



FAR EAST CONSORTIUM INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
Website: <http://www.fareastconsortium.com.hk>
(Stock Code: 35)

INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2005

INTERIM RESULTS

The Board of Directors of Far East Consortium International Limited (the "Company") is pleased to announce the unaudited interim results of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively, the "Group") for the six months ended 30th September, 2005. The unaudited interim financial results have been reviewed by the Company's audit committee.

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2005

	Six months ended	
	30.9.2005 (unaudited) HK\$'000	30.9.2004 (unaudited and restated) HK\$'000
	NOTES	
Revenue	4	414,232
Cost of sales		(289,115)
Gross profit		125,117
Other income		37,770
Selling and distribution costs		(27)
Administrative expenses		(90,167)
Increase in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss		4,947
Decrease in fair value of derivative financial instruments		(6,475)
Increase in fair value of investments held for trading		581
Unrealised gain on trading securities		—
Profit on disposal of an investment property		3,456
Increase in fair value of investment properties		121,946
Amortisation of goodwill arising on acquisition of associates		—
Amortisation of negative goodwill		—
Share of results of associates		3,960
Share of results of jointly controlled entities		1,015
Finance costs		(45,377)
Profit before taxation	5	156,746
Taxation	6	(16,951)
Profit for the period		139,795
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the Company		139,436
Minority interests		359
		139,795
Dividends proposed	7	42,921
Earnings per share	8	
Basic		9.8 cents
Diluted		10.4 cents

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AT 30TH SEPTEMBER, 2005

	30.9.2005 (unaudited) HK\$'000	31.3.2005 (audited and restated) HK\$'000
Non-current assets		
Investment properties	997,788	800,955
Property, plant and equipment	1,263,786	1,278,086
Prepaid lease payments	224,863	144,050
Negative goodwill	—	(23,081)
Interests in associates	146,227	144,286
Interests in jointly controlled entities	74,253	73,238
Investments in securities	—	452,805
Available-for-sale investments	439,176	—
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	219,877	—
Amounts due from associates	129,528	129,178
Amount due from an investee company	119,995	119,995
Amount due from a minority shareholder	563	563
Loans receivable	395,712	364,167
Pledged bank deposits	2,935	3,000
	4,014,703	3,487,242
Current assets		
Inventories	1,573	894
Completed properties for sale – at cost	177,657	197,210
Properties under development for sale – at cost	1,917,743	1,372,621
Investments in securities	—	446,494
Investments held for trading	12,017	—
Available-for-sale investments	70,856	—
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	128,062	—
Derivative financial instruments	2,204	—
Loans receivable	3,680	2,576
Debtors, deposits and prepayments	225,585	238,824
Prepaid lease payments	2,047	2,085
Amount due from a jointly controlled entity	7,569	2,936
Amounts due from associates	407	3,040
Taxation recoverable	9,216	9,257
Pledged bank deposits	137,075	3,901
Deposits with investment banks	66,663	106,143
Bank balances and cash	156,881	361,625
	2,919,235	2,747,606
Current liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	10	425,942
Customers' deposits received		16,438
Amounts due to directors		11,812
Amounts due to related companies		2,992
Amounts due to associates		25,918
Amount due to a minority shareholder		8,313
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss		9,575
Derivative financial instruments		2,828
Taxation payable		22,736
Obligations under finance leases		278
Bank and other borrowings		955,268
		1,482,100
Net current assets		1,437,135
		5,451,838
Capital and reserves		
Share capital		143,071
Reserves		3,156,186
Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company		3,299,257
Minority interests		14,035
Total equity		3,313,527
Non-current liabilities		
Convertible bonds		730,561
Amounts due to minority shareholders		54,996
Amount due to a jointly controlled entity		10,801
Deferred taxation		75,493
Obligations under finance leases		670
Bank and other borrowings		1,265,790
		2,138,311
		5,451,838

Notes:

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable disclosure requirements of Appendix 16 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited and with Hong Kong Accounting Standard ("HKAS") 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the "HKICPA").

2. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The condensed financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, except for certain properties and financial instruments, which are measured at revalued amounts or fair values, as appropriate.

The accounting policies used in the condensed financial statements are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the Group's annual financial statements for the year ended 31st March, 2005 except as described below.

