

sincere先施

The Sincere Company, Limited

Stock code: 244

**2023** Annual Report



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# CORPORATE INFORMATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Directors

Dr. LIN Xiaohui (*Chairman*)  
Madam SU Jiaohua (*CEO*)  
Dr. YU Lai

### Non-executive Director

Dr. TAI Tak Fung

### Independent Non-executive Directors

Mr. YU Leung Fai  
Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)  
Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon  
Mr. LIN Lin (appointed on 7 September 2023)

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. YU Leung Fai (*Chairman*)  
Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)  
Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon  
Mr. LIN Lin (appointed on 7 September 2023)

## REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Mr. LIN Lin (*Chairman*) (appointed on 7 September 2023)  
Mr. YU Leung Fai  
Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon  
Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)

## NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon (*Chairman*)  
Mr. YU Leung Fai  
Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)  
Mr. LIN Lin (appointed on 7 September 2023)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. LIN Xiaohui (*Chairman*)  
Madam SU Jiaohua  
Dr. YU Lai

## COMPANY SECRETARY

Mr. IP Ho Wing

## LEGAL ADVISORS

Michael Li & Co.  
Debevoise & Plimpton  
Holman Fenwick Willan

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

Grant Thornton Hong Kong Limited  
11th Floor, Lee Garden Two  
28 Yun Ping Road  
Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

## PRINCIPAL BANKERS

DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited  
Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

## SHARE REGISTRAR & TRANSFER OFFICE

Tricor Tengis Limited  
17/F, Far East Finance Centre,  
16 Harcourt Road,  
Hong Kong

## REGISTERED OFFICE

24/F, Jardine House,  
1 Connaught Place, Central,  
Hong Kong

## STOCK CODE

244

## WEBSITE

[www.sincere.com.hk](http://www.sincere.com.hk)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1900, The Sincere Company, Limited (“Sincere” or the “Company”, together with its subsidiaries, the “Group”) is one of the Hong Kong’s oldest and most respected retail groups.

At the core of Sincere’s success is its unwavering dedication to quality service and customer satisfaction. Through its chain of department stores, the Company strives to provide consumers with a competitive range of merchandise at affordable prices.

Sincere’s on-going commitment to prudent expansion demonstrates the Company’s determination to sustain its position as a leading retailer in the next century and beyond.

# CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

On behalf of the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Company, I would like to present shareholders with the Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (the "FY2023").

## RESULTS

The principal activities of the Group during FY2023 are the operation of department stores, securities trading and the provision of general and life insurances.

### Overall Financial Review

The consolidated revenue of the Group for FY2023 was approximately HK\$146.1 million, decreased by approximately HK\$0.4 million or 0.3% as compared to the year ended 31 December 2022 ("FY2022"). The net loss of the Group for FY2023 was approximately HK\$51.6 million, decreased by approximately HK\$12.4 million or 19.3% as compared to FY2022. The reduction in loss was mainly attributable to (i) increase gross profit of approximately HK\$2.0 million resulting from the improvement in gross profit margin from 55.9% to 57.4%; (ii) decrease in depreciation of right-of-use assets of approximately HK\$11.9 million as one of our stores closed in late 2022 and due to the rent concession obtained for the department store operation; (iii) decrease in consultancy fee of approximately HK\$3.6 million; (iv) the unrealized gain on securities trading of approximately HK\$0.2 million comparing to the unrealized loss on securities trading of HK\$1.3 million; and (v) the increase in imputed interest income on gift receivables from Win Dynamic of approximately HK\$1.5 million. The reduction in loss was partially offset by the accrued settlement demands in relation to the claim from the former director of approximately HK\$10.3 million.

### Revenue

During FY2023, the revenue of the Group was approximately HK\$146.1 million, decreased by approximately HK\$0.4 million or 0.3% as compared to approximately HK\$146.5 million in FY2022. The revenue was mainly contributed from the operation of department store of approximately HK\$146.0 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$146.2 million), representing approximately 99.9% (FY2022: approximately 99.8%) of the total revenue of the Group.

### Other income and gains, net

During FY2023, other income and gains, net was approximately HK\$18.7 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$18.8 million), which was mainly attributable to (i) the imputed interest income on gift receivable from Win Dynamic of approximately HK\$17.6 million (FY2022: HK\$16.1 million); and (ii) the dividend income of approximately HK\$0.5 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$0.9 million).

# CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

## **Selling and distribution expenses**

During FY2023, the selling and distribution expenses was approximately HK\$69.1 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$81.6 million), which was mainly attributable to (i) the depreciation of right-of-use assets of approximately HK\$33.5 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$45.4 million); and (ii) the employee benefit expenses of approximately HK\$17.9 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$18.2 million, net of government grants of approximately HK\$2.8 million). The decrease in selling and distribution expenses of approximately HK\$12.5 million was mainly arising from the decrease in depreciation of right-of-use assets of approximately HK\$11.9 million as one of our stores closed in late 2022 and due to the rent concession obtained for the department store operation.

## **General and administrative expenses**

During FY2023, the general and administrative expenses was approximately HK\$48.2 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$54.0 million), which was mainly attributable to the employee benefit expenses of approximately HK\$19.8 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$20.1 million, net of government grants of approximately HK\$0.9 million). The decrease in general and administrative expenses of approximately HK\$5.8 million was mainly arising from the decrease in consultancy fee of approximately HK\$3.6 million.

## **Non-operating expenses**

During FY2023, non-operating expenses of approximately HK\$10.3 million (FY2022: Nil) represented the accrued settlement demands in relation to the claim from the former director. For details, please refer to note 36, Event After Reporting Period.

## **Finance costs**

During FY2023, finance costs was approximately HK\$26.9 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$27.8 million), which was mainly attributable to (i) interest on bank borrowings of approximately HK\$5.2 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$4.4 million); (ii) the interest on lease liabilities of approximately HK\$2.0 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$5.4 million); and (iii) the interest on loan from the immediate holding company and a related company of approximately HK\$19.6 million (FY2022: the interest on loan from a fellow subsidiary, the immediate holding company and a related company of approximately HK\$17.9 million).

## **Loss attributable to equity holders of the Company**

During FY2023, the loss attributable to equity holders of the Company was approximately HK\$50.5 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$60.8 million), representing a decrease of approximately HK\$10.3 million or 16.9%.

# CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

## BUSINESS REVIEW

### DEPARTMENT STORE OPERATION

During FY2023, due to the gradual recovery of economic activities in Hong Kong and the reopening of border with Mainland China, the Group could maintain its revenue at approximately HK\$146.0 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$146.2 million) after one of our stores closed in late 2022. The improvement in revenue of the remaining stores covered the loss of revenue from the closed store. However, the increased trend of online shopping behavior of the customers in retail sector limited the effect of recovery and hence hinder the performance of our department store operation.

In view of improving our performance, the Group continued to (i) adopt pro-active measures to reduce operating costs; (ii) negotiate with the landlords for rental concession; (iii) reassess the profitability of stores and the products portfolios. Hence, the overall segment loss was approximately HK\$25.9 million during FY2023 (FY2022: approximately HK\$36.9 million).

To maintain a healthy inventory level, the clearance of out-of-season inventories continued to be our major goal during FY2023. As a result, reversal of provision for inventories of approximately HK\$1.4 million was recognised during FY2023 (FY2022: approximately HK\$2.3 million).

### SECURITIES TRADING OPERATION

The Group recorded net realised loss on securities trading of approximately HK\$0.1 million for FY2023 (FY2022: net realized loss of approximately HK\$0.1 million). Dividend income was approximately HK\$0.5 million for FY2023 (FY2022: approximately HK\$0.9 million). Hence, a segment loss of approximately HK\$3.1 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$2.6 million) was resulted for FY2023. The Group holds these investments for trading. The Group would review and refine its investment portfolio regularly based on market conditions and its capital needs.

## PROSPECTS

Looking ahead, the Group anticipates that the retail sector in Hong Kong will continue to be challenging amidst the increased trend of online shopping behavior of customers in retail sector. Meanwhile, the Group will keep on monitoring and adjusting nimbly the Group's operating strategies of the department store operation to cater the challenging operating environment.

With the support of Realord, the Board is optimistic about the prospects of the Group.

# CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

## LIQUIDITY AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

As at 31 December 2023, the Group had cash and bank balances, pledged bank balances and deposits of approximately HK\$104.0 million (31 December 2022: approximately HK\$182.5 million), of which approximately HK\$11.3 million (31 December 2022: approximately HK\$84.3 million) were pledged. As at 31 December 2023, the Group's gearing ratio, being the bank borrowings, other loans, lease liabilities, loans from the immediate holding company and a related company to net assets of approximately 304% (31 December 2022: approximately 255%).

The interest expense charged to the consolidated income statement for FY2023 was approximately HK\$26.9 million (FY2022: approximately HK\$27.8 million). The interest-bearing bank borrowings of the Group as of 31 December 2023 were approximately HK\$84.3 million (31 December 2022: approximately HK\$141.0 million), which were repayable within one year or on demand. The bank borrowings were in Hong Kong dollars, with interest rates of HIBOR plus 1.5% per annum. All bank borrowings were secured against a property and bank deposits. The current ratio was approximately 0.69 (31 December 2022: approximately 0.51).

As at 31 December 2023, the Group has utilised loan from immediate holding company and loan from a related company of HK\$71,900,000 and HK\$211,000,000, respectively.

As at 31 December 2023, the Group had net current liabilities of approximately HK\$79,731,000 (31 December 2022: approximately HK\$240,297,000) and an equity attributable to the equity holders of the Company of approximately HK\$81,125,000 (31 December 2022: approximately HK\$127,709,000). The Group's cash and bank balances amounted to approximately HK\$92,694,000 (31 December 2022: approximately HK\$98,188,000) as at 31 December 2023.

Management closely monitors the Group's financial performance and liquidity position to assess the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. In view of these circumstances, the management has been continuously implementing measures to improve profitability, control operating costs and reduce capital expenditures in order to improve the Group's operating performance and alleviate its liquidity risk. These measures include (i) continuously remapping its marketing strategies and pricing policies, (ii) continuing its measures to control capital and operating expenditures, (iii) negotiating with its landlords for rental reductions, and (iv) identifying the opportunity in realisation of certain assets of the Group. Management believes that these measures will further improve the Group's operating profitability and the resulting cash flows.

The Group's products are partly imported from Europe and settled by Euro. Although the Group currently does not have a foreign currency hedging policy, the management will continue to monitor the foreign exchange exposure closely and will consider hedging if there is significant foreign currency exposure.

# CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

## LITIGATIONS

Save as disclosed in notes 35 to the financial statements, the Group do not have other material litigations.

## EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION POLICIES

As at 31 December 2023, the Group had 178 employees (31 December 2022: 161), including part-time staff. The Group operates various remuneration schemes for sales and non-sales employees to motivate front-line and back-office staff towards achieving higher sales and operating efficiencies. Apart from basic salary and discretionary bonuses based on individual merit, sales personnel are further remunerated on the basis of goal-oriented packages, comprising several sales commission schemes. The Group also provides employee benefits such as defined benefit pension scheme, mandatory provident fund scheme, staff purchase discounts, subsidised medical care and training courses.

## DIVIDENDS

The Board does not recommend the payment of any dividend in respect of FY2023.

## APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Board, I wish to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to our shareholders, customers, business partners and suppliers for their continued support, and for their confidence in the Group. I would also like to express our sincere thanks to the management and the staff for their commitment and contribution to the Group throughout the year.

**Lin Xiaohui**  
*Chairman*

25 March 2024

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Board has committed to maintaining good corporate governance standards.

The Company's corporate governance practices are based on the principles as set out in the Corporate Governance Code (the "CG Code") contained in Appendix C1 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") (collectively the "Listing Rules").

During FY2023, the Company has complied with the Code Provisions set out in the CG Code, save and except for code provision C.1.6 which deviation is explained in the relevant paragraph of this corporate governance report.

## CORPORATE CULTURE AND STRATEGY

The Group keeps pace with the times and firmly believes that mission, vision, strategy, purpose, and core values are important cornerstones for promoting a good corporate culture. Core values are the most important component of corporate culture and reflect the behavior and social attitudes that the management and all employees uphold and expect.

The Group has four main missions:

- (i) To gather talented people and work together towards success;
- (ii) To uphold excellent and professional corporate management, enhancing shareholder value;
- (iii) To empower employees and grow together; and
- (iv) To adhere to a transparent, responsible, honest, and open corporate culture.

Over the years, the Group has upheld the corporate mindset of "innovation development and pursuit of excellence", continuously improving the quality, efficiency, and competitiveness of its products and services, and dedicating to creating a win-win situation with customers, business partners, and shareholders, to build a harmonious and better society, and practicing the corporate spirit of "The way of Realord & being Sincere".

The Group's business development and management strategy are consistent with its vision, focusing on investments with stable recurring income to achieve a long-term, stable, and sustainable growth, while appropriately considering the environmental, social, and governance ("ESG") aspects, to bring the greatest long-term return to shareholders.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

## MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS BY DIRECTORS

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the “Model Code”) as set out in Appendix C3 to the Listing Rules as the code governing the transactions of securities by the directors. After specific enquiry to all directors of the Company (the “Directors”), it is confirmed that all Directors had complied with the relevant standard as provided in the Model Code throughout FY2023.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As at the date of this annual report, the Board currently comprises seven members, consisting of three executive Directors, a non-executive Director and three independent non-executive Directors. The biographical information of the Directors are set out in the section headed “Biographies of Directors and Senior Executives” on pages 31 to 35 of this annual report.

Dr. Lin Xiaohui and Madam Su Jiaohua are spouse. To the best knowledge of the Company, save as disclosed above and in the Directors’ and Chief Executive’s Interests in Shares as set out on pages 27 to 29, there is no financial, business and family relationship among members of the Board. All of them are free to exercise their independent judgement.

The Board held four Board meetings and one general meeting during FY2023. The following table shows the attendance of Directors at meetings during FY2023:

Directors	General Meetings attended/held	Board Meetings attended/held
<i>Executive Directors</i>		
Dr. LIN Xiaohui ( <i>Chairman</i> )	1/1	4/4
Madam SU Jiaohua ( <i>CEO</i> )	1/1	4/4
Dr. YU Lai	1/1	4/4
<i>Non-Executive Director</i>		
Dr. TAI Tak Fung	1/1	4/4
<i>Independent Non-Executive Directors</i>		
Mr. YU Leung Fai	0/1	4/4
Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)	1/1	1/1
Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon	1/1	4/4
Mr. LIN Lin (appointed on 7 September 2023)	0/0	1/1

+ Code provision C.1.6 of the CG Code that independent non-executive directors and other non-executive directors should also attend general meetings to obtain better understanding of the view of the shareholders of the Company. Mr. Yu Leung Fai being the independent non-executive director of the Company did not attend the general meeting of the Company due to business arrangement.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

## **Independent Non-Executive Directors**

The Company has complied with Rules 3.10(1), 3.10(2) and 3.10A of the Listing Rules for the appointment of at least three independent non-executive Directors representing at least one-third of the Board with one of whom possessing appropriate professional qualifications or accounting or related financial management expertise.

The Company has received, from each of the independent non-executive Directors, an annual confirmation of his independence pursuant to Rule 3.13 of the Listing Rules. The Company considers all of the independent non-executive Directors are independent during FY2023.

## **Non-Compliance with the Listing Rules**

Following the retirement of Mr. Yuan Baoyu and his cessation of being an independent non-executive Director, the chairman of the remuneration committee of the Company and a member of each of the audit committee and nomination committee of the Company on 8 June 2023, the Company had (1) two independent non-executive Directors, which was below the minimum requirement under Rule 3.10(1) of the Listing Rules and the one-third threshold under Rule 3.10A of the Listing Rules; (2) two remuneration committee members whereas the position of the chairman was vacant, which did not comply with the requirement under Rule 3.25 of the Listing Rules; and (3) two audit committee members, which was below the minimum requirement under Rule 3.21 of the Listing Rules. Following the appointment of Mr. Lin Lin on 7 September 2023, the Company had complied with the requirements under Rules 3.10(1), 3.10(A), 3.25 and 3.21 of the Listing Rules.

## **Board Independence**

Independent non-executive Directors represent more than one-third of the Board, which facilitates in bringing to the Board independent advice and judgement. Apart from complying with the requirements prescribed by the Listing Rules as to the composition of certain Board committees, the independent non-executive directors are appointed to all Board committees as far as possible to ensure independent views and inputs are available.

The Nomination Committee will assess the independence of a candidate who is nominated to be a new independent non-executive Directors before appointment and the continued independence of the current long-serving independent non-executive Directors on an annual basis.

The Board reviews these mechanisms on an annual basis for ensuring independent views and input are available to the Board, whether in terms of proportion, recruitment and independence of independent non-executive Directors, their contribution and access to external independent professional advice, and the findings of Board evaluation exercise.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

## **Responsibilities, Accountabilities and Contributions of the Board and Management**

The Board is responsible to ensure the Company achieves its objectives, approve the business strategic plans and review management performance.

All Directors, including non-executive Directors and independent non-executive Directors, have brought a wide spectrum of valuable business experience, knowledge and professionalism to the Board for its efficient and effective functioning.

All Directors have full and timely access to all the information of the Company as well as the services and advice from the company secretary and senior management. The Directors may, upon request, seek independent professional advice in appropriate circumstances, at the Company's expenses for discharging their duties to the Company.

The Directors shall disclose to the Company details of other offices held by them and the Board regularly reviews the contribution required from each director of the Company to perform his responsibilities to the Company.

The Board reserves for its decision on all major matters relating to policy matters, strategies and budgets, internal control and risk management, material transactions (in particular those that may involve conflict of interests), financial information, appointment of Directors and other significant operational matters of the Company. Responsibilities relating to implementing decisions of the Board, directing and co-ordinating the daily operation and management of the Company are delegated to the management.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

## Continuous Professional Development of Directors

Directors keep abreast of responsibilities as a Director of the Company and of the conduct, business activities and development of the Company.

Every newly appointed Director of the Company will receive formal, comprehensive and tailored-made induction on the first occasion of his/her appointment to ensure appropriate understanding of the business and operations of the Company and full awareness of director's responsibilities and obligations under the Listing Rules and relevant statutory requirements.

Directors should participate in appropriate continuous professional development to develop and refresh their knowledge and skills to ensure that their contribution to the Board remains informed and relevant.

During FY2023, relevant reading materials including regulatory update and seminar handouts have been provided to the Directors for their reference and studying.

A summary of training received by the Directors according to the records provided by the Directors during FY2023 is as follows:

Director	Training on corporate governance, regulatory development and other relevant topics
<i>Executive Directors</i>	
Dr. LIN Xiaohui ( <i>Chairman</i> )	✓
Madam SU Jiaohua ( <i>CEO</i> )	✓
Dr. YU Lai	✓
<i>Non-Executive Director</i>	
Dr. TAI Tak Fung	✓
<i>Independent Non-Executive Directors</i>	
Mr. YU Leung Fai	✓
Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)	✓
Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon	✓
Mr. LIN Lin (appointed on 7 September 2023)	✓

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

## BOARD COMMITTEES

During FY2023, the Board has established four committees, namely, the Audit Committee, Remuneration Committee, Nomination Committee and Executive Committee to oversee particular aspects of the Company's affairs and to assist in the execution of the Board's responsibilities. All Board committees of the Company are established with defined written terms of reference. The terms of reference of the Board committees are posted on the Company's website and the Stock Exchange's website and are available to shareholders upon request.

### Audit Committee

The Audit Committee consists of Mr. Yu Leung Fai, Mr. Chung Chun Hung Simon and Mr. Lin Lin, independent non-executive Directors. Mr. Yu Leung Fai is the chairman of the Audit Committee.

The main duties of the Audit Committee are to assist the Board in reviewing the financial information and reporting process, internal control procedures and risk management system and relationship with external auditors, and internal control or other matters of the Company.

During FY2023, the Audit Committee held two meetings to review and discuss significant issues on the financial reporting and compliance procedures, internal control and risk management systems, scope of work and appointment of external auditor, and the attendance record, on a named basis, is set out below:

<b>Audit Committee Members</b>	<b>Meetings attended/held</b>
Mr. YU Leung Fai	2/2
Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)	1/1
Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon	2/2
Mr. LIN Lin (appointed on 7 September 2023)	0/0

The Group's audited financial statements for FY2023 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee also met with the external auditor twice during FY2023.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

## Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee consists of Mr. Lin Lin, Mr. Yu Leung Fai and Mr. Chung Chun Hung Simon, independent non-executive Directors. Mr. Lin Lin is the chairman of the Remuneration Committee.

The primary functions of the Remuneration Committee include determining the remuneration packages of individual executive Director, making recommendation to the Board the remuneration policy and structure for all Directors; and establishing transparent procedures for developing such remuneration policy and structure to ensure that no Director or any of his associates will participate in deciding his own remuneration.

During FY2023, the Remuneration Committee held two meetings to review and make recommendation to the Board on the remuneration policy and structure of the Company, and the remuneration packages of the executive Directors and other related matters, and the attendance record, on a named basis, is set out below:

<b>Remuneration Committee Members</b>	<b>Meetings attended/held</b>
Mr. LIN Lin (appointed on 7 September 2023)	0/0
Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)	1/1
Mr. YU Leung Fai	2/2
Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon	2/2

Pursuant to code provision E.1.5 of the CG Code, details of the annual remuneration of the member of the senior management by band for FY2023 is as follows:

	<b>Number of employee(s)</b>
Nil to HK\$1,500,000	5

Details of the remuneration of each Director for FY2023 are set out in note 11 to the financial statements.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

## Nomination Committee

The Nomination Committee consists of Mr. Chung Chun Hung Simon, Mr. Yu Leung Fai and Mr. Lin Lin, independent non-executive Directors. Mr. Chung Chun Hung Simon is the chairman of the Nomination Committee.

The principal duties of the Nomination Committee include reviewing the Board composition, developing and formulating relevant procedures for the nomination and appointment of Directors, making recommendations to the Board on the appointment and succession planning of Directors, and assessing the independence of independent non-executive Directors.

The nomination policy of the Company specifies the selection criteria of Directors including but not limited to the following:

- Character and integrity;
- Qualifications including professional qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience that are relevant to the Company's business and corporate strategy;
- Diversity in all aspects, including but not limited to gender, age (18 years or above) cultural and educational background, ethnicity, professional experience, skills, knowledge and length of service;
- Requirements of independent non-executive directors on the Board and independence of the proposed independent non-executive directors in accordance with the Listing Rules; and
- Commitment in respect of available time and relevant interest to discharge duties as a member of the Board and/or Board committee(s) of the Company.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

During FY2023, the Nomination Committee held two meetings to review the structure, size and composition of the Board and the independence of the independent non-executive Directors, and to consider the qualifications of the retiring Directors standing for re-election at the Annual General Meeting, and the attendance record, on a named basis, is set out below:

<b>Nomination Committee Members</b>	<b>Meetings attended/held</b>
Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon	2/2
Mr. YU Leung Fai	2/2
Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)	1/1
Mr. LIN Lin (appointed on 7 September 2023)	0/0

## **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee consists of Dr. Lin Xiaohui, Madam Su Jiaohua and Dr. Yu Lai, executive Directors. Dr. Lin Xiaohui is the chairman of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee has been established to assist the Board in facilitating more efficient day-to-day operations of the Group and is delegated by the Board with the powers to oversee the management of the business and affairs of the Company.

During FY2023, the Executive Committee held twelve meetings to review and oversee the operations as well as the implementation and realisation of the strategic objectives. The attendance record, on a named basis, is set out below:

<b>Executive Committee Members</b>	<b>Meetings attended/held</b>
Dr. LIN Xiaohui	12/12
Madam SU Jiaohua	12/12
Dr. YU Lai	12/12

## **Board Diversity Policy**

The Company recognizes and embraces the benefits of having a diverse Board to enhance the quality of its performance. In this connection, the Company has adopted a board diversity policy which sets out the approach to achieve diversity on the Board (the "Board Diversity Policy"). The Board will review the implementation and effectiveness of the Board Diversity Policy annually.

In designing the Board Diversity Policy, the Company has considered from a number of aspects, including but not limited to gender, age, cultural and educational background, ethnicity, professional experience, skills, knowledge and length of service. All Board appointments will be based on meritocracy, and candidates will be considered against objective criteria, having due regard for the benefits of diversity on the Board.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Company currently has one female Director, and the Board had targeted to achieve and had achieved at least maintain female representation on the Board and take opportunities to increase the proportion of female members over time as and when suitable candidates are identified. As at 31 December 2023, as set out in the section headed “Employment Practices and Equal Opportunity” in the ESG Report as contained in this annual report, among the 178 employees (including senior management) of the Group, the percentages of male employees and female employees are 30.9% and 69.1%, respectively. The Board considers that the Group’s workforce (including senior management) are diverse in terms of gender.

### Corporate Governance Functions

The Board is responsible for performing the functions set out in the code provision A.2.1 of the CG Code.

The Board reviewed the Company’s corporate governance policies and practices, training and continuous professional development of Directors and senior management, the Company’s policies and practices on compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, the compliance of the Model Code and the Company’s compliance with the CG Code and disclosure in this corporate governance report.

### DIRECTORS’ RESPONSIBILITY IN RESPECT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements of the Group and ensure that the financial statements are in accordance with statutory requirements and applicable accounting standards. The Directors also ensure the timely publication of the financial statements of the Group.

The Directors have reviewed the Group’s cash flow projections prepared by the management. The cash flow projections cover a period of not less than twelve months from 31 December 2023. Management’s projections make key assumptions with regard to the anticipated cash flows from the Group’s operations, capital expenditures and the continuous availability of bank and other borrowings facilities. The Group’s ability to achieve the projected cash flows depends on management’s ability to successfully implement the aforementioned improvement measures on profitability and liquidity and the continuous availability of bank and other borrowings facilities.

The Directors, after making due enquiries and considering the basis of management’s projections described above and after taking into account (i) the reasonably possible changes in the operational performance, (ii) the continuous availability of the bank and other borrowings facilities and (iii) the financial support from Realord Group Holdings Limited, believe that the Group will have sufficient financial resources to operate as a going concern.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

The statement of the independent auditor of the Company about their reporting responsibilities on the financial statements is set out in the independent auditor's report on pages 59 to 64.

## AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

During FY2023, the fees payable to the Company's external auditor for audit services totalled to approximately HK\$1,725,000 (FY2022: HK\$1,700,000). The external auditor and its affiliate has also provided the Group with non-audit services, including the provision of tax services and agreed-upon procedures, at fees amounted to approximately HK\$382,800 (FY2022: HK\$254,100).

## DIVIDEND POLICY

The Board has the discretion to declare and distribute dividends to the shareholders of the Company, subject to the articles of association of the Company and all applicable laws and regulations. In recommending or declaring dividends, the Company shall maintain adequate cash reserves for meeting its working capital requirements and future growth as well as its shareholder value. The Company has no fixed dividend pay-out ratio. The Board considers that, in general, the amount of dividends to be declared will depend on the Group's financial results, cash position, capital requirements, business conditions and strategies, and other factors as may be considered relevant at such time by the Board.

## ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY AND WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

The Group has established (i) policy and measures that promote and support anti-corruption laws and regulations; and (ii) whistleblowing policy and measures for employees, suppliers and business partners to raise concerns, in confidence and anonymity, about possible improprieties in any matter related to the Group. For further details of the Group's anti-corruption and whistleblowing policy and/or measures, please refer to the section headed "B7. Anti-corruption" of the "ESG Report" contained in this annual report.

## RISK MANAGEMENT AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Board acknowledges that it is its duty to monitor the risk management and internal control systems (including ESG risks) of the Group on an ongoing basis and review their effectiveness. Such systems are designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

During FY2023, the Board conducted an annual review of the risk management and internal control systems of the Group, covering all material controls, including financial, operational and compliance controls, with a view to ensuring that resources, staff qualifications and experience, training programmes and budget of the Group's accounting, internal audit and financial reporting functions are adequate. In this respect, the Audit Committee communicates any material issues to the Board.

During FY2023, the Group engaged an independent professional consultancy firm for performing independent review of the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control and risk management. The consultancy firm identified and assessed the risks of the Group through a series of interviews; and independently performed internal control review and assessed effectiveness of the Group's risk management and internal control systems. The review results has been properly reported to the Audit Committee.

Based on the internal control review and risk assessment conducted during FY2023, no significant control deficiency was identified.

The Group maintains a risk register to keep track of all identified major risks of the Group. The risk register provides the Board, the Audit Committee and management with a profile of its major risks and records management's action taken to mitigate the relevant risks. Each risk is evaluated at least annually based on its likelihood of occurrence and potential impact upon the Group.

The Company will continue to engage external independent professionals to review the Group's system of internal controls and risk management annually and further enhance the Group's internal control and risk management systems as appropriate.

There is currently no internal audit function within the Group. The Directors have reviewed the need for an internal audit function and are of the view that in light of the size, nature and complexity of the business of the Group, it would be more cost effective to appoint external independent professionals to perform internal audit function for the Group in order to meet its needs. Nevertheless, the Directors will continue to review at least annually the need for an internal audit function.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

## SHAREHOLDERS' RIGHTS

To safeguard shareholder interests and rights, a separate resolution is proposed for each substantially separate issue at shareholder meetings, including the election of individual directors. All resolutions put forward at shareholder meetings will be voted on by poll pursuant to the Listing Rules and poll results will be posted on the websites of the Company and of the Stock Exchange after each shareholder meeting.

### Convening a General Meeting by Shareholders

General meetings may be convened by the Board on requisition of shareholder(s) holding not less than one-twentieth of the paid-up capital of the Company or by such shareholder(s) who made the requisition (the "Requisitionist(s)") (as the case may be) pursuant to the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (the "Companies Ordinance"). The objects of the meeting must be stated in the requisition which must be signed by the Requisitionist(s) and deposited at the registered office of the Company. Shareholders should follow the requirements and procedures as set out in Companies Ordinance for convening a general meeting.

