

**TOM Group Limited** 

# INTERIM REPORT

Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with Limited Liability (Stock Code: 2383)

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#### Disclaimer

If there is any inconsistency or conflict between the English and the Chinese versions, the English version shall prevail.

# **Definitions**

"Associate(s)" has the meaning ascribed to it in the Listing Rules

"B2B" means business-to-business

"B2C" means business-to-consumer

"Board" means the board of Directors

"China Post" means China Post Group Corporation Limited\*, a

state-owned enterprise of the People's Republic of China,

and its subsidiaries

"China Post HK" means Telpo Philatelic Company Limited, a company

incorporated under the laws of Hong Kong and a subsidiary

of China Post

"CKH" means Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited, a company

incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability, whose listing status on the Stock Exchange was replaced by CKHH

on 18 March 2015

"CKHH" means CK Hutchison Holdings Limited, an exempted

company incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability, the shares of which are listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange on 18 March 2015 (Stock Code: 0001)

"Company" or "TOM" means TOM Group Limited, an exempted company

incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability, the shares of which are listed on the Main Board of the Stock

Exchange (Stock Code: 2383)

"Corporate Governance Code" means the Corporate Governance Code sets out in Appendix

14 to the Listing Rules

"COVID-19" means the infectious disease caused by a newly discovered

coronavirus

"Director(s)" means the director(s) of the Company

"ESG" means environmental, social and governance

"GMV" means Gross Merchandise Value, the total value of all

orders handled or processed through Ule Group's platform which includes multiple websites, mobile applications and PC applications, regardless of whether the orders are

consummated, goods and services returned or not

"Group" or "TOM Group" means the Company and its subsidiaries

# **Definitions**

"Hong Kong" means the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the

People's Republic of China

"HWL" means Hutchison Whampoa Limited, a company

incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability, which was listed on the Stock Exchange until it was privatised in June

2015

"Listing Rules" means the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the

Stock Exchange

"Main Board" means the main board of the Stock Exchange

"Mainland China" means for the purpose of the segment differentiation of this

report, the People's Republic of China, excluding coverage of Hong Kong, Macau Special Administrative Region and

Taiwan region

"Media Business" means two reportable operating segments of Publishing

Group and Advertising Group

"MioTech" means Mioying Holdings Inc., a company incorporated in the

Cayman Islands with limited liability

"Model Code" means Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of

Listed Issuers contained in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules

"SFO" means the Securities and Futures Ordinance, Chapter 571 of

the Laws of Hong Kong

"Stock Exchange" means The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited

"Technology Platform and

Investments"

means three reportable operating segments of E-Commerce Group, Social Network Group and Mobile Internet Group; and investments in Fintech and Advanced Data Analytics

sectors

"Ule" or "Ule Group" means Ule Holdings Limited or Ule Holdings Limited and

its subsidiaries, a material associate of the Company which undertakes an e-commerce/new retail business in Mainland China and from time to time raises funds for its growing

business

"WeLab" means WeLab Holdings Limited, a BVI business company

incorporated in the British Virgin Islands with limited liability

\* For identification purposes only

# **Corporate Information**

#### **Board of Directors**

Chairman Frank John Sixt

Executive Director
Yeung Kwok Mung

Non-executive Directors Chang Pui Vee, Debbie Lee Pui Ling, Angelina

Independent Non-executive Directors
James Sha
Fong Chi Wai, Alex
Chan Tze Leung

Alternate Director Lai Kai Ming, Dominic (Alternate to Frank John Sixt)

### **Company Secretary**

Man Tak Cheung

### **Authorised Representatives**

Yeung Kwok Mung Man Tak Cheung

#### Auditor

PricewaterhouseCoopers (Certified Public Accountants and Registered PIE Auditor)

#### **Audit Committee**

Fong Chi Wai, Alex *(Committee Chairman)* James Sha Lee Pui Ling, Angelina Chan Tze Leung

#### **Remuneration Committee**

Fong Chi Wai, Alex *(Committee Chairman)*Frank John Sixt
Chan Tze Leung

### **Nomination Committee**

James Sha *(Committee Chairman)* Frank John Sixt Chan Tze Leung

### **Sustainability Committee**

Yeung Kwok Mung *(Committee Chairman)* Fong Chi Wai, Alex Man Tak Cheung

#### **Principal Bankers**

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking
Corporation Limited
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China
(Asia) Limited
Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited
DBS Bank Ltd., Hong Kong Branch
Citibank, N.A., Hong Kong Branch
United Overseas Bank Limited
Bank of America, N.A.
Hang Seng Bank Limited

# Chairman's Statement

For the six months ended 30 June 2023, TOM Group continued its focus on high growth potential sectors such as China rural e-commerce/new retail, fintech and advanced data analytics.

Headwinds for the first half included a strong US\$, cost inflation and higher interest rates, all of which affected business confidence and market sentiment. As a result, the Group's consolidated revenue decreased 5.6% to HK\$379 million. Gross revenue from the Group's Media Business and Technology Platform and Investments was HK\$364 million and HK\$16 million respectively. Gross profit was HK\$155 million and gross profit margin was maintained at 41.0%.

Increased finance costs and unfavorable exchange translation weighed on earnings but were partially offset by the reversal of impairment loss in relation to Ule. The Group's loss for the period attributable to shareholders amounted to HK\$95 million. Excluding the reversal of impairment loss in relation to Ule, loss before net finance costs and taxation narrowed from HK\$45 million in the first half of 2022 to HK\$16 million.

Ule, the Group's E-Commerce joint operation with China Post, continued the development of its rural e-commence/new retail and associated B2B business with a focus on supply chain innovation. After the completion of China Post HK's capital injection in 2022 to strengthen Ule's capital base and to enable Ule to scale up its operation with tight integration with China Post resources and services, total GMV increased by 46.0% from RMB5,878 million in the same period last year to RMB8,582 million. A reversal of impairment loss of approximately HK\$14 million, which is non-cash in nature, was recognised in relation to amount due from Ule in the period. This reversal of impairment loss is in addition to the reversal of impairment loss of approximately HK\$299 million as reported in 2022 Annual Report. The impairment loss was first recognised in 2020 Annual Report.

The Publishing Group in Taiwan maintained its leadership position in its market during the period and reported gross revenue of HK\$356 million. Despite unfavorable exchange rate translation impacts, the segment profit of Publishing Group increased from HK\$36 million to HK\$37 million in the period. The publishing markets in Taiwan remains to be challenging and the Group will continue to seek opportunities to diversify the revenue streams of this business.

Pixnet, the Group's social digital media business, continues to be the largest user-generated content platform in Taiwan. Pixnet reported gross revenue of HK\$12 million and segment loss of HK\$8 million.

Going forward, management will remain focused on selectively pursuing growth opportunities while maintaining stable performances in our businesses. The Group will also maintain a prudent financial profile by closely monitoring operating and capital expenses and investments, and implementing disciplined cash flow and working capital management.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our shareholders, business partners, the management and all our dedicated staff for their contributions to the Group.

Frank John Sixt
Chairman

Hong Kong, 4 August 2023

# **Financial Highlights**

	For the six m	onths ended
	30 June	30 June
	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
	11114 000	1117 000
Consolidated revenue	378,672	401,004
Loss <sup>(1)</sup> before reversal of provision for impairment in amounts due from associated companies and reversal of provision for impairment in investments accounted for using the equity		
method	(16,222)	(44,735)
Reversal of provision for impairment in amounts due from associated companies	14,471	74,161
Reversal of provision for impairment in investments accounted for using the equity method	-	225,322
(Loss)/profit before net finance costs and taxation	(1,751)	254,748
(Loss)/profit attributable to equity holders of the Company	(94,547)	193,379
Total comprehensive (expense)/income attributable to equity holders of the Company	(115,747)	162,895
(Loss)/earnings per share (HK cents)	(2.39)	4.89
Net liabilities	(1,033,804)	(827,967)

<sup>(1)</sup> Being loss before net finance costs and taxation (including share of results of investments accounted for using the equity method)

#### **Business Review**

Despite a gradual return to normalcy in the first half 2023 with countries reopening their borders after the COVID-19 pandemic, it has remained a challenging year for business due to high inflation, rising interest rates, geopolitical tensions and a slump in exports. This has adversely impacted Taiwan's manufacturing and export-driven economy. During the review period, TOM Group continued to drive a two-pronged strategy by maintaining its revenues from traditional media businesses, while accelerating its digital business development. Meanwhile, the Group stayed focused on achieving efficiencies and reducing costs to further improve operating performance. Gross revenue from the Group's Media Business was HK\$364 million with a slight increase in segment profit to HK\$36 million. Gross revenue from the Group's Technology Platform and Investments was HK\$16 million with segment loss narrowing by 47.0% to HK\$10 million.

