On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce the unaudited interim results of the Group for the first six months ended 30th June, 2001. The Group's audit committee and the Group's auditor, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, have reviewed the interim results.

Consolidated profit attributed to shareholders amounted to HK\$8.9 million for the six months ended 30th June, 2001. This represented a decrease of 59.4% as compared with the corresponding period of 2000. Earning per share fell by 2.9 cents to 2 cents. Profit decline was the result of sales reduction suffered from global economic slowdown and net loss of HK\$11.3 million which was due to the decline in values of marketable securities investment as at 30th June, 2001. The Board of Directors have resolved to declare an interim dividend of 1.0 cent per share (2000: 2.0 cents per share) to shareholders.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2001

	NOTES	Six months ended 30/6/2001 <i>HK\$'000</i> (unaudited)	Six months ended 30/6/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i> (unaudited)
Turnover	3	449,763	537,902
Other revenue Changes in inventories of finished goods Purchase of goods held for resale Raw materials and consumables used Staff costs Depreciation and amortisation Other operating expenses Amortisation of premium arising on acquisition of an associate Net realised (loss) gain and unrealised loss on other investments	4	4,403 (6,796) (394,406) (1,809) (9,445) (1,523) (12,787) (1,511) (11,259)	9,535 2,101 (483,489) (3,525) (10,602) (1,684) (18,007) 645
Profit from operations Finance costs	3 5	14,630 (3,437) 11,193	32,876 (6,586) 26,290
Share of profit (loss) of associates		1,380	(771)
Profit before taxation Taxation	6	12,573 (2,958)	25,519 (2,277)
Profit before minority interests Minority interests		9,615 (730)	23,242 (1,334)
Net profit for the period		8,885	21,908
Dividend	7	13,365	17,820
Earnings per share	8	2.0 cents	4.9 cents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AT 30TH JUNE, 2001

	NOTES	30/6/2001 <i>HK\$'000</i> (unaudited)	(Restated) 31/12/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i> (audited)
ASSETS			
Non-current Assets Investment properties Property, plant and equipment Interests in associates Investments in securities	9 10 11 12	220,146 40,065 51,484 17,840	220,146 41,751 51,880 10,040
		329,535	323,817
Current Assets Inventories Debtors, deposits and prepayments Bills receivable Taxation recoverable Investments in securities Short term bank deposits Bank balances and cash	13 14 12	33,156 85,924 18,107 110 155,997 85,027 58,676 436,997	40,849 92,735 17,521 180 157,391 66,099 96,706 471,481
Total Assets		766,532	795,298
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Capital and Reserves			
Share capital Reserves	15 16	22,275 552,761 575,036	22,275 558,891 581,166
Minority Interests		15,524	16,700
Non-current Liability Amount due to minority shareholder of a subsidiary		10,557	10,557
Current Liabilities Creditors and accrued charges Bills payable Taxation payable Bank borrowings	17 18	50,895 	36,666 2,106 2,649 145,454
		165,415	186,875
Total Equity and Liabilities			
Total Equity and Liabilities		766,532	795,298

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2001

	Six months ended 30/6/2001 <i>HK\$'000</i> (unaudited)
Exchange differences arising on translation of overseas operations	(1,421)
 Share of reserves of an associate: Capital reserve Investment property revaluation reserve Property revaluation reserve Exchange reserve Retained profits 	(191) (151) (69) (46) 193
	(264)
Net losses not recognised in the condensed consolidated income statement	(1,685)
Net profit for the period	8,885
Total recognised gains and losses	7,200
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2001	
	Six months ended 30/6/2001 <i>HK\$'000</i> (unaudited)
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	40,114
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE	(14,696)
CASH OUTFLOW FROM TAXATION	(1,751)
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(8,044)
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	15,623
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE PERIOD	17,351
EFFECT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES	(47)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	32,927
ANALYSIS OF THE BALANCES OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS Short term bank deposits Bank balances and cash Bank loans and overdrafts	85,027 58,676 (110,776)

32,927

NOTES TO THE CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2001

1. **BASIS OF PREPARATION**

The condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Standard Accounting Practice ("SSAP") 25 "Interim financial reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants and with the applicable disclosure requirements of Appendix 16 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited ("Listing Rules"), except that comparative figures are not presented either for the condensed consolidated statement of recognised gains and losses or for the first condensed consolidated cash flow statement to be included in the interim financial report relating to accounting periods ended on or after 1st July, 2000. Such departures from SSAP 25 are permitted under the Listing Rules.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES 2.

