## THE STRAITS TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

Company Registration No.: 188700008D

## The Straits Trading Group

Financial Highlights

- Total revenues increased by $296.4 \%$ to $\$ 175.1$ million mainly due to the consolidation of Malaysia Smelting Corporation Berhad's (MSC) revenue into the Group's profit and loss account, after MSC became a subsidiary company.
- Net earnings for Q1 2006 rose $176.2 \%$ to $\$ 42.9$ million. The Group recorded net exceptional gains of $\$ 29.1$ million arising from the disposal of its investments in Killinghall (Malaysia) Berhad and its $51 \%$ interest in a subsidiary company.
- The Group's profit before exceptional items declined marginally by 3.1\% from $\$ 17.3$ million in Q1 2005 to $\$ 16.7$ million in Q1 2006. Lower contributions from property operations and associated companies were mitigated by the increase in contributions from hotel operations and the fair value changes of financial assets.
- The Group's net asset value per share rose from $\$ 3.45$ to $\$ 3.79$ per share due primarily to the adoption of the new financial reporting standard, namely, FRS 40 Investment Property, increase in fair value on available-for-sale investments and the current period's profit.

| \$ million | Q1 2006 | Q1 2005 | $+/(-)$ <br> $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| Total Revenues | $\mathbf{1 7 5 . 1}$ | 44.2 | 296.4 |
| Profit Before Taxation | $\mathbf{4 5 . 9}$ | 17.3 | 165.8 |
| Profit Before Exceptional Items | $\mathbf{1 6 . 7}$ | 17.3 | $(3.1)$ |
| Profit Attributable to Equity Holders of the Company | $\mathbf{4 2 . 9}$ | 15.5 | 176.2 |


| Earnings per Share | $\mathbf{1 2 . 0}$ cents | 4.4 cents |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


|  | As at <br> $\mathbf{3 1 . 3 . 2 0 0 6}$ | As at <br> 31.12 .2005 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Equity Attributable to Equity Holders of the Company | $\mathbf{\$ 1 , 3 5 1 , 8 1 6 , 0 0 0}$ | $\$ 1,229,443,000$ |
| Net Asset Value per Share | $\mathbf{\$ 3 . 7 9}$ | $\$ 3.45$ |

N.B.: All in Singapore dollars.

## PART I - INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS OF QUARTERLY (Q1, Q2 \& Q3), HALF-YEAR AND FULL YEAR RESULTS

1(a) An income statement (for the group) together with a comparative statement for the corresponding period of the immediately preceding financial year.

The unaudited results of the Group for the 1st quarter ended 31 March 2006 are as follows :-

|  | 1st Quarter (Q1) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | 2005 |
|  | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Revenues |  |  |
| Tin mining and smelting revenue | 130,511 | - |
| Hotel revenue | 24,035 | 18,146 |
| Property revenue | 11,390 | 20,271 |
| Proceeds from sale of trading securities | - | 4,340 |
| Investment income, gross | 2,009 | 2,515 |
| Fair value changes of financial assets | 3,150 | $(1,377)$ |
| Other revenues including interest income | 3,988 | 273 |
| Total Revenues | 175,083 | 44,168 |
| Costs and Expenses |  |  |
| Employee benefits expenses | $(14,352)$ | $(7,048)$ |
| Depreciation and amortisation | $(4,155)$ | $(2,482)$ |
| Exchange (losses)/gains | $(1,983)$ | 41 |
| Cost of tin mining and smelting | $(111,955)$ | - |
| Costs of trading securities sold | - | $(4,190)$ |
| Other operating expenses | $(22,534)$ | $(18,388)$ |
| Total Costs and Expenses | $(154,979)$ | $(32,067)$ |
| Profit from Operations | 20,104 | 12,101 |
| Finance costs | $(4,539)$ | $(2,110)$ |
| Share of results of joint venture companies | 46 | 43 |
| Share of results of associated companies | 1,114 | 7,230 |
| Profit Before Exceptional Items | 16,725 | 17,264 |
| Exceptional items | 29,131 | (14) |
| Profit Before Taxation | 45,856 | 17,250 |
| Taxation | $(1,444)$ | $(1,688)$ |
| Profit for the period | 44,412 | 15,562 |
| Attributable to : |  |  |
| Equity holders of the Company | 42,938 | 15,548 |
| Minority interests | 1,474 | 14 |
|  | 44,412 | 15,562 |