#### **Media Business**

Cite, TOM Group's media and publishing arm in Taiwan, is a market leader in the industry. During the review period, the Publishing Group demonstrated its innovation and resilience, and recorded a gross revenue of HK\$356 million with segment profit increasing by 1.5% to HK\$37 million. Going forward, *Business Weekly*, the Group's flagship media and knowledge platform, will continue to offer innovative digital products and services by reaching out to different types of targeted groups and addressing their needs.

During the review period, the Group's traditional advertising business in Mainland China recorded a gross revenue of HK\$8 million and segment loss was HK\$513,000.

#### **Technology Platform and Investments**

Pixnet, the Group's social digital media business, is the largest user-generated content platform in Taiwan focusing on food, lifestyle and travel. During the review period, Pixnet continued to invest in digital product and service development by fostering relationships and increasing engagement on its platform with KOLs, brands, merchants and users. Nevertheless, the export drag on Taiwan's economy and negative business sentiment caused a general decline in consumer confidence. B2B and B2C customers are taking caution in spending due to economic uncertainty. In the midst of economic headwinds in Taiwan, Pixnet's gross revenue was HK\$12 million and segment loss was HK\$8 million. Going forward, Pixnet will continue to expand its revenue streams through partnerships with industry players and will launch a variety of user-engaging activities in the coming quarters.

TOM Group invested in WeLab, a leading pan-Asian fintech platform, in 2014. WeLab operates WeLab Bank as well as multiple online financial services with leading positions in Hong Kong, Mainland China and Indonesia. With around 60 million users, WeLab has facilitated and originated around US\$13 billion of loans. WeLab uses game-changing technology to help customers access credit, save money, and enjoy their financial journey. Powered by proprietary risk management technology, patented privacy computing techniques, and advanced Al capabilities, WeLab offers mobile-based consumer financing solutions and digital banking services to retail individuals and technology solutions to enterprise customers. WeLab operates in three markets under multiple brands, including WeLend and WeLab Bank in Hong Kong, various business lines in Mainland China, Maucash and a digital bank in Indonesia. In Hong Kong, WeLab Bank is dedicated to curating intelligent banking experiences for its customers and is one of the first fully licensed digital banks in Asia. In Indonesia, WeLab and Astra completed the acquisition of Bank Jasa Jakarta in September 2022, and is currently transforming the bank into Indonesia's innovative digital bank. As at 30 June 2023, TOM Group owns 8.03% in WeLab on an issued basis.

In March 2020, TOM Group invested in MioTech. In the first half of 2023, MioTech continued to grow its market share in Sustainability Data and Software to serve Financial Institutions and Corporations. On the ESG data side, MioTech has ventured into Japanese stock coverage, in addition to its comprehensive Greater China and Singapore market coverage. MioTech's climate solutions - including physical risk, transition risk analytics, and TCFD reporting - have gained significant traction on the corporate side. Its corporate reporting software ESGhub has seen accelerated growth and adoption by corporates in the region, especially in those with a focus on supply chain. As at 30 June 2023, TOM Group owns 6.22% of MioTech on an issued basis.

Ule is the Group's E-Commerce joint operation with China Post in Mainland China. After the completion of China Post HK's capital injection in 2022 to strengthen Ule's capital base and to enable Ule to scale up its operation with tight integration with China Post resources and services, total GMV increased by 46.0% from RMB5,878 million in the same period last year to RMB8,582 million. A reversal of impairment loss of approximately HK\$14 million, which is non-cash in nature, was recognised in relation to amount due from Ule in the period. This reversal of impairment loss is in addition to the reversal of impairment loss of approximately HK\$299 million as reported in 2022 Annual Report. The impairment loss was first recognised in 2020 Annual Report.

For the six months ended 30 June 2023, the Group reported a revenue of HK\$379 million with a gross profit margin of 41.0%. The Group's loss for the period attributable to shareholders amounted to HK\$95 million. Excluding the reversal of impairment loss in relation to Ule, loss before net finance costs and taxation narrowed from HK\$45 million in the first half of 2022 to HK\$16 million.

Going forward, TOM Group will continue to prudently manage its operations and investments in the Greater China region, and accelerate its digital business development to capture market opportunities and drive further growth.

### **Group Capital Resources and Other Information**

As at 30 June 2023, TOM Group had cash and bank balances, including short-term bank deposits but excluding pledged deposits, of approximately HK\$486 million. A total of HK\$3,720 million financing facilities were available, of which HK\$3,474 million or 93.4% had been utilised as at 30 June 2023, to finance the Group's investments, capital expenditures and for working capital purposes.

The principal of the total borrowings of TOM Group amounted to approximately HK\$3,474 million as at 30 June 2023, which are denominated in Hong Kong dollar. The borrowings included long-term bank loans of approximately HK\$3,474 million. All bank loans borne floating interest rates. The gearing ratio (Total principal amount of bank borrowings/(Total principal amount of bank borrowings + Deficit)) of TOM Group was 142.4% as at 30 June 2023, compared to 135.6% as at 31 December 2022.

As at 30 June 2023, the Group had net current assets of approximately HK\$297 million, compared to approximately HK\$426 million as at 31 December 2022. The current ratio (Current assets/Current liabilities) of TOM Group as at 30 June 2023 was 1.55, compared to 1.73 as at 31 December 2022. The Group recorded net liabilities of approximately HK\$1,034 million as at 30 June 2023, compared to net liabilities of HK\$925 million as at 31 December 2022. Net cash from operating activities after interest and taxation paid changed from inflow of HK\$26 million in the same period last year to outflow of HK\$31 million in this period as a result of the increased borrowings interest rates. Net cash inflow from investing activities was HK\$72 million, compared to outflow of HK\$47 million in the same period last year, which was mainly due to settlement of amounts due from Ule.

### (Loss)/Profit before Net Finance Costs and Taxation

For the period under review, loss before net finance costs and taxation was HK\$2 million. In the first half of 2022, substantial reversal of impairment losses of approximately HK\$225 million and approximately HK\$74 million were recognised for the Group's investments accounted for using the equity method and amounts due from associated companies respectively. A reversal of provision for impairment losses of approximately HK\$14 million in relation to the Group's amounts due from Ule was further recognised in the period under review to reflect the reduction in credit risk subsequent to settlement of amounts due from Ule in January 2023. The impairment losses being reversed in this period had been recognised in 2020 annual results.

Excluding the effect on non-cash events such as reversal of provision for impairment losses, the recurring loss before net finance costs and taxation was HK\$16 million, narrowed from HK\$45 million in the same period last year. The decrease in loss was primarily attributable to less loss was shared from associates in this period.

### **Charges on Group Assets**

As at 30 June 2023, the Group had restricted cash amounting to HK\$6 million, being bank deposits mainly pledged in favour of certain publishing distributors as retainer fee for potential sales return, and banks as security for credit card and advance receipt in Taiwan.

### **Contingent Liabilities**

As at 30 June 2023, the Group had no significant contingent liabilities.

### **Significant Investments**

As at 30 June 2023, details of significant investments (with individual investment value of 5 per cent or more of the Group's total assets) held by the Group were set out as follows:

Nature of investments	Number of shares held by the Group	Interests held on issued basis	Investment cost HK\$	Carrying value <i>HK</i> \$	Total assets of the Group <i>HK</i> \$	Carrying value to total assets of the Group
(i) Ule – Ordinary shares	437,310,730	22.39%	94,251,000	371,897,000	3,012,129,000	12.35%
(ii) WeLab – Preferred shares	4,017,419	8.03%	297,029,000	892,624,000	3,012,129,000	29.63%

#### (i) Investment in Ule

The Group recorded investment in Ule as "investments accounted for using the equity method". The principal business of Ule is investment holding. The subsidiaries of Ule principally undertake an e-commerce/new retail business which focuses on owning and operating the mobile and internet-based e-marketplaces in rural areas of Mainland China.

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, reversal of provision for impairment in amounts due from associated companies of HK\$14,471,000 and share of operating loss of HK\$16,839,000 in the condensed consolidated interim income statement have been recorded by the Group for its investment in Ule. No dividend has been received from the investment in Ule during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

The investment in Ule represents an opportunity to sustainable growth of the Group and to continue its business strategy of becoming a leading investor in the e-commerce/new retail business in rural areas of Mainland China.