### Putting Forward Proposals at General Meetings

Pursuant to the Companies Ordinance, shareholders representing not less than one-fortieth of the total voting rights of all shareholders; or not less than 50 shareholders holding shares in the Company may make requisition in writing for proposing resolution or business to be dealt with at the next general meeting. Shareholders should follow the requirements and procedures as set out in the Companies Ordinance for putting forward a proposal at a general meeting.

### Putting Forward Enquiries to the Board

For putting forward any enquiries to the Board of the Company, shareholders may send written enquiries to the Company.

*Note:* The Company will not normally deal with verbal or anonymous enquiries.

### Contact Details

Shareholders may send their enquiries or requests as mentioned above to the following address:

24/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Hong Kong  
(For the attention of the Company Secretary)

For the avoidance of doubt, shareholder(s) must deposit and send the original duly signed written requisition, notice or statement, or enquiry (as the case may be) to the above address and provide their full name, contact details and identification in order to give effect thereto. Shareholders' information may be disclosed as required by law.

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REPORT

## COMMUNICATION WITH SHAREHOLDERS

The Company endeavors to develop and maintain continuing relationships and effective communications with its shareholders and investors. To facilitate and enhance the relationships and communication, the Company has maintained a policy for an effective channel of communication with the shareholder (the “Shareholder Communication Policy”) and established, including but not limited to, the following various channels:

1. annual general meeting provides a forum for shareholders of the Company to raise comments and exchange views with the Board. The Chairman and the directors are available at annual general meetings to address shareholders’ queries;
2. separate resolutions are proposed at general meetings on each substantially separate issue to facilitate the enforcement of shareholders’ rights. Pursuant to rule 13.39(4) of the Listing Rules, any vote of shareholders at a general meeting must be taken by poll. As such, all resolutions set out in the notice of the annual general meeting of the Company will be voted by poll;
3. interim and annual results are announced as early as possible so that the shareholders are kept informed of the Group’s performance and operations; and
4. corporate website [www.sincere.com.hk](http://www.sincere.com.hk) contains extensive information and updates on the Company’s business.

The Company reviews the effectiveness of the Shareholder Communication Policy annually.

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

The Directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries (together, the “Group”) for FY2023.

### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the Group have not changed during the financial year and mainly consisted of the operation of department stores, securities trading and the provision of general and life insurances.

### BUSINESS REVIEW

A review of the business of the Group during FY2023 including a discussion of the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Group and an indication of likely future developments in the Group’s business are provided in the “Chairman’s Review of Operation” set out on pages 4 to 8 of this annual report. This discussion forms part of this Report of the Directors.

The financial risk management objectives and policies of the Group are summarised in note 32 to the financial statements.

The key financial and business performance indicators comprised of revenue; finance costs, loss attributable to equity holders and debt to equity ratio. Details of the key performance indicators are provided in the Chairman’s Review of Operations set out on pages 4 to 8 of this annual report.

A discussion of the Group’s environmental policies and community involvement is contained in the Environmental, Social and Governance Report on pages 36 to 58 of this annual report.

Details of the Group’s compliance with laws and regulations and relationship with key stakeholders are discussed below:

#### Compliance with Laws and Regulations

The Group continues to update its compliance and risk management policies and procedures, and the senior management are delegated with continuing responsibility to monitor compliance with all significant legal and regulatory requirements. To the best knowledge of the board of Directors (the “Board”) and management, save as disclosed in the financial statement, the Group has complied in material respects with the relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the business and operation of the Group during FY2023.

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

### Relationships with key stakeholders

The Group's success also depends on the support from key stakeholders which comprise employees, customers and suppliers.

#### *Employees*

Employees are regarded as the most important and valuable assets of the Group. The objective of the Group's human resource management is to reward and recognize well-performing staff by providing a competitive remuneration package and implementing a sound performance appraisal system with appropriate incentives, and to promote career development and progression by appropriate training and providing opportunities within the Group for career advancement.

#### *Customers*

The Group maintains a good relationship with its customers. It is the Group's mission to provide excellent customer service whilst maintaining long term profitability, business and asset growth. Various means have been established to strengthen the communications between the customers and the Group in the provision of excellent customer service. A customer complaint handling mechanism is in place to receive, analysis and study complaints and make recommendations on remedies with the aim of improving service quality.

#### *Suppliers*

Sound relationships with key suppliers of the Group are important in supply chain, meeting business challenges and regulatory requirements, which can derive cost effectiveness and foster long term business benefits. We have developed long-standing relationships with a number of our suppliers and take great care to ensure that they share our commitment to quality and ethics.

## RESULTS

The Group's loss for FY2023 and the Group's financial position as at 31 December 2023 are set out in the audited financial statements on pages 65 to 178.

A summary of the published results and of the assets, liabilities and non-controlling interests of the Group for the last five financial years is set out on pages 179 to 180 of this annual report.

# REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

## DIVIDEND

The Board does not recommend the payment of any dividend in respect of FY2023.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Company (“AGM”) will be held on Thursday, 6 June 2024, and the notice of the AGM will be published and dispatched in the manner as required by the Listing Rules in due course.

## CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS

For determining the entitlement to attend and vote at the AGM to be held on Thursday, 6 June 2024, the register of members of the Company will be closed from Friday, 31 May 2024 to Thursday, 6 June, 2024, both days inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares will be registered. In order to be eligible to attend and vote at the AGM, all transfers accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company’s registrar Tricor Tengis Limited at 17/F, Far East Finance Centre, 16 Harcourt Road, Hong Kong no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, 30 May 2024.

## SHARE CAPITAL AND SHARE OPTIONS

Details of movements in the Company’s share capital during FY2023 are set out in note 25 to the financial statements.

There was no share option scheme effective during FY2023.

## DISTRIBUTABLE RESERVES

As at 31 December 2023, the Company has no distributable reserves, calculated under Part 6 of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 622) (31 December 2022: Nil).

## MAJOR CUSTOMERS AND SUPPLIERS

For FY2023, the Group’s sales to the five largest customers and purchases from the five largest suppliers accounted for less than 30% of the Group’s turnover and purchases, respectively.

## PERMITTED INDEMNITY PROVISION

Pursuant to the Company’s Articles of Association, every director or other officer shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the asset of the Company against all costs, charges, losses, expenses and liabilities (subject to and so far as may be permitted by the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622 of the Laws of Hong Kong)) which he may sustain or incur in or about the execution and discharge of his duties or in relation thereto. The Company has arranged appropriate directors’ and officer’s liability coverage for the directors and officers of the Group.

# REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

## DIRECTORS

The directors who served during FY2023 and up to the date of this annual report were as follows:

### Executive Directors:

Dr. LIN Xiaohui (*Chairman*)

Madam SU Jiaohua (*CEO*)

Dr. YU Lai

### Non-Executive Director:

Dr. TAI Tak Fung

### Independent Non-Executive Directors:

Mr. YU Leung Fai

Mr. YUAN Baoyu (retired on 8 June 2023)

Mr. CHUNG Chun Hung Simon

Mr. LIN Lin (appointed on 7 September 2023)

At the forthcoming AGM, Dr. Tai Tak Fung and Mr. Chung Chun Hung Simon shall retire from office by rotation and, being eligible, offer each of themselves for re-election as non-executive Director and independent non-executive Director, respectively, in accordance with Article 93 of the Articles of Association; while Mr. Lin Lin shall retire from office and, being eligible, offer himself for re-election as independent non-executive Director in accordance with Article 85 of the Articles of Association.

During FY2023, the Company has received, from each of the independent non-executive Directors, an annual confirmation of his independence pursuant to Rule 3.13 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited ("Listing Rules"). The Company considers all of the independent non-executive Directors are independent.

During FY2023, a letter of appointment setting out the terms and conditions of appointment is provided to each Director. None of the Directors has a service contract with the Company which is not determinable by the Company within one year without payment of compensation (other than statutory compensation).

Details of the "Biographies Of The Directors And Senior Executives" are set out on pages 31 to 35 of this annual report.

# REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

## DIRECTORS OF SUBSIDIARIES

During FY2023, Dr. Lin Xiaohui and Madam Su Jiaohua held directorship in some of the Company's subsidiaries. Other directors of the Company's subsidiaries include Mr. Chen Aiguo, and Ms. Cheng Ying.

## SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDERS

As at 31 December 2023, so far as is known to the Directors, the following persons (not being a Director or Chief Executive of the Company) had interests in the shares and underlying shares of the Company as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company pursuant to Section 336 of Securities and Futures Ordinance (the "SFO") were as follow:

### Long position in the shares of the Company

Name	Capacity	Nature of interest	Number of shares	Approximate % of Shares in issue
Manureen Holdings Limited	Interests of controlled corporation	Corporate	985,471,362 (Note)	75.00
Realord Group Holdings Limited ("Realord")	Beneficial owner	Corporate	985,471,362 (Note)	75.00

Note:

There is a duplication of interests of 985,471,362 Shares amongst Manureen Holdings Limited, Realord, Dr. Lin Xiaohui and Madam Su Jiaohua. As at 31 December 2023, Realord was the legal and beneficial owner of 985,471,362 shares of the Company, representing approximately 75.00% of the issued share capital of the Company. Realord is owned as to approximately 62.69% by Manureen Holdings Limited, each of Madam Su Jiaohua and Dr. Lin Xiaohui owns 30% and 70% equity interest in Manureen Holdings Limited, which Dr. Lin Xiaohui is deemed to be interested in 985,471,362 Shares by virtue of interest of controlled corporation and Madam Su Jiaohua is deemed to be interested in the same block of Shares as the Spouse of Dr. Lin Xiaohui.

# REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

## DIRECTORS' AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S INTERESTS IN SHARES

As at 31 December 2023, the interests and short positions of the directors and chief executive of the Company in the shares, underlying shares and debentures and the details of any right to subscribe for shares of the Company or any of its associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) and of the exercise of any such rights, as recorded in the register required to be kept by the Company pursuant to Section 352 of the SFO, or as otherwise notified to the Company and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong (the "Stock Exchange") pursuant to the Mode Code for Securities Transaction by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") in the Listing Rules, were as follows:

### (a) Long position in shares of the Company

Name of Director	Capacity	Personal interests	Corporate interests	S.317 Agreement interests	Total interests	Approximate% of shares in issue
Dr. Lin Xiaohui ("Dr. Lin")	Interest of controlled corporation	Nil	985,471,362 (Note 1)	Nil	985,471,362 (Note 1)	75.00
Madam Su Jiaohua ("Madam Su")	Spousal interest	Nil	985,471,362 (Note 2)	Nil	985,471,362 (Note 2)	75.00

#### Notes:

- (1) As at 31 December 2023, Realord was the legal and beneficial owner of 985,471,362 shares of the Company. Manureen Holdings Limited was the legal and beneficial owner of approximately 62.69% of Realord. Since Dr. Lin owned 70% of the issued share capital of Manureen Holdings Limited, he was deemed to be interested in 985,471,362 shares of the Company.
- (2) Madam Su, the spouse of Dr. Lin, was deemed to be interested in 985,471,362 shares of the Company which Dr. Lin was deemed to be interested under the SFO as at 31 December 2023.

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

### (b) Associated corporations

As at 31 December 2023, none of the directors or chief executive of the Company had any interests or short position in any of the shares, underlying shares or debentures of the Company or any of its associated corporations (within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO) that is required to be recorded and kept in the register in accordance with Section 352 of the SFO or as otherwise notified to the Company and the Stock Exchange pursuant to the Model Code.

At no time during FY2023 was the Company or any of its subsidiaries a party to any arrangements to enable the directors of the Company or their spouses or children under the age of 18 to acquire benefits by means of the acquisition of shares in or debentures of the Company or any other body corporates.

### MATERIAL CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS

For those related party transactions of the Group during FY2023 as disclosed in note 29 to the consolidated financial statements, all were connected or continuing connected transactions (as the case may be) which were fully exempted from the disclosure requirements for reporting, announcement and independent shareholders' approval under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules. The Company confirmed it has complied with the disclosure requirements in accordance with Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

### DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN TRANSACTIONS, ARRANGEMENTS OR CONTRACTS

Save as disclosed in notes 11 and 29 to the financial statements, none of the Directors and their respective connected entities had a material interest, either directly or indirectly, in any transactions, arrangements or contracts of significance to the business of the Group to which the Company or any of its subsidiaries was a party during FY2023.

### PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF THE COMPANY'S LISTED SHARES

There was no purchase, sale or redemption of the Company's listed shares by the Company or any of its subsidiaries during FY2023.

### DIRECTORS' INTERESTS IN A COMPETING BUSINESS

During FY2023, no Director is considered to have an interest in a business which competes or is likely to compete, either directly or indirectly, with the businesses of the Group pursuant to the Listing Rules, other than those businesses to which the Directors were appointed as Directors to represent the interest of the Company and/or the Group.

# REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

## SUFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC FLOAT

Based on information publicly available to the Company and within the knowledge of the directors, the Company had maintained a sufficient public float of not less than 25% of the Company's total issued shares as required under the Listing Rules throughout the year under review.

## DONATIONS

The Group did not make donation during FY2023 (FY2022: HK\$100,000).

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee of the Company comprises three members, namely, Mr. Yu Leung Fai (chairman of the Audit Committee), Mr. Lin Lin and Mr. Chung Chun Hung Simon, independent non-executive Directors of the Company. Regular meetings have been held by the Audit Committee since its establishment and the Audit Committee met two times during FY2023. The primary duties of the Audit Committee are to review the Group's internal control and financial reporting process including interim and annual financial statements before recommending them to the Board for approval. The Group's audited results for FY2023 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee.

## AUDITOR

A resolution for the reappointment of Grant Thornton Hong Kong Limited as auditors of the Company will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

**Lin Xiaohui**

*Chairman*

Hong Kong, 25 March 2024

# BIOGRAPHIES OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

### Dr. Lin Xiaohui (林曉輝博士) (“Dr. Lin”)

Dr. Lin, aged 50, has been appointed as the chairman and an executive director of the Company and the chairman of the Executive Committee. Dr. Lin is also currently the chairman and an executive director of Realord Group Holdings Limited, a company listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange (Stock Code: 1196) (“Realord”), the immediate holding company of the Company. Dr. Lin obtained a Master degree of business administration from the City University (formerly known as the City University College of Science and Technology) in September 2014 and a Honorary Doctorate degree of Business Administration from the SABI University in August 2015.

Since 2005, Dr. Lin has held management positions in a number of private companies in which he has shareholding interests, and these companies are mainly engaged in real estate, electronics, logistics and financial investment in Shenzhen. Dr. Lin is currently a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (“NCCPPCC”), a member of the 6th Election Committee of the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, a Standing Committee member of the 5th to the 7th of Guangdong Shenzhen Municipal Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (“CPPCC”), a Vice Chairman of the 8th Shenzhen Federation of Industry & Commerce, a Chairman of the 4th Shenzhen Futian General Chamber of Commerce, and was a member of the Standing Committee of the 3rd to the 5th of Shenzhen Futian District Committee of the CPPCC. Dr. Lin is the spouse of Madam Su Jiaohua (蘇嬌華女士) (“Madam Su”). Dr. Lin joined the Group in June 2021.

### Madam Su

Madam Su, aged 51, has been appointed as the chief executive officer and an executive Director of the Company and a member of the Executive Committee. Madam Su is also currently an executive director and the chief executive officer of Realord. Madam Su obtained the advanced diploma in business studies from Ashford College of Management & Technology Singapore (formerly known as AMGT Management School) in September 2012. Since 2005, Madam Su has held management positions in a number of private companies in which she has shareholding interests, and these companies are mainly engaged in real estate, electronics, logistics and financial investment in Shenzhen. Madam Su also served as a member of the 6th People’s Congress of Futian District, Shenzhen City, and a member of the 6th People’s Congress of Shenzhen City. Madam Su is the spouse of Dr. Lin.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

### Dr. Yu Lai (禹來博士) (“Dr. Yu”)

Dr. Yu, aged 69, has been appointed as an executive Director of the Company and a member of the Executive Committee.

Dr. Yu obtained a master degree and a doctorate degree in business management from Sun Yat-sen Business School in July 1990 and June 2001, respectively. Dr. Yu is currently the chairman of Realord Commercial Group Limited\* (偉祿商業集團有限公司). Dr. Yu has over 18 years of experience in business management and has held management positions in a number of companies. From May 2003 to May 2006, Dr. Yu worked with Guangdong Investment Limited (“GIL”, a company listed on the main board of the Stock Exchange (stock code: 270)) in a number of positions within the GIL group, namely (i) the director and deputy general manager of GIL; and (ii) the chairman and director of Guangdong Teemall (holdings) Limited\* (廣東天河城(集團)股份有限公司). From June 2006 to December 2010, Dr. Yu worked in Shenzhen CITIC Commercial Management Co., Ltd\* (深圳市中信商業管理有限公司) and served in various position, including the chairman of Shenzhen CITIC City Plaza Investment Co., Ltd.\* (深圳市中信城市廣場投資有限公司) and the deputy general manager of Sino Hope (H.K.) Limited. From April 2007 to January 2008, Dr. Yu was the deputy general manager of CITIC Shenzhen (Group) Company\* (中信深圳(集團)公司) and from January 2008 to December 2010, Dr. Yu was appointed as the vice president of CITIC Real Estate Co., Ltd (中信房地產股份有限公司). Dr. Yu then worked with Horoy Holdings Limited (“HHL”) from January 2011 to August 2013, with his last position held as the president of HHL. In September 2013, Dr. Yu joined Guangdong JianJi Group (廣東堅基集團) (“GJG”) and served in a number of positions within the GJG group, namely (i) the president of the GJG group; (ii) the general manager of Guangdong JianJi Commercial Operation Management Company\* (廣東堅基商業運營管理公司); and (iii) the general manager of Heyuan JianJi Performing Arts Company Limited\* (河源市堅基演藝有限公司).

\* For identification purpose only

# BIOGRAPHIES OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

## NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Dr. Tai Tak Fung (戴德豐博士) (“Dr. Tai”)

Dr. Tai, *GBM, GBS, SBS, JP, Phd (honoris causa)*, aged 75, has been appointed as a non-executive Director of the Company.

Dr. Tai is currently the founder, executive director and chairman of Four Seas Mercantile Holdings Limited (Stock Code: 374) and the non-executive director of Hong Kong Food Investment Holdings Limited (Stock Code: 60), both companies of which are listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange. Dr. Tai has been awarded the Grand Bauhinia Medal, Gold Bauhinia Star, Silver Bauhinia Star and Justice of the Peace by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. He served as a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (“CPPCC”) from 2003 to 2018, during which period he was a standing committee member of the CPPCC from 2008 to 2018. He also served as a member of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the CPPCC from 1998 to 2022, during which he was a standing committee member of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the CPPCC from 2003 to 2022. Dr. Tai was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays by the Japanese Emperor in 2017 and he was also awarded the 30th Food Industry Distinguished Service Award of Japan and the Award of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for the Overseas Promotion of Japanese Food by the Government of Japan, in recognition of his contributions towards the promotion of Japanese food products in China. He is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of Jinan University and serves several public positions, including the president of the Hong Kong Foodstuffs Association, the permanent honorary president of Friends of Hong Kong Association, the founding chief president of The Association of the Hong Kong Members of Guangdong’s CPPCC Committees, the founding chairman of the Hong Kong CPPCC (Provincial) Members Association, the chairman of the Hong Kong Guangdong Chamber of Foreign Investors and a special advisor to China National Food Industry Association. He received a number of awards including Hong Kong Distinguished Brand Leader Award conferred by Hong Kong Brand Development Council and the Chinese Manufacturers’ Association of Hong Kong and Industrialist of the Year Award conferred by Federation of Hong Kong Industries. Other accolades include Asia’s Leading Food Entrepreneur of the Year 2020, Certificate of Honor for Business Lifetime Achievement for Producing Quality Food Products, the Worldwide Prominent Chiu Chow Business Leader Award 2012-2013, the World Outstanding Chinese Award, the Philanthropist Award of the Grand Charity Ceremony 2011, the Outstanding Contribution Award of the China National Food Industry and the China Food Safety Annual Conference Award of Distinguished Management Entrepreneur.

# BIOGRAPHIES OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

## INDEPENDENT NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

### Mr. Yu Leung Fai (余亮暉先生) (“Mr. Yu”)

Mr. Yu, aged 47, has been appointed as an independent non-executive director of the Company, the chairman of the Audit Committee and a member of the Remuneration Committee and the Nomination Committee.

Mr. Yu is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Certified Practicing Accountants of Australia and the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and a Certified Trust Practitioner of the Hong Kong Trustee Association. Mr. Yu obtained a bachelor’s degree in commerce from University of Toronto, Canada in June 2000 and a bachelor’s degree in law from University of London, United Kingdom in August 2005. Mr. Yu has over 22 years of experience in corporate services field. He first started his career as an auditor of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. Since 2001, Mr. Yu joined Fung, Yu & Co. CPA Limited (formerly Fung, Yu & Co.) and is currently the company’s managing partner. Mr. Yu has also been the company secretary of Beijing Media Corporation Limited (stock Code: 1000), Yuanda China Holdings Limited (stock Code: 2789) and Sany Heavy Equipment International Holdings Company Limited (stock Code: 631), and the independent non-executive director of Realord (stock Code: 1196), CSMall Group Limited (stock Code: 1815) and Timeless Resources Holdings Limited (stock Code: 8028), all of which are listed companies in Hong Kong, since March 2010, June 2012, February 2017, June 2014, November 2021 and March 2023, respectively.

### Mr. Chung Chun Hung Simon (鍾振雄先生) (“Mr. Chung”)

Mr. Chung, aged 53, has been appointed as an independent non-executive director of the Company, the chairman of the Nomination Committee and a member of the Audit Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

Mr. Chung obtained a bachelor degree in mathematics from the University of Waterloo, Canada in May 1993 and a master degree of science in investment management from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in November 2001. Mr. Chung was a licensed person registered with the Securities and Futures Commission to carry out type 1 (dealing in securities) and type 2 (dealing in futures contracts) regulated activities under the SFO from February 2000 to May 2017 and has over 15 years of securities brokerage and dealing experience in the financial services industry. He worked in Core Pacific-Yamaichi International (H.K.) Limited from February 2000 to June 2005, with his last position held as assistant sales director, primarily responsible for dealing in securities and futures contracts. From June 2005 to May 2017, Mr. Chung was the investment representative of KGI Hong Kong Limited (a company principally engaged in the provision of investment products and services, wealth management and person investment services), primarily responsible for dealing in securities and future contracts. In June 2012, he cofounded Speedy Finance Limited, a company principally engaged in money lending business in Hong Kong and has been its director since then. Mr. Chung has also been the honorary treasurer of Hong Kong General Chamber of Property Finance (formerly known as the Hong Kong Property Finance Association) since January 2016 and has been the honorary president of the CityU Industrial and Business Leaders Circle.

## BIOGRAPHIES OF DIRECTORS AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

### Mr. Lin Lin (林琳先生) (“Mr. Lin”)

Mr. Lin Lin, aged 44, has been appointed as an independent non-executive director of the Company. He has been the legal representative and the chairman of the board of Shenzhen Hua’ao Supply Chain Management Co., Ltd.\* (深圳市華奧供應鏈管理有限公司), a company mainly engaged in import and export trade and supply chain management, since March 2017. From July 1999 to March 2017, Mr. Lin worked in the taxation collection management section of Shenzhen Municipal Office of the State Taxation Administration (Futian Branch). Mr. Lin obtained a bachelor degree in finance from College of Further Education of Hubei College of Technology\* (湖北工學院業餘成人高等教育學院) (currently known as Hubei University of Technology School of Continuing Education\* (湖北工業大學繼續教育學院)) in July 2002.

### SENIOR EXECUTIVE

Mr. Ip Ho Wing, aged 41, joined the Company as finance director in December 2021. He has over 16 years of experience in accounting and finance. He is a member of Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Prior to joining the Company, he had worked as senior finance manager at Realord Group Holdings Limited (Stock Code: 1196), the controlling shareholder of the Company, since January 2015.

\* For identification purpose only

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## INTRODUCTION

The Sincere Company, Limited (the “Company”) and its subsidiaries (collectively the “Group”) strive continuously to incorporate sustainability initiatives into their daily operations and management. While sharing the vision of becoming the preferred choice of our stakeholders, the Company is committed to improving its Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) performance by upholding good corporate governance standards, protecting the environment, engaging the community and promoting social integration.

This report has complied with the “comply or explain” provisions set out in the “Environmental, Social and Governance Reporting Guide” under Appendix C2 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”) (collectively the “Listing Rules”). The reporting period is from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 (“the Period”). The reporting boundary is limited to retail and office operation in Hong Kong unless other specified. Disclosed content of the report has been reviewed by the board of directors of the Company (the “Board”).

The Company values your feedback regarding the review and its overall sustainability practices. The Company endeavours to provide a balanced, honest and transparent account of its performance.

## REPORTING PRINCIPLES

The Company have taken the following reporting principles into account in development of this ESG report:

### Materiality

The Company regularly engages its stakeholders to better understand their concerns relating to sustainability issues that affect them. The Company also makes regular reference to our peers and both local and regional sustainability criteria when we review our sustainability context, materiality and disclosures in order to keep our sustainability priorities and strategy relevant. The Board and the management regularly review the sustainability issues that are most significant to our business and operations, and consider the issues discussed in this report to be material to the Group.

### Quantitative

For the quantitative information, the Company reports on, and it provides explanation on how it collects and analyses relevant data in appropriate circumstances. Notes are added to supplement the standards, calculation methodologies, assumptions or conversion factors used for calculations of environmental key performance indicators. Besides, disclosure on comparative data allows stakeholders to make analysis based on its performance.

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## Balance

The Company aims to keep its report balanced and make fair disclosures on critical aspects of its performance, both in terms of progress made and continuing challenges that it is dealing with.

## Consistency

The Company has reported in accordance with the “ESG Reporting Guide” of the Stock Exchange, which allows for year-to-year comparison with our previous performance.

## MATERIALITY ASSESSMENT

Based on the principle of materiality, this report focuses on the environmental and social impacts of our operations and sales activities. The materiality assessment is the exercise through which the Company identifies issues of importance to the Company from a sustainability perspective and to prioritise those which are considered material. This report identified the following material ESG issues.

### ESG Aspects

### Material ESG issues

#### A. Environmental

- A1 Emissions
- A2 Use of Resources
- A3 The Environmental and Natural Resources
- A4 Climate Change

- Air Emissions
- Waste Management and Reduction
- Energy Conservation
- Impacts to Natural Resources
- Climate Change Adaptation

#### B. Social

- B1 Employment
- B2 Health and Safety
- B3 Development and Training
- B4 Labour Standards
- B5 Supply Chain Management
- B6 Product Responsibility
- B7 Anti-corruption
- B8 Community Investment

- Employment Practices
- Equal Opportunity
- Workplace Health and Safety
- Staff Training
- Prohibition Against Child and Forced Labour
- Sustainable Supply Chain
- Data Privacy
- Anti-corruption
- Supporting the Community

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## BOARD INVOLVEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The Board is responsible for overseeing long-term sustainable development for all operating companies under the Group. Information and management on sustainability risks and performance is reported to the Board.

The ESG working group meets at least once a year to exchange information and best practices, with a view to developing specific policy recommendations, improving efficiency, manage climate-related risk, reducing costs and engaging staff in sustainable development. The ESG working group is delegated responsibility by the Board for executing our corporate ESG management approach, strategy and initiatives, including material ESG-related issues. It assists the Board in examining and reviewing the Group's ESG performance against the Group's ESG-related goals and targets, including environmental, labour practices and other ESG aspects. In turn, the direct reports in the Company have functional responsibility for carrying out sustainable business practice in specific areas, collecting and monitoring of ESG related data.

The Group has developed its own corporate governance code (the "CG Code") according to the principles as set out in the Corporate Governance Code and Corporate Governance Report contained in Appendix C2 to the Listing Rules. The CG code sets out the corporate governance principles applied by the Group and is constantly reviewed to ensure transparency, accountability and independence. For details, please refer to the "Corporate Governance Report" section.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As a responsible business, we have the responsibility to build a thriving future where we can create long-term value for our stakeholders. The stakeholders of the Company include shareholders, investors, customers, employees, business partners, suppliers, regulators, industry practitioners, charity groups and non-governmental parties etc.

To determine the direction of the Group's long-term development and maintain close relationships with our stakeholders, the Company engaged our stakeholders through constructive communications including meetings, interviews, direct phone calls, mails and staff performance appraisal interviews.

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## A. ENVIRONMENTAL

The Company is committed to the long-term sustainability of the environment and communities in which we operate. To the best knowledge, the Company has not identified any material non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations regarding environmental issues, including the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Chapter 603 of the Laws of Hong Kong), during the Period. During the Period, the Company measured and managed its environmental performance in several aspects throughout its operations.

### A1. Emissions

#### *i. Air Emissions*

Air pollution has become one of the major critical problems in cities. We reckon that every company should take its responsibility to tackle this problem. To mitigate air pollution, we have been taking considerable measures to control our emissions.

To evaluate the air emissions, the Company assessed the fuel consumption based on the distribution network within Hong Kong. The Company owns its fleet used to deliver the goods. Based on the current delivery model, the Company consistently reviews its operation to optimise the efficiency of the logistic network to remain economically competitive and environmentally sustainable, for example, reducing the number of miles driven and hours spent. Optimising the efficiency of the distribution network and continuous communicating with the Company's logistics manager led the Company to stay economically competitive and environmentally sustainable. The Company remains committed to improving the fuel efficiency, optimise transportation network and track emission reduction.

In addition, the Company has implemented the following measures:

- Regular maintenance and cleaning of vehicles
- Green driving practices (e.g. no idling engine)

As a result, the Company emitted 41 g of sulphur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>) (2022: 41 g), 11,704 g of nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) (2022: 9,891 g), and 1,090 g of particulate matter (PM) (2022: 947 g) during the Period, which mainly came from emissions from its own fleet.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

### ii. *Waste Management and Reduction*

The Company works diligently in reducing our waste produced from operations by sorting of waste, and to re-use materials wherever possible. It recognises the importance of waste reduction and waste separation at source for recycling. The Company has put continuous efforts to implement various waste management initiatives among our operation boundaries.