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- Exceptional Items comprise :-

|  | 1st Quarter (Q1) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | 2005 |
|  | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| (a) Net surplus on disposal of investments | 17,275 | - |
| (b) Net surplus on disposal of a subsidiary company | 11,856 | - |
| (c) Net deficit on revaluation of oversea commercial investment property | - | (14) |
|  | 29,131 | (14) |

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1(b)(i) A balance sheet (for the issuer and group), together with a comparative statement as at the
Balance Sheets as at 31 March 2006

|  | GROUP |  | COMPANY |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 31 March 2006 | 31 December 2005 | 31 March 2006 | 31 December 2005 |
|  | \$’000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Non-Current Assets |  |  |  |  |
| Property, plant and equipment, net | 214,241 | 219,355 | 115 | 646 |
| Investment properties, net | 351,793 | 435,901 | 68,353 | 39,042 |
| Base inventory | 1,317 | 1,320 | - | - |
| Investments in subsidiary companies, net | - | - | 119,877 | 119,877 |
| Amounts due from subsidiary companies, net | - | - | 366,006 | 483,737 |
| Joint venture companies, net | 434 | 457 | - | - |
| Associated companies, net | 15,294 | 14,210 | 1,123 | 1,123 |
| Investments, net | 364,094 | 334,068 | 251,196 | 250,234 |
| Mining rights, net | 4,501 | 5,048 | - | - |
| Management rights, net | 1,030 | 1,135 | - | - |
| Deferred tax assets | 5,402 | 1,166 | - | - |
| Goodwill on consolidation | 21,321 | 21,410 | - | - |
| Other financial assets | 73 | 45 | - | - |
| Other non-current assets, net | 12,026 | 12,630 | - | - |
|  | 991,526 | 1,046,745 | 806,670 | 894,659 |
| Current Assets |  |  |  |  |
| Properties held for sale | 31,463 | 32,859 | - | - |
| Inventories | 141,014 | 168,671 | - | - |
| Marketable securities, net | 59,648 | 56,415 | - | - |
| Trade debtors, net | 38,578 | 29,648 | 375 | 756 |
| Other debtors | 30,418 | 29,333 | 452 | 341 |
| Tax recoverables | 15,133 | 14,838 | - | 9 |
| Other financial assets | 726 | 207 | - | - |
| Cash at bank and on deposit | 387,803 | 159,719 | 162,468 | 111,685 |
|  | 704,783 | 491,690 | 163,295 | 112,791 |
| Assets classified as held for sale | 9,206 | 367,479 | 36 | 36 |
|  | 713,989 | 859,169 | 163,331 | 112,827 |
| Current Liabilities |  |  |  |  |
| Borrowings | $(116,435)$ | $(257,855)$ | - | - |
| Trade creditors | $(11,486)$ | $(14,467)$ | (520) | (510) |
| Other creditors | $(32,931)$ | $(36,451)$ | $(3,394)$ | $(3,295)$ |
| Other financial liabilities | $(1,400)$ | $(3,534)$ | - | - |
| Provision for taxation | $(15,333)$ | $(13,437)$ | $(1,591)$ | $(1,165)$ |
| Provisions | (35) | (37) | - | - |
| Dividend payable | $(13,036)$ | - | $(13,036)$ | - |
|  | $(190,656)$ | $(325,781)$ | $(18,541)$ | $(4,970)$ |
| Liabilities directly associated with assets classified as held for sale | - | $(220,000)$ | - | - |
|  | $(190,656)$ | $(545,781)$ | $(18,541)$ | $(4,970)$ |
| Net Current Assets | 523,333 | 313,388 | 144,790 | 107,857 |
| Non-Current Liabilities |  |  |  |  |
| Borrowings | $(27,010)$ | $(27,161)$ | - | - |
| Provisions | $(6,071)$ | $(5,999)$ | - | - |
| Other non-current liabilities | $(45,358)$ | $(26,462)$ | - | - |
| Deferred tax liabilities | $(19,892)$ | $(13,037)$ | $(1,746)$ | (254) |
| Other financial liabilities | - | $(1,611)$ | - | - |
|  | -------------- | ------------- | ------------ | ------------ |
| NET ASSETS | 1,416,528 | 1,285,863 | 949,714 | 1,002,262 |
| Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company |  |  |  |  |
| Share capital | 356,400 | 356,400 | 356,400 | 356,400 |
| Reserves | 995,416 | 873,043 | 593,314 | 645,862 |
|  | 1,351,816 | 1,229,443 | 949,714 | 1,002,262 |
| Minority Interest | 64,712 | 56,420 | - | - |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 1,416,528 | 1,285,863 | 949,714 | 1,002,262 |
|  | ======= | ======== | ======= | ======= |