#### (ii) Investment in WeLab

The Group recorded investment in WeLab as "financial asset at fair value through other comprehensive income". WeLab is a leading pan-Asian fintech company and one of the first fully licensed digital banks established in Asia.

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, unrealised gain of HK\$592,000 on revaluation of the investment in WeLab has been recorded by the Group. No realised gain or dividend has been received from this investment. The Group believe that the investment in WeLab will create synergies with the Group's other technology related businesses.

The above significant investments and other various investment portfolios of the Group are in line with the Group's strategy to focus on high growth potential sectors such as e-commerce/new retail, fintech and advanced data analytics.

### **Subsequent Events**

Except for the Company's announcement dated 19 July 2023, there is no subsequent event after the reporting period which has material impact to the condensed consolidated interim financial information of the Group.

### **Foreign Exchange Exposure**

The Group's operations principally locate in Mainland China and Taiwan, with transactions and related working capital denominated in Renminbi and New Taiwan dollar respectively. In general, it is the Group's policy for each operating entity to borrow in their local currencies, where necessary, to minimise currency risk. Overall, the Group is not exposed to significant foreign exchange risk; however, the Group will monitor this risk on an ongoing basis.

### **Employee Information**

As at 30 June 2023, TOM Group had approximately 1,100 full-time employees. For the first six months of the year, employee costs, including Directors' emoluments, amounted to HK\$156 million. The Group's employment and remuneration policies remained the same as detailed in the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### Past Performance and Forward-looking Statements

The performance and the results of the operations of the Group contained in this 2023 Interim Report are historical in nature, and past performance is no guarantee of the future results of the Group. Any forward-looking statements and opinions contained within this 2023 Interim Report are based on current plans, estimates and projections, and therefore involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ materially from expectations discussed in such forward-looking statements and opinions. The Group, the Directors, employees and agents of the Group assume (a) no obligation to correct or update the forward-looking statements or opinions contained in this 2023 Interim Report; and (b) no liability in the event that any of the forward-looking statements or opinions do not materialise or turn out to be incorrect.

### **Corporate Strategy**

The principle objective of the Company is to enhance long-term total return for all its stakeholders. To achieve this objective, the Group focuses on achieving recurring and sustainable earnings and cash flow without compromising the Group's financial strength and stability. The Group executes disciplined management of revenue growth, margin and costs, capital and investments to return ratio targets, earnings and cash flow accretive merger and acquisition activities, as well as organic growth in sectors or geographies where the Group has management experience and resources. The Chairman's Statement, and Management Discussion and Analysis contained on pages 5 to 12 in this Interim Report include discussions and analyses of the Group's performance, the basis on which the Group generates or preserves value in the longer term and delivers the Group's objections. The Group is increasingly focusing on sustainability and delivering business solutions that support social and environmental challenges. Further information on the sustainability initiatives of the Group and its key relationships with stakeholders can also be found in the standalone Sustainability Report of the Group.

### Sustainability

The key sustainability mission of the Group is to create long-term value for all stakeholders by aligning its corporate social responsibility and sustainability objectives to the strategic development of its businesses. The collaborative approach of the Group supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through the Group's overall sustainability approach and priorities under four pillars of Business, People, Environment and Community. The sustainability governance structure of the Group provides a solid foundation for developing and delivering on its commitment to sustainability. It is embedded at all levels of the Group, including the Board, the Sustainability Committee, the Audit Committee and business units. This governance structure guides the Group in implementing sustainability strategies, managing goals, setting targets and reporting processes, strengthening relationships with its stakeholders, and ensuring accountability across its businesses.

# Disclaimer: Non-GAAP measures

Certain non-GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) measures, such as profit/(loss) before net finance costs and taxation including share of results of investments accounted for using the equity method and excluding reversal of provision for impairment in amounts due from associated companies and reversal of provision for impairment in investments accounted for using the equity method, and segment profit/(loss) are used for assessing the Group's performance. These non-GAAP measures are not expressly permitted measures under GAAP in Hong Kong and may not be comparable to similarly titled measures for other companies. Accordingly, such non-GAAP measures should not be considered as an alternative to operating income as an indicator of the operating performance of the Group or as an alternative to cash flows from operating activities as a measure of liquidity. The use of non-GAAP measures is provided solely to enhance the overall understanding of the Group's current financial performance. Additionally, since the Group has historically reported certain non-GAAP results to investors, it is considered the inclusion of non-GAAP measures provides consistency in the Group's financial reporting.

# **Independent Review Report**



羅兵咸永道

REPORT ON REVIEW OF INTERIM FINANCIAL INFORMATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF TOM GROUP LIMITED (incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

#### Introduction

We have reviewed the interim financial information set out on pages 14 to 42, which comprises the condensed consolidated interim statement of financial position of TOM Group Limited (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (together, the "Group") as at 30 June 2023 and the condensed consolidated interim income statement, condensed consolidated interim statement of comprehensive income, condensed consolidated interim statement of changes in equity and condensed consolidated interim statement of cash flows for the six-month period then ended, and selected explanatory notes. The Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited require the preparation of a report on interim financial information to be in compliance with the relevant provisions thereof and Hong Kong Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of this interim financial information in accordance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on this interim financial information based on our review and to report our conclusion solely to you, as a body, in accordance with our agreed terms of engagement, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

### **Scope of Review**

We conducted our review in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Review Engagements 2410, "Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. A review of interim financial information consists of making inquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

### Conclusion

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the interim financial information of the Group is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting".

PricewaterhouseCoopers Certified Public Accountants

Hong Kong, 4 August 2023

PricewaterhouseCoopers, 22/F Prince's Building, Central, Hong Kong T: +852 2289 8888, F: +852 2810 9888, www.pwchk.com

### **Condensed Consolidated Interim Income Statement**

		Unau Six months er	
	N/a+a	2023	2022
	Note	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Revenue	5	378,672	401,004
Cost of sales Selling and marketing expenses Administrative expenses Other operating expenses, net Other gains/(losses), net	7 8	(223,463) (59,117) (34,174) (68,673) 4,470	(236,541) (62,223) (32,478) (68,283) (10,468)
		(2,285)	(8,989)
Reversal of provision for impairment in amounts due from associated companies	6	14,471	74,161
		12,186	65,172
Share of profits less losses of investments accounted for using the equity method Reversal of provision for impairment in investments		(13,937)	(35,746)
accounted for using the equity method	6		225,322
	17	(13,937)	189,576
(Loss)/profit before net finance costs and taxation	9	(1,751)	254,748
Finance income Finance costs		2,197 (80,772)	1,239 (23,829)
Finance costs, net	10	(78,575)	(22,590)
(Loss)/profit before taxation Taxation	11	(80,326) (9,179)	232,158 (8,250)
(Loss)/profit for the period		(89,505)	223,908
Attributable to:  - Non-controlling interests		5,042	30,529
– Equity holders of the Company		(94,547)	193,379
(Loss)/earnings per share attributable to equity holders of the Company during the period			
Basic and diluted	13	HK(2.39) cents	HK4.89 cents

### **Condensed Consolidated Interim Statement of Comprehensive Income**

	Unau Six months er 2023 <i>HK\$'000</i>	
(Loss)/profit for the period	(89,505)	223,908
Other comprehensive expense for the period, net of tax  - Item that will not be reclassified to income statement:  Revaluation deficit of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	(11,720)	(23,153)
<ul> <li>- Item that may be reclassified to income statement:</li> <li>Exchange translation differences</li> </ul>	(5,034)	(18,156)
	(16,754)	(41,309)
Total comprehensive (expense)/income for the period	(106,259)	182,599
Total comprehensive (expense)/income for the period attributable to:		
<ul> <li>Non-controlling interests</li> </ul>	9,488	19,704
– Equity holders of the Company	(115,747)	162,895

### **Condensed Consolidated Interim Statement of Financial Position**

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	Unaudited 30 June 2023 <i>HK\$</i> '000	Audited 31 December 2022 <i>HK\$'000</i>
ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
Non-current assets			
Fixed assets	14	17,394	20,740
Right-of-use assets		27,219	19,164
Investment properties		20,677	21,246
Goodwill	15	509,335	509,396
Other intangible assets	16	131,759	135,967
Investments accounted for using the equity method Financial assets at fair value through	17	379,660	401,060
other comprehensive income		1,040,671	1,035,172
Deferred tax assets		45,133	45,793
Pension assets		2,216	2,216
Other non-current assets	18	99	1,676
		2,174,163	2,192,430
Current assets			
Inventories		89,232	92,778
Trade and other receivables	19	256,736	429,170
Short-term deposit with original maturity			
over 3 months		43,680	_
Restricted cash	20	6,160	6,176
Cash and cash equivalents		442,158	481,668
		837,966	1,009,792
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	21	507,217	534,537
Taxation payable		22,648	31,626
Lease liabilities – current portion		11,531	17,255
		541,396	583,418
Net current assets		296,570	426,374
			<u></u>
Total assets less current liabilities		2,470,733	2,618,804