In the current period, the Group has applied, for the first time, a number of new Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs"), HKASs and Interpretations (hereinafter collectively referred to as "new HKFRSs") issued by the HKICPA that are effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2005, except for those which were early adopted by the Group during the year ended 31st March, 2005. The application of the new HKFRSs has resulted in a change in the presentation of the income statement, balance sheet and the statement of changes in equity. In particular, the presentation of minority interests and share of tax of associates/jointly controlled entities have been changed. The changes in presentation have been applied retrospectively. The adoption of the new HKFRSs has resulted in changes to the Group's accounting policies in the following areas that have an effect on how the results for the current or prior accounting periods are prepared and presented:

Share-based payment

In the current period, the Group has applied HKFRS 2 "Share-based Payment" which requires an expense to be recognised where the Group buys goods or obtains services in exchange for shares or rights over shares, or in exchange for other assets equivalent in value to a given number of shares or rights over shares. The principal impact of HKFRS 2 on the Group is in relation to the expensing of the fair value of directors' and employees' share options of the Company determined at the date of grant of the share options over the vesting period. Prior to the application of HKFRS 2, the Group did not recognise the financial effect of these share options until they were exercised. In relation to share options granted before 1st April, 2005, the Group has not applied HKFRS 2 to share options exercised on or before 7th November, 2002 and share options that were granted after 7th November, 2002 and had vested before 1st April, 2005 in accordance with the relevant transitional provisions. As all outstanding share options of the Group were granted and vested before 1st April, 2005, the application of HKFRS 2 has had no financial impact on the results of the Group for current or prior accounting periods.

Business combinations

The Group has applied HKFRS 3 "Business Combinations" which is effective for business combinations for which the agreement date is on or after 1st January, 2005. The principal effects of the application of HKFRS 3 to the Group are summarised below:

Goodwill

In previous periods, goodwill arising on acquisitions prior to 1st January, 2005 was capitalised and amortised over its estimated useful life. The Group has applied the relevant transitional provisions in HKFRS 3, under which the Group has discontinued amortising goodwill from 1st April, 2005 onwards and goodwill will be tested for impairment at least annually in the financial period in which the acquisition takes place. Goodwill arising on acquisitions after 1st January, 2005 is measured at cost less accumulated impairment losses (if any) after initial recognition. Comparative figures have not been restated.

5. PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION

Excess of the Group's interest in the net fair value of acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities over cost (previously known as "negative goodwill")

In accordance with HKFRS 3, any excess of the Group's interest in the net fair value of acquiree's identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities over the cost of acquisition ("discount on acquisition") is recognised immediately in profit or loss in the period in which the acquisition takes place. In previous periods, negative goodwill arising on acquisitions prior to 1st January, 2005 was presented as a deduction from assets and released to income based on an analysis of the circumstances from which the balance resulted. In accordance with the relevant transitional provisions in HKFRS 3, the Group has derecognised all negative goodwill at 1st April, 2005 amounting to HK\$23,081,000 which was previously presented as a deduction from assets, with a corresponding increase to retained profits.

Owner-occupied leasehold interest in land

In previous periods, owner-occupied leasehold land and buildings were included in property, plant and equipment and measured using the cost model. In the current period, the Group has applied HKAS 17 "Leases". Under HKAS 17, the land and buildings elements of a lease of land and buildings are considered separately for the purposes of lease classification, unless the lease payments cannot be allocated reliably between the land and buildings elements, in which case, the entire lease is generally treated as a finance lease. To the extent that the allocation of the lease payments between the land and buildings elements can be made reliably, the leasehold interests in land are reclassified to prepaid lease payments under operating leases, which are carried at cost and amortised over the lease term on a straight-line basis. This change in accounting policy has been applied retrospectively. Alternatively, where the allocation between the land and buildings elements cannot be made reliably, the leasehold interests in land continue to be accounted for as property, plant and equipment.

Hotel properties

Previously, the Group's self-operated hotel properties were accounted for using the revaluation model, being revalued amounts less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and were included in property, plant and equipment. HKAS 17 "Leases" requires payments made for acquisition of leasehold land interests to be accounted for as operating leases, and be measured at cost and amortised over the lease term on a straight-line basis. Certain payments for acquisition of leasehold land interests of the Group's hotel properties cannot be separated reliably from the building element. In order to carry the leasehold land interests at cost less amortisation, the directors change its accounting policy in respect of the Group's hotel properties from the revaluation model to the cost model. This change in accounting policy has been applied retrospectively and comparative figures have been adjusted accordingly.