The condensed financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified for the revaluation of certain properties and investments in securities.

The accounting policies adopted for the preparation of the interim financial report are consistent with those adopted by the Group in its annual financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 2000 except as described below.

In the current period, the Group has adopted, for the first time, the following revised or new SSAPs issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants:

Segment reporting

SSAP 26 "Segment reporting", which has been adopted for the first time in this interim reporting period, has established principles for reporting the segmental analysis of financial information. The details are set out in note 3.

Dividends proposed or declared after the balance sheet date

In accordance with SSAP 9 (Revised) "Events after the balance sheet date" dividends proposed or declared after the balance sheet date are not recognised as a liability in the balance sheet. In previous years, the declaration of dividends after the balance sheet date was treated as an adjusting post balance sheet event. The effect of this change has been to increase shareholders' funds at 1st January, 2000 and 31st December, 2000 by HK\$17,820,000 and HK\$13,365,000 respectively. Comparative information has been restated to reflect this change in accounting policy (See note 16).

Provisions

In accordance with SSAP 28 "Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets", provisions are recognised when the Group has a present obligation as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in an outflow of economic benefits that can be reasonably estimated.

Goodwill

In the current period, the Group has adopted SSAP 30 "Business combinations" and has elected not to restate goodwill (negative goodwill) previously eliminated against (credited to) reserves. Accordingly, goodwill arising on acquisitions of subsidiaries prior to 1st January, 2001 is held in reserves and will be charged to the income statement at the time of disposal of the relevant subsidiary, or at such time as the goodwill is determined to be impaired. Negative goodwill arising on acquisitions prior to 1st January, 2001 will be credited to income at the time of disposal of the relevant subsidiary.

Goodwill arising on acquisitions after 1st January, 2001 is capitalised and amortised over its estimated useful life i.e. over periods ranging between 5 and 20 years. Negative goodwill arising on acquisitions after 1st January, 2001 is presented as a deduction from assets and will be released to income based on an analysis of the circumstances from which the balance resulted.

Impairment of assets

SSAP 31 "Impairment of assets" has introduced a formal framework for the recognition of impairment losses in respect of the Group's assets other than financial assets and investment properties.

With the exception of SSAP 9 (Revised), the adoption of the above standards has had no material effect on amounts reported in prior years.

3. SEGMENT INFORMATION

The turnover and contributions to profit from operations of the Group for the six months ended 30th June, 2001, analysed by business segments and by geographical segments, are as follows:

By Business Segments:

For the six months ended 30th June, 2001

	Sales of chemicals and metals <i>HK\$'000</i>	Property investment HK\$'000	Security investment HK\$'000	Other activities <i>HK\$'000</i>	Eliminations Co HK\$'000	onsolidated HK\$'000
	ΠΚֆ 000	ΠΚֆ 000	HK\$ 000	ΠΚֆ 000	пк э 000	ПК\$ 000
REVENUE						
External sales Inter-segment sales	435,641 9,305	9,552 1,109	4,399	171 3,960	(14,374)	449,763
Total revenue	444,946	10,661	4,399	4,131	(14,374)	449,763
SEGMENT RESULT	17,225	7,706	(8,491)	72		16,512
Bank interest incom	e					3,554
Unallocated other revenue						849
Unallocated corporate expense	25					(4,774)
Amortisation of premium arising						
on acquisition of an associate						(1,511)
Profit from operatio	ons					14,630

For the six months ended 30th June, 2000

	Sales of chemicals and metals HK\$'000	Property investment HK\$'000	Security investment HK\$'000	Other activities HK\$'000	Eliminations Co HK\$'000	onsolidated HK\$'000
REVENUE						
External sales Inter-segment sales	521,281 19,643	9,405 1,256	3,419	3,797 4,498	(25,397)	537,902
Total revenue	540,924	10,661	3,419	8,295	(25,397)	537,902
SEGMENT RESULT	19,542	6,635	3,649	214		30,040
Bank interest incom	e					3,757
Unallocated other revenue						5,778
Unallocated corporate expense	es					(6,699)
Profit from operation	ons					32,876