### **Condensed Consolidated Interim Statement of Financial Position**

As at 30 June 2023

	Note	Unaudited 30 June 2023 <i>HK\$</i> '000	Audited 31 December 2022 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred tax liabilities		9,224	9,027
Long-term bank loans – non-current portion	22	3,473,471	3,526,297
Lease liabilities – non-current portion		15,787	2,152
Pension obligations		6,055	6,554
		2 504 527	2.544.020
		3,504,537	3,544,030
Net liabilities		(1,033,804)	(925,226)
EQUITY			
Equity attributable to the Company's equity holders			
Share capital	23	395,852	395,852
Deficits		(1,747,136)	(1,631,389)
Own shares held		(6,244)	(6,244)
		(4 255 520)	(4.044.704)
Non controlling interests		(1,357,528) 323,724	(1,241,781) 316,555
Non-controlling interests		323,724	310,333
Total deficit		(1,033,804)	(925,226)

Condensed Consolidated Interim Statement of Changes in Equity

	interim	Finai	nciai	Intorr	natior	1		
	Total deficit HK\$'000	(925,226)	(89,505)	(11,720)	(5,034)	(2,319)	(2,319)	(1,033,804)
	Non- controlling interests HK\$'000	316,555	5,042	(51)	9,488	(2,319)	(2,319)	323,724
	Total shareholders' deficits HK\$'000	(1,241,781)	(94,547)	(11,669)	(115,747)	1 1	1	(1,357,528)
	Accumulated some losses	(6,551,257)	(94,547)	ı	(94.547)	(727)	(727)	(6,646,531)
	Other reserve HK\$'000	960'9	I	ı	1	1 1		960'9
	Exchange reserve HK\$'000	663,549	1	1 60	(9,531)		1 1	654,018
Attributable to equity holders of the Company	Properties revaluation reserve HK\$'000	14,625	1	ı	1	1 1	1 1	14,625
	Fair value through other comprehensive income reserve	471,295	I	(11,669)			1 1	459,626
	General reserve HK\$'000	94,280	1	1	1	727	727	95,007
Attribu	Capital redemption reserve HK\$'000	776	I	1	1		1	776
	Capital reserve HK\$'000	(75,210)	I	1	1		1 1	(75,210)
	Share premium HK\$'000	3,744,457	ı	I	1			3,744,457
	Own shares held HK\$'000	(6,244)	I	1	1		1 1	(6,244)
	Share capital HK\$'000	395,852	I	1	1		1 1	395,852
		Balance at 1 January 2023	Comprehensive income: Loss for the period Other comprehensive income:	Revaluation deficit of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	Excrange translation differences  Total comprehensive (expense)/income for the period ended 30 June 2023	Transactions with equity holders: Dividend paid to non-controlling interests Transfer to general reserve	Transactions with equity holders	Balance at 30 June 2023

Condensed Consolidated Interim Statement of Changes in Equity

					Attri	o Sutable to equit	onaduleu Attributable to equity holders of the Company	oany						
	Share capital HK\$*000	Own shares held HK\$'000	Share premium HK\$*000	Capital reserve HK\$′000	Capital redemption reserve HK\$'000	General reserve <i>HK\$*000</i>	Fair value through other comprehensive income reserve HK\$'000	Properties revaluation reserve HK\$'000	Exchange reserve HK\$'000	Other reserve HK\$*000	Accumulated losses HK\$*000	Total shareholders' deficits HK\$'000	Non- controlling interests HK\$'000	Total deficit HX\$'000
Balance at 1 January 2022	395,852	(6,244)	3,744,457	(75,210)	776	169,200	520,810	14,625	692,114	960'9	(6,768,009)	(1,305,533)	294,967	(1,010,566)
Comprehensive income: Profit for the period Other comprehensive income:	I	1	ı	1	ı	ı	1	ı	1	ı	193,379	193,379	30,529	223,908
Revaluation deficit of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income Exchange translation differences	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	(21,617)	1 1	(8/867)	1 1	1 1	(21,617)	(1,536)	(23,153)
Total comprehensive income(expense) for the period ended 30 June 2022	1	1	1 1	1		1	(21,617)	1	(8,867)	1	193,379	162,895	19,704	182,599
Transaction with equity holders: Transfer to accumulated losses	1	1	1	1	1	(76,331)	1	1	1	1	76,331	1	1	'
Transaction with equity holders	1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1					(76,331)	1 1				76,331			
Balance at 30 June 2022	395,852	(6,244)	3,744,457	(75,210)	776	92,869	499,193	14,625	683,247	960'9	(6,498,299)	(1,142,638)	314,671	(827,967)

### **Condensed Consolidated Interim Statement of Cash Flows**

		Unau Six months er	
	Note	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Cash flows from apprating activities			
Cash flows from operating activities  Net cash inflow from operations		56,089	51,521
Interest paid		(70,126)	(14,697)
Overseas taxation paid		(16,716)	(11,152)
Net cash (used in)/from operating activities		(30,753)	25,672
Cash flows from investing activities			
Capital expenditures  Capital investment in a financial asset at fair value		(53,573)	(51,756)
through other comprehensive income Settlement of amounts due from associated		(17,293)	_
companies		179,800	_
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		89	25
Increase in bank deposit maturing over 3 months		(43,680)	_
Dividends received		6,214	4,733
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities		71,557	(46,998)
Cash flows from financing activities			
New bank loans	22	107,000	51,000
Loan repayments	22	(160,000)	(10,088)
Loan arrangement fee paid		(8,863)	(9,730)
Principal elements of lease payments		(12,739)	(12,915)
Dividend paid to non-controlling interests		(2,319)	_
Increase in restricted cash		(9)	
Net cash (used in)/from financing activities		(76,930)	18,267
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(36,126)	(3,059)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		481,668	493,485
Exchange adjustment		(3,384)	(24,628)
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June		442,158	465,798

### 1 Basis of preparation

This unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial information for the six months ended 30 June 2023 has been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable disclosure requirements of the Listing Rules.

The condensed consolidated interim financial information should be read in conjunction with the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022, which have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards.

In preparing this unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial information, the Group has taken into account all information that could reasonably be expected to be available and has ascertained that the Group has obtained adequate financial resources to support the Group to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As at 30 June 2023, the Group had net liabilities of HK\$1,034 million. The Group also has undrawn banking facilities guaranteed by one of its substantial shareholders. Given the availability of these undrawn banking facilities, the Group considers it will have adequate financial resources to enable it to operate and meet its liabilities and commitments as and when they fall due within the next 12 months from the end of the reporting period. Accordingly, the Group has prepared this unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial information on a going concern basis.

### 2 Accounting policies

The accounting policies and methods of computation used in the preparation of this unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial information are consistent with those used in 2022 annual financial statements, except for the adoption of amendments to standards which are relevant to the operations of the Group and mandatory for annual periods beginning 1 January 2023.

The adoption of these amendments to standards does not have a material impact on the Group's accounting policies.

Taxes on income in the interim periods are accrued using the tax rate that would be applicable to expected total annual earnings.

### 3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of this condensed consolidated interim financial information requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expense. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

In preparing this condensed consolidated interim financial information, the significant judgements made by management in applying the Group's accounting policies and the key sources of estimation uncertainty were the same as those that applied to the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### 4 Financial risk management

#### (a) Financial risk factors

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk (including cash flow interest rate risk, foreign currency risk and price risk).

The condensed consolidated interim financial information does not include all financial risk management information and disclosures required in the annual financial statements, and should be read in conjunction with the Group's annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

There have been no changes in the risk management policies since the year ended 31 December 2022.

#### (b) Fair value estimation

The financial instruments that are measured at fair value require disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value measurement hierarchy:

- Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1).
- 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).
- Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs) (Level 3).

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the end of the reporting period. The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the Group is the current bid price; the appropriate quoted market price for financial liabilities is the current ask price.

The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market is determined by using valuation techniques. The Group uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at the end of each reporting period.

