the Board formally adopts the draft minutes at the subsequent meeting. If Members of the Board have any comment on the draft minutes, they will discuss it at that meeting, followed by a report on what has been agreed in the minutes of that meeting. Minutes of Board Meetings are kept by the Legal Director & Secretary and open for inspection by all Members of the Board at the Company's registered office.

## Appointment, re-election and removal of Members of the Board

A person may be appointed as a Member of the Board at any time either by the shareholders in general meeting or by the Board upon recommendation by the Nominations Committee of the Company. Directors who are appointed by the Board must retire at the first annual general meeting after their appointment. A Director who retires in this way is eligible for election at that annual general meeting, but is not taken into account when deciding which and how many Directors should retire by rotation. In either case, the Directors so elected and appointed are eligible for re-election and re-appointment. At each annual general meeting of the Company, one third of the Directors (or, if the number of Directors is not divisible by three, such number as is nearest to and less than one third) must retire as Directors by rotation.

The Chief Executive of the HKSAR may, pursuant to Section 8 of the MTR Ordinance, appoint up to three persons as "additional directors". Directors appointed in this way may not be removed from office except by the Chief Executive of the HKSAR. These Directors are not subject to any requirement to retire by rotation nor will they be counted in the calculation of the number of Directors who must retire by rotation. In all other respects, the "additional directors" are treated for all purposes in the same way as other Directors. The Chief Executive has appointed the Office for the Secretary for Environment, Transport and Works and the Office for Commissioner for Transport as "additional directors". As there are currently nine Directors subject to the requirement to retire by rotation, and one-third of them shall retire at each annual general meeting of the Company (subject to re-election by the shareholders), each of these Directors is effectively appointed for a term of approximately three years.

Each of the Directors, on appointment to the Board, is given a comprehensive induction programme on key areas of business operations and practices of the Company, as well as a Directors' Manual. Amongst other things, the Manual not only sets out the general and specific duties of the Directors under general law (common law and legislation) and the Listing Rules, but also includes the Terms of Reference of the Board Committees. The Directors' Manual is updated from time to time to reflect developments in those areas.

To assist their continuous professional development, the Legal Director & Secretary recommends Directors to attend relevant seminars and courses. The costs for such training are borne by the Company.

## Accountability

The Members of the Board are responsible for preparing the accounts of the Company and of the Group. The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis and give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the Group as at 31 December 2006, and of the Group's profit and cash flow for

the year then ended. In preparing the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2006, the Members of the Board have selected appropriate accounting policies and, apart from those new and amended accounting policies as disclosed in the notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2006, have applied them consistently with previous financial periods. Judgments and estimates have been made that are prudent and reasonable. The reporting responsibilities of the External Auditor are set out on page 86.

In support of the above, the accounts presented to the Board have been reviewed by the Members of the Executive Directorate. For both the annual and interim reports and accounts, the Finance Division is responsible for clearing them with the External Auditor and then the Audit Committee. In addition, all new and amended accounting standards and requirements adopted by the Company have been discussed and approved at the Audit Committee before adoption by the Company.

## Board Committees

As an integral part of good corporate governance, the Board has established the following Board Committees to oversee particular aspects of the Company's affairs. Each of these Committees comprises non-executive Directors who have been invited to serve as members. Each of the Audit, Remuneration and Nominations Committee is governed by its respective Terms of Reference, which are available on the Company's website: [www.mtr.com.hk](http://www.mtr.com.hk).

In respect of the proposed merger between the Company and KCRC, and for the purpose of looking after the interest of minority shareholders and ensuring good corporate governance, the Board has established the Independent Committee of the Board ("IBC"). Governed by its Terms of Reference, the IBC comprises all independent non-executive Directors of the Company and is chaired by Edward Ho Sing-tin.

All Committees are provided with sufficient resources to discharge their duties.