By Geographical Segments:

For the six months ended 30th June, 2001

	Hong Kong HK\$'000	Taiwan HK\$'000	Elsewhere in the People's Republic of China HK\$'000	Others HK\$'000	Eliminations Co HK\$'000	onsolidated HK\$′000
REVENUE						
External sales Inter-segment sales	288,793 13,331	83,128 785	47,955 258	29,887	(14,374)	449,763
Total revenue	302,124	83,913	48,213	29,887	(14,374)	449,763
SEGMENT RESULT	2,968	3,433	8,713	1,398		16,512
Bank interest incom Unallocated other	е					3,554
revenue Unallocated						849
corporate expense Amortisation of premium arising on acquisition of	25					(4,774)
an associate						(1,511)
Profit from operatio	ns					14,630

For the six months ended 30th June, 2000

	Hong Kong <i>HK\$'000</i>	Taiwan HK\$'000	Elsewhere in the People's Republic of China HK\$'000	Others <i>HK\$'000</i>	Eliminations C HK\$'000	onsolidated HK\$'000
REVENUE						
External sales Inter-segment sales	310,853 21,798	130,548 2,937	54,865 335	41,636 327	(25,397)	537,902
Total revenue	332,651	133,485	55,200	41,963	(25,397)	537,902
SEGMENT RESULT	13,235	6,188	8,959	1,658		30,040
Bank interest incon Unallocated other	ne					3,757
revenue Unallocated						5,778
corporate expens	ies					(6,699)
Profit from operati	ons					32,876

4. OTHER REVENUE

Other revenue comprises:

	Six months ended 30/6/2001 <i>HK\$'000</i>	Six months ended 30/6/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Interest income from bank deposits Sundry income Dividend income from an unlisted investment	3,554 791 58	3,757 5,677 101
	4,403	9,535

5. FINANCE COSTS

The finance costs represent interest on bank borrowings wholly repayable within five years.

6. TAXATION

	Six months ended 30/6/2001 <i>HK\$'000</i>	Six months ended 30/6/2000 HK\$'000
The tax charge comprises:		
Current taxation Hong Kong Profits Tax Profits tax outside Hong Kong	1,780 1,177	1,546 731
	2,957	2,277
Share of taxation attributable to associates	1	
	2,958	2,277

Hong Kong Profits Tax is calculated at 16% of the estimated assessable profit for the period. Taxation outside Hong Kong is calculated at the rates prevailing in the respective jurisdictions.

7. DIVIDEND

	Six months ended 30/6/2001 <i>HK\$'000</i>	Six months ended 30/6/2000 HK\$'000
Final dividend in respect of year ended 31st December, 2000 at 3 cents (year ended 31st December, 1999: 4 cents) per ordinary share	13,365	17,820

8. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The calculation of the earnings per share is based on the net profit for the period of HK\$8,885,000 (six months ended 30/6/2000: HK\$21,908,000) and on 445,500,000 ordinary shares (six months ended 30/6/2000: 445,500,000 ordinary shares) in issue during the period.

9. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

As SSAP 25 does not require an enterprise to arrange for a revaluation to be made by professional qualified valuers on revalued assets held at the interim period end, accordingly, no professional valuation has been performed in respect of the Group's investment properties as at 30th June, 2001. However, the directors consider that the values of the investment properties as at 30th June, 2001 would not differ materially from the professional valuation made as at 31st December, 2000 and, accordingly, no revaluation surplus or deficit has been recognised in the current period.

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

During the six months ended 30th June, 2001, the Group has no material acquisition or disposal of property, plant and equipment.