The Company advocates the use of electronic means to replace paper for communication. The Company has also promoted the reuse of paper for printing informal documents and returned the used toner cartridges to a third party for recycling regularly.

We have established waste reduction target as to maintain the hazardous and non-hazardous waste at the same level next year. To achieve that, we will continue to implement various waste reduction measures as follows:

- Affix reminder at collection point(s) and prominent area(s) in the office to encourage waste recycling
- Affix reminders in printers and photocopiers to remind staff of saving paper
- Apply electronic functions to reduce photocopying and printing publications
- Buy electrical & electronic equipment and batteries only when necessary
- Double-sided printing
- Electrical & electronic products and batteries were well maintained to prolong life span
- Print only when necessary and print in black & white
- Reduce box files consumption by reusing old box files or applying electronic means for filing
- Reduce paper towel consumption by use of hand dryers
- Reduce the frequency of replacing rubbish bags
- Repair broken items to avoid waste disposal as far as possible
- Reuse furniture when moving or renovation
- Reuse materials for decorating festive events (e.g. Christmas and Chinese New Year, etc.)
- Reuse old envelopes
- Reuse single-sided printed paper
- Reuse stationeries, e.g. paper clips, folders, binders, envelopes
- Use refillable containers for cleaning products
- Use re-useable containers, dishes, cups and coffee filters in the pantry wherever possible

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## iii. *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

The Company is committed to managing our environmental footprint responsibly and it leverages its resources and engage our people to make a difference along our operations. To cut down the Company's greenhouse gas emissions ("GHG"), the Company has implemented energy and resources saving measures (see "A2 Use Resources – Energy Conservation" below). During the Period, the Company has achieved its target of maintaining the GHG emissions level as last year. For the coming year, the Company has established emission target as to maintain the GHG emission at the same level. To achieve that, we will continue to implement energy and saving measures (see "A2 Use of Resources – Electricity Management" below).

## A2. **Use of Resources**

### *Energy Conservation*

The impact of global climate change is a challenge that businesses and organisations around the world must face and address. The Company is committed to minimising the adverse impact that its operations may have on the environment. Using energy efficiently will help us conserve resources and tackle climate change. The Company has established energy use efficiency target as to maintain the energy consumption at the same level next year. To achieve that, we will continue to implement energy and saving measures (see "A2 Use of Resources – Electricity Management" below).

### *Electricity Management*

The Company promotes green lighting in the workplace to reduce the usage of electricity. This involves installing energy-saving lights and using energy-saving light bulbs in our office and stores facilities. The Company also encourages the Company's employees to switch off the lights in the areas of the workplace that are not being used.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Energy consumption accounts for a major part of its GHG emissions. To reduce our carbon footprint, we have implemented the following measures:

- Affix reminder to remind staff of switching the office equipment into standby mode in the office after use of office equipment (e.g. photocopiers, printer, etc.)
- Follow the maintenance schedules of appliances as recommended in the instruction manual of the related appliance
- Power off electronic and electrical appliances after office hours
- Regular maintenance and cleaning of equipment
- Switch-off unnecessary wireless connection
- Unwanted materials & thick ice were regularly cleared & defrosted from refrigerator

The following table shows our GHG emissions and energy consumption during the Period.

GHG Emissions <sup>1</sup>	Unit	2023	2022
Total Scope 1 Emissions	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	6.78	7.02
Total Scope 2 Emissions	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	639.59	747.27
Total GHG Emissions	tCO <sub>2</sub> e	646.37	754.29
Total GHG Emissions/Employee	tCO <sub>2</sub> e/employee	3.63	4.69

Note:

1. GHG emissions data is presented in terms of carbon dioxide equivalent and based on, including but not limited to, How to prepare an ESG Report – Appendix II: Reporting Guidance on Environmental KPIs issued by the Stock Exchange, The Greenhouse Gas Protocol: A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standards issued by the World Resources Institute and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the emission factors of operational regions.

Energy Consumption	Unit	2023	2022
Diesel Consumption	kWh	27,495.75	26,585.77
Petrol Consumption	kWh	–	678.59
Electricity Consumption	kWh	1,558,712.00	1,793,939.00
Total Energy Consumption	kWh	1,586,207.75	1,821,203.35
Total Energy Consumption/Employee	kWh/employee	8,911.28	11,311.82

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## A3. The Environment and Natural Resources

While benefiting from the natural environment and resources, the Company should bear the responsibilities and fulfil the obligations of protecting them and making appropriate use. The Company has taken considerable efforts to minimise the impact generated from our business operations to our natural environment. As a retail business, the Company promotes eco-friendly shopping to the Company's customers. The Company strictly follows the Product Eco-responsibility Ordinance (Chapter 603 of the Laws of Hong Kong) and charge HK\$1 for each shopping bag provided to consumers.

Reducing the packaging material brings both the environmental and economic benefit. The Company is dedicated to optimise the design of the packaging such that it can deliver against key performance criteria while using the least amount of packaging material. The Company measures different types of material used to gauge our environmental performance. The following tables show the figures of material consumption in our business operations:

Material Consumption	Unit	2023	=022
Carton Box Consumption	Pieces	–	225
Plastic Bag Consumption	Pieces	58,077	83,100
Paper Bag Consumption	Pieces	5,800	–

## A4. Climate Change

The Company recognises the importance of the identification and mitigation of significant climate-related issues; therefore, the Company is committed to managing the potential climate-related risks which may impact the Company's business activities. The Company has established risk management policy in identifying and mitigating different risks including climate-related risks. The Board meets regularly and cooperates closely with key management to identify and evaluates climate-related risks and to formulate strategies to manage the identified risks.

For physical risk, the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather such as typhoons, storms and heavy rains can disrupt the Group's operations by damaging the power grid, and department stores, and delays goods delivery from suppliers as well as to customers. To minimise the potential risks and hazards, the Company regularly maintains its facilities so as to make sure the damages by extreme weather events are minimized. The Company has also established adverse weather guidance to protect our staff and our contractors. The Company will continuously review the potential impact of climate change on our business annually and implement corresponding measures to reduce any potential risks.

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## B. SOCIAL

The Company realises the importance of compliance with regulatory requirements and risk of non-compliance with the laws and regulations regarding social issues. This includes but not limited to the Employment Ordinance (Chapter 57 of the Laws of Hong Kong), anti-discrimination ordinances implemented by The Equal Opportunities Commission. As same as disclosed in this annual report, the Company has not identified any other material non-compliance with the relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the business and operation of the Company during the Period.

### B1. Employment and Labour Practices

#### *Employment*

As key enablers in achieving its economic, environmental and social objectives, the Company's staff is among our most valuable assets. The Company believes that creating a workplace that offers a strong sense of belonging may inspire our employees to champion our core values. The Company strives to create an environment where every employee can develop their full potential and work happily.

#### *Employment Practices and Equal Opportunity*

The Company recognises that employees are key contributors toward our success. The Company aims to create a harmonious working environment for its employees through competitive remuneration packages that are structured to be commensurate with individual responsibilities, qualification, experience and performance. The Company believes in equal opportunities and diversity in terms of age, sex, nationality, disability and religion. Any discrimination on race, gender, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, sexual orientation and gender identity are strictly prohibited during the employment process and in workplace. Employees are encouraged to report discriminatory practices to the management. An internal performance management system is used to objectively review employees' performance. Observations and evaluations of employee's work behaviour and accomplishments form the basis for decision making within the reward system.

The Company has not identified any material non-compliance to employment laws and regulations during the Period.

The Group employs 178 staff in total as of 31 December 2023.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Workforce statistic by gender, employment type, age group and geographical region:

	2023	2022
Hong Kong and Mainland China	178	161
(a) Breakdown by gender		
Employees – Female	123	107
Employees – Male	55	54
(b) Breakdown by age group		
Employees Age < 30	12	10
Employees Age 30 – 50	61	55
Employees Age > 50	105	96
(c) Breakdown by employment type		
Employees – Part-time	53	26
Employees – Full-time	125	135

Employee turnover rate by gender, age group and geographical region:

	2023	2022
Hong Kong and Mainland China	25.28%	39.75%
(a) Breakdown by gender		
Employees – Female	25.20%	42.99%
Employees – Male	25.45%	33.33%
(b) Breakdown by age group		
Employees Age < 30	58.33%	60.00%
Employees Age 30 – 50	24.59%	47.27%
Employees Age > 50	21.90%	33.33%

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## B2. Health and Safety

The Company values the safety and well-being of staff. The Company strives to provide its employees with a safe working environment under the requirement of the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance (Chapter 509 of the Laws of Hong Kong). The Company's employees are provided with occupational safety education and training to enhance their safety awareness. The Company also provides subsidised medical care and life insurances to employees.

To provide a safe working environment for all, the Company has implemented the following measures:

- Conduct regular inspections of all parts of the Company's premises
- Conduct annual fire drills for employees to practice evacuation procedures of department stores and offices in the event of a fire or other emergencies

The Company has recorded 270 lost days due to work injury, and has not identified any work-related fatality over the past 3 years nor material non-compliance case of health and safety laws and regulations during the Period.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Group has implemented certain workplace health and safety measures to prevent our staff members and customers from being infected. Policies on flexible working hours and work-from-home were adopted for office operations to safeguard the health and safety of its employees. Personal protective equipment was offered to staff to avoid infection. As the COVID-19 pandemic is now under control, operations were resumed in an orderly manner in accordance to government regulations.

## B3. Development and Training

To enable the Company's talents to develop themselves to their fullest potential and to provide them with the essential skill sets to deliver the best, a comprehensive development plan has been established.

The Company encourages personal development of staff. The Company provides structured training programmes in the form of workshops, seminars and on-the-job coaching for our staff with regard to their positions, job responsibilities and experience, and provides subsidy to support appropriate external professional training. During the Period, the average training hours completed per employee was approximately 0.84 hours and the total percentage of employees trained was approximately 53.93%.

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Statistic of training by gender and employment category:

Percentage of employees trained by gender and employment category		Unit	2023	2022
<b>Percentage trained by gender</b>				
Female		%	51.22	7.48
Male		%	60.00	3.70
<b>Percentage trained by employment category</b>				
Senior		%	10.00	10.00
Middle level		%	64.71	18.75
General		%	55.63	4.44
<b>Average training hours completed per employee by gender and employment category</b>		Unit	2023	2022
<b>Average training hours per employee by gender</b>				
Female		Hours	0.71	0.15
Male		Hours	1.12	0.34
<b>Average training hours per employee by employment category</b>				
Senior		Hours	1.93	0.40
Middle level		Hours	1.34	0.47
General		Hours	0.71	0.24

## B4. Labour Standard

The Company strictly complies with the Employment Ordinance (Chapter 57 of the Laws of Hong Kong) and prohibits the use of child labour and forced or compulsory labour at all its units and suppliers. No employee is made to work against his/her will or work as forced labour, or subject to corporal punishment or coercion of any type related to work. Identification check is needed during hiring process to ensure the employee reaches legal minimum age for working. Save as disclosed in this annual report, the Group has not identified any other material non-compliance in relation to child or forced labour-related laws and regulations.

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

The Group has zero-tolerance to employment of child labour and forced labour within the Company's supply chain. The Group has not identified any non-compliance in relation to child or forced labour-related laws and regulations. If suppliers are found to have any employment of child labour and forced labour, immediate cessation of business would be conducted.

## B5. Supply Chain Management

The Company is aware of the social and environmental risks of our supply chain. To foster long term business benefits, the Company maintains sound relationships with its key suppliers to meet business challenges and regulatory requirements. With long-standing relationships with a number of suppliers, the Company also shares its commitment to quality and business ethics to them.

The Company's business partners are expected to strive for efficiency and full compliance within their operations in terms of environmental and social risks. These policies come up to an open, equitable and ethical purchasing process for all parties by offering equal opportunities to the Company's suppliers and contractors from various geographical locations. The Company assesses the environmental and social performance of the potential suppliers and contractors. During the Period, the Company conducted supplier assessments on the active suppliers.

The Company believes a sustainable supply chain reduces risks in our operation and creates opportunity to our business. The Company places high importance on purchasing eco-friendly materials for daily operations, supporting suppliers that are committed to source sustainable raw materials. During suppliers selection, the Company considered the quality and price of the suppliers.

During the Period, the breakdown of suppliers are as follows:

### Numbers of Suppliers by Geographical Region

Asia & others	3
Europe	81
Hong Kong	482
N.&S. America	3

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## **B6. Product Responsibility**

As a responsible company, the Company is fully aware of the importance to comply with relevant laws and regulations concerning the provision and use of our products and services, relating to health and safety, advertising, labelling and privacy matters.

The Company has no products recalled subject to recalls for safety and health reasons during the Period.

The Company did not receive any products related complaints nor service-related complaints during the Period. According to our procedures, all complaints received are handled by designated staff to confirm the case details of every complaint, and look for areas of improvement to prevent recurring complaints.

The Company values the confidentiality of personal and sensitive commercial data. In addition to compliance with the Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance (Chapter 486 of the Laws of Hong Kong), the Company requires in our terms of employment strict adherence to the Company's data privacy and confidentiality policies.

The Company aims to ensure high quality standards for products we offer. The Company constantly communicates with its customers to ensure our products are up to standards. Communication and feedback channels are created for quality assurance and recall procedures.

The Company takes appropriate action to protect intellectual property rights, which gives the business competitive edge. A specific department is responsible for the registration of the Company's self-created trademarks and patents.

The Company has not identified any material non-compliance with product and service quality laws and regulations during the Period.

## **B7. Anti-corruption**

The Company is committed to adhering to the regulatory requirements and highest ethical standards, maintaining a corporate culture of integrity and justice for preventing, detecting and reporting all types of fraud, including corruption. This includes but not limited to the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Chapter 201 of the Laws of Hong Kong). The Company's employees are expected to carry out their work in a responsible and honest manner. All staff must avoid receiving any money or in-kind donation or gifts from either clients or any third parties.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

To demonstrate our commitment to the highest standards of openness, accountability and probity, the Company has established a written whistle-blowing policy and reporting procedures under which any suspected misconduct or malpractice can be directly reported to our independent directors.

The Company also offers anti-corruption training to directors and staffs. The training covers elements of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Chapter 201 of the Laws of Hong Kong), as well as the company's whistle-blowing policy and reporting procedures.

The Company did not observe nor receive any legal cases regarding corrupt practices, bribery, conflicts of interest, extortion, fraud, money laundering brought against the Company or its employees during the Period.

### **B8. Community Investment**

The Company pursues sustainable development of our community by assessing and managing the social impact of its operations on the marketplace and by supporting initiatives that create effective and lasting benefits to communities in its operating boundaries.

#### *Supporting the Community*

To contribute towards the promotion of harmony and stability of the society, the Company communicates with non-government entities and charities to understand the needs of the community, participate in community events and make donations to causes that help those who are in need.

Our effort and support to the community has been well recognised. In March 2023, the Company was awarded as "Caring Company" by The Hong Kong Council of Social Service.

In the future, the Company will strive to engage in charity campaigns to support a wide range of charitable activities covering social welfare services and assistance to the needy in Hong Kong.

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## INDEX TABLE OF ESG REPORTING GUIDE OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE (I)

Mandatory Disclosure Requirements	Sections
Governance Structure	BOARD INVOLVEMENT AND GOVERNANCE
Reporting Principles	REPORTING PRINCIPLES
Reporting Boundary	INTRODUCTION

## INDEX TABLE OF ESG REPORTING GUIDE OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE (II)

Employment and Labour Practices	Description	Section/Statement
<b>A. Environmental Aspect A1: Emissions</b>		
General Disclosure	Information on:  (a) the policies; and (b) compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer  relating to air and greenhouse gas emissions, discharges into water and land, and generation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste.	A1. Emissions
KPI A1.1	The types of emissions and respective emissions data.	A1. Emissions – Air Emissions
KPI A1.2	Direct (Scope 1) and energy indirect (Scope 2) greenhouse gas emissions (in tonnes) and, where appropriate, intensity (e.g. per unit of production volume, per facility).	A1. Emissions – Greenhouse Gas Emissions; A2. Use of Resources – Electricity Management
KPI A1.3	Total hazardous waste produced (in tonnes) and, where appropriate, intensity (e.g. per unit of production volume, per facility).	A1. Emissions – Waste Management and Reduction
KPI A1.4	Total non-hazardous waste produced (in tonnes) and, where appropriate, intensity (e.g. per unit of production volume, per facility).	A1. Emissions – Waste Management and Reduction

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## Employment and Labour Practices

	Description	Section/Statement
KPI A1.5	Description of emission target(s) set and steps taken to achieve them.	A1. Emissions – Greenhouse Gas Emissions A2. Use of Resources – Energy Conservation
KPI A1.6	Description of how hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are handled, and a description of reduction target(s) set and steps taken to achieve them.	A1. Emissions – Waste Management and Reduction

## Aspect A2: Use of Resources

General Disclosure	Policies on the efficient use of resources, including energy, water and other raw materials.	A2. Use of Resources
KPI A2.1	Direct and/or indirect energy consumption by type (e.g. electricity, gas or oil) in total and intensity (e.g. per unit of production volume, per facility).	A2. Use of Resources – Electricity Management
KPI A2.2	Water consumption in total and intensity (e.g. per unit of production volume, per facility).	
KPI A2.3	Description of energy use efficiency target(s) set and steps taken to achieve them.	A2. Use of Resources – Electricity Management
KPI A2.4	Description of whether there is any issue in sourcing water that is fit for purpose, water efficiency target(s) set and steps taken to achieve them.	
KPI A2.5	Total packaging material used for finished products (in tonnes) and, if applicable, with reference to per unit produced.	A3. The Environmental and Natural Resources

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Employment and Labour Practices	Description	Section/Statement
<b>Aspect A3: The Environment and Natural Resources</b>		
General Disclosure	Policies on minimising the issuer's significant impacts on the environment and natural resources.	A3. Environment and Natural Resources
KPI A3.1	Description of the significant impacts of activities on the environment and natural resources and the actions taken to manage them.	A3. Environment and Natural Resources
<b>Aspect A4: Climate Change</b>		
General Disclosure	Policies on identification and mitigation of significant climate-related issues which have impacted, and those which may impact, the issuer.	A4. Climate Change
KPI A4.1	Description of the significant climate-related issues which have impacted, and those which may impact, the issuer, and the actions taken to manage them.	A4. Climate Change
<b>B. Social</b>		
<b>Employment and Labour Practices</b>		
<b>Aspect B1: Employment</b>		
General Disclosure	Information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the policies; and</li> <li>(b) compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer</li> </ul> <p>relating to compensation and dismissal, recruitment and promotion, working hours, rest periods, equal opportunity, diversity, anti-discrimination, and other benefits and welfare.</p>	B1. Employment

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## Employment and Labour Practices

KPI B1.1

### Description

Total workforce by gender, employment type (for example, full-or part-time), age group and geographical region.

### Section/Statement

B1. Employment – Employment Practices and Equal Opportunity

KPI B1.2

Employee turnover rate by gender, age group and geographical region.

B1. Employment – Employment Practices and Equal Opportunity

## Aspect B2: Health and Safety

General Disclosure

Information on:

B2. Health and Safety

- (a) the policies; and
- (b) compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer

relating to providing a safe working environment and protecting employees from occupational hazards.

KPI B2.1

Number and rate of work-related fatalities occurred in each of the past three years including the reporting year.

B2. Health and Safety

KPI B2.2

Lost days due to work injury.

B2. Health and Safety

KPI B2.3

Description of occupational health and safety measures adopted, and how they are implemented and monitored.

B2. Health and Safety

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Employment and Labour Practices	Description	Section/Statement
<b>Aspect B3: Development and Training</b>		
General Disclosure	<p>Policies on improving employees' knowledge and skills for discharging duties at work.</p> <p>Description of training activities.</p> <p>Note: Training refers to vocational training. It may include internal and external courses paid by the employer.</p>	B3. Development and Training
KPI B3.1	The percentage of employees trained by gender and employee category (e.g. senior management, middle management).	B3. Development and Training
KPI B3.2	The average training hours completed per employee by gender and employee category.	B3. Development and Training
<b>Aspect B4: Labour Standards</b>		
General Disclosure	<p>Information on:</p> <p>(a) the policies; and</p> <p>(b) compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer</p> <p>relating to preventing child and forced labour.</p>	B4. Labour Standard
KPI B4.1	Description of measures to review employment practices to avoid child and forced labour.	B4. Labour Standard
KPI B4.2	Description of steps taken to eliminate such practices when discovered.	B4. Labour Standard

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## Employment and Labour Practices

### Operating Practices

#### Aspect B5: Supply Chain Management

##### General Disclosure

### Description

### Section/Statement

Policies on managing environmental and social risks of the supply chain.

B5. Supply Chain Management

##### KPI B5.1

Number of suppliers by geographical region.

B5. Supply Chain Management

##### KPI B5.2

Description of practices relating to engaging suppliers, number of suppliers where the practices are being implemented, and how they are implemented and monitored.

B5. Supply Chain Management

##### KPI B5.3

Description of practices used to identify environmental and social risks along the supply chain, and how they are implemented and monitored.

B5. Supply Chain Management

##### KPI B5.4

Description of practices used to promote environmentally preferable products and services when selecting suppliers, and how they are implemented and monitored.

B5. Supply Chain Management

#### Aspect B6: Product Responsibility

##### General Disclosure

Information on:

B6. Product Responsibility

- (a) the policies; and
- (b) compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer

relating to health and safety, advertising, labelling and privacy matters relating to products and services provided and methods of redress.

##### KPI B6.1

Percentage of total products sold or shipped subject to recalls for safety and health reasons.

B6. Product Responsibility

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

Employment and Labour Practices	Description	Section/Statement
KPI B6.2	Number of products and service related complaints received and how they are dealt with.	B6. Product Responsibility
KPI B6.3	Description of practices relating to observing and protecting intellectual property rights.	B6. Product Responsibility
KPI B6.4	Description of quality assurance process and recall procedures.	B6. Product Responsibility
KPI B6.5	Description of consumer data protection and privacy policies, and how they are implemented and monitored.	B6. Product Responsibility
<b>Aspect B7: Anti-corruption</b>		
General Disclosure	<p>Information on:</p> <p>(a) the policies; and</p> <p>(b) compliance with relevant laws and regulations that have a significant impact on the issuer</p> <p>relating to bribery, extortion, fraud and money laundering.</p>	B7. Anti-corruption
KPI B7.1	Number of concluded legal cases regarding corrupt practices brought against the issuer or its employees during the reporting period and the outcomes of the cases.	B7. Anti-corruption
KPI B7.2	Description of preventive measures and whistle-blowing procedures, and how they are implemented and monitored.	B7. Anti-corruption
KPI B7.3	Description of anti-corruption training provided to directors and staff.	B7. Anti-corruption

# ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE REPORT

## Employment and Labour Practices

### Description

### Section/Statement

## Community

### Aspect B8: Community Investment

#### General Disclosure

Policies on community engagement to understand the needs of the communities where the issuer operates and to ensure its activities take into consideration the communities' interests.

B8. Community Investment

#### KPI B8.1

Focus areas of contribution (e.g. education, environmental concerns, labour needs, health, culture, sport).

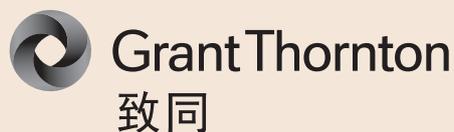
B8. Community Investment – Supporting the Community

#### KPI B8.2

Resources contributed (e.g. money or time) to the focus area.

B8. Community Investment – Supporting the Community

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



To the members of  
**The Sincere Company, Limited**  
*(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)*

## OPINION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of The Sincere Company, Limited (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (together, the "Group") set out on pages 65 to 178, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, and the consolidated income statement, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2023, and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Companies Ordinance.

## BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the HKICPA's Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the "Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## MATERIAL UNCERTAINTY RELATED TO GOING CONCERN

We draw attention to note 2.1 to the consolidated financial statements, which describes the principal conditions that raise doubt about the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. These events or conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## KEY AUDIT MATTERS

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

### Key audit matter

### How the matter was addressed in our audit

#### *Expected credit loss ("ECL") of gift receivable from Win Dynamic Limited ("Win Dynamic")*

We identified the ECL of gift receivable from Win Dynamic as a key audit matter due to the significance of the balance to the consolidated financial statements and the involvement of subjective judgment and management's estimates in determining the ECL of gift receivable from Win Dynamic.

As disclosed in notes 14 and 35 to the consolidated financial statements, the carrying amount of gift receivable from Win Dynamic amounted to HK\$191,939,000, net of ECL allowance of HK\$1,111,000 as at 31 December 2023.

Management assessed the ECL of gift receivable from Win Dynamic with assistance from an independent qualified professional legal counsel ("Lawyer") and an independent qualified professional valuer ("Valuer"). As set out in note 3 to the consolidated financial statements, management considers that such ECL allowance is based on the legal advices and determined by the basis of various assumptions, which includes forward-looking scenarios and their likelihoods, counterparty's credit rating and probability of default and recovery rate.

As a result of the Group's ECL assessment, ECL allowance of gift receivable from Win Dynamic amounted to HK\$84,000 was recognised in the current year.

Our audit procedures in relation to the ECL of gift receivable from Win Dynamic included the followings:

- obtained an understanding of the progress of the relevant litigation from management;
- obtained an understanding of the process over management's ECL assessment and how management estimates the ECL of gift receivable from Win Dynamic;
- evaluated the competence, capability and objectivity of the Lawyer and the Valuer;
- obtained the legal opinion and discussed with the Lawyer regarding management's basis and judgment in the ECL assessment, including the recoverability of gift receivable from Win Dynamic and the probability of timing of legal process;
- assessed the reasonableness of management's basis and judgment in the ECL assessment of gift receivable from Win Dynamic;
- obtained an understanding from the Valuer about the valuation methodology and key assumptions used in the valuation; and
- assessed the reasonableness of valuation methodology and key assumptions used in the valuation, including management's forward-looking scenarios and their likelihoods, counterparty's credit rating and probability of default and recovery rate, and discount rate.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## KEY AUDIT MATTERS (Continued)

### Key audit matter

### How the matter was addressed in our audit

#### *Fair value measurement of leasehold land and owned buildings*

We identified the fair value measurement of leasehold land and owned buildings as a key audit matter due to the significance of the balances to the consolidated financial statements, combined with management judgment associated with determining the fair values of leasehold land and owned buildings at the end of the reporting period.

As at 31 December 2023, the Group has leasehold land of HK\$155,761,000 under right-of-use assets and buildings of HK\$21,239,000 under owned assets included in property, plant and equipment (collectively the "Properties"), which were measured at fair values.

The measurement of the fair values of the Properties requires management's significant judgment and estimates. Management appointed a Valuer to assist in the valuations of the Properties and determined the fair values with reference to the valuations carried out by the Valuer.

As disclosed in note 12 to the consolidated financial statements, surplus on revaluation of leasehold land and owned buildings amounted to HK\$3,388,000 was recognised in other comprehensive income for the current year.

Details of the significant accounting judgments and estimates and disclosures of the fair values of the Properties are included in notes 3 and 12 to the consolidated financial statements.