## Audit Committee

The Audit Committee consists of three non-executive Directors, two of whom are independent non-executive Directors. The Members of the Committee are T. Brian Stevenson (chairman), Professor Cheung Yau-kai and the Commissioner for Transport (Alan Wong Chi-kong). None of the Committee Members is a partner or former partner of KPMG, the Company's External Auditor. The Finance Director, the Head of Internal Audit and representatives of the External Auditor of the Company are expected to attend meetings of the Committee. At the discretion of the Committee, others may also be invited to attend meetings. The Committee normally meets four times a year, and the External Auditor or the Finance Director may request a meeting if they consider it necessary.

Under its Terms of Reference, the duties of the Audit Committee include financial and efficiency aspects as described below. Amongst other things, the Committee is required to oversee the relationship with the Company's External Auditor, to review the financial information of the Company, and to oversee the Company's financial reporting system and internal procedures. The Committee discusses with the External Auditor the nature and scope of audit and reporting obligations before the audit commences. Apart from giving pre-approval of all audit services, the Committee also pre-approves any non-audit services for complying with relevant legal requirements. The Committee is primarily responsible for making recommendations to the Board on the appointment and removal of the External Auditor, and approving the remuneration and terms of such engagement. With respect to financial information of the Company, the Committee monitors the integrity of financial statements, annual and interim reports and accounts, together with the preliminary announcement of results and other announcements regarding the Company's financial information to be made public. In dealing with the financial information, the Committee liaises with the Board and the Executive Directorate (including the Finance Director), and further meets with both the External Auditor and the Head of Internal Audit. Apart from considering issues arising from the audit, the Committee discusses any matters that auditor(s) may wish to raise either privately or together with executive director and any other person. The Committee is required to review, at least annually, the effectiveness of the Company's financial controls, internal control and risk management systems and to report to the Board that such a review has been carried out. These controls and systems allow the Board to monitor the Company's overall financial position and to protect its assets. In addition, the Committee reviews periodic reports from the Head of Internal Audit and the follow-up of major action plans recommended. The Committee selects, in consultation with the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer (or otherwise approves) any topic to be the subject of an audit into the efficiency, effectiveness or value for money of any of the activities or operations of the Company. It then reviews reports of such audit and puts forward recommendations to the Board.

The Chairman of the Committee summarises activities of the Committee and highlights issues arising therefrom by a report to the Board after each Audit Committee meeting.

The minutes of the Audit Committee meetings are prepared by the secretary of the meeting with details of the matters considered by the Committee Members and decisions reached, including any concerns raised by the Committee Members and dissenting views expressed. The draft minutes are circulated to the Committee Members for comments and the final version of the minutes is sent to the Committee Members for their records within a reasonable time after the meeting and the minutes

are open for inspection by the Committee Members at the Company's registered office. A framework of the agenda items for the meetings for the following year is set out for the Committee Members' reference and comment in the last quarter of each year. The chairman of the Committee makes the final determination on the agenda for the regular Committee meetings.

In 2006, the Audit Committee held four meetings. The major work performed by the Committee in 2006 included:

- Reviewing and recommending for the Board's approval the draft 2005 Annual Report and Accounts and 2006 Interim Report and Accounts;
- Reviewing the Company's internal control systems;
- Approving the 2006 Audit Plan and reviewing the periodic report prepared by the Internal Audit Department; and
- Pre-approving the audit and non-audit services provided by KPMG, External Auditor, for 2006.

The attendance record of each Audit Committee Member is set out below. Representatives of the External Auditor, the Finance Director and the Head of Internal Audit attended all those meetings for reporting and answering questions about their work. Further to that and by invitation, the Operations Director (or his representative), the Property Director and representative of the China and International Business Director had respectively provided an overview of the Company's railway operations, property business and the Mainland of China and international businesses to the Members at their meetings.

Directors	Attendance of Audit Committee meetings in 2006
T. Brian Stevenson (chairman)	4/4
Professor Cheung Yau-kai	4/4
Commissioner for Transport (Alan Wong Chi-kong) * 2 meetings were attended by his alternate director	4/4*

#### Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee consists of three non-executive Directors, two of whom are independent non-executive Directors. The Members of the Remuneration Committee are Edward Ho Sing-tin (chairman), T. Brian Stevenson and Frederick Ma Si-hang.