Financial instruments

In the current period, the Group has applied HKAS 32 "Financial Instruments: Disclosure and Presentation" and HKAS 39 "Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement". HKAS 32 requires retrospective application. HKAS 39, which is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1st January, 2005, generally does not permit the recognition, derecognition or measurement of financial assets and liabilities on a retrospective basis. The principal effects resulting from the implementation of HKAS 32 and HKAS 39 are summarised below:

Convertible bonds denominated in Hong Kong dollars

HKAS 32 requires an issuer of a compound financial instrument (that contains both financial liability and equity components) to separate the compound financial instrument into its liability and equity components on its initial recognition and to account for these components separately. Direct issue costs are allocated to the liability and equity components of the instrument in proportion to the allocation of proceeds. In subsequent periods, the liability component, including the allocated direct issue costs, is carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The principal impact of HKAS 32 on the Group is in relation to the convertible bonds denominated in Hong Kong dollars (functional currency of the Company) issued by the Company that contain both liability and equity components. Previously, the convertible bonds were classified as liabilities and recorded at the proceeds received, net of premium payable on redemption and direct issue costs, on the balance sheet. Because HKAS 32 requires retrospective application, comparative figures have been restated.

Convertible bonds denominated in United States dollars

Previously, the convertible bonds denominated in United States dollars were classified as liabilities and recorded at the proceeds received, net of premium payable on redemption and direct issue costs, on the balance sheet. Such convertible bonds contain a liability component and an embedded conversion option, which are required to be accounted for separately in accordance with HKAS 39. On 1st April, 2005, the Group designated such convertible bonds as a whole as "financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss" in accordance with the transitional provisions in HKAS 39. The directors have assessed the fair value of the convertible bonds at 1st April, 2005 and 30th September, 2005 and considered that their carrying amounts approximate the fair values at respective dates. The application of HKAS 39 in this regard has had no material financial impact on the Group as at 1st April, 2005 and on the current and prior accounting periods. Comparative figures have not been restated.

Classification and measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities

The Group has applied the relevant transitional provisions in HKAS 39 with respect to classification and measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities that are within the scope of HKAS 39.

By 31st March, 2005, the Group classified and measured its debt and equity securities in accordance with the alternative treatment of Statement of Standard Accounting Practice ("SSAP") 24 "Investments in Securities". Under SSAP 24, investments in debt or equity securities are classified as "trading securities", "non-trading securities" or "held-to-maturity investments" as appropriate. Both "trading securities" and "non-trading securities" are measured at fair value. Unrealised gains or losses of "trading securities" are reported in profit or loss for the period in which gains or losses arise. Unrealised gains or losses of "non-trading securities" are reported in equity until the securities are sold or determined to be impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in equity is included in net profit and loss for that period. From 1st April, 2005 onwards, the Group classifies and measures its debt and equity securities in accordance with HKAS 39. Under HKAS 39, financial assets are classified as "financial assets at fair value through profit or loss", "available-for-sale financial assets", "loans and receivables", or "held-to-maturity financial assets". "Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss" and "available-for-sale financial assets" are carried at fair value, with changes in fair values recognised in profit or loss and equity respectively. "Loans and receivables" and "held-to-maturity financial assets" are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method after initial recognition.

On 1st April, 2005, the Group designated all equity-linked notes with carrying amount of HK\$340,836,000 which was previously classified as "non-trading securities" under SSAP 24 as "financial assets at fair value through profit or loss". As a result of this change in accounting policy, an increase in fair value of such equity-linked notes for the current period amounting to HK\$4,947,000 has been recognised in the income statement. Where the equity-linked notes are disposed of at subsequent balance sheet dates, the corresponding cumulative gains or losses which were previously recognised in investment revaluation reserve will be transferred to income statement. All the other financial assets were reclassified and measured in accordance with HKAS 39 on 1st April, 2005. Comparative figures have not been restated.

Financial assets and financial liabilities other than debt and equity securities

From 1st April, 2005 onward, the Group has classified and measured its financial assets and liabilities other than debt and equity securities (which were previously under the scope of SSAP 24) in accordance with the requirements of HKAS 39. No material adjustments to these financial assets and financial liabilities are required.