11. INTERESTS IN ASSOCIATES

	30/6/2001 <i>HK\$'000</i>	31/12/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Share of net assets	25,799	24,684
Premium arising on acquisition	30,218	30,218
Amortisation of premium	(4,533)	(3,022)
	51,484	51,880

12. INVESTMENTS IN SECURITIES

	Investment	securities	Other inv	Other investments		Total	
	30/6/2001 HK\$'000	31/12/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30/6/2001 HK\$'000	31/12/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i>	30/6/2001 HK\$'000	31/12/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i>	
Equity securities:							
Listed — Hong Kong Listed — overseas	2 122	- 122	111,068	122,857	111,068	122,857	
Unlisted — overseas	3,132 11,007	3,132 3,207	8,766 23,315	7,115 18,444	11,898 34,322	10,247 21,651	
Omisted	11,007	5,207	23,313	10,444	54,522	21,031	
	14,139	6,339	143,149	148,416	157,288	154,755	
Debt securities:							
Listed — overseas			16,549	12,676	16,549	12,676	
Total securities:							
Listed	3,132	3,132	136,383	142,648	139,515	145,780	
Unlisted	11,007	3,207	23,315	18,444	34,322	21,651	
	14,139	6,339	159,698	161,092	173,837	167,431	
Market value of listed securities	3,175	3,432	136,383	142,648	139,558	146,080	
securities	3,173	5,452	130,303	142,040	135,330	140,000	
Carrying amount analysed for reporting purposes as:							
Non-current	14,139	6,339	3,701	3,701	17,840	10,040	
Current			155,997	157,391	155,997	157,391	
	14,139	6,339	159,698	161,092	173,837	167,431	

13. INVENTORIES

Included in inventories are finished goods of HK\$11,829,000 (31/12/2000: HK\$9,283,000) carried at net realisable value.

14. DEBTORS, DEPOSITS AND PREPAYMENTS

The Group allows an average credit period ranging from cash on delivery to 120 days to its trade debtors. The aging analysis of trade debtors of HK\$69,767,000 (31/12/2000: HK\$81,023,000) which are included in the Group's debtors, deposits and prepayments are as follows:

	30/6/2001 HK\$′000	31/12/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i>
0 — 30 days	31,819	37,412
31 — 60 days	23,207	24,665
61 — 90 days	11,808	12,628
91 — 120 days	2,164	3,965
121 — 365 days	769	2,353
	69,767	81,023

15. SHARE CAPITAL

	Number of shares	Amount <i>HK\$'000</i>
Ordinary shares of HK\$0.05 each		
Authorised: At 30th June, 2001 and 31st December, 2000	700,000,000	35,000
Issued and fully paid: At 30th June, 2001 and 31st December, 2000	445,500,000	22,275

16. **RESERVES**

	Share premium HK\$'000	Capital reserve HK\$'000	Investment property revaluation reserve HK\$'000	Property revaluation reserve HK\$'000	Exchange reserve HK\$'000	Retained profits HK\$'000	Total <i>HK\$'000</i>
THE GROUP							
At 1st January, 2000 — as previously stated	153,728	26,090	5,280	15,440	1,515	321,166	523,219
— prior year adjustment (note 2)						17,820	17,820
 as restated Exchange differences arising on translation of 	153,728	26,090	5,280	15,440	1,515	338,986	541,039
overseas operations	_	_	-	—	379	_	379
Share of reserves of an associate	—	191	302	-	(168)	—	325
Net profit for the year	—	-	-	-	—	43,878	43,878
Dividends paid						(26,730)	(26,730)
At 31st December, 2000 Exchange differences arising on translation of	153,728	26,281	5,582	15,440	1,726	356,134	558,891
overseas operations	—	-	-	-	(1,421)	_	(1,421)
Share of reserves of an associate	-	(191)	(151)	(69)	(46)	193	(264)
Goodwill released on disposal of a subsidiary	_	35	_	_	_	_	35
Net profit for the period	_	_	_	_	_	8.885	8,885
Dividend paid						(13,365)	(13,365)
At 30th June, 2001	153,728	26,125	5,431	15,371	259	351,847	552,761

17. CREDITORS AND ACCRUED CHARGES

The aging analysis of the trade creditors of HK30,101,000 (31/12/2000: HK14,338,000) which are included in the Group's creditors and accrued charges are as follows:

	30/6/2001 <i>HK\$′000</i>	31/12/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i>
0 — 30 days 31 — 60 days	21,572 8,130	12,827 1,335
61 — 90 days	348	168
91 — 120 days	51	2
121 — 365 days		6
	30,101	14,338

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18. BANK BORROWINGS

	30/6/2001 <i>HK\$'000</i>	31/12/2000 <i>HK\$'000</i>
The bank borrowings, which are all due within one year, comprise:		
Bank loans and overdrafts		
Secured	4,410	17,782
Unsecured	106,366	127,672
	110,776	145,454