### 4 Financial risk management (Continued)

#### (b) Fair value estimation (Continued)

The following table presents the Group's assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value:

	Level 1 HK\$'000	Level 2 HK\$'000	Level 3 HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
As at 30 June 2023 (Unaudited)				
Assets				
Investment properties Financial assets at fair value through	-	-	20,677	20,677
other comprehensive income ("FVOCI")  – Equity securities (note)	21,428		1,019,243	1,040,671
Total assets	21,428		1,039,920	1,061,348
Total liabilities				
As at 31 December 2022 (Audited)				
Assets				
Investment properties	_	_	21,246	21,246
Financial assets at FVOCI  – Equity securities (note)	33,104		1,002,068	1,035,172
Total assets	33,104		1,023,314	1,056,418
Total liabilities	_	_	_	_

### 4 Financial risk management (Continued)

#### (b) Fair value estimation (Continued)

Note:

Certain financial assets at FVOCI of HK\$892,624,000 have been fair valued as at 30 June 2023 by an independent external valuer. As at 30 June 2023, the fair values of the financial assets at FVOCI were arrived by reference to the subscription price of latest round of financing of equity interests which is a significant input. Other insignificant inputs include market multiple, marketability discount, minority discount and probability of conversion scenario.

Included in financial assets at FVOCI, the Group owns 8.03% (31 December 2022: 7.74%) equity interests in WeLab as at 30 June 2023.

The Group has unrecognised gain on initial recognition of financial assets at FVOCI during the six months ended 30 June 2023 and as at 30 June 2023 of HK\$12,907,000. The unrecognised gain was arised from acquisition of financial assets at FVOCI. The respective transaction price is favorable than the fair value and is not best evidence of fair value. The Company considers it is of the best interest of the shareholders for the Company to enter into the transaction. The amount is yet to be recognised in financial assets at FVOCI until the fair value of underlying financial asset is evidenced by a quoted price in an active market (ie a Level 1 input) or based on a valuation technique that uses only data from observable markets.

Changing unobservable inputs in Level 3 valuation to reasonable alternative assumptions would not have significant impact on the Group's profit or loss.

There were no transfers among Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 during the six months ended 30 June 2023. The Group's policy is to recognise transfers into/out of fair value hierarchy levels as of the date of the event or change in circumstances that caused the transfer.

The following table presents the changes in Level 3 items for the period ended 30 June 2023:

	Investment properties  HK\$'000	Unlisted equity securities HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
At 1 January 2023	21,246	1,002,068	1,023,314
Capital investment	_	17,293	17,293
Net revaluation deficit	_	(44)	(44)
Exchange adjustment	(569)	(74)	(643)
At 30 June 2023 (unaudited)	20,677	1,019,243	1,039,920

### 5 Segment information

The Group has five reportable operating segments:

- E-Commerce Group provision of services to users using the mobile and Internet-based marketplace and provision of technical services for e-commerce/new retail operations.
- Mobile Internet Group provision of mobile Internet services, online advertising and commercial enterprise solutions.
- Social Network Group provision of services of online community and social networking websites and related online advertising.
- Publishing Group magazine and book publishing and circulation, sales of advertising and other related products.
- Advertising Group provision of media sales, event production and marketing services.

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

### 5 Segment information (Continued)

The segment results for the six months ended 30 June 2023 are as follows:

Unaudited Six months ended 30 June 2023

	Techn	ology Platform	and Investmen		eu 30 Julie 2023	Media Business		
	E-Commerce Group HK\$'000	Mobile Internet Group HK\$'000	Social Network Group HK\$'000	Sub-total HK\$'000	Publishing Group HK\$'000	Advertising Group HK\$'000	Sub-total HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Gross segment revenue Inter-segment revenue	-	3,330	12,201 (452)	15,531 (452)	355,531	8,244 (182)	363,775 (182)	379,306 (634)
Net revenue from external customers		3,330	11,749	15,079	355,531	8,062	363,593	378,672
Timing of revenue recognition: At a point in time Over time		570 2,760	11,749	12,319	327,933 27,598	543 7,519	328,476 35,117	340,795 37,877
		3,330	11,749	15,079	355,531	8,062	363,593	378,672
Segment profit/(loss) before amortisation and depreciation Amortisation and depreciation	6,538	(7,497) (557)	(6,229) (2,013)	(7,188) (2,571)	104,922 (68,277)	(512)	104,410 (68,278)	97,222 (70,849)
Segment profit/(loss)	6,537	(8,054)	(8,242)	(9,759)	36,645	(513)	36,132	26,373
Other material items: Reversal of provision for impairment in amounts due from associated companies Share of profits less losses of investments accounted for using the equity method	3,134 (16,839)	11,091		14,225	3,089	 	3,089	14,225
	(13,705)	10,904		(2,801)	3,089		3,089	288
Finance costs: Finance income (note a) Finance expenses	2	1,375 (21)	4 (7)	1,381 (28)	2,499 (146)	304	2,803 (146)	4,184 (174)
	2	1,354	(3)	1,353	2,353	304	2,657	4,010
Segment profit/(loss) before taxation	(7,166)	4,204	(8,245)	(11,207)	42,087	(209)	41,878	30,671
Unallocated corporate expenses								(110,997)
Loss before taxation								(80,326)
Expenditure for operating segment non-current assets	_	1,370	119	1,489	73,442	_	73,442	74,931
Unallocated expenditure for non-current assets								
Total expenditure for non-current assets								74,931

Note (a):

Inter-segment interest income amounted to HK\$1,987,000 was included in the finance income.

## 5 Segment information (Continued)

The segment results for the six months ended 30 June 2022 are as follows:

Unaudited
Six months ended 30 June 2022

	Tools	nalagy Dlatform		ix monus ende	u 30 June 2022	Madia Dusinass		
	Iecn	nology Platform Mobile	and investments Social			Media Business		
	E-Commerce Group HK\$'000	Internet Group HK\$'000	Network Group HK\$'000	Sub-total HK\$'000	Publishing Group HK\$'000	Advertising Group HK\$'000	Sub-total HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Gross segment revenue Inter-segment revenue	2,346	3,758	19,498 (445)	25,602 (445)	364,241	11,717 (111)	375,958 (111)	401,560 (556)
Net revenue from external customers	2,346	3,758	19,053	25,157	364,241	11,606	375,847	401,004
Timing of revenue recognition: At a point in time Over time	2,346	724 3,034	19,053	19,777 5,380	338,176 26,065	698 10,908	338,874 36,973	358,651 42,353
	2,346	3,758	19,053	25,157	364,241	11,606	375,847	401,004
Segment profit/(loss) before amortisation and depreciation Amortisation and depreciation	(10,791) (1)	(5,675)	630 (2,236)	(15,836) (2,594)	105,385 (69,297)	(94) (46)	105,291 (69,343)	89,455 (71,937)
Segment profit/(loss)	(10,792)	(6,032)	(1,606)	(18,430)	36,088	(140)	35,948	17,518
Other material items: Reversal of provision for impairment in amounts due from associated companies Share of profits less losses of investments accounted for using the equity method Reversal of provision for impairment	13,210 (38,349)	59,640 (120)	-	72,850 (38,469)	2,723	-	2,723	72,850 (35,746)
in investments accounted for using the equity method	225,322	-	-	225,322	-	-	-	225,322
	200,183	59,520		259,703	2,723		2,723	262,426
Finance costs: Finance income (note a) Finance expenses	2	712 (14)	2 (8)	716 (22)	1,028 (266)	318	1,346 (266)	2,062 (288)
	2	698	(6)	694	762	318	1,080	1,774
Segment profit/(loss) before taxation	189,393	54,186	(1,612)	241,967	39,573	178	39,751	281,718
Unallocated corporate expenses								(49,560)
Profit before taxation								232,158
Expenditure for operating segment non-current assets	_	929	3,168	4,097	51,709	-	51,709	55,806
Unallocated expenditure for non-current assets								76
Total expenditure for non-current assets								55,882

Note (a):

Inter-segment interest income amounted to HK\$822,000 was included in the finance income.