3. SUMMARY OF THE EFFECTS OF THE CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The effects of the changes in the accounting policies described above are summarised as follows:

	Six months ended		30.9.2004	
	30.9.2005 (unaudited) HK\$'000	30.9.2004 (unaudited and restated) HK\$'000	30.9.2005 (unaudited) HK\$'000	30.9.2004 (unaudited and restated) HK\$'000
Non-amortisation of goodwill	291	—	—	—
Non-amortisation of negative goodwill	(3,847)	—	—	—
Increase in effective interest expense on the liability component of convertible bonds	(9,331)	—	—	—
Profit arising from increase in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	4,947	—	—	—
Increase in deferred tax credit in respect of the liability component of convertible bonds	4,009	—	—	—
Decrease in profit for the period	(3,931)	—	—	—
Analysis by line items presented according to the classification in the income statement:				
	Six months ended		30.9.2004	
	30.9.2005 (unaudited) HK\$'000	30.9.2004 (unaudited and restated) HK\$'000	30.9.2005 (unaudited) HK\$'000	30.9.2004 (unaudited and restated) HK\$'000
Decrease in amortisation of goodwill arising on acquisition of associates	291	—	—	—
Decrease in amortisation of negative goodwill	(3,847)	—	—	—
Increase in fair value of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	4,947	—	—	—
Decrease in share of results of associates	(757)	(452)	—	—
Increase in finance costs	(9,331)	—	—	—
Decrease in taxation	4,766	452	—	—
	(3,931)	—	—	—

(b) Effects on the balance sheet as at 31st March, 2005 and 1st April, 2005:

	As at 31.3.2005		Effect of HKAS 17		Effect of HKAS 32		Change in accounting policy		As at 1.4.2005	
	originally stated	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	restated
Property, plant and equipment	2,176,703	—	(146,135)	—	(752,482)	1,278,086	—	—	1,278,086	—
Prepaid lease payments	—	—	146,135	—	—	146,135	—	—	146,135	—
Negative goodwill	(23,081)	—	—	—	—	(23,081)	—	23,081	—	—
Investments in securities	899,299	—	—	—	—	899,299	—	(899,299)	—	—
Available-for-sale investments	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	537,423	—	537,423
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	340,836	—	340,836
Investments held for trading	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21,840	—	21,840
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(24,380)	—	(24,380)
Convertible bonds	(765,134)	—	—	—	—	(732,030)	24,380	—	(707,650)	—
Deferred taxation	(208,115)	—	—	—	(4,615)	157,968	(54,762)	—	(54,762)	—
Total effects on assets and liabilities	2,079,672	—	—	—	28,489	(594,514)	1,531,647	—	23,081	1,536,728
Retained profits	788,900	—	—	—	(4,292)	—	784,608	—	23,081	807,689
Convertible bonds equity reserve	—	—	—	—	32,781	—	32,781	—	—	32,781
Loans financing	594,514	—	—	—	—	(594,514)	—	—	—	—
Minority interests	—	14,035	—	—	—	—	14,035	—	—	14,035
Total effects on equity	1,383,414	14,035	—	—	28,489	(594,514)	831,424	—	23,081	854,505
Minority interests	14,035	(14,035)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(c) Effects on equity as at 1st April, 2004:

	As originally stated	Effect of HKAS 17	Change in accounting policy	As restated
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
Assets revaluation reserve	340,722	—	(340,722)	—
Minority interests	—	8,839	—	8,839
Total effects on equity	340,722	8,839	(340,722)	8,839

4. TURNOVER AND SEGMENT INFORMATION

Business segments

For management purposes, the Group is currently organised into following operating divisions – property development and investment, hotel operations and relevant loan financing, and treasury management. These divisions are the basis on which the Group reports its primary segment information. Other operations include sale of boiler products and other interest income.

Segment information about these businesses is presented below:

	Revenue		Segment results	
	Six months ended	30.9.2004	Six months ended	30.9.2004
	30.9.2005 (unaudited) HK\$'000	30.9.2004 (unaudited and restated) HK\$'000	30.9.2005 (unaudited) HK\$'000	30.9.2004 (unaudited and restated) HK\$'000
By principal activity:				
Property development and investment	234,664	189,661	101,470	18,687
Hotel operations	78,778	24,449	24,804	

Xintiandi with another 100 commercial units and 1,500 residential units for sales in financial years of 2006 and 2007. The occupancy permit for the commercial units will be applied in February or March 2006. For the residential units, mostly townhouses, pre-sale permits are expected to be granted around May or June 2006.