The principal responsibilities of the Remuneration Committee include formulating a remuneration policy and practices that facilitate the employment of top quality personnel, recommending to the Board the remuneration of the Members of the Board who are non-executive Directors, determining the remuneration packages of the Members of the Board who are executive Directors and other Members of the Executive Directorate, and reviewing and approving performance-based remuneration by reference to the Company's goals and objectives.

In 2006, the Remuneration Committee held four meetings. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Committee performed the following work during the year:

- Approved the 2005 Remuneration Report as incorporated in the 2005 Annual Report;
- Reviewed and approved payouts under the Company's performance-based variable incentive scheme for the 2005 performance period;
- Conducted an annual review of the remuneration packages for the Chief Executive Officer and other Members of the Executive Directorate for effect in 2006; and
- Reviewed and approved the remuneration package for the Chief Executive Officer upon the renewal of his contract.

The attendance record of each Committee Member is set out below:

Directors	Attendance of Remuneration Committee meetings in 2006
Edward Ho Sing-tin (chairman)	4/4
T. Brian Stevenson	4/4
Frederick Ma Si-hang	4/4

The Remuneration Committee also met on 8 March 2007 to approve the 2006 Remuneration Report. This report is set out on pages 68 to 69 and includes a description of the remuneration policy of the Company.

#### Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee consists of three non-executive Directors, two of whom are independent non-executive Directors. The Members of the Nominations Committee are David Gordon Eldon (chairman), Lo Chung-hing and the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Dr. Sarah Liao Sau-tung). The Nominations Committee nominates and recommends to the Board candidates for filling vacancies on the Board.

Since there were no new Board appointments in 2006, the Committee did not convene any meeting during the year.

#### Independent Committee

The IBC consists of six independent non-executive Directors. Chaired by Edward Ho Sing-tin, the other Members are Professor Cheung Yau-kai, David Gordon Eldon, Christine Fang Meng-sang, Lo Chung-hing and T. Brian Stevenson.

The principal responsibilities of the IBC include advising the Company's independent shareholders as to whether the terms of the proposed merger between the Company and KCRC are fair and reasonable, whether the proposed merger is in the interests of the Company and its shareholders as a whole, and on how to vote, after taking into account the recommendations of the independent financial adviser ("IFA") required to be appointed by the Company under the Listing Rules.

In 2006, the IBC held two meetings to discuss and advise on, among others, the appointment of the IFA and Reporting Accountant in relation to the proposed merger.

#### Internal Controls

The Board is responsible for the system of internal controls of the Company and its subsidiaries, setting appropriate policies and reviewing the effectiveness of such controls.

Internal control is defined as a process effected by the Board, Management and other personnel, designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can only provide reasonable, and not absolute assurance of the followings:

- effectiveness and efficiency of operations
- reliability of financial reporting
- compliance with applicable laws and regulations

Pursuant to the Protocol adopted by the Board, the Board has delegated the day-to-day management of the Company's business to the Executive Committee, and focuses its attention on matters affecting the Company's overall strategic policies, finances and shareholders.

Supported by the Members of the Executive Committee, the Chief Executive Officer who chairs the Executive Committee is responsible to the Board for the conduct of the business of the Company.

The Executive Committee is responsible for implementing the Board's policies on risk and control. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Executive Committee identifies and evaluates the risks faced by the Company for consideration by the Board and designs, operates and monitors a suitable system of internal controls which implements the policies adopted by the Board. The Executive Committee is accountable to the Board for monitoring the system of internal controls and providing assurance to the Board that it has done so. Additionally, all employees have responsibility for internal controls within their areas of accountability.

Various risk management strategies have been established by the Board as advised by the Executive Committee to identify, assess and reduce risks, including construction, business operations, finance, treasury, safety and enterprise risks as well as appropriate insurance coverage.

The Company has established an Enterprise Risk Management ("ERM") framework for the strategic management of business risks. The framework provides a useful forum for communicating risk issues at different levels of the organization and thereby improves visibility on risk. It covers all key business areas of the Company, and it has been in operation since early 2006. Structured cross-discipline processes and organizations have been put in place at corporate and divisional levels for risk identification, mitigation and monitoring. A standard rating

system is employed to prioritise risks, and changes to existing risks and the emergence of new risks are regularly reviewed. A manual that governs the working of the ERM framework has been compiled, and regular briefing sessions are being conducted, to promulgate the application and ensure consistent understanding of ERM.