19. PLEDGE OF ASSETS

At 30th June, 2001, certain leasehold properties and investments in securities with aggregate carrying values of HK\$7,498,000 (31/12/2000: HK\$7,967,000) and HK\$39,561,000 (31/12/2000: HK\$45,498,000), respectively, were pledged to banks to secure banking facilities granted to the Group.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

OPERATION REVIEW

Trading Division

During the first half year of 2001, the global economic slowdown had undermined the demand of trading metals and chemicals in the Southeast Asian region. Total turnover dropped by 16.4% in the first half year of 2001 compared with the corresponding period in 2000. Significant fall in demand, particularly from the electronics and computer related industries, intensified competition and drove prices downwards. Faced with pressure on both prices and volumes, profitability decreased by 11.9%. Profit margin, however, sustained benefiting from the successive interest rate cut during the period and the improvement from purchasing system and inventory control.

Electroplating Materials and Chemicals

Total turnover of electroplating materials and chemicals fell by 17.4% to HK\$386.2 million for the first six months ended 30 June, 2001, as compared with the corresponding period in the previous year. The weakening economies shrank demand for metal from most factories among Asian countries. Prices were pressured down due to fall in market prices during the period together with fierce price competition among rivals. Our business in Taiwan was worst hit by our customers' concentration in computer-related and mobile phones-related industries, and suffered further from the depreciation of New Taiwanese dollars. Sales in Mainland China had robust growth during the period, albeit sign of slowdown started to be noticed at the end of June. Improvement in cost efficient management had taken effects towards depressing sales that helped to increase profitability against price competition.

Paint and Coating Chemicals

Sales of paint and coating chemicals in Mainland China declined by 3.9% for the first six months ended 30 June, 2001. Global over-production with fall in demand led abundant supply in Mainland China, eyeing on its persistent growth in the past years. Despite difficult market with fall in prices and volume of major chemical products, sales of other new chemical products introduced in the market in previous years grew at satisfactory pace and stringent cost controlling reduced the impact of declining profitability.

Stainless Steel

With sluggish demand in watch industries especially those export to the U.S. market, total sales decreased significantly during the first half-year in 2001. Market price of stainless steel continuously fell till the end of June as slow demand created stockpiling in global market. Turnover of stainless steel for the first half-year in 2001 was down by 8.3% compared with same period in 2000. A loss was incurred for the period ended 30 June, 2001.

Property Investment Division

Total rental income received for the first half-year of 2001 remained stable compared to that received for the corresponding period in 2000. Office properties in Hong Kong were almost fully occupied during the period but rental prices had adjusted downward by about 5% as compared with same period in 2000.

Overall office rental market in Shanghai is in a stage of recovery after severe contraction in 1999. Demand in Grade A offices in major commercial and financial districts had raised rental level by more than 35% from its trough. Existing lease terms of the Group's two office properties in Shanghai will expire in the first half-year next year. Negotiation of renewal terms with tenants has begun.

Residential market in Shanghai remained flat during the first half-year in 2001. In the past years, more and more local-owned residential properties were built and sold in Shanghai, but only limited to local Chinese under the rules of the government. Increased supply of local-owned residential properties had put price pressure on rental market, especially to those properties that were limited to be sold to foreigners. As rental disparity between local-owned and foreign-owed residential properties had almost eliminated last year, a minor impact is expected after China government has united the scheme of local-owned and foreign-owned residential properties with effect from 1st August, 2001. Total occupancy rate in the first six month of 2001 reached to 97%. Average month rental per unit during the period, however, dropped by 21.8% compared with the same period in 2000.

Securities Investment Division

Market value of the securities portfolio increased from HK\$159.8 million as at 31st December, 2000 to HK\$165.8 million as at 30th June, 2001.

An analysis of the portfolio by type of securities as at 30th June, 2001 is as below:

	Market Value of Investment HK\$'000	Distribution in Percentage
Equities	119,834	72.3%
Bonds	16,549	10.0%
Unit Funds	29,415	17.7%

Financed as to (as at 30th June, 2001) 95.1% by Group's own cash fund and 4.9% by Bank borrowings.