As we believe the property market of Guangzhou will begin to grow in near future, we recently acquired a residential site in Huadiwan, Guangzhou. Under our present plan, we will develop seven blocks of multi-storey residential buildings with a total gross floor area of approximately 800,000 square feet. With this new property development project, the Group now has three property development projects in Guangzhou with a total attributable gross floor area of over 1.3 million square feet. The construction works for these three projects are scheduled to commence from mid-2006 and will be completed in the second half of 2008.

Hong Kong

Although the Group does not maintain a significant land bank, we continue to seek for attractive property development projects in Hong Kong. In view of the change of market condition, the Group decided to enhance the value of Terra Nova, a luxurious property development project in Clear Water Bay, by additional landscaping and exterior finishing. The two show houses are now under renovation. The sales are expected to be launched in the first or second quarter of 2006. During the period under review, no additional units of the three property development projects, namely Bakerview, Clear Water Bay Knoll, and Art Del Sol, were launched for sales.

Australia

The Group has two luxury residential development projects in Melbourne, Flinder Wharf and Royal Domain Tower. The Group has a 47.5% interest in Flinder Wharf, of which approximately 97% of the 301 units has been sold. The construction of Royal Domain Tower is mostly completed and occupancy permits are expected to be granted in the first quarter of 2006. Up to the end of the first six-month period, approximately 55% of the 137 units have been sold. The Group has a 90% interest in this project.

2. *Hotel Division*

In the beginning of this financial year, the Group opened both Central Park Hotel and the Dorsett Olympic Hotel. Despite being new to the market, both hotels have been performing above our expectation and the market average. According to the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the average occupancy of all hotels in Hong Kong was 84% from January to September 2005. Our operating hotels outperformed such market index by a substantial margin. Such exceptional performance is attributable to our experienced and proactive hotel management teams.

Outlook

1. *Property Development Division*

The overheated Mainland China's property markets have been cooled down by the implementation of austerity measures over the last few months. We believe the austerity measures are good for the healthy long-term growth of the property markets in Mainland. Since their announcement in May, the austerity measures appeared to achieve their goals of stopping the short-term speculations in the property markets. We always believe the mass residential market should be supported by the local demand and the affordability.

We believe the property market will begin to pick up after Chinese New Year at the end of January 2006 as the banks begin to approve new mortgage loans for the new fiscal year. Hence, we will schedule the launch of new residential units of California Garden around Chinese New Year. The critical factor will be the timing of obtaining the occupancy permits. Under the new accounting standards, no profit from property sales is allowed to be booked before obtaining the occupancy permits.

2. *Hotel Division*

As the Closer Economic Participation Arrangement being extended to cover more cities in the Mainland and with the continuous line-up of trade fairs in Hong Kong, it is expected that both business and leisure travellers will continue to grow. In order to capture more overseas business and leisure travellers and to enhance our profitability, we decided to add the HIP hotel line to our existing 3- and 4-star hotel portfolio. Cosmo Hotel is our first HIP hotel, and it has been an immediate success since its opening in October. Its occupancy rate has been over 95% on average.

With the Cosmo Hotel opened in October and the upcoming openings of Lan Kwai Fong Hotel and Dorsett Tsuen Wan Hotel, the Group is confident to continue its strong hotel performance in the second half of this financial year. Furthermore, vast publicity of our Cosmopolitan Hotel is expected as it is appointed as the only official hotel for the 30th Hong Kong International Film Festival in April 2006.

With the new 299-room hotel in Tai Kok Tsui opened in 2007, we will be one of the largest hotel groups in Hong Kong with approximately 2,200 rooms.

Significant Event

Reference is made to our Annual Report 2005 in relation to Riverside South Project ("Project"), in Manhattan the United States, of which the Group held an indirect minority interest. The Group was informed that the transaction of selling interests in the Project for US\$1.76 billion to CRP/Extell Riverside L.P., an independent third party, was completed in November 2005. The manager of the Project is still working on the details of the Final Sale Model of the transaction.