The operation of the ERM framework, which is overseen by the Enterprise Risk Committee, is underpinned by line management taking direct risk management responsibilities as risk owners. The Executive Committee reviews significant risks half-yearly and the Board annually to ensure that such risks are under satisfactory control.

The Board also periodically reviews the implementation and the ERM organization and processes that have been put in place.

To ensure the efficient and effective operation of business units and functions, and safety of operating railway and construction works in railway extension projects, Corporate General Instructions ("CGIs"), divisional/departmental procedures and manuals, committees, working groups and quality assurance units are established to achieve, monitor and enforce internal controls and evaluate their effectiveness.

Control documentations for compliance with Section 404 of US Sarbanes Oxley Act – Internal Control over Financial Reporting, CGIs and various departmental procedures and manuals are established for preventing or detecting unauthorized expenditures/payments, safeguarding the Company's assets, ensuring the accuracy and completeness of accounting records and timely preparation of reliable financial information.

All Department Heads, including Business and Project Managers for overseas projects, are responsible for ensuring the compliance with statutes and regulations applicable to their own functional units. They are required to identify any new or updated statutes, to assess the risk of such statutes/regulations and their impact on the Company's operations, and to review at least once a year that relevant statutes/regulations are complied with.

Members of the Board and the Executive Committee, and other nominated managers who have access to price-sensitive and/or specific information are bound by the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers. In addition, every employee is also bound by the Code of Conduct issued by the Company, amongst other things, to keep unpublished price-sensitive information in strict confidence.

The Internal Audit Department plays a major role, independent of the Company's management, in assessing and monitoring the internal controls of the Company. The Internal Auditor reports to the Chief Executive Officer and has direct access to the Audit Committee. The Department has unrestricted access to information that allows it to review all aspects of the Company's risk management, control and governance processes. On a

regular basis, it conducts audits on financial, operational and compliance controls, and risk management functions of all business and functional units as well as subsidiaries. Management is responsible for ensuring the control design and operating deficiencies highlighted from internal audits are rectified within reasonable period. Internal Audit produces a 4-year rolling Audit Plan, based on risk assessment, that is reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee. On a half-yearly basis, the Internal Auditor reports to the Audit Committee his audit findings and his opinion on the system of internal controls.

On behalf of the Board, the Audit Committee evaluates annually the effectiveness of the Company's system of internal controls, including the reliability of financial reporting, effectiveness and efficiency of operations, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This is achieved primarily through approving the internal audit plan and reviewing the findings of internal audit work, in addition to reviewing the annual and interim financial statements, and the nature, scope of work, and report of the external auditors, and consideration of the following:

- the changes in the nature and extent of significant risks since the previous review and the Company's ability to respond to changes in its business and external environment;
- the scope and quality of management's ongoing monitoring of risks and the system of internal control, the work of Internal Audit Department, and the assurance provided by the Executive Committee;
- the extent and frequency with which the results of monitoring are communicated, enabling the Audit Committee to build up a cumulative assessment of the state of control in the Company and the effectiveness with which risk is being managed;
- the incidence of any significant control failings or weaknesses that have been identified at any time during the period and the extent to which they have resulted in unforeseen outcomes or contingencies that have had, could have had, or may in the future have, a material impact on the Company's financial performance or condition; and
- the effectiveness of the Company's processes in relation to financial reporting and statutory and regulatory compliance.

The processes in assessing internal controls by the Audit Committee included: regular interviews with Members of the Executive Committee in relation to key business operations, internal control and compliance issues, both financial and non-financial; review of significant issues arising from internal audit report and external audit report, and private sessions with internal and external auditors. The Audit Committee has also reviewed the papers prepared by the Executive Committee and Internal Audit covering: 2005 Annual Report and Accounts, Annual Report on Form 20-F and Reconciliation of 2005 Annual Accounts to U.S. GAAP, Preview of 2006 Interim and Year End Accounting issues, 2006 Interim Accounts, 2006 Audit Plan,

Internal Audit's Half-yearly Reports, Annual Report on Staff Complaints, Reporting of Internal Control Systems, Reporting of Outstanding Litigation and Compliance Issues, Annual Insurance Programme, and Procurement Control and Audit Committee for China Projects. The Chairman of the Committee summarizes activities of the Committee and highlights issues arising therefrom by a report to the Board after each Audit Committee meeting.