An analysis of the portfolio by currency denomination as at 30th June, 2001 is as follows:

HK Dollar	US Dollar	Euro	JP Yen	SGP Dollar
67.0%	26.5%	1.9%	4.0%	0.6%

Performance of the securities portfolio for the first six months of 2001 was not satisfactory because of the lackluster global market environment. During the period, the Group made additional purchases of HK\$23.8 million mainly on unit funds and bonds. An unrealized loss of HK\$11.6 million due to decline in value of securities, mainly equities, holding as at 30th June, 2001 was recorded. Interest and dividend income generated from the portfolio for the six months ended 30th June, 2001 accounted for HK\$4.4 million in total. We believe that the markets are close to bottoming out and will closely scrutinise market movement and take conservative approach in managing the portfolio.

EMPLOYEES

The Group employed a staff of 94 as at 30th June, 2001, of whom 62 worked in Hong Kong, 12 worked in Mainland China and 20 worked overseas. This represented a decrease of 8 staff when compared with that of 102 as at 31st December, 2000 mainly due to cessation of business of one of our subsidiaries. Salaries of employees stayed at competitive level. The Group also offered benefits to employees with bonuses given based on individual's performance evaluation and financial performance of the business during the year. The Group regularly encouraged employees to take external courses to improve their job-related skill and advance their professional knowledge.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Group's total shareholders' fund amounted to HK\$575.0 million as at 30th June, 2001. This represented an insignificant drop of 1% when compared to the amount as at 31st December, 2000.

As at 30th June, 2001, the Group held cash deposit totaling HK\$143.7 million, a decrease of HK\$19.1 million compared with total cash held as at 31st December, 2000. The decrease in cash was mainly used to invest in securities during the period. Total bank borrowings as at 30th June, 2001, which were all due within a year, was HK\$110.8 million. Compared with net cash position of HK\$17.3 million as at 31st December, 2000, net cash position as at 30th June, 2001 was HK\$32.9 million. The Group's gearing ratio, representing total bank borrowings divided by shareholders' fund, was 0.19 as at 30th June, 2001.

As at 30th June, 2001, all bank borrowings were in forms of trust receipts and money market loans. Currencies distribution of the Group's bank borrowings as at 30th June, 2001 was 76.0% in Hong Kong Dollars, 17.2% in U.S. Dollars and 6.8% in Japanese Yen respectively. All borrowings were based on floating rate. Interest rate charged on total borrowings during the six months accounted within a range of 4.7% p.a. to 6.0% p.a. on a monthly average basis. Interest expense for the first six months ended 30th June, 2001 was HK\$3.4 million, representing a decrease of 47.8% as compared with HK\$6.6 million for the first six months ended 30th June, 2000.

During the first six months ended 30th June, 2001, transactions made by the Group were conducted in Hong Kong Dollars, United Stated Dollars, Japanese Yen, Euro, British Sterling, Reminbi, Singapore Dollars and New Taiwanese Dollars. The Group used forward exchange contracts to hedge its foreign currency exposure in trading activities when considered appropriate. Total outstanding forward exchange contracts as at 30th June, 2001 which would expire within 3 months amounted to US\$300,000.

Short-term borrowings denominated in foreign currencies other than United States Dollars were used to finance assets purchased in the same currencies.

PROSPECTS

We believe that the global economic slowdown will persist in the near future and overall trading business will continuously to be adversely affected. The Group will focus on stringent cost control to consolidate our established market position. With the assistance of further lowering in interest rates, we have confidence to combat such tough environment in the coming future. Our property investment business is expected to be relatively stable in the coming months while management's attitude towards securities investment remains conservative. We consider that the best strategy for the Group is to stay financially sound and remain focus on our core business.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

Interim dividend of 1.0 cent per share (2000: 2.0 cents per share) has been declared payable on or before 28h September, 2001 to shareholders whose names appear on the register of members of the Company on 26th September, 2001. The register of members of the Company will be closed from 21st September, 2001 to 26th September, 2001, both days inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares will be effected. In order to qualify for the interim dividend, all transfer accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company share register, Standard Registrars Limited, *5/F.*, Wing On Centre, 111 Connaught Road Central, Hong Kong not later than 4:00 p.m. on 20th September, 2001.