In relation to the Complaint filed in Supreme Court of the State of New York against investors of the Project, legal proceeding has been commenced in New York and the management will closely monitor its status. Further announcements, if any, will be made by the Company in accordance with the Listing Rules.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

For the six-month period ended 30th September, 2005, the Group achieved a strong operating performance. Turnover of the Group reached HK\$414.2 million, up 64% from the corresponding period last year. This increase was primarily driven by the expansion of our hotel portfolio, increased property sales in Australia and treasury investments.

Gross profit rose to HK\$125.1 million, an 88% increase as compared to the same period last year. Such growth was attributable to the increased number of hotels and their exceptional performance.

Without any gain from substantial asset disposal during the first half of the financial year, the net profit was reported at HK\$139.4 million, dropped from HK\$203.8 million of the same period of last year. An one-off gain of HK\$192.2 million from the disposal of Far East Bank Mongkok Building was reported in the interim results of last year.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND LIQUIDITY

Borrowings and charge on Group assets

The business activities of the Group are funded by bank borrowing, unsecured loans and cash generated from operating activities. The Group's total bank and other borrowings and convertible bonds amount to approximately HK\$2,953 million as at 30th September, 2005 (31.3.2005 – restated: HK\$2,424 million), in which HK\$956 million was payable within one year and HK\$1,997 million was payable after one year. HK\$2,143 million of the borrowings was secured while the remaining HK\$79 million was unsecured. The Group's borrowings are primarily denominated in Hong Kong dollars.

Bank and other borrowings

During the period, the Group obtained new bank loans of approximately HK\$667 million. The loans bear interest at market rates. The Group also repaid bank loans of HK\$130 million during the the period.

Contingencies and commitments

Contingent Liabilities

(a) The Group has given guarantees to secure banking and other facilities granted to an investee company amounting to approximately HK\$90,384,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$102,536,000).

(b) The Group has given guarantees in respect of mortgage loans provided to the home buyers of a property project in the Mainland China. At 30th September, 2005, the total amount of mortgages outstanding which are subject to these guarantees was approximately HK\$63,145,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$115,539,000).

(c) In previous periods, a subsidiary of the Company (the "Subsidiary") was sued by two consultants providing management, consulting and advisory service concerning business strategy and corporate finance activities of the Subsidiary. The two consultants entered into a consulting contract with the Subsidiary in 1999 in lieu of cash for service rendered. The two consultants alleged that the Subsidiary fraudulently misrepresented and concealed material facts regarding the proposed investment from them and claimed for compensation of damages amounting to approximately HK\$5,843,000. Moreover, the two consultants also alleged that the Subsidiary owed them salaries, payment in lieu of notice for early termination of the contract and the reimbursement for expenses relating to the contract of employment as directors of the Subsidiary amounting to approximately HK\$5,865,000. A motion of dismissal was filed in the United States court and the claim is still in progress. While the outcome of these proceedings cannot be estimated with certainty at this stage, the directors are of the opinion that the outcome of this case would not have a material adverse impact on the financial position of the Group.

(d) The State Administration of Taxation of the PRC issued a circular as Guo Shui Han [2004] No.938 on 2nd August, 2004 to strengthen the levying of land appreciation tax on property developers. In the opinion of the directors, after consulting the tax consultants and the tax bureau of the relevant city, land appreciation tax will not be levied in respect of properties already completed and, full provision for land appreciation tax has not been made in the financial statements. The Group has not, however, been able to secure written confirmation of those individual city policies, and the directors consider that there is a small possibility that land appreciation tax might be fully levied in accordance with the rule of State Administration of Taxation. Should such levies take place, additional land appreciation tax would be approximately HK\$80 million (31.3.2005: HK\$80 million).

Capital Commitments

	30.9.2005 <i>(unaudited)</i> HK\$'000	31.3.2005 <i>(audited)</i> HK\$'000
Capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements in respect of:		
Hotel properties	4,054	36,190

Gearing ratio

The gearing ratio (total bank and other borrowings/convertible bonds to equity attributable to equity holders) for 30th September, 2005 increased to 89% compares to 75% 31st March, 2005 (restated).

Current ratio

The current ratio as at 30th September, 2005 was 1.97 (31/3/2005 – restated: 2.60). The Group has maintained sufficient liquid assets to finance its operation.

Exchange rate

The Group was not exposed to material exchange rates fluctuations during the period.