Our audit procedures in relation to the fair value measurement of leasehold land and owned buildings included the followings:

- evaluated the competence, capability and objectivity of the Valuer;
- obtained an understanding from the Valuer about the valuation methodologies, significant unobservable inputs and critical judgment on key inputs and data used in the valuations;
- assessed the reasonableness of valuation methodologies used by the Valuer with the assistance from our valuation experts;
- assessed the reasonableness of significant unobservable inputs used by the Valuer with the assistance from our valuation experts by comparing them to publicly available information of similar comparable properties; and
- evaluated the reasonableness of adjusting factors on the conditions and locations of the properties made by the Valuer with the assistance from our valuation experts by comparing them with historical adjusting factors applied, comparability and other market factors for similar properties.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## OTHER INFORMATION

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information in the 2023 annual report of the Company, but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

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

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

The directors assisted by the Audit Committee are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

## AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. We report our opinion solely to you, as a body, in accordance with section 405 of the Companies Ordinance and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

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

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

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

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

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

#### **Grant Thornton Hong Kong Limited**

*Certified Public Accountants*

11th Floor

Lee Garden Two

28 Yun Ping Road

Causeway Bay

Hong Kong SAR

25 March 2024

**Lam Wai Ping**

Practising Certificate No.: P07826

# CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
<b>Revenue</b>	5(a)	<b>146,147</b>	146,516
Cost of sales	7	<b>(62,213)</b>	(64,575)
Other income and gains, net	5(b)	<b>18,745</b>	18,811
Net unrealised gain/(loss) on securities trading		<b>221</b>	(1,319)
Selling and distribution expenses		<b>(69,111)</b>	(81,588)
General and administrative expenses		<b>(48,194)</b>	(54,023)
Non-operating expenses		<b>(10,327)</b>	–
Finance costs	6	<b>(26,866)</b>	(27,768)
<b>Loss before income tax</b>	7	<b>(51,598)</b>	(63,946)
Income tax expense	8	<b>(14)</b>	(23)
<b>Loss for the year</b>		<b>(51,612)</b>	(63,969)
<b>Attributable to:</b>			
Equity holders of the Company		<b>(50,477)</b>	(60,756)
Non-controlling interests		<b>(1,135)</b>	(3,213)
		<b>(51,612)</b>	(63,969)
<b>Loss per share attributable to equity holders of the Company</b>			
Basic and diluted	10	<b>HK\$(0.04)</b>	HK\$(0.05)

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	<i>Notes</i>	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
<b>Loss for the year</b>		<b>(51,612)</b>	<b>(63,969)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income/(loss)</b>			
<i>Item that may be reclassified subsequently to the consolidated income statement:</i>			
Exchange differences arising on translation of foreign operations		37	(62)
<i>Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to the consolidated income statement:</i>			
Actuarial gains on a defined benefit plan	23(e)	89	276
Actuarial (losses)/gains on long service payment	24	(84)	439
Surplus/(Deficit) on revaluation of leasehold land and owned buildings	12	3,388	(1,475)
Changes in fair value of equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income ("FVTOCI")	31	86	234
Changes in fair value of asset classified as held for sale	31	–	970
		<b>3,479</b>	<b>444</b>
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>		<b>(48,096)</b>	<b>(63,587)</b>
<b>Attributable to:</b>			
Equity holders of the Company		<b>(46,584)</b>	<b>(61,140)</b>
Non-controlling interests		<b>(1,512)</b>	<b>(2,447)</b>
		<b>(48,096)</b>	<b>(63,587)</b>

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2023

	<i>Notes</i>	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
<b>ASSETS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	12	189,260	218,734
Equity investments at FVTOCI	13	4,127	4,041
Prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets	14	202,049	187,588
Pension scheme assets	23	23,777	23,160
		<b>419,213</b>	<b>433,523</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Inventories	15	29,844	29,373
Prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets	14	35,899	33,771
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss ("FVTPL")	16	3,689	3,563
Pledged bank balances and deposits	22(a)	11,277	84,276
Cash and bank balances	17	92,694	98,188
		<b>173,403</b>	<b>249,171</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors	18	37,954	27,843
Lease liabilities	19	11,291	28,718
Insurance contracts liabilities	20	1,154	1,154
Deposits, accrued expenses and other payables	21	42,773	26,726
Contract liabilities	5(a)	1,377	1,321
Bank borrowings	22(a)	84,314	140,979
Other loans	22(b)	2,292	2,247
Loan from immediate holding company	22(c)	71,900	73,263
Loan from a related company	22(d)	–	187,000
Long service payment obligations	24	59	200
Tax payable		20	17
		<b>253,134</b>	<b>489,468</b>
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		<b>(79,731)</b>	<b>(240,297)</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>339,482</b>	<b>193,226</b>

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2023

	<i>Notes</i>	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Deposits, accrued expenses and other payables	21	84	7,120
Other loans	22(b)	559	548
Loan from a related company	22(d)	211,000	–
Lease liabilities	19	622	10,839
Long service payment obligations	24	1,673	1,079
		<b>213,938</b>	<b>19,586</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>125,544</b>	<b>173,640</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Share capital	25	469,977	469,977
Deficits	26	(388,852)	(342,268)
<b>Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company</b>		<b>81,125</b>	<b>127,709</b>
Non-controlling interests		44,419	45,931
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>125,544</b>	<b>173,640</b>

**Lin Xiaohui**  
*Director*

**Su Jiaohua**  
*Director*

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Attributable to equity holders of the Company							Non-controlling interests HK\$'000	Total equity HK\$'000
	Reserves/(Deficits)					Total deficits HK\$'000			
	Share capital HK\$'000 (note 25)	General and other reserves# HK\$'000	Asset revaluation reserve HK\$'000	Investment revaluation reserve HK\$'000	Accumulated losses HK\$'000 (Restated)				
As at 1 January 2022	469,977	332,292	181,807	4,127	(799,354)	(281,128)	48,378	237,227	
Loss for the year (Restated)	-	-	-	-	(60,756)	(60,756)	(3,213)	(63,969)	
<i>Other comprehensive (loss)/income for the year:</i>									
Exchange differences arising on translation of foreign operations	-	(904)	-	-	-	(904)	842	(62)	
Actuarial gains on a defined benefit plan (note 23(e))	-	-	-	-	352	352	(76)	276	
Actuarial gains on long service payment (note 24)	-	-	-	-	439	439	-	439	
Deficit on revaluation of leasehold land and owned buildings (note 12)	-	-	(1,475)	-	-	(1,475)	-	(1,475)	
Changes in fair value of equity investments at FVTOCI (note 31)	-	-	-	234	-	234	-	234	
Changes in fair value of asset classified as held for sale (note 31)	-	-	-	970	-	970	-	970	
Total comprehensive (loss)/income for the year (Restated)	-	(904)	(1,475)	1,204	(59,965)	(61,140)	(2,447)	(63,587)	
Release of reserve upon disposal of asset classified as held for sale	-	-	-	(16,649)	16,649	-	-	-	
As at 31 December 2022 (Restated)	469,977	331,388	180,332	(11,318)	(842,670)	(342,268)	45,931	173,640	

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Attributable to equity holders of the Company							Total equity HK\$'000
	Share capital HK\$'000 (note 25)	Reserves/(Deficits)				Total deficits HK\$'000	Non-controlling interests HK\$'000	
		General and other reserves# HK\$'000	Asset revaluation reserve HK\$'000	Investment revaluation reserve HK\$'000	Accumulated losses HK\$'000			
As at 1 January 2023 (Restated)	469,977	331,388	180,332	(11,318)	(842,670)	(342,268)	45,931	173,640
Loss for the year	-	-	-	-	(50,477)	(50,477)	(1,135)	(51,612)
<i>Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year:</i>								
Exchange differences arising on translation of foreign operations	-	430	-	-	-	430	(393)	37
Actuarial gains on a defined benefit plan (note 23(e))	-	-	-	-	73	73	16	89
Actuarial losses on long service payment (note 24)	-	-	-	-	(84)	(84)	-	(84)
Surplus on revaluation of leasehold land and owned buildings (note 12)	-	-	3,388	-	-	3,388	-	3,388
Changes in fair value of equity investments at FVTOCI (note 31)	-	-	-	86	-	86	-	86
Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the year	-	430	3,388	86	(50,488)	(46,584)	(1,512)	(48,096)
As at 31 December 2023	469,977	331,818	183,720	(11,232)	(893,158)	(388,852)	44,419	125,544

# Included in the general and other reserves as at 31 December 2023 was a debit amount of HK\$11,284,000 (2022: HK\$11,714,000) attributable to the exchange fluctuation reserve.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	<i>Notes</i>	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Loss before income tax		(51,598)	(63,946)
Adjustments for:			
Interest expense	6	26,866	27,768
Bank interest income	5(b)	(236)	(447)
Imputed interest income on gift receivable from Win Dynamic Limited ("Win Dynamic")	5(b)	(17,623)	(16,113)
Other interest income from financial assets at FVTPL	5(b)	–	(32)
Depreciation	7	35,129	46,606
Reversal of provision for inventories	7	(1,365)	(2,257)
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	5(b)	(223)	–
Covid-19-related rent concessions from lessors	7	–	(720)
Long service payment obligations:			
– expenses recognised in profit or loss	24	576	1,948
– benefits paid	24	(207)	(230)
Expected credit loss ("ECL") allowance on other receivables	7	84	582
Exchange realignment		26	(62)
Operating cash flows before movements in working capital		(8,571)	(6,903)
Decrease in inventories		894	7,285
Decrease/(Increase) in prepayments, deposits and other receivables		950	(6,304)
(Increase)/Decrease in financial assets at FVTPL		(126)	2,178
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors		10,111	(7,714)
Decrease in insurance contracts liabilities		–	(20)
Increase/(Decrease) in deposits, accrued expenses and other payables		8,926	(2,870)
Increase/(Decrease) in contract liabilities		56	(798)
Movement in pension scheme assets		(528)	217
Cash generated from/(used in) operations		11,712	(14,929)
Interest paid		(26,810)	(27,713)
Interest received		236	479
Overseas taxes paid		–	(6)
<i>Net cash used in operating activities</i>		<b>(14,862)</b>	<b>(42,169)</b>

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	<i>Notes</i>	<b>2023</b> <b>HK\$'000</b>	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Additions of owned assets in property, plant and equipment	12	(849)	(1,438)
Proceeds from disposal of property, plant and equipment		223	–
Proceeds from disposal of asset classified as held for sale		–	27,616
Decrease in pledged bank balances and deposits		72,999	17,877
<i>Net cash from investing activities</i>		<b>72,373</b>	44,055
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from bank borrowings	27(a)	140,462	185,907
Repayments of bank borrowings	27(a)	(197,127)	(189,436)
Proceeds from loan from a fellow subsidiary	27(a)	–	50,000
Repayments of loan from a fellow subsidiary	27(a)	–	(154,000)
Proceeds from loan from immediate holding company	27(a)	73,300	51,000
Repayments of loan from immediate holding company	27(a)	(74,663)	(32,737)
Proceeds from loan from a related company	27(a)	24,000	187,000
Principal portion of lease payments	27(a)	(28,977)	(55,524)
<i>Net cash (used in)/from financing activities</i>		<b>(63,005)</b>	42,210
<b>Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>(5,494)</b>	44,096
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		98,188	54,092
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	17	<b>92,694</b>	98,188

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 1. CORPORATE AND GROUP INFORMATION

The Sincere Company, Limited (the “Company”) is a limited liability company incorporated in Hong Kong. The registered office of the Company is located at 24/F, Jardine House, 1 Connaught Place, Central, Hong Kong. The Company’s shares are listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “Stock Exchange”).

The principal activities of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively referred to as the “Group”) have not changed during the year and mainly consisted of the operation of department stores, securities trading and the provision of general and life insurances.

In the opinion of the directors, as at 31 December 2023, Realord Group Holdings Limited (“Realord”), a company incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability and the shares of which are listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange, is the immediate holding company of the Company. The ultimate holding company is Manureen Holdings Limited (“Manureen Holdings”), a company incorporated in the British Virgin Islands (“BVI”) with limited liability. The ultimate shareholders of Manureen Holdings are Dr. Lin Xiaohui (“Dr. Lin”) and Madam Su Jiaohua (“Madam Su”), who own 70% and 30% equity interests of Manureen Holdings, respectively.

The consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 were approved for issue by the board of directors (the “Board”) on 25 March 2024.

### 2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”), which collective term includes all applicable individual HKFRSs, Hong Kong Accounting Standards (“HKASs”) and Interpretations issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”) and the accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong.

The consolidated financial statements also comply with the applicable requirements of the Companies Ordinance and include the applicable disclosure requirements of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange (the “Listing Rules”).

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for leasehold land and owned buildings, equity investments at FVTOCI and financial assets at FVTPL which are stated at fair values.

These consolidated financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars (“HK\$”) and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand (HK\$’000) except when otherwise indicated.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION (Continued)

### Going concern basis

During the year ended 31 December 2023, the Group recorded a net loss of HK\$51,612,000. The Group's operations are financed by bank and other borrowings, loans from related parties (including immediate holding company and a related company) and internal resources. As at 31 December 2023, the Group had net current liabilities of HK\$79,731,000 and the Company had net current liabilities of HK\$159,977,000 and net liabilities of HK\$23,531,000. The Group's cash and bank balances amounted to HK\$92,694,000 as at 31 December 2023.

Management closely monitors the Group's financial performance and liquidity position to assess the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. In view of these circumstances, management has been continuously implementing measures to improve profitability, control operating costs and reduce capital expenditures in order to improve the Group's operating performance and alleviate its liquidity risk. These measures include (i) continuously remapping its marketing strategies and pricing policies; (ii) continuing its measures to control capital and operating expenditures; (iii) negotiating with its landlords for rental reductions; and (iv) identifying the opportunity in realisation of certain assets of the Group. Management believes that these measures will further improve the Group's operating profitability and the resulting cash flows.

As at 31 December 2023, the Group has unutilised trade financing banking facilities of HK\$443,000. Besides, Realord has undertaken to provide continuous financial support to the Group to meet its liabilities and obligations as and when they fall due for at least next 18 months from 31 December 2023.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION (Continued)

### Going concern basis (Continued)

On 21 March 2022, a related company, in which Dr. Lin and Madam Su own 70% and 30% equity interests respectively, entered into a loan facility agreement with the Company, pursuant to which the related company had agreed to provide a loan facility up to HK\$200,000,000 for 36 months in order to support the operation of the Group. During the year ended 31 December 2023, the term of the loan was revised with a facility limit of HK\$260,000,000. The loan is unsecured, bears interest at HIBOR plus 5% per annum and is repayable on 20 March 2025. As at 31 December 2023, the Group had unutilised loan facility of HK\$49,000,000.

The Company's directors have reviewed the Group's cash flow projections prepared by management. The cash flow projections cover a period of not less than 18 months from 31 December 2023. Management's projections make certain key assumptions with regard to (i) the anticipated cash flows from the Group's operations and capital expenditures; (ii) the continuous availabilities of bank and other borrowings facilities; and (iii) the continuous availabilities of the loans from related parties (including immediate holding company and a related company). The Group's ability to achieve the projected cash flows depends on management's ability to successfully implement the aforementioned improvement measures on profitability and liquidity and the continuous availability of bank and other borrowings facilities and the loans from related parties.

The directors, after making due enquiries and considering the basis of management's projections described above and after taking into account (i) the reasonably possible changes in the operational performance; (ii) the continuous availabilities of the bank and other borrowings facilities; and (iii) the financial support from related parties (including immediate holding company and a related company), believe that the Group will have sufficient financial resources to operate as a going concern.

Should the Group be unable to continue as a going concern, adjustments would have to be made to write down the value of assets to their recoverable amounts, to reclassify non-current assets and liabilities as current assets and liabilities, respectively and to provide for any future liabilities which might arise. The effect of these potential adjustments has not been reflected in these consolidated financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION (Continued)

### Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 2023. A subsidiary is an entity (including a structured entity), directly or indirectly, controlled by the Company. Control is achieved when the Group is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the investee and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the investee (i.e. existing rights that give the Group the current ability to direct the relevant activities of the investee).

When the Company has, directly or indirectly, less than a majority of the voting or similar rights of an investee, the Group considers all relevant facts and circumstances in assessing whether it has power over an investee, including:

- (a) the contractual arrangement with the other vote holders of the investee;
- (b) rights arising from other contractual arrangements; and
- (c) the Group's voting rights and potential voting rights.

The financial statements of the subsidiaries are prepared for the same reporting period as the Company, using consistent accounting policies. The results of subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which the Group obtains control, and continue to be consolidated until the date such control ceases.

Profit or loss and each component of other comprehensive income are attributed to the equity holders of the Company and to the non-controlling interests, even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance. All intra-group assets and liabilities, equity, income, expenses and cash flows relating to transactions between members of the Group are eliminated in full on consolidation.

The Group reassesses whether or not it controls an investee if facts and circumstances indicate that there are changes to one or more of the three elements of control described above. A change in the ownership interest of a subsidiary, without a loss of control, is accounted for as an equity transaction.

Non-controlling interests represent the equity on a subsidiary not attributable directly or indirectly to the Company, and in respect of which the Group has not agreed any additional terms with the holders of those interests which would result in the Group as a whole having a contractual obligation in respect of those interests that meets the definition of a financial liability.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION (Continued)

### Basis of consolidation (Continued)

Non-controlling interests are presented in the consolidated statement of financial position within equity, separately from the equity attributable to the equity holders of the Company. Non-controlling interests in the results of the Group are presented on the face of the consolidated income statement and the consolidated statement of comprehensive income as an allocation of the total profit or loss and total comprehensive income for the year between non-controlling interests and the equity holders of the Company.

If the Group loses control over a subsidiary, it derecognises the related assets (including goodwill), liabilities, any non-controlling interest and the exchange fluctuation reserve; and recognises the fair value of any investment retained and any resulting surplus or deficits in the consolidated income statement. The Group's share of components previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified to the consolidated income statement or retained profits, as appropriate, on the same basis as would be required if the Group had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities.

In the Company's statement of financial position, subsidiaries are carried at cost less any impairment loss unless the subsidiary is held for sale or included in a disposal group. Cost also includes direct attributable costs of investment.

The results of subsidiaries are accounted for by the Company on the basis of dividends received and receivable at the end of the reporting period. All dividends whether received out of the investee's pre or post-acquisition profits are recognised in the Company's income statement.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.2 ADOPTION OF NEW AND AMENDED HKFRSs

### New and amended HKFRSs that are effective for annual periods beginning on 1 January 2023

In the current year, the Group has applied for the first time the following new and amended HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA, which are relevant to the Group's operations and effective for the Group's consolidated financial statements for the annual period beginning on 1 January 2023:

HKFRS 17	Insurance Contracts and related amendments
Amendments to HKAS 1 and HKFRS Practice Statement 2	Disclosure of Accounting Policies
Amendments to HKAS 8	Definition of Accounting Estimates
Amendments to HKAS 12	Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction
Amendments to HKAS 12	International Tax Reform – Pillar Two Model Rules

The adoption of the new and amended HKFRSs had no material impact on how the results and financial position for the current and prior periods have been prepared and presented.

### *HKFRS 17 "Insurance Contracts" and related amendments*

HKFRS 17 is a comprehensive new accounting standard for insurance contracts covering recognition and measurement, presentation and disclosure. HKFRS 17 replaces HKFRS 4 "Insurance Contracts". The standard applies to all types of insurance contracts (i.e., life, non-life, direct insurance and re-insurance), regardless of the type of entities that issue them, as well as to certain guarantees and financial instruments with discretionary participation features. A few scope exceptions apply. The overall objective of the standard is to provide an accounting model for insurance contracts that is more useful and consistent for insurers, covering all relevant accounting aspects. The core of the standard is the general model, supplemented by:

- a specific adaptation for contracts with direct participation features (the variable fee approach); and
- a simplified approach (the premium allocation approach) mainly for short-duration contracts.

HKFRS 17 is not expected to have a material impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.2 ADOPTION OF NEW AND AMENDED HKFRSs (Continued)

### Issued but not yet effective HKFRSs

The Group has not early adopted the following amended HKFRSs that have been issued but are not yet effective in these consolidated financial statements.

Amendments to HKFRS 10 and HKAS 28	Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture <sup>3</sup>
Amendments to HKFRS 16	Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback <sup>1</sup>
Amendments to HKAS 1	Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current and related amendments to Hong Kong Interpretation 5 <sup>1</sup>
Amendments to HKAS 1	Non-current Liabilities with Covenants <sup>1</sup>
Amendments to HKAS 7 and HKFRS 7	Supplier Finance Arrangements <sup>1</sup>
Amendments to HKAS 21	Lack of Exchangeability <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024

<sup>2</sup> Effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2025

<sup>3</sup> Effective date not yet determined

The directors anticipate that all of the pronouncements will be adopted in the Group's accounting policy for the first period beginning on or after the effective date of the pronouncement. Information on amended HKFRSs that are expected to have impact on the Group's accounting policies is provided below. Other amended HKFRSs are not expected to have a material impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements.

*Amendments to HKAS 1 "Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current" ("2020 Amendments") and related amendments to Hong Kong Interpretation 5 and Amendments to HKAS 1 "Non-current Liabilities with Covenants" ("2022 Amendments")*

The amendments provide further guidance to clarify how to classify debt and other liabilities as current or non-current which are summarised as follows:

- It clarifies that a liability is non-current if an entity has a right (instead of unconditional right as stated before the amendments) to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months from the end of the reporting period. This right has to be existed at the end of the reporting period, regardless of whether the lender tests for compliance at the date or at a later date;
- Any expectations about events after the reporting period do not impact the assessment made at the end of the reporting period as to the classification of the liability; and

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.2 ADOPTION OF NEW AND AMENDED HKFRSs (Continued)

### Issued but not yet effective HKFRSs (Continued)

*Amendments to HKAS 1 “Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current” (“2020 Amendments”) and related amendments to Hong Kong Interpretation 5 and Amendments to HKAS 1 “Non-current Liabilities with Covenants” (“2022 Amendments”) (Continued)*

- “Settlements” are newly defined as a transfer to the counterparty that results in the extinguishment of the liability. The transfer could be of cash, other economic resources (e.g. goods or services), or entity’s own equity instruments. Thus, if the counterparty conversion option is classified as liability under HKAS 32 “Financial Instruments: Presentation”, the transfer of equity instruments by exercising the conversion option constitute settlement of liability for the purpose of current or non-current classification of liabilities. One exception to the definition is that if the counterparty conversion option is classified as equity in accordance with HKAS 32, the transfer of equity instruments by exercising the conversion option does not constitute settlement of liability and would be disregarded when determining whether the liability is current or non-current.

2022 Amendments issued in 2022 clarified that only covenants of a liability arising from a loan arrangement, which an entity must comply with on or before the reporting date (even if the covenant is only assessed after the reporting date) affect the classification of that liability as current or non-current. Those covenants to be complied with after the reporting date do not affect such classification at the reporting date.

Besides, the 2022 Amendments required an entity to provide additional disclosure when a liability arising from a loan agreement is classified as non-current and the entity’s right to defer settlement is contingent on compliance with future covenants within twelve months.

The 2022 Amendments also deferred the effective date of the 2020 Amendments to the annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2024, in which both amendments are to be applied as a package and apply retrospectively. Earlier application is permitted.

Based on the Group’s outstanding liabilities as at 31 December 2023, the application of 2020 and 2022 Amendments will not result in reclassification of the Group’s liabilities.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.2 ADOPTION OF NEW AND AMENDED HKFRSs (Continued)

### **New HKICPA guidance on the accounting implication of the Mandatory Provident Fund (“MPF”)-Long Service Payment (“LSP”) offsetting mechanism**

As disclosed in note 24 to the consolidated financial statements, in June 2022, the Hong Kong SAR Government (the “Government”) gazetted the Hong Kong Employment and Retirement Schemes Legislation (Offsetting Arrangement) (Amendment) Ordinance 2022 (the “Amendment Ordinance”), which will take effect on 1 May 2025 (the “Transition Date”). The Amendment Ordinance abolishes the use of the accrued benefits derived from employers’ mandatory MPF contributions to offset LSP in respect of an employee’s service from the Transition Date (the “Abolition”). In addition, the last month’s salary immediately preceding the Transition Date is used to calculate the portion of the LSP in respect of the employment period before the Transition Date.

Prior to 1 January 2023, the Group applied practical expedient in paragraph 93(b) of HKAS 19 (the “Practical Expedient”) to account for the offsettable MPF benefits as deemed employee contributions to reduce the current service costs in the period in which the related services were rendered.

In July 2023, the HKICPA published “Accounting implications of the abolition of the MPF-LSP offsetting mechanism in Hong Kong” (“the Guidance”) that provides guidance for the accounting for the offsetting mechanism and the impact arising from the abolition of the MPF-LSP offsetting mechanism.

By following the Guidance, the Group has changed its accounting policy in connection with its LSP obligations. As a result of the Abolition, these contributions are no longer considered “linked solely to the employee’s service in that period” since the employer’s mandatory MPF contribution after the Transition Date can still be used to offset the pre-transition LSP obligation. Therefore, the Group ceased to apply the Practical Expedient and reattribute the deemed employee contributions to periods of service in the same manner as the gross LSP benefit by applying paragraph 93(a) of HKAS 19. This change in accounting policy upon the cessation in applying the Practical Expedient has resulted in a catch-up adjustment in profit or loss in June 2022 for the service cost up to that date and consequential impacts on current service cost, interest expense and remeasurement effects from changes in actuarial assumptions for the rest of 2022 (see note 24), with the corresponding adjustment to the carrying amount of the LSP obligations during the year ended 31 December 2022. This change in accounting policy did not have any impact on the opening balance of equity as at 1 January 2022. The Group has assessed the implications of this new Guidance on the above accounting policy and the Guidance has a material impact on how the Group’s results and financial position for the current or prior periods have been prepared or presented in this annual financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.2 ADOPTION OF NEW AND AMENDED HKFRSs (Continued)

### New HKICPA guidance on the accounting implication of the Mandatory Providence Fund (“MPF”)-Long Service Payment (“LSP”) offsetting mechanism (Continued)

This change in accounting policy has been applied retrospectively by restating the balances as at 31 December 2022. The following table summarises the impacts of the adoption of the Guidance on the comparatives presented in the Group’s consolidated income statement, consolidated statement of comprehensive income and consolidated statement of financial position.

#### *Consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2022*

	Carrying amount as at 31 December 2022 (before the adoption) HK\$’000	Impact of adoption of the Guidance HK\$’000	Restated carrying amount as at 31 December 2022 (after the adoption) HK\$’000
LSP obligations	–	1,279	1,279
Accumulated losses	841,391	1,279	842,670

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.2 ADOPTION OF NEW AND AMENDED HKFRSs (Continued)

### New HKICPA guidance on the accounting implication of the Mandatory Providence Fund (“MPF”)-Long Service Payment (“LSP”) offsetting mechanism (Continued)

*Consolidated income statement and consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2022*

	Original amount (before the adoption) HK\$'000	Impact of adoption of the Guidance HK\$'000	Restated amount (after the adoption) HK\$'000
Selling and distribution expenses	80,728	860	81,588
General and administrative expenses	53,165	858	54,023
Loss for the year	62,251	1,718	63,969
Actuarial gains on LSP	–	439	439
Other comprehensive (loss)/income	(57)	439	382
<b>Loss per share</b>			
Basic and diluted	HK\$(0.04)	HK\$(0.01)	HK\$(0.05)

The following table summarises the impacts of the adoption of the Guidance on the Group’s consolidated income statement and consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2023 and consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, if the Group had not changed its accounting policy as noted above and had continued to apply the practical expedient in paragraph 93(b) of HKAS 19:

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.2 ADOPTION OF NEW AND AMENDED HKFRSs (Continued)

New HKICPA guidance on the accounting implication of the Mandatory Providence Fund (“MPF”)-Long Service Payment (“LSP”) offsetting mechanism (Continued)

*Consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023*

	Carrying amount as at 31 December 2023 (before the adoption) HK\$'000	Impact of adoption of the Guidance HK\$'000	Carrying amount as at 31 December 2023 (after the adoption) HK\$'000
LSP obligations	–	1,732	1,732
Accumulated losses	891,426	1,732	893,158

*Consolidated income statement and consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2023*

	Amount before the adoption HK\$'000	Impact of adoption of the Guidance HK\$'000	Amount after the adoption HK\$'000
Selling and distribution expenses	69,092	19	69,111
General and administrative expenses	47,844	350	48,194
Loss for the year	51,243	369	51,612
Actuarial losses on LSP	–	84	84
Other comprehensive income	3,600	(84)	3,516

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### Fair value measurement

The Group measures its leasehold land and owned buildings, equity investments at FVTOCI and financial assets at FVTPL at fair value at the end of each reporting period. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability, or in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability. The principal or the most advantageous market must be accessible by the Group. The fair value of an asset or a liability is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

A fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Group uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the consolidated financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

- Level 1 – Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is observable, either directly or indirectly, and not using significant unobservable inputs
- Level 3 – Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable

For assets and liabilities that are recognised in the consolidated financial statements at fair value on a recurring basis, the Group determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by reassessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Impairment of non-financial assets

Where an indication of impairment exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required (other than inventories, pension scheme assets and financial assets), the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of the asset's or cash-generating unit's ("CGU's") value in use and its fair value less costs of disposal, and is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets, in which case the recoverable amount is determined for the CGU to which the asset belongs. An impairment loss is recognised only if the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount.

Corporate assets are allocated to individual CGUs, when a reasonable and consistent basis of allocation can be identified, or otherwise they are allocated to the smallest group of CGUs for which a reasonable and consistent allocation basis can be identified.

In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset.

In determining fair value less costs of disposal, recent market transactions are taken into account. If no such transactions can be identified, an appropriate valuation model is used. These calculations are corroborated by valuation multiples, quoted share prices for publicly traded companies or other available fair value indicators.

The Group bases its impairment calculation on most recent budgets and forecast calculations, which are prepared separately for each of the Group's CGUs to which the individual assets are allocated. These budgets and forecast calculations generally cover a period of five years. A long-term growth rate is calculated and applied to project future cash flows after the fifth year.

An impairment loss is charged to the consolidated income statement in the period in which it arises in those expense categories consistent with the function of the impaired asset, except for properties previously revalued with the revaluation taken to other comprehensive income. For such properties, the impairment is recognised in other comprehensive income up to the amount of any previous revaluation.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### **Impairment of non-financial assets (Continued)**

An assessment is made at the end of each reporting period to determine whether there is an indication that previously recognised impairment losses may no longer exist or may have decreased. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount is estimated. A previously recognised impairment loss of an asset or a CGU other than goodwill is reversed only if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount of that asset or CGU, but not to an amount higher than the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of any depreciation) had no impairment loss been recognised for the asset or CGU in prior years. A reversal of such an impairment loss is credited to the consolidated income statement in the period in which it arises, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount, in which case the reversal of the impairment loss is accumulated for in accordance with the relevant accounting policy for the revalued asset.

### **Inventories**

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is determined on the weighted average basis and includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion, and other costs incurred in bringing the inventories to their present location and condition. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling prices less any estimated costs to be incurred to completion and disposal.

### **Investments and other financial assets**

#### *Initial recognition and measurement*

Financial assets are classified, at initial recognition, as subsequently measured at amortised cost, FVTOCI and FVTPL.

The classification of financial assets at initial recognition depends on the financial asset's contractual cash flow characteristics and the Group's business model for managing them. With the exception of trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Group has applied the practical expedient of not adjusting the effect of a significant financing component, the Group initially measures a financial asset at its fair value, plus in the case of a financial asset not at FVTPL, transaction costs. Trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or for which the Group has applied the practical expedient are measured at the transaction price as disclosed in section "Revenue recognition" below.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Investments and other financial assets (Continued)

#### *Initial recognition and measurement (Continued)*

In order for a financial asset to be classified and measured at amortised cost or FVTOCI, it needs to give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest (“SPPI”) on the principal amount outstanding. Financial assets with cash flows that are not SPPI are classified and measured at FVTPL, irrespective of the business model.

The Group’s business model for managing financial assets refers to how it manages its financial assets in order to generate cash flows. The business model determines whether cash flows will result from collecting contractual cash flows, selling the financial assets, or both. Financial assets classified and measured at amortised cost are held within a business model with the objective to hold financial assets in order to collect contractual cash flows, while financial assets classified and measured at FVTOCI are held within a business model with the objective of both holding to collect contractual cash flows and selling. Financial assets which are not held within the aforementioned business models are classified and measured at FVTPL.

Purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the period generally established by regulation or convention in the marketplace are recognised on the trade date, that is, the date that the Group commits to purchase or sell the asset.