The Board has, through the Audit Committee, conducted the review of the effectiveness of the Company's system of internal control for the year ended 31 December 2006, covering all material financial, operational and compliance controls, and risk management function, and concluded that adequate and effective internal controls are maintained to safeguard the shareholders' investment and the Company's assets. There were no significant control failings, weaknesses or significant areas of concern identified during the year which might affect shareholders.

### **Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code")**

The Company has adopted the Model Code and, having made specific enquiry, confirms that Members of the Board and the Executive Directorate complied throughout the year with the Model Code set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules. Senior managers who, because of their office in the Company, are likely to be in possession of unpublished price sensitive information, have been requested to comply with the provisions of the Model Code.

### **Business Ethics**

The Company is committed to a high standard of business ethics and integrity. The contents of the Company's Code of Conduct and the Corporate Guidebook for All Staff are reviewed every two years by Human Resource Management Department to ensure appropriateness and compliance with legislation. To reinforce staff compliance with these important documents, certification is conducted every two years, requiring all staff to acknowledge their understanding of the Code and agreement to abide by its stipulations. The first certification was conducted in August 2006.

In order to extend the ethical culture of the Company to our Mainland of China subsidiaries, the Induction Programme for our wholly owned subsidiaries has been reviewed and updated to incorporate a briefing on the Company's Code of Conduct and the Corporate Guidebook for All Staff. The Guidebook has also been shared with our joint venture companies for appropriate adoption in their policies and training.

### **US Sarbanes-Oxley Act 2002**

This legislation, which seeks to enhance the transparency and accountability of companies in the areas of corporate governance and financial reporting, was signed into law by the President of the United States on 30 July 2002.

As the Company is an SEC reporting company, it is generally bound by this legislation.

The Company has been, and will continue its process of, reviewing its internal systems and practices and implementing new requirements under this legislation in line with applicable compliance dates.

### **External Auditor**

The Company engages KPMG as its External Auditor. In order to maintain KPMG's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process in accordance with applicable standards, the Audit Committee, under its Terms of Reference, pre-approves all audit services to be provided by KPMG and discusses with KPMG the nature and scope of their audit and reporting obligations before the audit commences.

The Audit Committee also reviews and pre-approves the engagement of KPMG to provide any non-audit services for complying with relevant legal requirements and seeks to balance the maintenance of objectivity with value for money.

The nature of audit and non-audit services provided by KPMG and fees paid to KPMG (including any entity that is under common control, ownership or management with the audit firm or any entity that a reasonable and informed third party having knowledge of all relevant information would reasonably conclude as part of the audit firm nationally or internationally) are set out in note 5D to the accounts on page 104.

### **Communication with Shareholders**

The Company's Annual General Meeting ("AGM") is one of the principal channels of communication with its shareholders. It provides an opportunity for shareholders to question Directors about the Company's performance. The Chairman of the Company and the Chairmen of each of the Board Committees were present at the 2006 AGM.

At the 2006 AGM, the Chairman started the formal business by outlining the categories of persons who were entitled to demand a poll in accordance with Article 67 of the Company's Articles of Association on any resolution to be proposed at the AGM. Separate resolutions were proposed for each substantially separate issue at the AGM. Before the resolutions were considered, the Chairman exercised his right as the Chairman of the Meeting under Article 67 of the Company's Articles of Association to call a poll on all resolutions. The poll results were published in an English and a Chinese newspaper and posted on the websites of the Company and HKSE on the day after the AGM. The webcast of the AGM was posted on the Company's website on the following day after the AGM.

Details of other means of communication with shareholders are set out in the section of Investor relations on pages 58 and 59.