(Certain comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with current period's presentation.)

1(b)(ii) Aggregate amount of group's borrowings and debt securities.
Amount repayable in one year or less, or on demand

| As at 31/3/2006 | As at 31/12/2005 |
| :---: | :---: |


| Secured | Unsecured | Secured | Unsecured |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 11,000$ | $\$ 116,424,000$ | $\$ 328,012,000$ | $\$ 149,843,000$ |

Amount repayable after one year

| As at 31/3/2006 | As at 31/12/2005 |
| :---: | :---: |


| Secured | Unsecured | Secured | Unsecured |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 40,000$ | $\$ 26,970,000$ | $\$ 45,000$ | $\$ 27,116,000$ |

## Details of any collateral

The $\$ 51,000$ secured borrowing is secured by a motor vehicle acquired under a finance lease.

## 1(c) A cash flow statement (for the group), together with a comparative statement for the corresponding period of the immediately preceding financial year.

## Consolidated Cash Flow Statement for the 1st quarter ended 31 March 2006

|  | 1st Quarter (Q1) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | 2005 |
|  | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Cash flow from operating activities :- |  |  |
| Profit from operations | 20,104 | 12,101 |
| Adjustments for :- |  |  |
| Interest income | $(1,661)$ | (253) |
| Investment income | $(2,009)$ | $(2,515)$ |
| Depreciation of property, plant and equipment | 3,642 | 2,434 |
| Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment | 1 | 1 |
| Property, plant and equipment written off | 26 | - |
| Amortisation of mining rights | 417 | - |
| Amortisation of management rights | 46 | 48 |
| Amortisation of exploration and development cost | 50 | - |
| Changes in fair value on interest rate cap | 6 | (30) |
| Provision for mine reclamation | 241 | - |
| Provision for employee benefit | 488 | - |
| Write off capitalised exploration costs | 356 | - |
| Operating profit before working capital changes | 21,707 | 11,786 |
| Decrease in properties held for sale | 1,396 | 5,100 |
| Decrease in inventories | 27,657 | 144 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in marketable securities, net | $(3,233)$ | 260 |
| (Increase)/Decrease in debtors | $(13,834)$ | 3,695 |
| Decrease in creditors | $(5,795)$ | $(8,680)$ |
| Cash generated from operations | 27,898 | 12,305 |
| Interest expense | $(3,829)$ | $(2,110)$ |
| Income tax paid, net | $(1,968)$ | (146) |
| Investment income | 2,009 | 2,515 |
| Dividends from associated companies | - | 2,348 |
| Interest income | 1,709 | 253 |
| Net cash flow from operating activities | 25,819 | 15,165 |
| Cash flow from investing activities :- |  |  |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 3,231 | 14 |
| Proceed received on sale of property | 390,000 | - |
| Net cash flow from disposal of a subsidiary company (see note) | 17,270 | - |
| Cost incurred on property, plant and equipment | $(3,758)$ | $(2,739)$ |
| Sale proceed from investments | 51,646 | , |
| Purchase of investments | - | $(1,310)$ |
| Net cash flow from acquisition of a subsidiary company (see note) | - | 29,752 |
| Proceeds/deposits received on sale of properties | - | 524 |
| Payment of deferred mine development and exploration expenditure | (269) | - |
| Cost incurred on investment properties | (68) | - |
| Net cash flow from investing activities | 458,052 | 26,241 |
| Cash flow from financing activities :- |  |  |
| Loan repayment, net | $(253,570)$ | - |
| Increase in amount due to minority shareholder of a subsidiary company | - | 4,410 |
| Decrease/(Increase) in amount due from a joint venture company | 69 | (37) |
| Payment of dividend to minority shareholder of a subsidiary company | $(1,643)$ | - |
| Net cash flow (used in)/from financing activities | $(255,144)$ | 4,373 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 228,727 | 45,779 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial period | 159,719 | 55,980 |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on balances held in foreign currencies | (643) | 151 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March | 387,803 | 101,910 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March consist of :- |  |  |
| Cash at bank and on deposit | 387,803 | 101,910 |