# 5 Segment information (Continued)

The segment assets and liabilities at 30 June 2023 are as follows:

Unaudited
As at 30 June 2023

	Technol	Technology Platform and Investments			Media Business			
	E-Commerce Group HK\$'000	Mobile Internet Group HK\$'000	Social Network Group HK\$'000	Sub-total HK\$'000	Publishing Group HK\$'000	Advertising Group HK\$'000	Sub-total HK\$'000	Total <i>HK</i> \$'000
Segment assets Investments accounted for	238,702	822,648	22,067	1,083,417	1,346,419	62,244	1,408,663	2,492,080
using the equity method Unallocated assets	371,897	2,988	-	374,885	4,775	-	4,775	379,660 140,389
Total assets								3,012,129
Segment liabilities Unallocated liabilities: Corporate liabilities Current taxation Deferred taxation Borrowings	20,264	25,521	10,120	55,905	378,323	13,486	391,809	92,876 22,648 9,224 3,473,471
Total liabilities								4,045,933

## 5 Segment information (Continued)

The segment assets and liabilities at 31 December 2022 are as follows:

Audited
As at 31 December 2022

	Techno	Technology Platform and Investments			Media Business			
	E-Commerce Group HK\$'000	Mobile Internet Group HK\$'000	Social Network Group HK\$'000	Sub-total HK\$'000	Publishing Group HK\$'000	Advertising Group HK\$'000	Sub-total HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
Segment assets Investments accounted for	268,044	937,358	28,983	1,234,385	1,348,525	63,606	1,412,131	2,646,516
using the equity method Unallocated assets	390,638	3,257	-	393,895	7,165	-	7,165	401,060 154,646
Total assets								3,202,222
Segment liabilities Unallocated liabilities:	20,652	25,103	11,813	57,568	398,610	12,847	411,457	469,025
Corporate liabilities Current taxation Deferred taxation Borrowings								91,473 31,626 9,027 3,526,297
Total liabilities								4,127,448

The unallocated assets represent the corporate assets. The unallocated liabilities represent the corporate liabilities in addition to operating segment taxation payable, deferred tax liabilities and borrowings which are managed on a central basis.

6 Reversal of provision for impairment in investments accounted for using the equity method and amounts due from associated companies

	Unaudited		
	Six months e	nded 30 June	
	2023	2022	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Reversal of provision for impairment in respect of:			
Investments accounted for using the equity method			
(note 17)	_	225,322	
Amounts due from associated companies			
(notes 18 and 19)	14,471	74,161	

#### Note:

For the period ended 30 June 2023, a reversal of provision for impairment amounting to HK\$14,471,000 in relation to the Group's amounts due from associated companies has been further recognised in the condensed consolidated interim income statement to reflect the reduction in credit risk for amounts due from Ule Holdings Limited ("Ule") and its subsidiaries ("Ule Holdings Group") subsequent to the settlement of RMB155,000,000 from Ule.

As at 30 June 2022, substantial progress had been made for the subscription of Ule and as of the period end only administrative processing procedures were outstanding for completion. With reference to latest completion progress of the subscription of Ule, it was considered Ule Holdings Group's recoverable amount had been changed since the last impairment test and accordingly, an impairment assessment as at 30 June 2022 had been performed. In addition, the Group also considered there had been reduction in credit risk for amounts due from Ule Holdings Group. As a result of the impairment assessment of investments accounted for using the equity method and expected credit loss assessment of amounts due from associated companies, reversal of provisions for impairment in investments accounted for using the equity method amounting to HK\$225,322,000 and amounts due from associated companies amounting to HK\$74,161,000 were recognised respectively in the period ended 30 June 2022.

Details of the assumption of the recoverable amount assessment of Ule Holdings Group during the period ended 30 June 2022 are stated in note 17.

### 7 Other operating expenses, net

	Unau	Unaudited		
	Six months ended 30 June			
	2023	2022		
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000		
Staff costs	41,361	41,275		
Travel and entertainment	597	495		
Provision for inventories	6,425	5,557		
(Reversal of provision)/provision for impairment				
of trade receivables, net	(356)	44		
Depreciation of fixed assets	3,386	3,813		
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	10,662	10,756		
Amortisation of other intangible assets	1	1		
Government subsidies related to COVID-19	_	(407)		
Other expenses	6,597	6,749		
	68,673	68,283		

# 8 Other gains/(losses), net

	Unau	Unaudited		
	Six months e	nded 30 June		
	2023	2022		
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000		
Dividend income from financial assets at FVOCI Gain on disposal of fixed assets Exchange gain/(loss), net	726 89 3,655	412 - (10,880)		
	4,470	(10,468)		

## 9 (Loss)/profit before net finance costs and taxation

(Loss)/profit before net finance costs and taxation is stated after charging/crediting the following:

	Unaudited		
	Six months e	nded 30 June	
	2023	2022	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Charging:			
Depreciation of fixed assets (note 14)	5,196	6,148	
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	12,586	12,841	
Amortisation of other intangible assets (note 16)	55,721	55,614	
Exchange loss, net	_	10,880	
Crediting:			
Reversal of provision for impairment in amounts			
due from associated companies (notes 6, 18 and 19)	14,471	74,161	
Reversal of provision for impairment in investments accounted for using the equity method			
(notes 6 and 17)	_	225,322	
Dividend income from financial assets at FVOCI	726	412	
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	89	_	
Exchange gain, net	3,655	_	

The above expense items by nature were included in cost of sales, selling and marketing expenses, administrative expenses, other operating expenses, net and other gains/(losses), net in the condensed consolidated interim income statement.

### 10 Finance costs, net

	Unaudited		
	Six months en	nded 30 June	
	2023	2022	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Interest and borrowing costs on bank loans	80,577	23,627	
Interest costs on lease liabilities	195	202	
Bank interest income	(2,197)	(1,239)	
	78,575	22,590	

Note:

No interest has been capitalised for the six months ended 30 June 2023 (2022: Same).

#### 11 Taxation

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided for at the rate of 16.5% (2022: 16.5%) on the estimated assessable profits for the period. Taxation on overseas profits has been calculated on the estimated assessable profits for the period at the rates of taxation prevailing in the countries in which the Group operates.

The amount of taxation charged to the condensed consolidated interim income statement represents:

	Unaudited		
	Six months e	nded 30 June	
	2023	2022	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Overseas taxation	7,161	8,206	
Under-provision in prior years	1,113	737	
Deferred taxation	905	(693)	
Taxation charge	9,179	8,250	

Income tax expense is recognised based on management's estimate of the weighted average annual income tax rate expected for the full financial year.

#### 12 Dividends

No dividends had been paid or declared by the Company for the six months ended 30 June 2023 (2022: Nil).

### 13 (Loss)/earnings per share

#### (a) Basic

The calculation of basic (loss)/earnings per share is based on consolidated loss attributable to equity holders of the Company of HK\$94,547,000 (2022: profit of HK\$193,379,000) and the weighted average of 3,958,510,558 (2022: 3,958,510,558) ordinary shares in issue during the period.

#### (b) Diluted

Diluted (loss)/earnings per share is equal to the basic (loss)/earnings per share for the period ended 30 June 2023 (2022: Same).

### 14 Fixed assets

	HK\$'000
Net book value	
At 1 January 2022	28,626
Additions	2,035
Disposals	(25)
Depreciation charge	(6,148)
Exchange adjustment	(1,378)
At 30 June 2022 (unaudited)	23,110
Net book value	
At 1 January 2023	20,740
Additions (note)	2,113
Depreciation charge	(5,196)
Exchange adjustment	(263)
At 30 June 2023 (unaudited)	17,394
At 30 Julie 2025 (ulluduited)	

Note:

During the period ended 30 June 2023, major fixed assets acquired by the Group were computer equipment amounting to HK\$1,838,000.

### 15 Goodwill

	HK\$'000
Net book value At 1 January 2022 Exchange adjustment	528,380 (543)
At 30 June 2022 (unaudited)	527,837
Net book value At 1 January 2023 Exchange adjustment	509,396 (61)
At 30 June 2023 (unaudited)	509,335

### 16 Other intangible assets

		Trademarks	
	Publishing	and domain	
	rights	names	Total
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Net book value			
At 1 January 2022	142,085	72	142,157
Additions	49,721	_	49,721
Amortisation charge	(55,570)	(44)	(55,614)
Exchange adjustment	(6,890)	(2)	(6,892)
At 30 June 2022 (unaudited)	129,346	26	129,372
Net book value			
At 1 January 2023	135,950	17	135,967
Additions	51,460	_	51,460
Amortisation charge	(55,720)	(1)	(55,721)
Exchange adjustment	53		53
At 30 June 2023 (unaudited)	131,743	16	131,759

# 17 Investments accounted for using the equity method

The amounts recognised in the condensed consolidated interim statement of financial position are as follows:

	Unaudited	Audited
	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Associated companies	379,660	401,060

### 17 Investments accounted for using the equity method (Continued)

The share of net losses and reversal of provision for impairment recognised in the condensed consolidated interim income statement are as follows:

	Unaudited		
	Six months er	Six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Associated companies  – Share of net losses Reversal of provision for impairment in investments accounted for using the equity method	(13,937)	(35,746)	
(note 6 and note a)		225,322	
	(13,937)	189,576	

#### Interests in associated companies

Movements in interests in associated companies during the period:

Unaudited	
Six months ended 30 June	
<b>2023</b> 2	
HK\$'000	HK\$'000
401,060	158,934
(13,937)	(35,746)
_	225,322
(5,488)	(4,321)
(1,975)	7,606
379,660	351,795
	Six months en 2023 HK\$'000 401,060 (13,937) - (5,488) (1,975)

#### Note:

#### (a) Recoverable amount assessment for investments accounted for using the equity method

During the period ended 30 June 2023, management has assessed and considered there is no indicator for further impairment or reversal of impairment on the carrying value of investments accounted for using the equity method.