#### *Subsequent measurement*

The subsequent measurement of financial assets depends on their classification as follows:

#### *Financial assets at amortised cost (debt instruments)*

Financial assets at amortised cost are subsequently measured using the effective interest method and are subject to impairment, except for purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets, for which the original credit-adjusted effective interest rate is applied to the amortised cost of the financial asset. Gains and losses are recognised in the consolidated income statement when the asset is derecognised, modified or impaired.

#### *Financial assets at FVTOCI (equity investments)*

Upon initial recognition, the Group can elect to classify irrevocably its equity investments as equity investments at FVTOCI when they meet the definition of equity under HKAS 32 “Financial Instruments: Presentation” and are not held for trading. The classification is determined on an instrument-by-instrument basis.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Investments and other financial assets (Continued)

#### *Subsequent measurement (Continued)*

#### *Financial assets at FVTOCI (equity investments) (Continued)*

Gains and losses on these financial assets are never recycled to the consolidated income statement. Dividends are recognised as other income and gains, net in the consolidated income statement when the right of payment has been established, when it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the dividend will flow to the Group and the amount of the dividend can be measured reliably, except when the Group benefits from such proceeds as a recovery of part of the cost of the financial asset, in which case, such gains are recorded in other comprehensive income. Equity investments at FVTOCI are not subject to impairment assessment.

#### *Financial assets at FVTPL*

Financial assets at FVTPL are carried in the consolidated statement of financial position at fair value with net changes in fair value recognised in the consolidated income statement.

This category includes equity investments which the Group had not irrevocably elected to classify at FVTOCI. Dividends on the equity investments classified as financial assets at FVTPL are also recognised as other income and gains, net in the consolidated income statement when the right of payment has been established, when it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the dividend will flow to the Group and the amount of the dividend can be measured reliably.

#### *Derecognition*

A financial asset (or, where applicable, a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is primarily derecognised (i.e. removed from the Group's consolidated statement of financial position) when:

- the rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired; or
- the Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party under a "pass-through" arrangement; and either (a) the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or (b) the Group has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

When the Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a pass-through arrangement, it evaluates if, and to what extent, it has retained the risk and rewards of ownership of the assets. When it has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset nor transferred control of the asset, the Group continues to recognise the transferred asset to the extent of the Group's continuing involvement. In that case, the Group also recognises an associated liability. The transferred asset and the associated liability are measured on a basis that reflects the rights and obligations that the Group has retained.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Investments and other financial assets (Continued)

#### *Derecognition (Continued)*

Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of the original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the Group could be required to repay.

#### **Impairment of financial assets**

The Group recognises an allowance for ECLs for all debt instruments not held at FVTPL. ECLs are based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Group expects to receive, discounted at the original effective interest rate (or credit-adjusted effective interest rate for purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets). The expected cash flows will include cash flows from the sale of collateral held or other credit enhancements that are integral to the contractual terms.

#### *General approach*

ECLs are recognised in three stages. For credit exposures for which there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, ECLs are provided for credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the next 12 months (a 12-month ECL). For those credit exposures for which there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, a loss allowance is required for credit losses expected over the remaining life of the exposure, irrespective of the timing of the default (a lifetime ECL).

At each reporting date, the Group assesses whether the credit risk on a financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition. When making the assessment, the Group compares the risk of a default occurring on the financial instrument as at the reporting date with the risk of a default occurring on the financial instrument as at the date of initial recognition and considers reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort, including historical and forward-looking information.

The Group considers a financial asset in default when contractual payments are 90 days past due. However, in certain cases, the Group may also consider a financial asset to be in default when internal or external information indicates that the Group is unlikely to receive the outstanding contractual amounts in full before taking into account any credit enhancements held by the Group. A financial asset is written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovering the contractual cash flows.

Financial assets at amortised cost are subject to impairment under the general approach and they are classified within the following stages for measurement of ECLs except for trade receivables which apply the simplified approach as detailed below.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Impairment of financial assets (Continued)

#### *General approach (Continued)*

- Stage 1 – Financial instruments for which credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition and for which the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to 12-month ECLs
- Stage 2 – Financial instruments for which credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition but that are not credit-impaired financial assets and for which the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs
- Stage 3 – Financial assets that are credit-impaired at the reporting date (but that are not purchased or originated credit-impaired) and for which the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs

Purchased or originated credit-impaired financial assets refer to financial assets that are credit-impaired at the initial recognition and for which the loss allowance is measured at the amount equal to the lifetime ECLs.

#### *Simplified approach*

For trade receivables that do not contain a significant financing component or when the Group applies the practical expedient of not adjusting the effect of a significant financing component, the Group applies the simplified approach in calculating ECLs. Under the simplified approach, the Group does not track changes in credit risk, but instead recognises an ECL allowance based on lifetime ECLs at each reporting date. The Group has established a provision matrix that is based on its historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

For trade receivables that contain a significant financing component and lease receivables, the Group chooses as its accounting policy to adopt the simplified approach in calculating ECLs with policies as described above.

### Financial liabilities

#### *Initial recognition and measurement*

Financial liabilities are classified, at initial recognition, as borrowings, loans from related parties (including immediate holding company and a related company), creditors, lease liabilities, deposits, accrued expenses and other payables.

All financial liabilities (other than lease liabilities) are recognised initially at fair value and, in the case of loans and borrowings and payables, net of directly attributable transaction costs.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Financial liabilities (Continued)

#### *Subsequent measurement*

The subsequent measurement of financial liabilities depends on their classification as follows:

#### *Financial liabilities at amortised cost (trade and other payables, and borrowings)*

After initial recognition, trade and other payables, and interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost. Gains and losses are recognised in the consolidated income statement when the liabilities are derecognised as well as through the effective interest rate amortisation process.

Amortised cost is calculated by taking into account any discount or premium on acquisition and fees or costs that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. The effective interest rate amortisation is included in finance costs in the consolidated income statement.

#### *Derecognition*

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged or cancelled, or expires.

### Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment (other than cost of leasehold land under right-of-use assets and buildings under owned assets as described below) are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment comprises its purchase price and any directly attributable costs of bringing the asset to its working condition and location for its intended use. Expenditure incurred after items of property, plant and equipment have been put into operation, such as repairs and maintenance, is normally charged to the consolidated income statement in the period in which it is incurred.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Property, plant and equipment (Continued)

Leasehold land under right-of-use assets and buildings under owned assets are measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses recognised after the date of revaluation. Valuations are performed frequently enough to ensure that the fair value of a revalued asset does not differ materially from its carrying amount. Changes in the values of property, plant and equipment are dealt with as movements in the asset revaluation reserve. If the total of this reserve is insufficient to cover a deficit, on an individual asset basis, the excess of the deficit is charged to the consolidated income statement. Any subsequent revaluation surplus is credited to the consolidated income statement to the extent of the deficit previously charged. On disposal of a revalued asset, the relevant portion of the asset revaluation reserve realised in respect of previous valuations is transferred to retained profits/accumulated losses as a movement in reserves.

Depreciation is calculated on the straight-line basis to write off the cost or valuation of each item of property, plant and equipment to its residual value over its estimated useful life. The principal annual rates used for this purpose are as follows:

Buildings	2%-4%
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	10%-20%
Motor vehicles	16 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub> %-25%
Leasehold improvements	Shorter of lease terms and useful lives

Where parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, the cost of that item is allocated on a reasonable basis among the parts and each part is depreciated separately. Residual values, useful lives and the depreciation method are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at least at each year end.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal. Any gain or loss on disposal or retirement recognised in the consolidated income statement in the year the asset is derecognised is the difference between the net sales proceeds and the carrying amount of the relevant asset.

### Intangible assets

#### *Club debentures*

Club debentures are classified as intangible assets included in "Prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets". Club debentures have indefinite useful lives and are carried at cost less any subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets, with indefinite useful lives, are tested for impairment at least annually, irrespective of whether there is any indication that they are impaired.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Borrowing costs

All other borrowing costs are expensed in the period in which they are incurred. Borrowing costs consist of interest and other costs that an entity incurs in connection with the borrowing of funds.

### Leases

At inception of a contract, the Group considers whether a contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as “a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an identified asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration”. To apply this definition, the Group assesses whether the contract meets three key evaluations which are whether:

- the contract contains an identified asset, which is either explicitly identified in the contract or implicitly specified by being identified at the time the asset is made available to the Group;
- the Group has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset throughout the period of use, considering its rights within the defined scope of the contract; and
- the Group has the right to direct the use of the identified asset throughout the period of use. The Group assess whether it has the right to direct “how and for what purpose” the asset is used throughout the period of use.

### *The Group as a lessee*

The Group applies a single recognition and measurement approach for all leases, except for short-term leases and leases of low-value assets. The Group recognises lease liabilities to make lease payments and right-of-use assets representing the right to use the underlying assets.

### *Right-of-use assets*

Right-of-use assets are recognised at the commencement date of the lease (that is the date the underlying asset is available for use). Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for any remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, any initial direct costs incurred, and any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received. Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease terms and the estimated useful lives of the assets, as follows:

Leasehold land	55 years
Buildings	2 to 3 years

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Leases (Continued)

#### *The Group as a lessee (Continued)*

#### *Right-of-use assets (Continued)*

If ownership of the leased asset transfers to the Group at the end of the lease term or the cost reflects the exercise of a purchase option, depreciation is calculated using the estimated useful life of the asset.

When the right-of-use assets relate to interests in leasehold land, the corresponding right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost, and subsequently measured at fair value, in accordance with the Group's policy for "property, plant and equipment".

Refundable rental deposits paid are accounted for under HKFRS 9 and initially measured at fair value. Adjustments to fair value at initial recognition are considered as additional lease payments and included in the cost of right-of-use assets.

The Group's right-of-use assets are included in property, plant and equipment.

#### *Lease liabilities*

Lease liabilities are recognised at the commencement date of the lease at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term. The lease payments include fixed payments (including in-substance fixed payments) less any lease incentives receivable, variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, and amounts expected to be paid under residual value guarantees. The lease payments also include the exercise price of a purchase option reasonably certain to be exercised by the Group and payments of penalties for termination of a lease, if the lease term reflects the Group exercising the option to terminate the lease. The variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as an expense in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

In calculating the present value of lease payments, the Group uses its incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date because the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable. After the commencement date, the amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made. In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured if there is a modification, a change in the lease term, a change in lease payments (e.g. a change to future lease payments resulting from a change in an index or rate) or a change in assessment of an option to purchase the underlying asset.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Leases (Continued)

#### *The Group as a lessee (Continued)*

##### *Lease liabilities (Continued)*

For lease modification that is not accounted for as a separate lease, the Group remeasures the lease liability based on the lease term of the modified lease by discounting the revised lease payments using a revised discount rate at the effective date of modification. The only exception is any rent concessions which arose as a direct consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and which satisfied the conditions set out in paragraph 46B of HKFRS 16 “Leases”. In such cases, the Group took advantage of the practical expedient set out in paragraph 46A of HKFRS 16 and recognised the change in consideration as if it were not a lease modification.

#### *The Group as a lessor*

When the Group acts as a lessor, it classifies at lease inception (or when there is a lease modification) each of its leases as either an operating lease or a finance lease.

Leases in which the Group does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset are classified as operating leases. Rental income is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease terms and is included in revenue in the consolidated income statement due to its operating nature. Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging an operating lease are added to the carrying amount of the leased asset and recognised over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

Leases that transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an underlying asset to the lessee are accounted for as finance leases.

When the Group is an intermediate lessor, a sub-lease is classified as a finance lease or operating lease with reference to the right-of-use asset arising from the head lease. If the head lease is a short-term lease to which the Group applies the short-term lease exemption, then the Group classifies the sub-lease as an operating lease.

### **Provisions and contingent liabilities**

A provision is recognised when a present obligation (legal or constructive) has arisen as a result of a past event and it is probable that a future outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, provided that a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

When the Group expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset, but only when the reimbursement is virtually certain. The expense relating to a provision is presented in the consolidated income statement net of any reimbursement.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Provisions and contingent liabilities (Continued)

When the effect of discounting is material, the amount recognised for a provision is the present value at the end of the reporting period of the future expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation.

All provisions are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and adjusted to reflect the current best estimate.

Where it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required, or the amount cannot be estimated reliably, the obligation is disclosed as a contingent liability, unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote. Possible obligations, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future uncertain events not wholly within the control of the Group, are also disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote.

### Employee benefits

#### *Retirement benefits*

The Group operates a funded final salary defined benefit pension scheme (the “Scheme”) for those employees who are eligible to participate in the Scheme.

An actuarial estimate is made annually by an independent qualified professional actuary, using the projected unit credit actuarial valuation method, of the present value of the Group’s future defined benefit obligation under the Scheme earned by the employees at the end of the reporting period. The assets contributed by the Group to the Scheme are held separately from the assets of the Group in an independently administered fund, and are valued at their fair value at the end of the reporting period.

Remeasurements arising from defined benefit pension plans, comprising actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability) and the return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability), are recognised immediately in the consolidated statement of financial position with a corresponding debit or credit to retained profits/accumulated losses through other comprehensive income in the period in which they occur. Remeasurements are not reclassified to the consolidated income statement in subsequent periods.

Past service costs are recognised in the consolidated income statement at the earlier of:

- the date of the plan amendment or curtailment; and
- the date that the Group recognises restructuring-related costs.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Employee benefits (Continued)

#### *Retirement benefits (Continued)*

Net interest is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net defined benefit liability or asset. The Group recognises the following changes in the net defined benefit obligation under “General and administrative expenses” in the consolidated income statement by function.

- Service costs comprising current service costs, past-service costs, gains and losses on curtailments and non-routine settlements; and
- Net interest expense or income.

In addition, the Group also operates a defined contribution MPF retirement benefit scheme (the “MPF Scheme”) under the Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance. Contributions to the MPF Scheme are made based on a percentage of the employees’ basic salaries and are charged to the consolidated income statement as they become payable in accordance with the rules of the MPF scheme. The Group’s employer contributions are fully and immediately vested in favour of the employees when contributed to the MPF Scheme.

#### *Termination benefits*

Termination benefits are recognised at the earlier of when the Group can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits and when the Group recognises restructuring costs involving the payment of termination benefits.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Employee benefits (Continued)

#### *Defined benefit plan*

The employees employed under the Hong Kong Employment Ordinance are also entitled to LSP if the eligibility criteria are met. The LSP are defined benefits plans.

The amount of long service benefit that an employee will receive on cessation of employment in certain circumstances is defined by reference to the employee's length of service and corresponding salary. The legal obligations for any benefits remains with the Group.

The LSP obligations recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position is the present value of the LSP obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Management estimates the LSP obligations annually. This is based on the discount rate, the salary growth rate, turnover rate and the expected investment return on offsetable MPF accrued benefits. Discount factors are determined close to the end of each annual reporting period by reference to high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid and have terms to maturity approximating the terms of the related defined benefit liability.

Defined benefit costs are categorised as follows:

- service cost (including current and past service cost, and gains and losses on curtailments and settlements);
- net interest expense or income; and
- remeasurement.

Service cost on the Group's defined benefit plan is included in employee benefit expenses. Employee contributions, all of which are independent of the number of years of service, are treated as a reduction of service cost.

Net interest expense on the net defined benefit liability is included in employee benefit expenses.

Gains and losses resulting from remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability, comprising actuarial gains and losses, are included in other comprehensive income and are not reclassified to profit or loss in subsequent periods.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### **Product classification – Insurance contracts**

The Group issues insurance contracts in the normal course of business, under which it accepts significant insurance risk from its policyholders. As a general guideline, the Group determines whether it has significant insurance risk, by comparing benefits payable after an insured event with benefits payable if the insured event had not occur. The Group issues immediate annuity contracts and term life contracts with a surrender value.

Once a contract has been classified as an insurance contract, it remains an insurance contract for the remaining of its lifetime, even if the insurance risk reduces significantly during this period, unless all rights and obligations are extinguished or expire.

### **Insurance contracts liabilities**

#### *Life insurance contracts liabilities*

Life insurance contracts liabilities are recognised when contracts are entered into and premiums are charged. The provision for life insurance contracts consists of outstanding claims and the life reserve.

#### *Life reserve*

Life reserve represents a reserve to cover unexpired risk of life insurance policies and is valued by an independent qualified professional actuary. The resultant surplus or deficit is transferred to or from the consolidated income statement.

### **Income tax**

Income tax comprises current tax and deferred tax. Income tax relating to items recognised outside the consolidated income statement is recognised, either in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current tax assets and liabilities are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period, taking into consideration interpretations and practices prevailing in the countries in which the Group operates.

Deferred tax is provided using the liability method on all temporary differences at the end of the reporting period between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Income tax (Continued)

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for all deductible temporary differences, the carry forward of unused tax credits and any unused tax losses. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the deductible temporary differences, and the carry forward of unused tax credits and unused tax losses can be utilised.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not recognised if the temporary difference arises from goodwill or from initial recognition (other than in a business combination) of assets and liabilities in a transaction that affects neither taxable nor accounting profit or loss and does not give rise to equal taxable and deductible temporary differences.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at the end of each reporting period and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profit will be available to allow all or part of the deferred tax asset to be utilised. Unrecognised deferred tax assets are reassessed at the end of each reporting period and are recognised to the extent that it has become probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available to allow the deferred tax asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period.

Change in deferred tax assets or liabilities are recognised in profit or loss, or in other comprehensive income or directly in equity if they relate to items that are charged or credited to other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities are offset if and only if the Group has a legally enforceable right to set off current tax assets and current tax liabilities and the deferred tax assets and deferred tax liabilities relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on either the same taxable entity or different taxable entities which intend either to settle current tax liabilities and assets on a net basis, or to realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously, in each future period in which significant amounts of deferred tax liabilities or assets are expected to be settled or recovered.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Government grants

Government grants are recognised at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attaching conditions will be complied with. When the grant relates to an expense item, it is recognised as income on a systematic basis over the periods that the costs, for which it is intended to compensate, are expensed.

### Revenue recognition

#### *Revenue from contracts with customers*

Revenue from contracts with customers is recognised when control of goods or services is transferred to the customers at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Group expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services.

When the consideration in a contract includes a variable amount, the amount of consideration is estimated to which the Group will be entitled in exchange for transferring the goods or services to the customer. The variable consideration is estimated at contract inception and constrained until it is highly probable that a significant revenue reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur when the associated uncertainty with the variable consideration is subsequently resolved.

For a contract where the period between the payment by the customer and the transfer of the promised goods or services is one year or less, the transaction price is not adjusted for the effects of a significant financing component, using the practical expedient in HKFRS 15 “Revenue from Contracts with Customers”.

#### (a) *Sale of goods*

Revenue from sale of goods is recognised at the point in time when control of the asset is transferred to the customer.

#### Rights of return

Some contracts for the sale of goods provide customers with rights of return. The rights of return give rise to variable consideration. For contracts which provide a customer with a right to return the goods within a specified period, the expected value method is used to estimate the goods that will not be returned because this method best predicts the amount of variable consideration to which the Group will be entitled. The requirements in HKFRS 15 on constraining estimates of variable consideration are applied in order to determine the amount of variable consideration that can be included in the transaction price and recognised as revenue. For goods that are expected to be returned, instead of revenue, a refund liability is recognised. A right-of-return asset (and the corresponding adjustment to cost of sales) is also recognised for the right to recover the goods from a customer.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Revenue recognition (Continued)

#### *Revenue from contracts with customers (Continued)*

##### (a) *Sale of goods (Continued)*

#### Loyalty points programme

The Group has a loyalty points programme, which allows customers to accumulate points that can be redeemed for free coupons. The loyalty points give rise to a separate performance obligation as they provide a material right to the customer.

A portion of the transaction price is allocated to the loyalty points awarded to customers based on relative stand-alone selling price and recognised as a contract liability until the points are redeemed. Revenue is recognised upon redemption of coupons by the customer.

When estimating the stand-alone selling price of the loyalty points, the Group considers the likelihood that the customer will redeem the points. The Group updates its estimates of the points that will be redeemed on a yearly basis and any adjustments to the contract liability balance are charged against revenue.

##### (b) *Income from counter and consignment sale*

Commission income from counter and consignment sale is recognised at a point in time and based on certain percentage of sales made by the customers in accordance with the terms of contracts.

#### *Revenue from other sources*

Rental income is recognised on a time proportion basis over the lease terms.

Net realised gain/(loss) on security trading investments is recognised on the trade date.

#### *Other income*

Interest income is recognised on an accrual basis using the effective interest method. For financial assets measured at amortised cost that are not credit-impaired, the effective interest rate is applied to the gross carrying amount of the asset. For credit-impaired financial assets, the effective interest rate is applied to the amortised cost (i.e. gross carrying amount net of ECL allowance) of the asset.

Dividend income is recognised when the shareholders' right to receive payment has been established, it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the dividend will flow to the Group and the amount of the dividend can be measured reliably.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Revenue recognition (Continued)

#### *Contract liabilities*

A contract liability is recognised when a payment is received or a payment is due (whichever is earlier) from a customer before the Group transfers the related goods or services. Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the Group performs under the contract (i.e. transfers control of the related goods or services to the customer).

#### **Foreign currencies**

These consolidated financial statements are presented in HK\$, which is also the Company's functional currency. Each entity in the Group determines its own functional currency and items included in the financial statements of each entity are measured using that functional currency. Foreign currency transactions recorded by the entities in the Group are initially recorded using their respective functional currency rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the functional currency rates of exchange ruling at the end of the reporting period. Differences arising on settlement or translation of monetary items are recognised in the consolidated income statement.

Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the dates of the initial transactions. Non-monetary items measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the dates when the fair value was measured. The gain or loss arising on translation of a non-monetary item measured at fair value is treated in line with the recognition of the gain or loss on change in fair value of the item (i.e. translation difference on the item whose fair value gain or loss is recognised in other comprehensive income or income statement is also recognised in other comprehensive income or income statement, respectively).

In determining the exchange rate on initial recognition of the related asset, expense or income (or part of it) on the derecognition of a non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability relating to an advance consideration, the date of the transaction is the date on which the Group initially recognises the non-monetary asset or non-monetary liability arising from the advance consideration. If there are multiple payments or receipts in advance, the Group determines the transaction date for each payment or receipt of the advance consideration.

The functional currencies of certain overseas subsidiaries are currencies other than the HK\$. At the end of the reporting period, the assets and liabilities of these entities are translated into HK\$ at the exchange rates prevailing at the end of the reporting period and their income statements are translated into HK\$ at the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. The resulting exchange differences are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in the exchange fluctuation reserve, except to the extent that the differences are attributable to non-controlling interests. On disposal of an operation, the cumulative amount in the reserve relating to that particular foreign operation is reclassified to the consolidated income statement.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents in the consolidated statement of financial position comprise cash on hand and at banks, and short-term highly liquid deposits with a maturity of generally within three months that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash, subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value and held for the purpose of meeting short-term cash commitments.

For the purpose of the consolidated statement of cash flows, cash and bank balances comprise cash on hand and at banks, and short-term deposits as defined above and form an integral part of the Group's cash management.

### Segment reporting

The Group identifies operating segments and prepares segment information based on the regular internal financial information reported to the executive directors for their decisions about resources allocation to the Group's business components and for their review of the performance of those components.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 2.3 SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

### Related parties

For the purposes of these consolidated financial statements, a party is considered to be related to the Group if:

- (a) the party is a person or a close member of that person's family and if that person:
  - (i) has control or joint control over the Group;
  - (ii) has significant influence over the Group; or
  - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of the Group or of a parent of the Group.
- (b) the party is an entity and if any of the following conditions applies:
  - (i) the entity and the Group are members of the same group.
  - (ii) one entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member).
  - (iii) the entity and the Group are joint ventures of the same third party.
  - (iv) one entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity.
  - (v) the entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the Group or an entity related to the Group.
  - (vi) the entity is controlled or jointly controlled by a person identified in (a).
  - (vii) a person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).
  - (viii) the entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to the Group or to the parent of the Group.

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the entity.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND ESTIMATES

The preparation of the Group's consolidated financial statements requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and their accompanying disclosures, and the disclosure of contingent liabilities. Uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates could result in outcomes that could require a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of the assets or liabilities affected in the future.

### Judgments

In the process of applying the Group's accounting policies, management has made the following judgments, apart from those involving estimations, which have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the consolidated financial statements:

#### *Going concern basis*

As disclosed in note 2.1, the consolidated financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The appropriateness of the going concern basis is assessed after taking into consideration all relevant available information about future of the Group, including the Group's cash position, its availability to obtain financing facilities and financial support from related parties (including immediate holding company and a related company) to finance its continuing operations and the cash flow forecasts of the Group. Such assessment inherently involves judgment. Actual results could differ significantly and hence render the adoption of the going concern basis inappropriate.

#### *Consolidation of entities in which the Group holds less than a majority of voting rights*

The Company considers that it controls The Sincere Life Assurance Company Limited ("Sincere LA") and its subsidiary (collectively "Sincere LA Group"), The Sincere Insurance & Investment Company, Limited ("Sincere II") and its subsidiary (collectively "Sincere II Group") and The Sincere Company (Perfumery Manufacturers), Limited ("Perfumery") even though it owns less than 50% of the voting rights. This is because the Company is the single largest shareholder of Sincere LA Group, Sincere II Group and Perfumery with 48.09%, 40.67% and 37.15% direct equity interests, respectively. Based on the Company's absolute size of holding in Sincere LA Group, Sincere II Group and Perfumery, the relative size and dispersion of the shareholdings owned by the other shareholders who acted as principal of their investments in Sincere LA Group, Sincere II Group and Perfumery, and past history of voting patterns in the shareholders' meetings of Sincere LA Group, Sincere II Group and Perfumery, the directors of the Company concluded that the Group has had control over Sincere LA Group, Sincere II Group and Perfumery since the dates on which the Group obtained control. The Group has consolidated the financial statements of Sincere LA Group, Sincere II Group and Perfumery based on its 56.96%, 57.98% and 62.37% effective equity interests and accounted for the remaining equity interests of 43.04%, 42.02% and 37.63% as non-controlling interests, respectively.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND ESTIMATES (Continued)

### Estimation uncertainty

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next year, are described below.

### *ECL of gift receivable from Win Dynamic*

The gift receivable from Win Dynamic amounted to HK\$150,001,000 being the fair value of the WD Proceeds (as defined in note 35) which was determined based on a credit-adjusted effective interest rate of 9.66%, was initially recognised by the Company upon the acceptance of the Offer (as defined in note 35) by Win Dynamic. Management considers that the ECL of gift receivable from Win Dynamic is supported by the legal advices and determined by the basis of various assumptions when estimating the recoverability of gift receivable from Win Dynamic and the probability of timing of legal process, which includes forward-looking scenarios and their likelihoods, counterparty's credit rating and probability of default and recovery rate.

As at 31 December 2023, the carrying amount of gift receivable from Win Dynamic amounted to HK\$191,939,000, net of ECL allowance of HK\$1,111,000 (2022: HK\$174,401,000, net of ECL allowance of HK\$1,027,000). Further details are set out in notes 14 and 35 to the consolidated financial statements.

### *ECL of other financial assets at amortised cost within the scope of ECL under HKFRS 9*

The Group makes allowances on items subjects to ECL (including deposits, other receivables and other financial assets) based on assumptions about risk of default and expected loss rates. The Group uses judgment in making these assumptions and selecting the inputs to the impairment calculation, based on the Group's past history, existing market conditions as well as forward-looking estimates at the end of each reporting period as set out in note 2.3. As at 31 December 2023, the carrying amount of deposits, other receivables and other financial assets amounted to HK\$334,732,000, net of ECL allowance of HK\$1,111,000 (2022: HK\$391,060,000, net of ECL allowance of HK\$ HK\$1,027,000).

### *Fair value of leasehold land and owned buildings*

As at 31 December 2023, the Group's leasehold land under right-of-use assets and buildings under owned assets included in property, plant and equipment (collectively the "Properties") amounted to HK\$155,761,000 (2022: HK\$159,281,000) and HK\$21,239,000 (2022: HK\$21,719,000), respectively. As disclosed in note 12 to the consolidated financial statements, surplus on revaluation of leasehold land and owned buildings of HK\$3,388,000 (2022: deficit of HK\$1,475,000) was recognised in other comprehensive income. The Group's Properties are stated at fair values based on valuations performed by an independent qualified professional valuer. The valuations are dependent on certain significant unobservable inputs, including price per square feet/bay, which are determined based on comparable transactions after applying adjusting factors to reflect the conditions and locations of the subject properties. Details of the valuation methodologies and the significant unobservable inputs used in the valuations are disclosed in note 12 to the consolidated financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND ESTIMATES (Continued)

### Estimation uncertainty (Continued)

#### *Deferred tax related to leasehold land and owned buildings*

The measurement of deferred tax liabilities and deferred tax assets shall reflect the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the Group expects, at the end of the reporting period, to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities. In respect of the Properties, significant management judgment is required to determine the expected manner of recovery of the Properties (i.e. whether the Group expects to recover the asset through sale or through use). Based on the business plan of the Group and the activities being taken by management, management has determined that the Properties will be recovered through sale. Accordingly, the deferred tax liabilities relating to the Properties were measured on a recovery through sale basis and no deferred tax was recognised as at 31 December 2023 and 2022.

#### *Impairment of property, plant and equipment*

For owned assets and right-of-use assets included in property, plant and equipment, management conducted an impairment review of certain CGUs of the Group where there were indicators of impairment by considering the recoverable amounts of the relevant CGUs. Management identifies individual store as a CGU for the purpose of impairment assessment. The amount of any impairment loss was measured as the difference between the CGU's carrying amount and its recoverable amount.

The recoverable amount is the higher of value in use and fair value less costs of disposal. Value in use is the estimated future cash flows, based on key assumptions including expected growth rate, discounted to their present values using an appropriate discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the CGU. Where the actual future cash flows are less or more than expected, or there are unfavourable changes in facts and circumstances which result in downward revision of the estimated future cash flows for the purpose of determining the value in use, further impairment loss or reversal of impairment loss may arise. The calculation of the fair value less costs of disposal is based on available data from market rent and discounted to the net present value of market rent less any costs to transform or restoration.