Pledge of Assets

At the balance sheet date, the Group had pledged the following assets:

(a) The Group's properties, bank deposits and investments held for trading with carrying amounts of approximately HK\$2,346,801,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$2,090,417,000), HK\$137,075,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$3,901,000) and HK\$1,550,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$1,556,000), respectively, together with properties of associates and third parties were pledged to bankers and loan creditors to secure banking and loan facilities granted to the Group and an associate to the extent of approximately HK\$2,842,948,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$2,572,480,000) and HK\$5,000,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$5,000,000), respectively.

The Group's bank deposits of approximately HK\$2,935,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$3,000,000) were pledged to a banker to secure a guarantee given by the banker in favour of a subsidiary of the Company.

(b) The Group's investments held for trading, available-for-sale investments and derivative financial instruments with an aggregate carrying amount of approximately HK\$405,076,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$237,746,000) were pledged to financial institutions to secure margin trading facilities granted to the Group in respect of securities transactions to the extent of approximately HK\$29,378,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$37,613,000), of which HK\$21,578,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$32,449,000) were utilised.

(c) Interests in certain subsidiaries of the Company have been pledged as part of the security to secure certain bank borrowings granted to the Group and its subsidiaries.

(d) The Group has subordinated its amount due from an investee company of approximately HK\$119,995,000 (31.3.2005: HK\$119,995,000) to a financial institution to secure general credit facility granted to the investee company.

EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION POLICIES

The number of employees of the Group as at 30th September, 2005 was approximately 1,050. Employees receive competitive remuneration packages that are constantly monitored in relation to the market, with incentives such as discretionary bonuses to reward employees based on individual performance. The Group provides a comprehensive benefit package and career development opportunities, including medical benefit and both internal and external training appropriate to each individual's requirements.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICE

The Company has complied with the code provisions of the Code on Corporate Governance Practices (the "Code") as set out in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules during the six months ended September 30, 2005, except for the deviations from code provisions A.4.1 and A.4.2 of the Code described below.

Under code provision A.4.1 of the Code, non-executive directors should be appointed for a specific term and subject to re-election. The non-executive Directors of the Company are not appointed for a specific term of office. However, the non-executive Directors of the Company are subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at annual general meetings in accordance with the Company's Articles of Association.

Under the second part of code provision A.4.2 of the Code, every director, including those appointed for a specific term, should be subject to retirement by rotation at least once every three years. The Chairman of the Company, however, does not subject to retirement by rotation. In accordance with the second part of Article 115(B) of the Articles of Association of the Company, a Director appointed as an executive Chairman or as Managing or Joint Managing Director shall not while holding such office be subject to retirement by rotation or taken into account in determining the rotation retirement of Directors.

The relevant provisions of the Company's Articles of Association will be reviewed and amendment will be proposed, if necessary, to ensure full compliance with code provision of the Code.

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF LISTING SECURITIES

During the period under review, the Company and its subsidiaries have not purchased, sold or redeemed any of the Company's listed securities.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee has reviewed with management the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group and discussed internal control and financial reporting matters, including a review of the unaudited condensed accounts for the six months ended 30th September 2005 approved by the Directors.

MODEL CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS

The Company has adopted the Model Code set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules as its own code of conduct regarding Directors' securities transactions. Enquiry has been made with all Directors and the Directors have confirmed compliance with the required standard set out in the Model Code during the six months ended 30th September, 2005.

PUBLICATION OF DETAILED INTERIM RESULTS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE'S WEBSITE

All the information of the interim results of the Group for the six months ended 30th September, 2005 required by paragraph 46(1) to 46(6) of Appendix 16 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange will be published on the website of the Stock Exchange in due course.

By order of the Board
FAR EAST CONSORTIUM INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
BYRON LEE
Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 20th December, 2005

As at the date of this announcement, the Board of Directors of the Company comprises executive directors namely Mr. Deacon Te Ken Chiu, Dato' David Chiu, Mr. Dennis Chiu, Mr. Craig Greenfell Williams; non-executive directors namely Mrs. Ching-Lan Ju Chiu, Mr. Dick Tat Sang Chiu, Mr. Daniel Tat Jung Chiu and independent non-executive directors namely Mr. David Kwok Kwei Lo, Mr. Jian Yin Jiang and Mr. Kwok Wai Chan.