As at 30 June 2022, with reference to latest completion progress for the subscription of Ule as mentioned in note 6, management had developed the recoverable amount of HK\$343,831,000 based on fair value less cost of disposal, which was higher than value-in-use method. The fair value measurement was categorised as level 3 and based on market approach with reference to subscription price of China Post HK as stipulated in subscription agreement after adjustment of control premium discount of 20%.

### 18 Other non-current assets

	Unaudited 30 June 2023 HK\$'000	Audited 31 December 2022 HK\$'000
Long-term receivables	99	1,676
Represented by: Receivables from third parties	99	1,676

The maximum exposure to credit risk on long-term receivables at the reporting date is their carrying values.

The Group does not hold any collateral as security.

Movements in the provision for impairment of other non-current assets were as follows:

	Unaudited Six months ended 30 June	
	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Balance as at 1 January Reversal of provision for impairment in amounts	_	97,323
due from associated companies (note 6)  Transfer to other receivables (note 19)	_ _	(74,161) (19,369)
Exchange adjustment		(3,793)
Balance as at 30 June (unaudited)	_	_

### 19 Trade and other receivables

	Unaudited 30 June 2023	Audited 31 December 2022
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Trade receivables	197,689	212,379
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables	59,047	216,791
	256,736	429,170

### 19 Trade and other receivables (Continued)

The Group has established credit policies for customers in each of its businesses. The average credit period granted for trade receivables ranges from 30 to 180 days. The Group's turnover is determined in accordance with terms specified in the contracts governing the relevant transactions. The carrying values of trade and other receivables approximate their fair values.

The ageing analyses of the Group's trade receivables, based on terms specified in the contracts governing the relevant transactions, were as follows:

	Unaudited	Audited
	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Current	98,434	128,382
31 – 60 days	37,503	41,535
61 – 90 days	27,998	21,918
Over 90 days	63,092	50,775
	227,027	242,610
Less: Provision for impairment	(29,338)	(30,231)
	197,689	212,379
Represented by:		
Receivables from associated companies	11	5
Receivables from third parties	197,678	212,374
	197,689	212,379
	137,003	

The Group's prepayments, deposits and other receivables as at 30 June 2023 included amounts due from associated companies of HK\$12,071,000 (31 December 2022: HK\$173,113,000). The balance of RMB155,000,000 being unsecured and interest-free of amounts due from associated companies has been settled in January 2023.

The amounts due from associated companies are unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

The Group does not hold any collateral as security.

### 19 Trade and other receivables (Continued)

Movements in the provision for impairment of other receivables were as follows:

	Unaudited Six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Balance as at 1 January	13,997	_
Transfer from other non-current assets (note 18)	_	19,369
Reversal of provision for impairment in amounts		
due from associated companies (note 6)	(14,471)	_
Exchange adjustment	474	_
Balance as at 30 June (unaudited)	_	19,369

#### 20 Restricted cash

At 30 June 2023, NT\$24,342,000 (approximately HK\$6,160,000) (31 December 2022: NT\$24,306,000 (approximately HK\$6,176,000)) was pledged in favour of certain publishing distributors as retainer fee for potential sales return, and banks as security for credit card and advance receipt in Taiwan.

### 21 Trade and other payables

	Unaudited	Audited
	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Trade payables	110,856	115,690
Other payables and accruals	282,572	311,929
Contract liabilities	113,789	106,918
	507,217	534,537

The contract liabilities primarily relate to the advance consideration received from customers, or the Group has unconditional right to considerations before the goods or services are delivered.

The carrying values of trade and other payables approximate their fair values.

# 21 Trade and other payables (Continued)

The ageing analyses of the Group's trade payables, based on terms specified in the contracts governing the relevant transactions, were as follows:

	Unaudited	Audited
	30 June	31 December
	2023	2022
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Current	52,840	59,291
31 – 60 days	11,286	9,057
61 – 90 days	6,148	5,217
Over 90 days	40,582	42,125
	110,856	115,690
Represented by:		
Payables to third parties	110,856	115,690

## 22 Movements in borrowings

		Transaction costs arising on bank	
	bank loans	facility	Total
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
As at 1 January 2022	3,388,038	(232)	3,387,806
Recognition of transaction costs	_	(1,194)	(1,194)
Amortisation on transaction costs	_	542	542
Borrowings	51,000	_	51,000
Repayments	(10,088)	_	(10,088)
Exchange adjustment	(1,046)		(1,046)
As at 30 June 2022 (unaudited)	3,427,904	(884)	3,427,020
As at 1 January 2023	3,527,000	(703)	3,526,297
Recognition of transaction costs	_	(282)	(282)
Amortisation on transaction costs	_	456	456
Borrowings	107,000	_	107,000
Repayments	(160,000)		(160,000)
As at 30 June 2023 (unaudited)	3,474,000	(529)	3,473,471

### 23 Share capital

	Ordinary shares of HK\$0.1 each	
	No. of shares	HK\$'000
Company – Authorised At 1 January and 30 June 2022 and		
1 January and 30 June 2023	5,000,000,000	500,000
Company – Issued and fully paid At 1 January and 30 June 2022 and		
1 January and 30 June 2023	3,958,510,558	395,852

### 24 Pledge of assets

Save as disclosed in note 20 to the condensed consolidated interim financial information, the Group had no pledge of assets as at 30 June 2023 (31 December 2022: Nil).

### 25 Contingent liabilities

As at 30 June 2023, the Group had no significant contingent liabilities.

# 26 Capital commitments

As at 30 June 2023, the Group had no significant capital commitments.

# 27 Related party transactions

A summary of significant related party transactions is set out below:

### (a) Sales of goods and services

		Unaudited	
	Six months e	Six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022	
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	
Provision of services to	150	2 502	
<ul> <li>Associated companies</li> </ul>	150	2,503	

### 27 Related party transactions (Continued)

### (b) Purchase of goods and services

	Unaudited	
	Six months ended 30 June	
	2023	2022
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Purchase of services payable to  – Non-controlling interests of a subsidiary and their subsidiaries	152	661
Service fees payable to  — CKHH and its subsidiaries	1,543	1,276

A substantial shareholder of the Company granted guarantee to the Company at a guarantee fee equivalent to 0.5% per annum (2022: Same) for aggregate principal amount outstanding under a loan facility of HK\$3,700 million (2022: Same). For the six months ended 30 June 2023, guarantee fee amounted to approximately HK\$8,590,000 was paid by the Company (2022: HK\$8,423,000) to the substantial shareholder.

#### (c) Key management compensation

For the six months ended 30 June 2023, no transactions have been entered into with the directors of the Company (being the key management personnel) other than the emoluments paid to them (being key management personnel compensation) (2022: Nil).

### 28 Subsequent events

Except for the Company's announcement dated 19 July 2023, there is no subsequent event after the reporting period which has material impact to the condensed consolidated interim financial information of the Group.

# 29 Approval of interim financial information

The condensed consolidated interim financial information was approved by the Board of Directors on 4 August 2023.

# **Disclosure of Interests**

# Directors' Interests and Short Positions in Shares, Underlying Shares and Debentures

As at 30 June 2023, the interests or short positions of the Directors and chief executive in the shares, underlying shares and debentures of the Company or any of its associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) which were notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to Divisions 7 and 8 of Part XV of the SFO (including interests or short positions which they are taken or deemed to have under such provisions of the SFO), or which were required, pursuant to Section 352 of the SFO, to be entered in the register referred to therein, or which were required, pursuant to the Model Code, to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange, were as follows:

### Long positions in the shares of the Company

		Number of shares of the Company					
Name of Director	Capacity	Personal interests	Family interests	Corporate interests	Other interests	Total	Approximate percentage of shareholding
Frank John Sixt	Beneficial owner	492,000	-	_	-	492,000	0.01%
Yeung Kwok Mung	Interest of spouse	-	30,000	-	-	30,000	Below 0.01%

Save as disclosed above, as at 30 June 2023, none of the Directors or chief executive of the Company had any interests or short positions in any shares, underlying shares or debentures of the Company or any associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) which would have to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to Divisions 7 and 8 of Part XV of the SFO (including interests or short positions which they are taken or deemed to have under such provisions of the SFO), or which were required, pursuant to Section 352 of the SFO, to be entered in the register referred to therein, or which were required, pursuant to the Model Code, to be notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange.