Further details of the impairment of property, plant and equipment are set out in note 12 to the consolidated financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND ESTIMATES (Continued)

### Estimation uncertainty (Continued)

#### *Provision for inventories*

Net realisable value of inventories (note 15) is based on estimated selling price less any estimated costs to be incurred to completion and disposal with reference to prevailing market information. The Group reviews an ageing analysis at the end of the reporting period, and determines the provision for inventories by reference to the nature and condition of the inventories, the marketability and estimated selling prices, the historical and current ageing pattern of the inventories and the sales strategy of the Group. It could change significantly as a result of changes in market conditions. If the actual net realisable values of inventories are more or less than expected as a result of change in market condition, material reversal of or provision for impairment loss may result.

As at 31 December 2023, the carrying amount of inventories was HK\$29,844,000, net of provision for inventories of HK\$1,901,000 (2022: HK\$29,373,000, net of provision for inventories of HK\$3,266,000). Reversal of provision for inventories amounted to HK\$1,365,000 (2022: HK\$2,257,000) was recognised during the year ended 31 December 2023.

#### *Pension and other retirement benefits*

The determination of the Group's obligation, fair value of plan assets and cost for defined benefits is performed by an independent qualified professional actuary engaged by the Group and is dependent on the selection of certain assumptions used by them in calculating such amounts. Those assumptions include, among others, discount rates, expected returns on plan assets, rates of salary and pension increase and the average remaining working life of employees. In accordance with the Group's accounting policy for pension obligations, actual results that differ from the Group's assumptions are recognised immediately in other comprehensive income as and when they occur. While the Group believes that the actuary's assumptions are reasonable and appropriate, significant differences in the Group's actual experience or significant changes in the Group's assumptions may materially affect its pension and other retirement obligations. The carrying amount of pension scheme assets as at 31 December 2023 was HK\$23,777,000 (2022: HK\$23,160,000).

#### *Fair value of unlisted equity investments*

The unlisted equity investments have been valued based on a market-based valuation technique as detailed in note 31 to the consolidated financial statements. The valuation requires the Group to determine the comparable public companies (peers), select the price multiple and make estimates about the discount for lack of marketability. The Group classifies the fair value of these investments as Level 3. The fair value of the unlisted equity investments as at 31 December 2023 was HK\$4,127,000 (2022: HK\$4,041,000). Further details are included in notes 13 and 31 to the consolidated financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGMENTS AND ESTIMATES (Continued)

### Estimation uncertainty (Continued)

#### *Leases - Estimating the incremental borrowing rate*

The Group cannot readily determine the interest rate implicit in the lease, therefore, it uses its incremental borrowing rate (IBR) to measure lease liabilities. The IBR is the rate of interest that the Group would have to pay to borrow over a similar term, and with a similar security, the funds necessary to obtain an asset of a similar value to the right-of-use asset in a similar economic environment. The IBR therefore reflects what the Group “would have to pay”, which requires estimation when no observable rates are available (such as for subsidiaries that do not enter into financing transactions) or when they need to be adjusted to reflect the terms and conditions of the lease (for example, when leases are not in the subsidiary’s functional currency). The Group estimates the IBR using observable inputs (such as market interest rates) when available and is required to make certain entity-specific estimates (such as the subsidiary’s stand-alone credit rating).

#### *Estimation of LSP obligations*

Management’s estimate of the LSP obligations is based on a number of critical underlying assumptions such as the discount rate, the salary growth rate, turnover rate and the expected investment return on offsetable MPF accrued benefits. Variation in these assumptions may significantly impact the LSP obligations amount and the annual defined benefit expenses amount.

Any changes in these assumptions will impact the carrying amount of LSP obligations.

As at 31 December 2023, the carrying amount of LSP obligations was HK\$1,732,000 (2022 (Restated): HK\$1,279,000). Details of key assumptions and impact of possible changes in key assumptions are disclosed in note 24.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 4. SEGMENT INFORMATION

Segment information is presented by way of two segment formats: (i) operating segments; and (ii) geographical information.

The Group's operating businesses are structured and managed separately, according to the nature of their operations and the products and services they provide. Each of the Group's operating segments represents a strategic business unit that offers products and services which are subject to risks and returns that are different from those of other operating segments. Summary details of the operating segments are as follows:

- (a) the department store operations segment consists of the operations of department stores offering a wide range of consumer products;
- (b) the securities trading segment consists of the trading of Hong Kong and overseas securities; and
- (c) the others segment mainly consists of the sub-lease of properties and the provision of general and life insurances.

In determining the Group's geographical information, revenues are attributed to the segments based on the location of the operations.

Management monitors the results of the Group's operating segments separately for the purpose of making decisions about resource allocation and performance assessment. Segment performance is evaluated based on reportable segment profit/(loss), which is a measure of adjusted loss before income tax. The adjusted loss before income tax is measured consistently with the Group's loss before income tax except that certain interest income, unallocated income/(expenses) and finance costs are excluded from such measurement.

Segment assets exclude gift receivable from Win Dynamic, pledged bank balances and deposits and cash and bank balances as these assets are managed on a group basis.

Segment liabilities exclude bank borrowings, other loans and loans from related parties as these liabilities are managed on a group basis.

Inter-segment sales are transacted based on the direct costs incurred or in the case of rental income and income from the provision of warehouse services, at an agreed rate.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 4. SEGMENT INFORMATION (Continued)

### (a) Operating segments

The following tables present revenue, loss and certain assets, liabilities and expenditure information for the Group's operating segments for the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022.

	Department store operations HK\$'000	Securities trading HK\$'000	Others HK\$'000	Eliminations HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
<b>Year ended 31 December 2023</b>					
Segment revenue:					
- Sales to external customers	146,043	(94)	198	-	146,147
- Inter-segment sales	-	-	31,541	(31,541)	-
- Other income and gains, net	353	493	1	-	847
<b>Total</b>	<b>146,396</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>31,740</b>	<b>(31,541)</b>	<b>146,994</b>
Segment results	(25,928)	(3,090)	(15,562)	-	(44,580)
Interest income and unallocated other income and gains, net					17,897
ECL allowance on other receivables					(84)
Finance costs (other than interest on lease liabilities)					(24,831)
Loss before income tax					(51,598)
Income tax expense					(14)
Loss for the year					(51,612)
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>					
Segment assets	105,850	8,452	213,945	(31,541)	296,706
Unallocated assets					295,910
<b>Total assets</b>					<b>592,616</b>
Segment liabilities	110,765	6,298	11,486	(31,541)	97,008
Unallocated liabilities					370,064
<b>Total liabilities</b>					<b>467,072</b>
<b>Year ended 31 December 2023</b>					
Other segment information:					
- Depreciation	27,309	-	7,820	-	35,129
- Capital expenditure of property, plant and equipment	2,267	-	-	-	2,267
- Reversal of provision for inventories	(1,365)	-	-	-	(1,365)

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 4. SEGMENT INFORMATION (Continued)

### (a) Operating segments (Continued)

	Department store operations HK\$'000 (Restated)	Securities trading HK\$'000	Others HK\$'000	Eliminations HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000 (Restated)
Year ended 31 December 2022					
Segment revenue:					
- Sales to external customers	146,174	(79)	421	-	146,516
- Inter-segment sales	-	-	31,973	(31,973)	-
- Other income and gains, net	1,224	972	2	-	2,198
<b>Total</b>	<b>147,398</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>32,396</b>	<b>(31,973)</b>	<b>148,714</b>
Segment results (Restated)	(36,868)	(2,552)	(18,182)	-	(57,602)
Interest income and unallocated other income and gains, net					16,613
ECL allowance on other receivables					(582)
Finance costs (other than interest on lease liabilities)					(22,375)
Loss before income tax					(63,946)
Income tax expense					(23)
<b>Loss for the year</b>					<b>(63,969)</b>
As at 31 December 2022					
Segment assets	131,394	8,231	218,177	(31,973)	325,829
Unallocated assets					356,865
<b>Total assets</b>					<b>682,694</b>
Segment liabilities (Restated)	122,374	4,617	9,999	(31,973)	105,017
Unallocated liabilities					404,037
<b>Total liabilities (Restated)</b>					<b>509,054</b>
Year ended 31 December 2022					
Other segment information:					
- Depreciation	38,821	-	7,785	-	46,606
- Capital expenditure of property, plant and equipment	2,824	-	-	-	2,824
- Reversal of provision for inventories	(2,257)	-	-	-	(2,257)

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 4. SEGMENT INFORMATION (Continued)

### (b) Geographical information

The following tables present revenue and non-current asset information.

	Hong Kong HK\$'000	United Kingdom HK\$'000	Others HK\$'000	Eliminations HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
<b>Year ended 31 December 2023</b>					
Segment revenue:					
- Sales to external customers	145,998	198	(49)	-	146,147
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>					
Non-current assets	191,681	-	-	-	191,681
<b>Year ended 31 December 2022</b>					
Segment revenue:					
- Sales to external customers	146,330	196	(10)	-	146,516
<b>As at 31 December 2022</b>					
Non-current assets	221,155	-	-	-	221,155

The non-current asset information above is based on the locations of the assets and includes property, plant and equipment and other assets.

### (c) Information about major customers

For the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022, as no revenue derived from an individual customer of the Group has accounted for over 10% of the Group's total revenues, no information about major customers is presented under HKFRS 8 "Operating Segments".

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 5. REVENUE, OTHER INCOME AND GAINS, NET

### (a) Revenue

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
<b>Revenue from contracts with customers</b>		
Sale of goods – own goods	107,314	108,769
Income from counter and consignment sale	38,729	37,405
<b>Revenue from other sources</b>		
Net realised losses on securities trading	(94)	(79)
Rental income	198	421
	<b>146,147</b>	<b>146,516</b>

#### *Revenue from contracts with customers*

##### (i) *Disaggregated revenue information*

All the revenue from contracts with customers are recognised at a point in time and are derived from Hong Kong.

##### (ii) *Performance obligations*

###### Sale of goods – own goods

For the sale of goods, revenue is recognised when control of the goods has transferred, being at the point the customer purchases the goods at the department stores. Payment of the transaction price is due immediately at the point the customer purchases the goods.

###### Income from counter and consignment sale

For income from counter and consignment sale, the counters and consignors will pay the commission income based on a certain percentage of sales in accordance with the terms of contracts. The Group receives the entire sales proceeds from ultimate customers on behalf of the counters and consignors and reimburses the sales proceeds back to counters and consignors after deducting the commission income.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 5. REVENUE, OTHER INCOME AND GAINS, NET (Continued)

### (a) Revenue (Continued)

#### *Revenue from contracts with customers (Continued)*

#### (ii) *Performance obligations (Continued)*

##### Provision for loyalty points programme

The performance obligation is satisfied upon utilisation of loyalty points. The Group allocated a portion of the transaction prices to the loyalty programme which is based on the relative stand-alone selling price. The transaction price of HK\$1,377,000 (2022: HK\$1,321,000) was allocated to the remaining performance obligations as at 31 December 2023 which are expected to be recognised as revenue within one year. The contract liabilities increased during the year ended 31 December 2023 because less loyalty points were utilised or expired.

The following table shows the amounts of revenue recognised in the current reporting period that were included in the contract liabilities at the beginning of the reporting period and recognised from performance obligations satisfied in previous periods:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Revenue recognised that was included in contract liabilities at the beginning of the reporting period:		
– Loyalty points programme	1,321	2,119

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 5. REVENUE, OTHER INCOME AND GAINS, NET (Continued)

### (b) Other income and gains, net

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Bank interest income	236	447
Imputed interest income on gift receivable from Win Dynamic ( <i>note 35</i> )	17,623	16,113
Other interest income from financial assets at FVTPL	–	32
Dividends from financial assets at FVTPL	493	940
Foreign exchange gains, net	39	52
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	223	–
Reversal of provision of reinstatement	–	1,033
Others	131	194
	<b>18,745</b>	<b>18,811</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 6. FINANCE COSTS

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Interest charges on:		
– bank borrowings	5,182	4,381
– lease liabilities ( <i>note 19</i> )	2,035	5,393
– other loans	56	55
– loan from a fellow subsidiary	–	5,996
– loan from immediate holding company	1,139	5,197
– loan from a related company	18,454	6,746
	<b>26,866</b>	<b>27,768</b>

## 7. LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAX

The Group's loss before income tax is arrived at after charging/(crediting):

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Cost of inventories sold	63,578	66,832
Reversal of provision for inventories	(1,365)	(2,257)
	<b>62,213</b>	<b>64,575</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 7. LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAX (Continued)

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
Employee benefit expenses, excluding directors' and chief executive's remunerations ( <i>note 11</i> ):		
– Wages and salaries	36,442	38,619
– Pension contributions, including pension credit for a defined benefit plan of HK\$528,000 (2022: pension cost of HK\$217,000) ( <i>note (a)</i> )	711	1,516
– Expenses arising from LSP obligations ( <i>note 24</i> )	576	1,948
Less: government grants ( <i>note (b)</i> )	–	(3,703)
	<b>37,729</b>	<b>38,380</b>
Depreciation	35,129	46,606
Auditor's remuneration	2,295	2,080
ECL allowance on other receivables ( <i>note 14</i> )	84	582
Other charges in respect of rental premises	18,634	19,778
Lease payments not included in the measurement of lease liabilities ( <i>note 19(c)</i> )	4	1,396
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment ( <i>note 5(b)</i> )	(223)	–
Net realised losses on securities trading ( <i>note 5(a)</i> )	94	79
Foreign exchange gains, net ( <i>note 5(b)</i> )	(39)	(52)
Covid-19-related rent concessions from lessors ( <i>note 19</i> )	–	(720)

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 7. LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAX (Continued)

Notes:

- (a) As at 31 December 2023, the Group had no forfeited contributions available to reduce its contributions to the pension schemes in future years (2022: Nil).
- (b) During the year ended 31 December 2022, government grants from Hong Kong government's employment support scheme of HK\$2,757,000 and HK\$946,000 were included in "Selling and distribution expenses" and "General and administrative expenses", respectively, on the face of the consolidated income statement. There are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies relating to these grants.

## 8. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

No provision for Hong Kong Profits Tax had been made as there were no assessable profits arising in Hong Kong for both years. Taxes on assessable profits elsewhere have been calculated at the rates of tax prevailing in the locations in which the Group operates.

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Current tax		
– Hong Kong	–	–
– Elsewhere	14	23
	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 8. INCOME TAX EXPENSE (Continued)

A reconciliation of the tax expense applicable to loss before income tax at the statutory rates for the locations in which the Company and the majority of its subsidiaries are domiciled to the tax expense at the effective tax rates is as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
Loss before income tax	(51,598)	(63,946)
Tax at the statutory tax rates	(8,639)	(10,551)
Income not subject to tax	(3,053)	(4,380)
Expenses not deductible for tax	4,694	2,126
Tax losses not recognised	7,243	13,538
Others	(231)	(710)
	14	23

As at 31 December 2023, the Group has tax losses arising in Hong Kong of approximately HK\$2,119,000,000 (2022: HK\$2,076,000,000) that are available indefinitely for offsetting against future taxable profits of the Company and certain of its subsidiaries. No deferred tax assets have been recognised in respect of these losses as the Company and certain of its subsidiaries have been loss-making for some time.

## 9. DIVIDENDS

The Board did not recommend the payment of any dividend for the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 10. LOSS PER SHARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO EQUITY HOLDERS OF THE COMPANY

The calculation of the basic loss per share is based on the loss for the year ended 31 December 2023 of HK\$50,477,000 (2022: HK\$60,756,000) attributable to equity holders of the Company and the weighted average number of ordinary shares of 1,313,962,560 (2022: 1,313,962,560) in issue throughout the year.

Diluted loss per share is the same as basic loss per share as the Group had no potentially dilutive ordinary shares in issue during the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022.

## 11. REMUNERATIONS OF THE DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE FIVE HIGHEST PAID INDIVIDUALS

Directors' and chief executive's remunerations for the year, disclosed pursuant to the Listing Rules, section 383(1) of the Companies Ordinance and Part 2 of the Companies (Disclosure of Information about Benefits of Directors) Regulation, is as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Fees	646	684
Other emoluments	–	–
	<b>646</b>	<b>684</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 11. REMUNERATIONS OF THE DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE FIVE HIGHEST PAID INDIVIDUALS (Continued)

	Fees HK\$'000	Salaries, allowances and other benefits HK\$'000	Pension contributions HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
<b>Year ended 31 December 2023</b>				
<i>Executive directors</i>				
Dr. Lin	–	–	–	–
Madam Su	–	–	–	–
Dr. Yu Lai	–	–	–	–
	–	–	–	–
<i>Non-executive director</i>				
Dr. Tai Tak Fung	216	–	–	216
<i>Independent non-executive directors</i>				
Mr. Yu Leung Fai	156	–	–	156
Mr. Yuan Baoyu**	69	–	–	69
Mr. Chung Chun Hung Simon	156	–	–	156
Mr. Lin Lin*	49	–	–	49
	430	–	–	430
	646	–	–	646

\* Appointed on 7 September 2023.

\*\* Retired on 8 June 2023.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 11. REMUNERATIONS OF THE DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE FIVE HIGHEST PAID INDIVIDUALS (Continued)

	Fees HK\$'000	Salaries, allowances and other benefits HK\$'000	Pension contributions HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
<b>Year ended 31 December 2022</b>				
<i>Executive directors</i>				
Dr. Lin	-	-	-	-
Madam Su	-	-	-	-
Dr. Yu Lai	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<i>Non-executive director</i>				
Dr. Tai Tak Fung	216	-	-	216
<i>Independent non-executive directors</i>				
Mr. Yu Leung Fai	156	-	-	156
Mr. Yuan Baoyu	156	-	-	156
Mr. Chung Chun Hung Simon	156	-	-	156
	468	-	-	468
	684	-	-	684

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 11. REMUNERATIONS OF THE DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE FIVE HIGHEST PAID INDIVIDUALS (Continued)

In addition to the directors' remunerations disclosed above, Dr. Lin and Madam Su receive remunerations from the immediate holding company, part of which is in respect of their services to the Company and its subsidiaries. No apportionment has been made as the directors consider that it is impracticable to apportion this amount between their services to the Group and their services to the Company's immediate holding company.

No emoluments were paid by the Group to any directors as an inducement to join or upon joining the Group or as compensation for loss of office during the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022: Nil).

There was no arrangement under which a director or the chief executive waived or agreed to waive any remuneration during the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022.

The five highest paid individuals included no director of the Company (2022: Nil). The remunerations of five (2022: five) highest paid individuals, analysed by nature thereof and designated band, is set out below:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Salaries, allowances and other benefits	5,841	6,870
Pension contributions	81	63
	<b>5,922</b>	<b>6,933</b>

	Number of individuals	
	2023	2022
Emolument bands:		
Nil – HK\$1,000,000	4	4
HK\$3,000,001 – HK\$3,500,000	1	–
HK\$4,000,001 – HK\$4,500,000	–	1

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Owned assets				Right-of-use assets			
	Buildings HK\$'000	Furniture, fixtures, equipment and motor vehicles HK\$'000	Leasehold improvements HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000	Leasehold land HK\$'000	Buildings HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>								
As at 1 January 2023	21,719	16,140	40,856	78,715	159,281	258,071	417,352	496,067
Additions	-	214	635	849	-	1,418	1,418	2,267
Disposals	-	(1,645)	-	(1,645)	-	-	-	(1,645)
Revaluation adjustment	407	-	-	407	2,981	-	2,981	3,388
Reversal upon revaluation	(887)	-	-	(887)	(6,501)	-	(6,501)	(7,388)
As at 31 December 2023	21,239	14,709	41,491	77,439	155,761	259,489	415,250	492,689
<b>Accumulated depreciation and impairment</b>								
As at 1 January 2023	-	15,833	39,907	55,740	-	221,593	221,593	277,333
Depreciation	887	77	631	1,595	6,501	27,033	33,534	35,129
Disposals	-	(1,645)	-	(1,645)	-	-	-	(1,645)
Reversal upon revaluation	(887)	-	-	(887)	(6,501)	-	(6,501)	(7,388)
As at 31 December 2023	-	14,265	40,538	54,803	-	248,626	248,626	303,429
<b>Net carrying amount</b>								
As at 31 December 2023	21,239	444	953	22,636	155,761	10,863	166,624	189,260

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Continued)

	Owned assets				Right-of-use assets			
	Buildings HK\$'000	Furniture, fixtures, equipment and motor vehicles HK\$'000	Leasehold improvements HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000	Leasehold land HK\$'000	Buildings HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>								
As at 1 January 2022	22,799	17,894	58,159	98,852	167,201	286,441	453,642	552,494
Additions	-	276	1,162	1,438	-	-	-	1,438
Modification of leases	-	-	-	-	-	1,386	1,386	1,386
Termination of leases	-	-	-	-	-	(29,756)	(29,756)	(29,756)
Write off	-	(2,030)	(18,465)	(20,495)	-	-	-	(20,495)
Revaluation adjustment	(177)	-	-	(177)	(1,298)	-	(1,298)	(1,475)
Reversal upon revaluation	(903)	-	-	(903)	(6,622)	-	(6,622)	(7,525)
As at 31 December 2022	21,719	16,140	40,856	78,715	159,281	258,071	417,352	496,067
<b>Accumulated depreciation and impairment</b>								
As at 1 January 2022	-	17,827	58,082	75,909	-	212,594	212,594	288,503
Depreciation	903	36	290	1,229	6,622	38,755	45,377	46,606
Termination of leases	-	-	-	-	-	(29,756)	(29,756)	(29,756)
Write off	-	(2,030)	(18,465)	(20,495)	-	-	-	(20,495)
Reversal upon revaluation	(903)	-	-	(903)	(6,622)	-	(6,622)	(7,525)
As at 31 December 2022	-	15,833	39,907	55,740	-	221,593	221,593	277,333
<b>Net carrying amount</b>								
As at 31 December 2022	21,719	307	949	22,975	159,281	36,478	195,759	218,734

If the leasehold land and buildings were stated on the historical cost basis, the net carrying amount would be as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Cost	50,769	50,769
Accumulated depreciation	(29,274)	(28,259)
Net carrying amount	21,495	22,510

As at 31 December 2023, the Group's leasehold land and owned buildings with an aggregate carrying amount of HK\$177,000,000 (2022: HK\$181,000,000) were pledged as security for the bank borrowings granted to the Group (note 22(a)).

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Continued)

### Revaluation of leasehold land and owned buildings

Management determined that the leasehold land and owned buildings constitute a separate class of property, plant and equipment, based on the nature, characteristics and risks of the property.

The Group's leasehold land and owned buildings were revalued based on valuations performed by an independent qualified professional valuer, B.I. Appraisals Limited, at HK\$177,000,000 on 31 December 2023 (2022: HK\$181,000,000). The valuations were based on comparable market transactions and evidence and considered adjustments to reflect differences in transaction timing, location and tenure. Surplus on revaluation of HK\$3,388,000 (2022: deficit of HK\$1,475,000) resulting from the above revaluations was recognised in other comprehensive income during the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Group appoints an external valuer to be responsible for the external valuations of the Group's properties. Selection criteria include market knowledge, reputation, independence and whether professional standards are maintained. The Group discusses with the valuer on the valuation assumptions and valuation results when the valuations are performed for financial reporting. In estimating the fair value of the leasehold land and owned buildings, the highest and best use of the leasehold land and owned buildings is their current use.

The fair values of the Group's leasehold land and owned buildings as at 31 December 2023 and 2022 were estimated by using significant unobservable inputs and the fair value measurement was categorised under Level 3.

Reconciliation of carrying amounts and fair values of leasehold land and owned buildings:

	<b>Owned buildings HK\$'000</b>	<b>Leasehold land HK\$'000</b>	<b>Total HK\$'000</b>
As at 1 January 2022	22,799	167,201	190,000
Depreciation	(903)	(6,622)	(7,525)
Deficit on revaluation as at 31 December 2022	(177)	(1,298)	(1,475)
As at 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023	21,719	159,281	181,000
Depreciation	(887)	(6,501)	(7,388)
Surplus on revaluation as at 31 December 2023	407	2,981	3,388
As at 31 December 2023	<b>21,239</b>	<b>155,761</b>	<b>177,000</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Continued)

### Revaluation of leasehold land and owned buildings (Continued)

Below is a summary of the key inputs to the valuations of leasehold land and owned buildings:

Leasehold land and owned buildings held by the Group	Significant unobservable input	Range	
		2023	2022
Industrial property in Hong Kong (2023: HK\$173,480,000 (2022: HK\$177,200,000))	Adopted price per square feet determined based on comparable transactions (HK\$)	6,000 to 6,900	6,200 to 6,700
	Adjusting factors for variable conditions and locations	76% to 86%	78% to 86%
2 car parking spaces in Hong Kong (2023: HK\$3,520,000 (2022: HK\$3,800,000))	Adopted price per bay determined based on comparable transactions (HK\$'000)	1,500 to 2,500	1,500 to 2,600
	Adjusting factors for variable conditions and locations	81% to 94%	84% to 93%

Significant increase/(decrease) in estimated price per square feet/bay in isolation would result in a significantly higher/(lower) fair value on a linear basis.

## 13. EQUITY INVESTMENTS AT FVTOCI

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Equity investments at FVTOCI	4,127	4,041

The above equity investments were irrevocably designated at FVTOCI as the Group considers these investments to be strategic in nature.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 14. PREPAYMENTS, DEPOSITS, OTHER RECEIVABLES AND OTHER ASSETS

	<i>Notes</i>	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Gift receivable from Win Dynamic	35	193,050	175,428
Prepayments, deposits and other receivables	(a)	41,588	42,537
Other assets	(b)	4,421	4,421
Less: ECL allowance	(c), 35	(1,111)	(1,027)
		<b>237,948</b>	221,359
Less: amount classified as current portion		<b>(35,899)</b>	(33,771)
Amount classified as non-current portion		<b>202,049</b>	187,588

*Notes:*

(a) Prepayments, deposits and other receivables

Included in prepayments, deposits and other receivables are mainly rental deposits of HK\$27,839,000 (2022: HK\$31,939,000), amounts due from credit card companies related to sales settled by customers using credit cards of HK\$2,045,000 (2022: HK\$1,546,000) and prepaid deposit of loan from a related company of HK\$7,332,000 (2022: HK\$7,332,000).

The ageing of the amounts due from credit card companies at the end of the reporting period, based on the invoice date, is within one month. An impairment analysis is performed at each reporting date by considering the probability of default of comparable companies with published credit ratings. In the situation where no comparable companies with credit ratings can be identified, ECL are estimated by applying a loss rate approach with reference to the historical loss record of the Group. The loss rate is adjusted to reflect the current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions, as appropriate. As at 31 December 2023 and 2022, the Group estimated the loss rate of the other receivables to be minimal and no impairment was made.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 14. PREPAYMENTS, DEPOSITS, OTHER RECEIVABLES AND OTHER ASSETS (Continued)

Notes: (Continued)

### (b) Other assets

Other assets represented investments in club debentures which were classified as intangible assets of HK\$2,421,000 (2022: HK\$2,421,000) and financial assets at FVTPL of HK\$2,000,000 (2022: HK\$2,000,000). The intangible assets are regarded as having indefinite useful lives and are stated at cost less any impairment losses. During the year ended 31 December 2023, no impairment loss was recognised (2022: Nil).

Certain club debentures were classified as financial assets at FVTPL as their contractual cash flows are not solely payments of principal and interest. The fair value of these club debentures is based on the quoted market price from the respective club.

### (c) ECL allowance

Further details are disclosed in note 32 to the consolidated financial statements.

## 15. INVENTORIES

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Finished goods	29,844	29,373

During the year ended 31 December 2023, the Group reversed HK\$1,365,000 (2022: HK\$2,257,000) of inventories write down made in previous years as the Group has sold the goods to customers.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 16. FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FVTPL

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Listed investments, at fair value	2,616	2,181
Other investments, at quoted price	1,073	1,382
	<b>3,689</b>	<b>3,563</b>

The above investments as at 31 December 2023 and 2022 were classified as financial assets at FVTPL as they were held for trading.

At the end of the reporting period, investments held for trading with an aggregate fair value of HK\$Nil (2022: HK\$2,181,000) were pledged as security for the bank borrowings granted to the Group (note 22(a)).

## 17. CASH AND BANK BALANCES

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Cash on hand and at banks	92,694	98,188

The short-term bank deposits earn interest at 5.45% (2022: Nil) per annum. They have a maturity of 30 days and are eligible for immediate cancellation without receiving any interest for the last deposit period.

At the end of the reporting period, the cash and bank balances of the Group denominated in Renminbi ("RMB") amounted to HK\$77,000 (2022: HK\$497,000). RMB is not freely convertible into other currencies, however, under Mainland China's Foreign Exchange Control Regulations and Administration of Settlement and Sale and Payment of Foreign Exchange Regulations, the Group is permitted to exchange RMB for other currencies through banks authorised to conduct foreign exchange business.

Cash at banks earns interest at floating rates based on daily bank deposit rates. Short-term time deposits are made for varying periods of between 1 day and 3 months depending on the immediate cash requirements of the Group, and earn interest at the respective short-term time deposit rates. The bank balances and time deposits are deposited with creditworthy banks with no recent history of default.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 18. CREDITORS

An ageing analysis of the creditors at the end of the reporting period, based on the invoice date, is as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Current – 3 months	34,437	25,425
4 – 6 months	1,490	378
7 – 12 months	123	280
Over 1 year	1,904	1,760
	<b>37,954</b>	<b>27,843</b>

## 19. LEASES

### The Group as a lessee

The Group has lease contracts for stores used in its operations. Lump sum payments were made upfront to acquire the leasehold land from the owner with a lease period of 55 years, and no ongoing payments will be made under the terms of these land leases. Leases of stores generally have lease terms between 1 and 3 years (2022: between 0.75 and 3 years). There are several lease contracts that include extension and termination options and variable lease payments.