PURCHASE, SALE AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES

There was no purchase, sale or redemption of the Company's listed securities by the Company or any of its subsidiaries during the six months to 30th June, 2001.

DIRECTORS' INTEREST IN SHARES

As at 30th June, 2001, the interests of the directors and their associates in the shares of the Company as recorded in the register maintained by the Company pursuant to Section 29 of the Securities (Disclosure of Interests) Ordinance (the "SDI Ordinance") were as follows:

Name of director	Personal interest	Number of shares held Corporate interest	Other interest
Leung Shu Wing	184,691,075	_	_
Yuen Tin Fan, Francis	_	26,984,000 (Note 1)	74,760,000 (Note 2)
Leung Miu King	20,434,000	—	_
Kwan Hing Hin, Stephen	5,000,000	—	_
Wong Chi Kin	767,000	—	_
Wong Choi Ying	9,500	_	_

Notes:

- 1. 26,984,000 shares in the Company are owned by Tien Fung Hong Group Limited, a company which is 60% owned by Mr. Yuen Tin Fan, Francis.
- 2. 74,760,000 shares in the Company are registered in the name of Snowdon International Limited, a company which is beneficially owned as to 100% by the trustees of the T F Yuen Trust, a discretionary trust of which Mr. Yuen Tin Fan, Francis is one of the beneficiary objects.

The personal beneficial interests of the directors in the non-voting preferred shares of the Company's subsidiaries as at 30th June, 2001 were as follows:

Name of subsidiary	Name of director	Number of non-voting preferred shares
Kee Shing Hardware Supplies Limited	Wong Chi Kin	400,000
Kee Shing Industrial Products Limited	Leung Shu Wing Kwan Hin Hing, Stephen	7,000 2,000
Sam Wing International Limited	Leung Shu Wing	19,440

Save as disclosed above, at 30th June, 2001, none of the directors or their associates had any interests in the securities of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or associated corporation as defined in the SDI Ordinance.

SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS

As at 30th June, 2001, the register of substantial shareholders maintained under Section 16 (1) of the SDI Ordinance showed that, other than the interests disclosed above in respect of the directors, the Company was not notified of any interests representing 10% or more of the Company's issued share capital.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF BEST PRACTICE

None of the directors is aware of any information that would reasonably indicate that the Company is not or was not for any part of the six months ended 30th June, 2001, in compliance with the Code of Best Practice set out in Appendix 14 of the Rules Governing the listing of Securities issued by The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited.

By Order of the Board Leung Shu Wing Chairman

Hong Kong, 31st August, 2001

INDEPENDENT REVIEW REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF KEE SHING (HOLDINGS) LIMITED (incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

Introduction

We have been instructed by the Company to review the interim financial report set out on pages 1 to 11.

Directors' responsibilities

The Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Listing Rules") require the preparation of an interim financial report to be in compliance with Statement of Standard Accounting Practice ("SSAP") 25 "Interim financial reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants and the relevant provisions thereof. However, the Listing Rules permit departure from SSAP 25 in that comparative figures are not required either for the condensed consolidated statement of recognized gains and losses or for the first condensed consolidated cash flow statement to be included in the interim financial report relating to accounting periods ended on or after 1st July, 2000. The interim financial report is the responsibility of, and has been approved by, the directors.

Review work performed

We conducted our review in accordance with Statement of Auditing Standards ("SAS") 700 "Engagement to review interim financial reports" issued by the Hong Kong Society of Accountants. A review consists principally of making enquiries of group management and applying analytical procedures to the interim financial report and based thereon, assessing whether the accounting policies and presentation have been consistently applied unless otherwise disclosed. A review excludes audit procedures such as tests of controls and verification of assets, liabilities and transactions. It is substantially less in scope than an audit and therefore provides a lower level of assurance than an audit. Accordingly we do not express an audit opinion on the interim financial report.

Review conclusion

On the basis of our review which does not constitute an audit, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the interim financial report for the six months ended 30th June, 2001.

Without modifying our review conclusion, we draw to your attention that the comparative condensed consolidated income statement for the six months ended 30th June, 2000 disclosed in the interim financial report has not been reviewed in accordance with SAS 700.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Certified Public Accountants 31st August, 2001