### Interests and Short Positions of Substantial Shareholders

As at 30 June 2023, the persons or corporations (not being a Director or chief executive) who had interests or short positions in the shares and underlying shares of the Company as recorded in the register required to be kept under Section 336 of the SFO or had otherwise notified to the Company were as follows:

Name	Capacity	No. of shares of the Company held	Approximate percentage of shareholding
СКНН	Interest of controlled corporations	1,430,120,545 (L) (Notes 1, 2 & 3)	36.13%
CKH	Interest of controlled corporations	1,430,120,545 (L) (Notes 1, 2 & 3)	36.13%

# **Disclosure of Interests**

Name	Capacity	No. of shares of the Company held	Approximate percentage of shareholding
Cheung Kong Investment Company Limited	Interest of controlled corporations	476,341,182 (L) (Note 1)	12.03%
Cheung Kong Holdings (China) Limited	Interest of controlled corporations	476,341,182 (L) (Note 1)	12.03%
Sunnylink Enterprises Limited	Interest of a controlled corporation	476,341,182 (L) (Note 1)	12.03%
Romefield Limited	Beneficial owner	476,341,182 (L) (Note 1)	12.03%
CK Hutchison Global Investments Limited	Interest of controlled corporations	952,683,363 (L) (Note 2)	24.07%
HWL	Interest of controlled corporations	952,683,363 (L) (Note 2)	24.07%
Hutchison International Limited	Interest of a controlled corporation	952,683,363 (L) (Note 2)	24.07%
Easterhouse Limited	Beneficial owner	952,683,363 (L) (Note 2)	24.07%
Chau Hoi Shuen	Interest of controlled corporations	1,003,432,363 (L) (Notes 4, 5 & 6)	25.35%
Composers International Limited	Interest of controlled corporations	1,003,432,363 (L) (Notes 4, 5 & 6)	25.35%
Cranwood Company Limited	Beneficial owner & interest of controlled corporations	995,078,363 (L) (Notes 4 & 6)	25.14%
Schumann International Limited	Beneficial owner	580,000,000 (L) (Notes 4 & 6)	14.65%
Handel International Limited	Beneficial owner	348,000,000 (L) (Notes 4 & 6)	8.79%
Lin Tian Maw	Beneficial owner, interest of child under 18 and/or spouse & interest of controlled corporations	526,610,000 (L) (Note 7)	13.30%
(L) denotes a long position			

# **Disclosure of Interests**

#### Notes:

- (1) Romefield Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Sunnylink Enterprises Limited, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheung Kong Holdings (China) Limited. Cheung Kong Holdings (China) Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cheung Kong Investment Company Limited, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of CKH. CKH is a wholly-owned subsidiary of CKHH.
  - By virtue of the SFO, CKHH, CKH, Cheung Kong Investment Company Limited, Cheung Kong Holdings (China) Limited and Sunnylink Enterprises Limited are all deemed to be interested in the 476,341,182 shares of the Company held by Romefield Limited.
- (2) Easterhouse Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hutchison International Limited, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of HWL. HWL is a non wholly-owned subsidiary of CK Hutchison Global Investments Limited, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of CKHH. In addition, certain subsidiaries of CKH are entitled to exercise or control the exercise of more than one-third of the voting power at the general meetings of HWL.
  - By virtue of the SFO, CKHH, CKH, CK Hutchison Global Investments Limited, HWL and Hutchison International Limited are all deemed to be interested in the 952,683,363 shares of the Company held by Easterhouse Limited.
- (3) Casaurina Investments Limited, an Associate of CKH, which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of CKHH, holds 1,096,000 shares of the Company.
  - By virtue of the SFO, CKHH and CKH are all deemed to be interested in the 1,096,000 shares of the Company held by Casaurina Investments Limited.
- (4) Schumann International Limited and Handel International Limited are companies controlled by Cranwood Company Limited ("Cranwood Company Limited (Liberia)", incorporated in Liberia), which in turn is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Composers International Limited. Composers International Limited is wholly owned by Ms. Chau Hoi Shuen.
  - By virtue of the SFO, Ms. Chau Hoi Shuen, Composers International Limited and Cranwood Company Limited (Liberia) are all deemed to be interested in the 580,000,000 and 348,000,000 shares of the Company held by Schumann International Limited and Handel International Limited respectively. Also, Ms. Chau Hoi Shuen and Composers International Limited are all deemed to be interested in 67,078,363 shares of the Company held by Cranwood Company Limited (Liberia) directly.
- (5) A company Cranwood Company Limited ("Cranwood Company Limited (BVI)", incorporated in British Virgin Islands), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Composers International Limited, which in turn is wholly owned by Ms. Chau Hoi Shuen, holds 8,354,000 shares of the Company.
  - By virtue of the SFO, Ms. Chau Hoi Shuen and Composers International Limited are all deemed to be interested in 8,354,000 shares of the Company held by Cranwood Company Limited (BVI) directly.
- (6) Cranwood Company Limited (Liberia), Schumann International Limited, Handel International Limited and Cranwood Company Limited (BVI) have charged 67,078,363, 580,000,000, 348,000,000 and 8,354,000 shares of the Company respectively in favour of CKHH on 21 December 2015.
- (7) Such disclosure of interests was notified to the Company by Mr. Lin Tian Maw on 6 July 2023.

Save as disclosed above, as at 30 June 2023, the Directors are not aware of any other person or corporation having an interest or short position in the shares and underlying shares of the Company representing 5% or more of the issued share capital of the Company.

### **Share Option Scheme**

The Company has no share option scheme during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

# **Corporate Governance**

The Company strives to attain and maintain high standards of corporate governance best suited to the needs and interests of the Group as it believes that an effective corporate governance framework is fundamental to promoting and safeguarding interests of shareholders and other stakeholders and enhancing shareholder value. Accordingly, the Company has adopted and applied corporate governance principles and practices that emphasise a quality Board, effective risk management and internal control systems, stringent disclosure practices, transparency and accountability as well as effective communication and engagement with shareholders and other stakeholders. It is, in addition, committed to continuously enhancing these standards and practices and inculcating a robust culture of compliance and ethical governance underlying the business operations and practices across the Group.

#### **Audit Committee**

The Company has established an Audit Committee in January 2000. The Audit Committee currently consists of three Independent Non-executive Directors and one Non-executive Director who possess the relevant financial and business management experience and skills to understand financial statements and monitor the financial governance, internal controls and risk management of the Company. It is chaired by Dr. Fong Chi Wai, Alex and the other members of the Audit Committee include Mr. James Sha, Mrs. Lee Pui Ling, Angelina and Mr. Chan Tze Leung. Written terms of reference in compliance with the Listing Rules have been adopted for the Audit Committee.

The principal duties of the Audit Committee include, among other things, overseeing and reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of risk management and internal control systems, oversight of the relationship with external auditor, review of the Group's financial information and monitoring the corporate governance of the Group including compliance with statutory and Listing Rules requirements, reviewing of scope, extent and effectiveness of the activities of the Group's financial reporting system and internal audit function, engages independent legal and other advisors and conducting investigations as it so determines to be necessary.

The unaudited condensed consolidated interim financial information of the Group for the six months ended 30 June 2023 has been reviewed by the Audit Committee.

# Compliance with the Corporate Governance Code

The Company has complied throughout the six months ended 30 June 2023 with all applicable code provisions of the Corporate Governance Code.

# Compliance with the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors

The Board has adopted the Model Code as the code of conduct regulating Directors' dealings in securities of the Company. In response to specific enquiries made, all Directors have confirmed that they have complied with the required standards set out in such code regarding their securities transactions throughout their tenure during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

# **Other Information**

## Purchase, Sale or Redemption of Listed Securities

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries had purchased, sold or redeemed any of the listed securities of the Company.

# Information for Shareholders

Listing The Company's ordinary shares are listed on The Stock

Exchange of Hong Kong Limited

Stock Code The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited: 2383

Financial Calendar 2023 Interim Results Announcement: 4 August 2023

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