#### (a) Right-of-use assets

The carrying amounts of the Group's right-of-use assets and the movements during the year are disclosed in note 12 to the consolidated financial statements.

#### (b) Lease liabilities

The carrying amount of lease liabilities and the movements during the year are as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
At the beginning of the year	39,557	94,415
Accretion of interest recognised during the year (note 6)	2,035	5,393
Payments	(31,012)	(60,917)
Additions	1,333	–
Modification of leases (note 12)	–	1,386
Covid-19-related rent concessions from lessors (note 7)	–	(720)
At the end of the year	<b>11,913</b>	<b>39,557</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 19. LEASES (Continued)

### The Group as a lessee (Continued)

#### (b) Lease liabilities (Continued)

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Analysed into:		
– Within one year	11,291	28,718
– In the second to fifth years, inclusive	622	10,839
Carrying amount at the end of the year	11,913	39,557
Less: current portion	(11,291)	(28,718)
Non-current portion	622	10,839

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities is disclosed in note 32 to the consolidated financial statements.

As at 31 December 2023, lease liabilities amounted to HK\$11,913,000 (2022: HK\$39,557,000) are effectively secured by the related underlying assets as the rights to the leased assets would be reverted to the lessors in the event of default by repayment by the Group.

#### (c) Amounts recognised in the consolidated income statement

The amounts charged/(credited) in the consolidated income statement in relation to leases are as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Interest on lease liabilities (note 6)	2,035	5,393
Depreciation of right-of-use assets (note 12)	33,534	45,377
Variable lease payments not included in the measurement of lease liabilities (included in selling and distribution expenses) (note 7)	4	1,396
Covid-19-related rent concession from lessors (note 7)	–	(720)
	35,573	51,446

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 19. LEASES (Continued)

### The Group as a lessee (Continued)

#### (d) Total cash outflows

The total cash outflows for leases are disclosed in note 27(b) to the consolidated financial statements.

#### (e) Details of the lease activities

As at 31 December 2023 and 2022, the Group has entered into the following leases for stores.

Type of right-of-use asset	Financial statements item of right-of-use asset included in	Number of lease	Range of remaining lease term	Particular
Stores	Buildings under right-of-use assets in "Property, plant and equipment"	4 (2022: 3)	0.16 to 2.25 years (2022: 0.2 to 2 years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No option to renew the lease after the end of the contract</li><li>• One of the contracts contain turnover rent, which will be paid if the monthly gross sales turnover exceeds the monthly basic rent of each calendar month</li></ul>

### The Group as a lessor

The Group sub-leases certain area of certain premises under operating lease arrangements which run for an initial period of 2 years (2022: 2 years), with an option to renew the lease terms at the expiry date or at dates as mutually agreed between the Group and the respective tenants. The terms of the leases generally also require the tenants to pay security deposits.

Rental income recognised by the Group during the year ended 31 December 2023 was HK\$198,000 (2022: HK\$421,000), details of which are included in note 5(a) to the consolidated financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 20. INSURANCE CONTRACTS LIABILITIES

### (a) Life insurance contracts liabilities

	Notes	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Life reserve	(i)	1,026	1,026
Provision for claims	(ii)	128	128
		<b>1,154</b>	<b>1,154</b>

Notes:

(i) Life reserve is analysed as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
At the beginning of the year	1,026	1,046
Decrease in the year	-	(20)
At the end of the year	<b>1,026</b>	<b>1,026</b>

(ii) During the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022, there were no movements of the provision for claims of life insurance contracts.

### (b) Terms and conditions

The principal risk the Group faces under insurance contracts is that the actual claims and benefit payments or the timing thereof differ from expectations. This is influenced by the frequency of claims, severity of claims, actual benefits paid and subsequent development of long-term claims. Therefore, the objective of the Group is to ensure that sufficient reserves are available to cover these liabilities.

Life insurance contracts offered by the Group are whole life contracts. Whole life contracts are conventional regular premium products when lump sum benefits are payable on death or permanent disability.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 20. INSURANCE CONTRACTS LIABILITIES (Continued)

### (b) Terms and conditions (Continued)

The main risk that the Group is exposed to is mortality risk – risk of loss arising due to policy holder death experience being different than expected. This risk does not vary significantly in relation to the location of the risk insured by the Group, type of risk insured or industry.

For contracts for which death or disability is the insured risk, the significant factors that could increase the overall frequency of claims are epidemics, widespread changes in lifestyle and natural disasters, resulting in earlier or more claims than expected.

### (c) Key assumptions

Material judgment is required in determining the liabilities and in the choice of assumptions. Assumptions in use are based on past experience, current internal data, external market indices and benchmarks which reflect current observable market prices and other published information. Assumptions and prudent estimates are determined at the date of valuation and no credit is taken for possible beneficial effects of voluntary withdrawals. Assumptions are further evaluated on a continuous basis in order to ensure realistic and reasonable valuations.

The key assumptions to which the estimation of liabilities is particularly sensitive are as follows:

#### *Mortality rates*

Assumptions are based on standard industry and national tables, according to the type of contract written and the territory in which the insured person resides. They reflect recent historical experience and are adjusted when appropriate to reflect the Group's own experiences. An appropriate, but not excessive, prudent allowance is made for expected future improvements. Assumptions are differentiated by sex, underwriting class and contract type.

An increase in rates will lead to a larger number of claims (and claims could occur sooner than anticipated), which will increase the expenditure and reduce profits for the shareholders.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 20. INSURANCE CONTRACTS LIABILITIES (Continued)

### (c) Key assumptions (Continued)

#### *Discount rates*

Life insurance liabilities are determined as the sum of the discounted value of the expected benefits and future administration expenses directly related to the contract, less the discounted value of the expected theoretical premiums that would be required to meet these future cash outflows. Discount rates are based on current industry risk rates, adjusted for the Group's own risk exposure.

A decrease in the discount rate will increase the value of the insurance liability and therefore reduce profits for the shareholders.

## 21. DEPOSITS, ACCRUED EXPENSES AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Accrued and other payables ( <i>note</i> )	32,781	22,387
Deposits received	789	789
Interest payables	1,388	1,992
Provision for staff cost	694	914
Provision for reinstatement costs	7,205	7,764
	42,857	33,846
Less: amount classified as current portion	(42,773)	(26,726)
Amount classified as non-current portion	84	7,120

*Note:* Included in accrued and other payables are mainly accrued management fee, interest payable and professional fee of HK\$18,428,000 (2022: HK\$8,101,000) in relation to the claim from former director (note 36).

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 22. BANK BORROWINGS, OTHER LOANS AND LOANS FROM RELATED PARTIES

### (a) Bank borrowings

	2023			2022		
	Effective interest rate %	Maturity	HK\$'000	Effective interest rate %	Maturity	HK\$'000
	Hong Kong Interbank Offered Rate ("HIBOR")					
Secured bank borrowings	+ 1.5	2024	84,314	HIBOR + 1.5	2023	140,979
				2023		2022
				HK\$'000		HK\$'000
Analysed into:						
– Within one year or on demand				84,314		140,979

Bill payables of HK\$14,314,000 (2022: HK\$18,979,000) with the effective interest rate of HIBOR plus 1.5% (2022: HIBOR plus 1.5%) are included in bank borrowings. The maturity dates of bill payables are normally with 120 days (2022: 120 days).

As at 31 December 2023, the Group's bank borrowings and banking facilities are secured by:

- (i) the pledge of the Group's bank balances and time deposits of HK\$11,277,000 (2022: HK\$84,276,000);
- (ii) the pledge of the Group's marketable securities with an aggregate fair value of HK\$Nil (2022: HK\$2,181,000) (note 16); and
- (iii) the mortgages over the Group's leasehold land and owned buildings with an aggregate carrying amount of HK\$177,000,000 (2022: HK\$181,000,000) (note 12).

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 22. BANK BORROWINGS, OTHER LOANS AND LOANS FROM RELATED PARTIES (Continued)

### (b) Other loans

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Other loans	2,851	2,795
Less: amount repayable within one year or on demand and classified as current portion	(2,292)	(2,247)
Amount classified as non-current portion	559	548
Analysed into:		
– Within one year or on demand	2,292	2,247
– In the second year	559	548
	2,851	2,795

As at 31 December 2023, the other loans are unsecured, bear interest at 2% (2022: 2%) per annum and repayable on demand, except for an amount of HK\$559,000 (2022: HK\$548,000) which is not repayable in the next 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 22. BANK BORROWINGS, OTHER LOANS AND LOANS FROM RELATED PARTIES (Continued)

### (c) Loan from immediate holding company

On 11 June 2021, the Group has obtained a transitional loan facility from Realord up to a limit of HK\$40,000,000 for additional working capital. The loan bore interest at HIBOR plus 1.75% per annum, was unsecured and repayable 2 months after drawdown. On 10 August 2021, the terms of the loan was revised with a facility limit of HK\$100,000,000 (the “Supplemental Loan”).

The Supplemental Loan bears interest at 8.2% (2022: 8.2%) per annum, is unsecured and repayable on or before 10 August 2024 (2022: 10 August 2023). As at 31 December 2023, the carrying amount of the Supplemental Loan was HK\$71,900,000 (2022: HK\$73,263,000).

### (d) Loan from a related company

On 21 March 2022, a related company, in which Dr. Lin and Madam Su own 70% and 30% equity interests respectively, entered into a loan facility agreement with the Company, pursuant to which the related company had agreed to provide a loan facility up to HK\$200,000,000 for 36 months in order to support the operation of the Group.

During the year ended 31 December 2023, the term of the Loan was revised with a facility limit of HK\$260,000,000. The loan is unsecured, bears interest at HIBOR plus 5% (2022: HIBOR plus 5%) per annum and is repayable on 20 March 2025 (2022: repayable 6 months after drawdown). As at 31 December 2023, the carrying amount of loan from a related company was HK\$211,000,000 (2022: HK\$187,000,000).

### (e) Loan from a fellow subsidiary

On 10 May 2021, Realord Finance Limited (“Realord Finance”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Realord entered into a loan facility agreement with the Company, pursuant to which Realord Finance had agreed to provide a loan up to HK\$152,000,000 (the “Realord Loan”), which bore interest at 10% per annum, was repayable 12 months after drawdown and subject to Realord Finance’s right to demand for early repayment.

For the Realord Loan, the Company has executed a debenture (the “Realord Debenture”) on 10 May 2021 in favour of Realord Finance, which gives (i) a first fixed charge over the fixed property and assets of the Company; and (ii) a first floating charge over the undertaking and all other property assets and rights of the Company, subject to the debenture under the Facility (as defined in note 18(b) to the 2021 consolidated financial statements) to the extent that they have not been discharged and/or released by the Lender (as defined in note 18(b) to the 2021 consolidated financial statements).

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 22. BANK BORROWINGS, OTHER LOANS AND LOANS FROM RELATED PARTIES (Continued)

### (e) Loan from a fellow subsidiary (Continued)

As stated in the Realord Loan and the Realord Debenture, once Realord becomes entitled to exercise, or control the exercise of, more than 50% of the voting power at any general meeting of the Company, and have appointed the majority of the members of the Board, Realord Finance shall release and/or discharge all of its rights, benefits, title and interests under the Realord Debenture.

On 12 May 2021, the Company arranged for the repayment of the Facility, together with interest accrued thereon and all amounts payable thereunder as full and final settlement. Such repayment was funded by the provision of the Realord Loan and for the amount in excess of HK\$152,000,000, by the Company's internal resources.

At the time of entering into the Realord Loan, Realord is not yet entitled to exercise, or control the exercise of 10% or more of the voting power at any general meeting of the Company, and therefore, it is not yet a substantial shareholder and hence, a connected person of the Company. As such, the Realord Loan is not a connected transaction at the date of the Realord Loan under Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules.

As Realord becomes entitled to exercise, or control the exercise of, more than 50% of the voting power at any general meeting of the Company, and have appointed the majority of the members of the Board on 9 June 2021, Realord released all of its rights, benefits, title and interests under the Realord Debenture on 18 June 2021.

As at 31 December 2021, the carrying amount of the Realord Loan was HK\$104,000,000. The Realord Loan was fully settled during the year ended 31 December 2022.

## 23. PENSION SCHEME ASSETS

The Group operates a funded final salary defined benefit pension scheme (the "Scheme") for those employees who are eligible to participate in the Scheme. The Scheme provides lump sum benefits based on a multiple of a member's final salary and years of service upon the member's retirement, death or early retirement due to incapacity. In addition to the above, a flat pension payment equals to 50% of final salary payable over a period that is related to the member's year of service.

The Group's defined benefit plan is a final salary plan, which requires contributions to be made to a separately administered fund. The Scheme is governed under a trust and is administered by a corporate trustee with the assets held separately from those of the Group. The trustee is responsible for ensuring that the Scheme is administered in accordance with the trust deed and rules and to act on behalf of all members impartially, prudently and in good faith.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 23. PENSION SCHEME ASSETS (Continued)

The trustee and the Group periodically review the investment strategy and funding position. As at 31 December 2023, the investment portfolio is a mix of 33% (2022: 31%) in equity and 67% (2022: 69%) in debt instruments.

The Scheme is exposed to interest rate risk, investment risk and salary risk.

The most recent actuarial valuation to determine the present value of the defined benefit obligations of the Scheme was carried out on 31 December 2023 by an independent qualified professional actuary, Towers Watson Hong Kong Limited, using the projected unit credit actuarial valuation method.

- (a) The principal actuarial assumptions used at the end of the reporting period are as follows:

	2023	2022
Discount rate	2.9%	3.7%
Expected rate of salary increase	2.0%	2.0%

The actuarial valuation showed that the market value of plan assets as at 31 December 2023 was HK\$33,067,000 (2022: HK\$35,591,000) and that the actuarial value of these assets represented 356% (2022: 286%) of the benefits that had been accrued to qualifying employees.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 23. PENSION SCHEME ASSETS (Continued)

- (b) A quantitative sensitivity analysis for significant assumptions at the end of the reporting period is shown below:

	Increase in rate %	(Decrease)/ Increase in net defined benefit obligations HK\$'000	Decrease in rate %	Increase/ (Decrease) in net defined benefit obligations HK\$'000
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>				
Discount rate	0.25	(143)	(0.25)	149
Long-term salary increase rate	0.25	148	(0.25)	(144)
<b>As at 31 December 2022</b>				
Discount rate	0.25	(142)	(0.25)	157
Long-term salary increase rate	0.25	148	(0.25)	(145)

The sensitivity analysis above has been determined based on a method that extrapolates the impact on defined benefit obligations as a result of reasonable changes in key assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period. The sensitivity analysis is based on a change in a significant assumption, keeping all other assumptions constant. The sensitivity analysis may not be representative of an actual change in the defined benefit obligations as it is unlikely that changes in assumptions would occur in isolation of one another.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 23. PENSION SCHEME ASSETS (Continued)

- (c) The total expenses recognised in the consolidated income statement in respect of the plan are as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Current service cost	330	496
Net interest income	(858)	(279)
Net pension scheme cost	(528)	217

The above amount of the Group's net pension scheme cost was included in "General and administrative expenses" on the face of the consolidated income statement.

- (d) The movements in the present value of the defined benefit obligations are as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
At the beginning of the year	12,431	19,675
Current service cost	330	496
Interest cost	394	213
Actuarial losses/(gains)	389	(2,724)
Benefit paid	(4,254)	(5,229)
At the end of the year	9,290	12,431

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 23. PENSION SCHEME ASSETS (Continued)

(e) The movements in the defined benefit obligations and the fair value of plan assets are as follows:

	Pension cost credited/(charged) to the consolidated income statement				Remeasurement income/(losses) in the other comprehensive income						
	As at 1 January 2023 HK\$'000	Service cost HK\$'000	Net interest income/(expense) HK\$'000	Sub-total included in the income statement HK\$'000	Benefit paid HK\$'000	Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest expense) HK\$'000	Actuarial changes arising from changes in demographic assumptions HK\$'000	Actuarial changes arising from changes in financial assumptions HK\$'000	Experience adjustments HK\$'000	Sub-total included in the other comprehensive income HK\$'000	As at 31 December 2023 HK\$'000
Year ended 31 December 2023											
Defined benefit obligations	(12,431)	(330)	(394)	(724)	4,254	-	10	(479)	80	(389)	(9,290)
Fair value of plan assets	35,591	-	1,252	1,252	(4,254)	478	-	-	-	478	33,067
Benefit assets/(liabilities)	23,160	(330)	858	528	-	478	10	(479)	80	89	23,777

	Pension cost credited/(charged) to the consolidated income statement				Remeasurement income/(losses) in the other comprehensive income						
	As at 1 January 2022 HK\$'000	Service cost HK\$'000	Net interest income/(expense) HK\$'000	Sub-total included in the income statement HK\$'000	Benefit paid HK\$'000	Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest expense) HK\$'000	Actuarial changes arising from changes in demographic assumptions HK\$'000	Actuarial changes arising from changes in financial assumptions HK\$'000	Experience adjustments HK\$'000	Sub-total included in the other comprehensive income HK\$'000	As at 31 December 2022 HK\$'000
Year ended 31 December 2022											
Defined benefit obligations	(19,675)	(496)	(213)	(709)	5,229	-	(4)	1,831	897	2,724	(12,431)
Fair value of plan assets	42,776	-	492	492	(5,229)	(2,448)	-	-	-	(2,448)	35,591
Benefit assets/(liabilities)	23,101	(496)	279	(217)	-	(2,448)	(4)	1,831	897	276	23,160

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 23. PENSION SCHEME ASSETS (Continued)

(f) The major categories of the fair value of the total plan assets are as follows:

	2023	2022
Equity instruments, quoted in an active market	33%	31%
Debt instruments, at quoted prices	67%	69%
Total	100%	100%

(g) Expected contributions to the defined benefit plan in future years are as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Within the next 12 months	–	–

As at 31 December 2023, the average duration of the defined benefit obligations at the end of the reporting period was 6.4 years (2022: 4.8 years).

(h) In addition to the above disclosures, the following information is further provided pursuant to the requirements of the Listing Rules:

The Group has paid contributions to the Scheme at rates as recommended and calculated by an independent qualified professional actuary, Ms. Wing Lui, Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, using the attained age valuation method. The latest ongoing funding valuation and solvency funding valuation were performed as at 1 January 2023. The market value of the assets was HK\$35,591,000 while the levels of ongoing funding and solvency funding were 268% and 375%, respectively. Based on the accrued funding status as at 1 January 2023, the Scheme was fully funded. An interest rate of 2.5% per annum and a salary increase rate of 2% per annum were assumed in the valuation.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 24. LSP OBLIGATIONS

Pursuant to the Hong Kong Employment Ordinance, Chapter 57, Hong Kong employees that have been employed continuously for at least five years are entitled to LSP under certain circumstances (e.g. dismissal by employers or upon retirement).

The amount of LSP payable is determined with reference to the employee's last monthly salary (capped at HK\$22,500) and the years of service, reduced by the amount of any accrued benefits derived from the Group's contributions to MPF scheme (see note 7), with an overall cap of HK\$390,000 per employee. Currently, the Group does not have any separate funding arrangement in place to meet its LSP obligations.

In June 2022, the Government gazetted the Amendment Ordinance, which abolishes the use of the accrued benefits derived from employers' mandatory MPF contributions to offset the LSP. The Amendment Ordinance will take effect on the Transition Date. Separately, the Government has indicated that it would launch a subsidy scheme to assist employers after the abolition.

Among other things, once the abolition of the offsetting mechanism takes effect, an employer can no longer use any of the accrued benefits derived from its mandatory MPF contributions (irrespective of the contributions made before, on or after the Transition Date) to reduce the LSP in respect of an employee's service from the Transition Date. However, where an employee's employment commenced before the Transition Date, the employer can continue to use the above accrued benefits to reduce the LSP in respect of the employee's service up to that date. In addition, the LSP in respect of the service before the Transition Date will be calculated based on the employee's monthly salary immediately before the Transition Date and the years of service up to that date.

The benefit payment under LSP remains capped at HK\$390,000 per employee. If an employee's total benefit payment exceeds HK\$390,000, the amount in excess of the cap is deducted from the portion accrued from the Transition Date.

The Group has accounted for the offsetting mechanism and its abolition as disclosed in notes 2.2 and 2.3 to the consolidated financial statements.

The Group has determined that the Amendment Ordinance primarily impacts the Group's LSP obligations with respect to Hong Kong employees.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 24. LSP OBLIGATIONS (Continued)

The present value of unfunded LSP obligations and its movements are as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
As at 1 January	1,279	–
Remeasurements recognised in other comprehensive income:		
– Actuarial losses/(gains) arising from changes in financial assumptions	84	(439)
Expenses recognised in profit or loss:		
– Current service cost	576	428
– Past service cost	–	1,520
Benefits paid	(207)	(230)
<b>As at 31 December</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>1,279</b>

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
Analysed into:		
– Current portion	59	200
– Non-current portion	1,673	1,079
	<b>1,732</b>	<b>1,279</b>

The current service cost and past service cost are included in employee benefit expenses. They are recognised in the following line items in the consolidated income statement:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
Selling and distribution expenses	301	860
General and administrative expenses	275	1,088
	<b>576</b>	<b>1,948</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 24. LSP OBLIGATIONS (Continued)

### Estimates and assumptions

The significant actuarial assumptions for the determination of LSP obligations are as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
Discount rate	3.24%	3.59%
Salary growth rate	2%	2%
Turnover rate (By age group)	22% to 58%	33% to 60%
Expected investment return on offestable MPF accrued benefits	2.5%	2.5%

These assumptions were developed by management. Discount factors are determined close to each period-end by reference to market yields of high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits will be paid and that have terms to maturity approximating to the terms of the related LSP obligations. Other assumptions are based on current actuarial benchmarks and management's historical experience.

The present value of the LSP obligations was measured using the projected unit credit method.

The weighted average duration of the LSP obligations is 15 years (2022: 12 years).

Expected maturity analysis of undiscounted LSP obligations in the next 42 years as at 31 December 2023 is disclosed as follows:

	Within 1 year HK\$'000	Over 1 year but within 2 years HK\$'000	Over 2 years but within 5 years HK\$'000	Over 5 years HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
LSP obligations	62	–	–	2,827	2,889

The LSP obligations expose the Group to actuarial risks such as interest rate risk, salary risk and the investment risk of the Group's MPF scheme's constituent funds.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 24. LSP OBLIGATIONS (Continued)

### Changes in the significant actuarial assumptions

The calculation of the LSP obligations is sensitive to the significant actuarial assumptions mentioned above. The following table summarises the effects of changes in these actuarial assumptions on the LSP obligations at the end of each reporting periods.

	Impact on LSP obligations		
	Changes in assumption	Increase in the assumption HK\$'000	Decrease in the assumption HK\$'000
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>			
Discount rate	0.25%	(61)	64
Salary growth rate	0.25%	23	(24)
Turnover rate (By age group)	25%	(155)	155
Expected investment return on offestable MPF accrued benefits	5%	(2)	2
<b>As at 31 December 2022</b>			
Discount rate	0.25%	(37)	39
Salary growth rate	0.25%	16	(15)
Turnover rate (By age group)	25%	(206)	206
Expected investment return on offestable MPF accrued benefits	5%	(3)	3

The sensitivity analyses presented above may not be representative of actual change in the LSP obligations as it is unlikely that the change in assumptions would occur in isolation of one another as some of the assumptions may be correlated. When calculating the sensitivity of the LSP obligation to significant actuarial assumptions, the same actuarial valuation method has been applied when calculating the LSP obligations recognised in the consolidated statement of financial position.

## 25. SHARE CAPITAL

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
<b>Issued and fully paid:</b>		
1,313,962,560 ordinary shares	469,977	469,977

There is no movement in the Company's share capital for the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 26. DEFICITS

The amounts of the Group's deficits and the movements therein for the current and prior years are presented in the consolidated statement of changes in equity.

## 27. NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

### (a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

	Lease liabilities HK\$'000	Bank borrowings HK\$'000	Other loans HK\$'000	Loan from a fellow subsidiary HK\$'000	Loan from immediate holding company HK\$'000	Loan from a related company HK\$'000
As at 1 January 2022	94,415	144,508	2,740	104,000	55,000	–
<b>Financing cash flows:</b>						
Proceeds	–	185,907	–	50,000	51,000	187,000
Repayments	(55,524)	(189,436)	–	(154,000)	(32,737)	–
<b>Operating cash flows:</b>						
Interest paid	(5,393)	(4,381)	–	(5,996)	(5,197)	(6,746)
<b>Non-cash:</b>						
Modification of leases	1,386	–	–	–	–	–
Interest expense	5,393	4,381	55	5,996	5,197	6,746
Covid-19-related rent concessions from lessors	(720)	–	–	–	–	–
As at 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023	39,557	140,979	2,795	–	73,263	187,000
<b>Financing cash flows:</b>						
Proceeds	–	140,462	–	–	73,300	24,000
Repayments	(28,977)	(197,127)	–	–	(74,663)	–
<b>Operating cash flows:</b>						
Interest paid	(2,035)	(5,182)	–	–	(1,139)	(18,454)
<b>Non-cash:</b>						
Entering into new lease	1,333	–	–	–	–	–
Interest expense	2,035	5,182	56	–	1,139	18,454
As at 31 December 2023	11,913	84,314	2,851	–	71,900	211,000

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 27. NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS (Continued)

- (b) The total cash outflows for leases included in the consolidated statement of cash flows is as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Within operating activities	2,039	6,789
Within financing activities	28,977	55,524
	<b>31,016</b>	<b>62,313</b>

- (c) Non-cash transactions

The Group entered into the following non-cash investing and financing activities which are not reflected in the consolidated statement of cash flows:

During the year ended 31 December 2023, the Group entered into certain lease contracts in which additions to right-of-use assets and lease liabilities amounted to HK\$1,333,000 (2022: HK\$1,386,000) was recognised at the lease commencement date.

## 28. OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

- (a) Outstanding commitments and contingent liabilities at the end of the reporting period were as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Irrevocable letters of credit	12,843	13,450

- (b) Certain non-compliance matters regarding the Group's insurance business are brought to the attention of the Company. No provision has been made as at 31 December 2023 and 2022.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 29. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

- (a) In addition to the transactions disclosed elsewhere in these consolidated financial statements, the Group had the following material transactions with connected and related parties during the year:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Professional fee to fellow subsidiaries ( <i>note (i)</i> )	516	349
Interest on loan from a fellow subsidiary ( <i>note (ii)</i> )	–	5,996
Interest on loan from immediate holding company ( <i>note (ii)</i> )	1,139	5,197
Interest on loan from a related company ( <i>note (ii)</i> )	18,454	6,746
Handling fee to a related company ( <i>note (iii)</i> )	1,913	2,250
Expenses to immediate holding company ( <i>note (iv)</i> )	2,988	1,741
Sale of goods to immediate holding company ( <i>note (v)</i> )	636	262
Sale of goods to a related company ( <i>note (vi)</i> )	11	24
Purchase of goods from a related company ( <i>note (vii)</i> )	82	79
Sale commissions to a related company ( <i>note (viii)</i> )	1,983	1,091

The related party transactions constitute connected transactions as defined in Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules. The disclosures required by Chapter 14A of the Listing Rules are disclosed in “Report of the Directors” section to the annual report.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 29. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (Continued)

- (a) In addition to the transactions disclosed elsewhere in these consolidated financial statements, the Group had the following material transactions with connected and related parties during the year: (Continued)

Notes:

- (i) The professional fee to fellow subsidiaries is for the provision of printing and financial advisory service to the Group.
- (ii) The interest expenses were charged in accordance with contractual terms with a fellow subsidiary, immediate holding company and a related company. Details of which are set out in notes 22(e), 22(c) and 22(d), respectively.
- (iii) Handling fee related to the loan from a related company and was charged in accordance with contractual terms with a related company. Details of the loan are set out in note 22(d).
- (iv) The expenses were charged by immediate holding company for sharing of office location based on the occupancy area.
- (v) The sale of goods was charged in accordance with contractual terms with immediate holding company.
- (vi) The sale of goods was charged in accordance with contractual terms with a related company controlled by a director of the Company.
- (vii) The purchase of goods was charged in accordance with contractual terms with a related company controlled by a director of the Company.
- (viii) Sales commission was recharged in accordance with contractual terms with a related company controlled by a director of the Company.

As at 31 December 2023, outstanding professional fee to fellow subsidiaries included in deposits, accrued expenses and other payables was HK\$233,000 (2022: HK\$219,000).

- (b) Compensation of key management personnel of the Group:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Short-term employee benefits	646	684
Pension contributions	–	–
	<b>646</b>	<b>684</b>

Further details of the directors' and chief executive's remunerations are included in note 11 to the consolidated financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 30. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS BY CATEGORY

The carrying amounts of each of the categories of financial instruments at the end of the reporting period are as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
<b>Financial assets at amortised cost</b>		
Financial assets included in prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets	230,761	208,596
Pledged bank balances and deposits	11,277	84,276
Cash and bank balances	92,694	98,188
	<b>334,732</b>	<b>391,060</b>
<b>Financial assets at FVTPL</b>		
Financial assets at FVTPL	3,689	3,563
Other assets	2,000	2,000
	<b>5,689</b>	<b>5,563</b>
<b>Financial assets at FVTOCI</b>		
Equity investments at FVTOCI	4,127	4,041
<b>Financial liabilities at amortised cost</b>		
Creditors	37,954	27,843
Provision for claims of life insurance	128	128
Financial liabilities included in deposits, accrued expenses and other payables	34,863	25,293
Bank borrowings	84,314	140,979
Other loans	2,851	2,795
Loan from immediate holding company	71,900	73,263
Loan from a related company	211,000	187,000
Lease liabilities	11,913	39,557
	<b>454,923</b>	<b>496,858</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 31. FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The following tables illustrate the fair value measurement hierarchy of the Group's financial instruments:

### Assets measured at fair value

	Fair value measurement using			Total HK\$'000
	Quoted prices in active markets (Level 1) HK\$'000	Significant observable inputs (Level 2) HK\$'000	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3) HK\$'000	
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>				
Equity investments at FVTOCI	-	-	4,127	4,127
Financial assets at FVTPL	2,616	1,073	-	3,689
Other assets	-	2,000	-	2,000
	<b>2,616</b>	<b>3,073</b>	<b>4,127</b>	<b>9,816</b>
<b>As at 31 December 2022</b>				
Equity investments at FVTOCI	-	-	4,041	4,041
Financial assets at FVTPL	2,181	1,382	-	3,563
Other assets	-	2,000	-	2,000
	<b>2,181</b>	<b>3,382</b>	<b>4,041</b>	<b>9,604</b>

During the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022, there were no transfers of fair value measurements between Level 1 and Level 2 and no transfers into or out of Level 3 for both financial assets and liabilities.

The fair value of financial assets at FVTPL and other assets categorised under Level 2 fair value measurement is determined based on the quoted prices from the fund managers or the clubs, respectively.

The Group did not have any financial liabilities measured at fair value under Level 3 as at 31 December 2023 and 2022. As at 31 December 2023 and 2022, management used the following valuation technique and key input for the valuations of financial assets measured at fair value under Level 3.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 31. FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)

### Information about Level 3 fair value measurements

Financial instrument	Valuation technique	Significant unobservable input
Equity investments at FVTOCI	Market approach	Discount for lack of marketability of 20.5% (2022: 27.6%)

The fair value of equity investments at FVTOCI is determined using the market approach adjusted for lack of marketability discount. The fair value is negatively correlated to the discount for lack of marketability.

As at 31 December 2023 and 2022, it is estimated that an increase/(decrease) of 3% in the unobservable input, with all other variables held constant, would have (decreased)/increased the Group's other comprehensive income as follows:

	Increase/ (Decrease) in unobservable input %	(Decrease)/ Increase in other comprehensive income HK\$'000
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>		
Discount for lack of marketability	3 (3)	(124) 124
<b>As at 31 December 2022</b>		
Discount for lack of marketability	3 (3)	(132) 132

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 31. FAIR VALUE HIERARCHY OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)

### Information about Level 3 fair value measurements (Continued)

The movement during the year in the balance of Level 3 fair value measurements is as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
<u>Equity investments at FVTOCI</u>		
At the beginning of the year	4,041	3,807
Changes in fair value recognised in other comprehensive income	86	234
At the end of the year	4,127	4,041
<u>Asset classified as held for sale</u>		
At the beginning of the year	–	26,646
Changes in fair value recognised in other comprehensive income	–	970
Disposal	–	(27,616)
At the end of the year	–	–

## 32. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Group's principal financial instruments comprise bank borrowings, other loans, loans from related parties (including immediate holding company and a related company), pledged bank balances and deposits, cash and bank balances and lease liabilities. The main purpose of these financial instruments is to raise finance for the Group's operations. The Group has various other financial assets and liabilities such as creditors, which arise directly from its operations.

The main risks arising from the Group's financial instruments are interest rate risk, foreign currency risk, credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk. The Board reviews and agrees policies for managing each of these risks and they are summarised below.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 32. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

### Interest rate risk

The Group's exposure to the risk of changes in market interest rates relates primarily to the Group's bank borrowings and loan from a related company with floating interest rates. The Group regularly reviews and monitors the mix of fixed and floating interest rate borrowings in order to manage its interest rate risk. Floating rate interest income and expenses are credited/charged to the consolidated income statement as earned/incurred. The Group's policy to manage its interest rate risk is to reduce or maintain its current level of borrowings.

At the end of the reporting period, a hypothetical 100-basis point increase/(decrease) in interest rates on the bank borrowings and loan from a related company that are carried at variable rates would increase/(decrease) the interest expense as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Increase/Decrease in interest expense	2,953	3,280

### Foreign currency risk

The Group has transactional currency exposures. Such exposures arise from sales or purchases by operating units in currencies other than the unit's functional currency. Also, the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. Given that the HK\$ is pegged to the US\$, management does not expect that the Group has significant foreign exchange exposure to US\$, and hence the Group has no hedging policy on US\$.

### Credit risk

#### *Maximum exposure and year-end staging as at 31 December 2023 and 2022*

The tables below show the credit quality and the maximum exposure to credit risk based on the Group's credit policy, which is mainly based on past due information unless other information is available without undue cost or effort, and year-end staging classification as at 31 December 2023 and 2022. The amounts presented are gross carrying amounts for financial assets.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 32. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

### Credit risk (Continued)

Maximum exposure and year-end staging as at 31 December 2023 and 2022 (Continued)

	12-month	Lifetime ECLs			Total HK\$'000
	ECLs			Simplified	
	Stage 1 HK\$'000	Stage 2 HK\$'000	Stage 3 HK\$'000	approach HK\$'000	
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>					
Financial assets included in prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets					
– Normal*	38,822	–	–	–	38,822
– Doubtful*	–	–	193,050	–	193,050
Pledged bank balances and deposits					
– Not yet past due	11,277	–	–	–	11,277
Cash and bank balances					
– Not yet past due	92,694	–	–	–	92,694
	<b>142,793</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>193,050</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>335,843</b>
<b>As at 31 December 2022</b>					
Financial assets included in prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets					
– Normal*	34,195	–	–	–	34,195
– Doubtful*	–	–	175,428	–	175,428
Pledged bank balances and deposits					
– Not yet past due	84,276	–	–	–	84,276
Cash and bank balances					
– Not yet past due	98,188	–	–	–	98,188
	<b>216,659</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>175,428</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>392,087</b>

\* The credit quality of the financial assets included in prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets is considered to be “normal” when they are not past due and there is no information indicating that the financial assets had a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition. Otherwise, the credit quality of the financial assets is considered to be “doubtful”.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 32. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

### Credit risk (Continued)

#### Loss rate

Set out below is the loss rate applied for financial assets is considered to be “doubtful”. The loss rates for other financial assets at amortised cost are assessed insignificant.

	12-month	Lifetime ECLs			
	ECLs	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Simplified approach
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>					
Financial assets included in prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets					
– Doubtful	0.0%	0.0%	0.58%		N/A
<b>As at 31 December 2022</b>					
Financial assets included in prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets					
– Doubtful	0.0%	0.0%	0.59%		N/A

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 32. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

### Credit risk (Continued)

#### Movement in the ECL allowance

Set out below is the movements in the ECL allowance of the Group's other financial assets at amortised cost:

	12-month	Lifetime ECLs		Total
	ECLs	Stage 2	Stage 3	
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
As at 1 January 2022	–	–	445	445
ECL allowance	–	–	582	582
As at 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023	–	–	1,027	1,027
ECL allowance	–	–	84	84
As at 31 December 2023	–	–	1,111	1,111

### Liquidity risk

The Group monitors its risk to a shortage of funds using a recurring liquidity planning tool. This tool considers the maturity of both its financial instruments and projected cash flows from operations.

The Group is exposed to liquidity risk in respect of settlement of creditors and its financing obligations, and also in respect of its cash flow management.

The Group's objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility through the use of bank and other borrowings to ensure that the Group maintains sufficient cash to meet its liquidity requirements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 32. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

### Liquidity risk (Continued)

The maturity profile of the financial liabilities, at the end of the reporting period, based on the contractual undiscounted payments, was as follows:

	On demand or within 1 year HK\$'000	In the second to fifth years, inclusive HK\$'000	Total HK\$'000
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>			
Creditors	37,954	–	37,954
Provision for claims of life insurance	128	–	128
Financial liabilities included in deposits, accrued expenses and other payables	34,863	–	34,863
Bank borrowings	89,970	–	89,970
Other loans	2,338	570	2,908
Loan from immediate holding company	75,502	–	75,502
Loan from a related company	–	232,541	232,541
Lease liabilities	11,637	655	12,292
	<b>252,392</b>	<b>233,766</b>	<b>486,158</b>
<b>As at 31 December 2022 (Restated)</b>			
Creditors	27,843	–	27,843
Provision for claims of life insurance	128	–	128
Financial liabilities included in deposits, accrued expenses and other payables	25,293	–	25,293
Bank borrowings	150,993	–	150,993
Other loans	2,292	559	2,851
Loan from immediate holding company	79,271	–	79,271
Loan from a related company	206,829	–	206,829
Lease liabilities	30,688	11,115	41,803
	<b>523,337</b>	<b>11,674</b>	<b>535,011</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 32. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

### Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair values of investments held for trading decrease as a result of changes in the levels of equity indices and the value of individual securities. The Group was exposed to market risk arising from individual investments classified as held for trading (note 16).

The following tables demonstrate the sensitivity to every 10% change in the fair values of the financial assets with all other variables held constant and before any impact on tax, based on their carrying amounts at the end of the reporting period.

	Increase/ (Decrease) in fair value %	(Decrease)/ Increase in loss before income tax HK\$'000
<b>As at 31 December 2023</b>		
Financial assets at FVTPL	10	(368)
	(10)	368
<b>As at 31 December 2022</b>		
Financial assets at FVTPL	10	(356)
	(10)	356

### Insurance risk management

The risk under an insurance contract is the risk that an insured event will occur including the uncertainty of the amount and timing of any resulting claim. The principal risk the Group faces under such contracts is that the actual claims and benefit payments may exceed the carrying amount of insurance liabilities. This is influenced by the frequency of claims, severity of claims, actual benefits paid which are greater than originally estimated and subsequent development of long tail claims. At the end of the reporting period, no claims and benefit payments of life insurances were unsettled.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 32. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES (Continued)

### Capital management

The Group manages its capital to ensure that the Group will be able to continue as a going concern while maximising the return to the equity holders through the optimisation of the debt and equity balance.

The capital structure of the Group consists of bank borrowings, other loans, loans from related parties, lease liabilities and equity attributable to equity holders of the Company, comprising share capital and deficits. The Group monitors capital on the basis of the gearing ratio. This ratio is calculated based on total bank borrowings, other loans, loans from related parties (including immediate holding company and a related company) and lease liabilities and total equity.

The gearing ratio at the end of the reporting period was as follows:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
Bank borrowings	84,314	140,979
Other loans	2,851	2,795
Loan from immediate holding company	71,900	73,263
Loan from a related company	211,000	187,000
Lease liabilities	11,913	39,557
<b>Total debt</b>	<b>381,978</b>	<b>443,594</b>
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>125,544</b>	<b>173,640</b>
<b>Gearing ratio</b>	<b>304%</b>	<b>255%</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 33. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMPANY

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	8,823	14,047
Interests in subsidiaries	118,821	135,664
Equity investments at FVTOCI	799	799
Prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets	200,589	186,128
Pension scheme assets	20,793	20,319
	<b>349,825</b>	<b>356,957</b>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Inventories	29,844	29,373
Prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets	33,561	31,494
Pledged deposits	–	46,004
Cash and bank balances	5,768	7,776
	<b>69,173</b>	<b>114,647</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Creditors	37,953	27,794
Lease liabilities	7,390	6,393
Deposits, accrued expenses and other payables	26,157	13,325
Contract liabilities	1,377	1,321
Bank borrowings	84,314	140,979
Loan from immediate holding company	71,900	73,263
Loan from a related company	–	187,000
LSP obligations	59	200
	<b>229,150</b>	<b>450,275</b>
<b>Net current liabilities</b>	<b>(159,977)</b>	<b>(335,628)</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>	<b>189,848</b>	<b>21,329</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 33. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMPANY (Continued)

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Deposits, accrued expenses and other payables	84	7,120
Lease liabilities	622	6,937
Loan from a related company	211,000	–
LSP obligations	1,673	1,079
	<b>213,379</b>	<b>15,136</b>
<b>Net (liabilities)/assets</b>	<b>(23,531)</b>	<b>6,193</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Share capital	469,977	469,977
Deficits (note)	(493,508)	(463,784)
<b>Total (deficit)/equity</b>	<b>(23,531)</b>	<b>6,193</b>

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**Lin Xiaohui**  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Su Jiaohua**  
Director

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 33. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMPANY (Continued)

Note: A summary of the Company's reserves/(deficits) is as follows:

	General and other reserves HK\$'000	Investment revaluation reserve HK\$'000	Accumulated losses HK\$'000 (Restated)	Total HK\$'000 (Restated)
As at 1 January 2022	196,614	17,393	(637,322)	(423,315)
Loss for the year (Restated)	-	-	(42,332)	(42,332)
<i>Other comprehensive income for the year:</i>				
- Actuarial gains on a defined benefit plan	-	-	454	454
- Actuarial gains on LSP	-	-	439	439
- Changes in fair value of asset classified as held for sale	-	970	-	970
Release of reserve upon disposal of asset classified as held for sale	-	(16,649)	16,649	-
As at 31 December 2022 (Restated) and 1 January 2023	196,614	1,714	(662,112)	(463,784)
Loss for the year	-	-	(29,692)	(29,692)
<i>Other comprehensive income for the year:</i>				
- Actuarial gains on a defined benefit plan	-	-	52	52
- Actuarial losses on LSP	-	-	(84)	(84)
As at 31 December 2023	<b>196,614</b>	<b>1,714</b>	<b>(691,836)</b>	<b>(493,508)</b>

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 34. PARTICULARS OF PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES

Particulars of the Company's principal subsidiaries as at 31 December 2023 and 2022 are as follows:

Company name	Place of incorporation/ registration and business	Issued/ Registered share capital/ Paid-up capital	Class of shares held	Percentage of equity attributable to the Company		Principal activity
				Directly	Indirectly	
Ottoway Limited	BVI	US\$1	Registered	100	-	Investment holding
Right View Limited	Hong Kong	HK\$2	Ordinary	-	100	Property holding
Silveroute Limited	BVI	US\$1	Registered	100	-	Securities trading
Sincere (Shanghai) Commercial Management Company Limited ^	Mainland China	US\$1,000,000	N/A	100	-	Provision of management services
Sincere II	Hong Kong	HK\$20,000,000	Ordinary	40.67 <sup>#</sup>	17.31 <sup>#</sup>	General insurance and investment
Sincere LA	Hong Kong	HK\$10,000,000	Ordinary	48.09 <sup>#</sup>	8.87 <sup>#</sup>	Life insurance and investment
Perfumery	Hong Kong	HK\$1,300,000	Ordinary	37.15 <sup>#</sup>	25.22 <sup>#</sup>	Investment holding
Springview Limited	Hong Kong	HK\$500,000	Ordinary	100	-	Securities trading
The Sincere Finance Company, Limited	Hong Kong	HK\$2	Ordinary	100	-	Provision of finance

^ Registered as a wholly-foreign-owned enterprise under Law of the Mainland China.

# Sincere LA, Sincere II and Perfumery are accounted for as subsidiaries of the Group based on the factors as explained in note 3 to the consolidated financial statements.

The above table lists the subsidiaries of the Company, which in the opinion of the directors, principally affected the results for the year or formed a substantial portion of the net assets of the Group. To give details of other subsidiaries would, in the opinion of the directors, result in particulars of excessive length.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 34. PARTICULARS OF PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES (Continued)

Details of the Group's subsidiaries that have material non-controlling interests are set out below:

### Sincere LA Group

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Loss for the year allocated to non-controlling interests	(309)	(2,513)
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year allocated to non-controlling interests	167	(386)
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year allocated to non-controlling interests</b>	<b>(142)</b>	<b>(2,899)</b>
	2023	2022
Percentage of effective equity interest held by non-controlling interests	43.04%	43.04%
Accumulated balances of non-controlling interests at the end of the reporting period (HK\$'000)	37,866	38,008

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 34. PARTICULARS OF PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES (Continued)

### Sincere LA Group (Continued)

The following tables illustrate the summarised financial information of Sincere LA Group. The amounts disclosed are before any inter-company eliminations:

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Loss for the year	(717)	(5,383)
Total comprehensive loss for the year	(360)	(6,573)
Net cash flows used in operating activities	(4,717)	(8,049)
Net cash flows from investing activities	13,842	62,269
Net cash flows used in financing activities	–	(408)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	9,125	53,812

	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000
Current assets	73,096	64,015
Non-current assets	10,157	20,424
Current liabilities	(1,104)	(1,737)
Net assets	82,149	82,702

## 35. LITIGATION

### Deed and purported cancellation

On 15 May 2020, Realord and the Company jointly announced a voluntary conditional cash offer (subject to the satisfaction or waiver (as the case may be) of certain pre-conditions) to acquire all of the issued shares of the Company (the "Offer").

On 29 October 2020, Win Dynamic, the then controlling shareholder of the Company, executed a deed in favour of the Company at no consideration (the "Deed"). Pursuant to the Deed, Win Dynamic has irrevocably undertaken to the Company to gift to the Company the sum falling to be paid by Realord to Win Dynamic upon its acceptance of the Offer relating to all the 662,525,276 shares of the Company held by it, which was expected to amount to approximately HK\$260,443,000 (after deducting Win Dynamic's ad valorem stamp duty). As disclosed in the announcement of the Company dated 29 October 2020, the Company at that time intended that this gift from Win Dynamic, when received, would be applied as working capital of the Group.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 35. LITIGATION (Continued)

### Deed and purported cancellation (Continued)

On 4 February 2021, the Company announced that the Board had received a letter from Win Dynamic dated 3 February 2021 stating Win Dynamic's declaration that the Deed was null and void and cancelled with immediate effect, for the reason that it was executed by Win Dynamic under undue influence and duress, given without separate legal representation or proper advice, and was an undervalue transaction pursuant to section 265D of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Chapter 32 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (the "Purported Cancellation").

As stated in the Company's announcement dated 4 February 2021, the Board (with Mr. Philip Ma and Mr. Charles M W Chan (collectively the "Dissenting Directors") disagreeing) did not admit that the Deed was null or void or had been cancelled. For the interest of the Company and its shareholders as a whole, the Board had resolved to include the review of the implication of the Purported Cancellation to the term of reference of the independent committee of the Board comprising independent non-executive directors, namely Mr. King Wing Ma, Mr. Eric K Lo, Mr. Peter Tan and Mr. Anders W L Lau (collectively the "IBC"). The IBC had thereafter sought separate legal advice in respect of the Purported Cancellation.

Realord was informed, amongst other things, that the Board (except for the Dissenting Directors) (i.e. the IBC) did not admit that the Purported Cancellation was valid or effective. In response to an email from the legal adviser of the IBC to the legal adviser of Realord requiring the proceeds received by Win Dynamic from its sale of shares of the Company to Realord to be paid to the Company and not Win Dynamic, the legal adviser of Realord responded, amongst other things, that Realord would conduct the Offer, including but not limited to the settlement of the cash consideration for the valid acceptances of the Offer, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Offer and in compliance with the Code on Takeovers and Mergers.

On 12 May 2021, the Company was informed by the legal adviser of Realord that Realord had issued a writ of summons (the "Writ") in the High Court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (the "High Court") against Win Dynamic on 10 May 2021 in relation to the Purported Cancellation (the "Action"). Realord claimed against Win Dynamic, among others, for an order of specific performance requiring Win Dynamic to forthwith pay the Company the net proceeds in respect of the Company's shares tendered by Win Dynamic for acceptance of the Offer, after deducting the seller's ad valorem stamp duty payable by it, amounted to approximately HK\$260,435,000 (the "WD Proceeds").

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 35. LITIGATION (Continued)

### Deed and purported cancellation (Continued)

Realord also applied to the High Court for an interlocutory injunction against Win Dynamic (the “Injunction Application”) on 11 May 2021 which was heard by the High Court on 14 May 2021. Upon hearing submissions from the parties, the High Court has adjourned the hearing of the Injunction Application to a date to be fixed for substantive argument, and the High Court has granted an interim-interim injunction, which shall remain in force pending the substantive determination of the Injunction Application, restraining Win Dynamic from, among others, (a) removing from Hong Kong any of its assets which are within Hong Kong, whether in its own name or not, and whether solely or jointly owned, up to the value of the WD Proceeds, or (b) in any way disposing of or dealing with or diminishing the value of any of its assets, which are within Hong Kong, whether in its own name or not, and whether solely or jointly owned, and whether or not Win Dynamic assets a beneficial interest in them up to the value of the WD Proceeds.

The Company on 16 July 2021 resolved that it was in the interest of the Company and its shareholders to commence legal proceedings against Win Dynamic in relation to the Purported Cancellation. At the initiation of Realord, the Company agreed to be joined as a party to the Action. By the consent of Realord and Win Dynamic, on 9 November 2021, the High Court ordered, amongst other things, Realord be given leave to (i) join the Company as the 2nd plaintiff and Mr. Philip Ma as the 2nd defendant in the Action, and (ii) amend the Writ and the statement of claim in relation to the Purported Cancellation.

On 15 November 2021, Realord and the Company amended the statement of claim against Win Dynamic and Mr. Philip Ma. The Company claimed against Win Dynamic and Mr. Philip Ma for, among others, (i) an order of specific performance of the Deed requiring Win Dynamic to forthwith pay the Company the WD Proceeds, or such other sum as the High Court may determine, and (ii) a declaration that the Deed is valid and binding, and Mr. Philip Ma had breached his contractual and/or fiduciary duties to the Company.

Win Dynamic and Mr. Philip Ma filed and served their Defence and Counterclaim in the Action on 18 January 2022 and 14 March 2022 respectively. Win Dynamic and Mr. Philip Ma averred, among others, that Realord and the Company were not entitled to any remedy against them. They further counterclaimed against Realord and the Company for, among others, a declaration that the Deed is null and void and/or unenforceable, or alternatively, that the Deed was lawfully rescinded, cancelled or revoked by Win Dynamic and is of no legal effect.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 35. LITIGATION (Continued)

### Deed and purported cancellation (Continued)

Further details were disclosed in the announcements of the Company dated 29 October 2020 and 4 February 2021, the offer document of Realord dated 5 May 2021 (the “Offer Document”) and the response document of the Company dated 20 May 2021 (the “Response Document”).

Realord and the Company filed and served their Reply and Defence to Win Dynamic’s Counterclaim on 10 May 2022, and their Reply and Defence to Mr. Philip Ma’s Counterclaim on 8 June 2022 respectively. Realord and the Company averred that the Deed is enforceable and cannot be legally revoked.

Realord and the Company filed and served their Re-Amended Statement of Claim on 14 November 2022. Realord and the Company averred that the Company is a joint promisee under the 2nd agreement together with Realord. The 2nd agreement of which the Deed is an integral part was intended to benefit the Company and consisted of an undertaking or promise on the part of Win Dynamic to benefit the Company, namely to vest the benefit of the WD Proceeds or an equivalent sum in the Company, which shall be used as its working capital after Realord becomes its controlling shareholder.

Win Dynamic filed and served its Amended Defence and Counterclaim and Mr. Philip Ma filed and served his Amended Defence and Counterclaim on 9 December 2022. Win Dynamic and Mr. Philip Ma averred that the alleged 2nd Agreement (even if existed) and the Deed are null and void or unenforceable. They further averred that neither Dr. Lin, who had no authority to act on behalf of the Company at the material time whether as alleged or at all, nor Mr. Philip Ma had agreed on behalf of the Company that the Company would apply the WD Proceeds as working capital after Realord becomes the controlling shareholders of the Company.

Realord and the Company filed and served their Amended Reply and Defence to the Counterclaim of Win Dynamic, and their Amended Reply and Defence to the Counterclaim of Mr. Philip Ma on 9 February 2023. Realord and the Company averred that Dr. Lin was acting on behalf of the Company in respect of a promise which would take effect after Realord becomes the Company’s controlling shareholder.

Between 22 June 2023 and 4 July 2023, the parties proceeded to discovery of documents. On 18 March 2024, the parties filed and exchanged their respective witness statements.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 35. LITIGATION (Continued)

### Deed and purported cancellation (Continued)

The date of trial has not been fixed.

During the period from 1 March 2021 to 31 December 2021, the Company sought legal advice in respect of this litigation and was advised that (i) the Deed is enforceable, and (ii) the Company has legal and contractual rights over the WD Proceeds. Therefore, the WD Proceeds is initially recognised as “Gift receivable from Win Dynamic” under “Prepayments, deposits, other receivables and other assets” with an amount of HK\$150,001,000, being the fair value of the WD Proceeds which is determined based on a credit-adjusted effective interest rate of 9.66%, with a corresponding gift receivable from the then controlling shareholder of the Company recognised under “General and other reserves”.

During the years ended 31 December 2023 and 2022, the Company sought legal advices in respect of the recoverability of gift receivable from Win Dynamic.

As at 31 December 2023, the carrying amount of gift receivable from Win Dynamic amounted to HK\$191,939,000, net of ECL allowance of HK\$1,111,000 (2022: HK\$174,401,000, net of ECL allowance of HK\$1,027,000). During the year ended 31 December 2023, the Group has also recognised imputed interest income on gift receivable from Win Dynamic under “Other income and gains, net” of HK\$17,623,000 (2022: HK\$16,113,000).

## 36. EVENT AFTER REPORTING PERIOD

### Claim from former director

As set out in the announcement of the Company dated 28 August 2023, the Company has been a defendant in the High Court, Hong Kong proceedings brought by Mr. Philip Ma, the former chairman, chief executive officer and director of the Company. In those High Court proceedings, Mr. Philip Ma claimed (i) unpaid remunerations due for the period from March 2020 to February 2021 from the Company’s 4 subsidiaries (the “Subsidiaries”); (ii) unpaid director’s fees for the period from 1 March 2021 to 30 June 2021 due from the Company; (iii) unpaid remunerations due for the period from March 2021 to June 2021 from the Subsidiaries; and (iv) unpaid wages in lieu of unused annual leave. His claim was in the sum of approximately HK\$12,442,000 (which was revised from HK\$12,064,000), plus interest and legal costs. The Company has throughout the High Court proceedings instructed its legal advisers to defend Mr. Philip Ma’s claims, also, it has sought a counterclaim with a total sum of approximately HK\$71,600,000.

# NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

## 36. EVENT AFTER REPORTING PERIOD (Continued)

### Claim from former director (Continued)

The legal action proceeded to trial. The trial took place on 5, 6, 11 December 2023 and heard by the Deputy High Court Judge Burns SC (“DHCJ Burns SC”). On 1 February 2024, DHCJ Burns SC handed down his judgment (the “Judgment”). The High Court found in Mr. Philip Ma’s favour for reasons including (i) according to the confirmation letter signed between Mr. Philip Ma and the Company (the “Confirmation Letter”), a recommendation of the Remuneration Committee (“RC”) alone entitles Mr. Philip Ma to be paid; (ii) it was an implied term and within the reasonable expectation of the parties that Mr. Philip Ma would receive director’s fees after March 2021 unless it was further reviewed or revised which it was not; (iii) Mr. Philip Ma was contractually entitled to be remunerated for his role vis a vis the Subsidiaries because it was incidental to his position as a director, and it was agreed by the Company that a director of a listed company necessarily means he needs to deal with the affairs of the Subsidiaries; and (iv) it was an implied term of the Confirmation Letter that the director’s fee is payable, it follows that the RC’s failure to meet to consider or confirm recommendations as to remuneration to be paid to Mr. Philip Ma in respect of the period from March 2021 to June 2021 was a breach of the implied terms of the Confirmation Letter. The High Court dismissed the Company’s counter-claim and ordered judgment in the sum of HK\$12,064,000 (the “Judgment Sum”) after giving credit to payments made by the Company to Mr. Philip Ma in July and August 2021, plus interest on Judgment Sum and legal costs against the Company. The Company has effected payment of the Judgment Sum on or around 2 February 2024. With regards to interest on the Judgment Sum, Mr. Philip Ma has quantified his claim at HK\$2,949,000 and in response, the Company has paid Mr. Philip Ma a sum of HK\$2,136,000. The matter is to be determined by the High Court. As to his claim for legal costs, Mr. Philip Ma has not yet quantified this claim.

## FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the year ended 31 December 2023

The consolidated results, assets, liabilities and non-controlling interests of the Group for the last five financial years, as extracted from the published audited financial statements are summarised below.

	Years ended 31 December		Period from 1 March 2021 to 31 December	Years ended 28/29 February	
	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)	2021 HK\$'000	2021 HK\$'000	2020 HK\$'000
<b>RESULTS</b>					
<b>CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>					
REVENUE	<b>146,147</b>	146,516	140,060	177,472	263,312
LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAX	<b>(51,598)</b>	(63,946)	(77,074)	(145,682)	(149,240)
INCOME TAX EXPENSE	<b>(14)</b>	(23)	(15)	(15)	(13)
LOSS FOR THE YEAR/PERIOD	<b>(51,612)</b>	(63,969)	(77,089)	(145,697)	(149,253)
Attributable to:					
Equity holders of the Company	<b>(50,477)</b>	(60,756)	(75,880)	(145,017)	(147,364)
Non-controlling interests	<b>(1,135)</b>	(3,213)	(1,209)	(680)	(1,889)
	<b>(51,612)</b>	(63,969)	(77,089)	(145,697)	(149,253)

## FIVE-YEAR FINANCIAL SUMMARY

For the year ended 31 December 2023

The consolidated results, assets, liabilities and non-controlling interests of the Group for the last five financial years, as extracted from the published audited financial statements are summarised below. (Continued)

	As at 31 December			As at 28/29 February	
	2023 HK\$'000	2022 HK\$'000 (Restated)	2021 HK\$'000	2021 HK\$'000	2020 HK\$'000
<b>ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NON-CONTROLLING INTERESTS</b>					
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	189,260	218,734	263,991	231,049	336,805
OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS	229,953	214,789	198,966	66,524	63,785
NET CURRENT LIABILITIES	(79,731)	(240,297)	(180,974)	(243,678)	(111,951)
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	(213,938)	(19,586)	(44,756)	(25,490)	(113,458)
NON-CONTROLLING INTERESTS	(44,419)	(45,931)	(48,378)	(31,382)	(32,567)
<b>EQUITY/(DEFICITS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO EQUITY HOLDERS OF THE COMPANY</b>	<b>81,125</b>	<b>127,709</b>	<b>188,849</b>	<b>(2,977)</b>	<b>142,614</b>