Note :
(a) Disposal of a subsidiary company

The values of assets and liabilities of the subsidiary company recorded in the consolidated financial statements as at 1 January 2006, and the cash flow effect of the disposal were :

$$
\$ ’ 000
$$

Property, plant and equipment
7
Investment property 120,000
Trade and other debtors 414
Cash at bank and on deposit
348

Borrowings
120,769
Trade and other creditors $(108,000)$

Amount due to :

- holding company
- minority shareholder $(12,997)$
Minority interests
7,254

Net surplus on disposal
11,856
Net consideration
4,306
Repayment of amount due from subsidiary company
13,312
Net cash at bank and on deposit in the subsidiary company disposed (348)

Net cash inflow from disposal of a subsidiary company 17,270 =======
(b) The net cash effect arising from the acquisition of a subsidiary company during the current period is nil.

## 1(d)(i) A statement (for the issuer and group) showing either (i) all changes in equity or (ii) changes in equity other than those arising from capitalization issues and distributions to shareholders, together with a comparative statement for the corresponding period of the immediately preceding financial year.

Statements of Changes in Equity for the period ended 31 March 2006

## GROUP

|  | Attributable to equity holders of the Company |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Share capital \$'000 | Revaluation reserve \$'000 | Exchange translation reserve \$’000 | Fair value reserve $\$ \prime 000$ | Share-based payment reserve \$'000 | Revenue reserve \$'000 | Total reserves \$'000 | Minority interests \$'000 | Total equity \$'000 |
| At 31 December 2005 as previously reported | 356,400 | 77,590 | $(17,982)$ | 148,156 | 33 | 665,246 | 873,043 | 56,420 | 1,285,863 |

Effect of adopting :

FRS 40
Transfer of revaluation reserve arising from investment properties to revenue reserve

$$
76,443
$$

Net revaluation surplus arising from properties reclassified to investment properties

$$
(76,443)
$$

At 1 January 2006
as restated

Exchange adjustment

Exchange loss transferred to profit and loss account 10,977

32,446 32,446
32,446

Profit for 1st quarter
Net fair value changes on available-for-sale investments

Net fair value changes transferred to profit and loss account

Net fair value changes on cash flow hedges

Minority interest on disposal of a subsidiary company

Dividend to minority
shareholders of subsidiary company

- $(25,400)$

Dividend on ordinary shares

- 2nd interim dividend for 2005, payable

| 356,400 | 1,147 | $(10,359)$ | 200,558 | 33 | $\mathbf{8 0 4 , 0 3 7}$ | 995,416 | $\mathbf{6 4 , 7 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 4 1 6 , 5 2 8}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

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Statements of Changes in Equity for the period ended 31 March 2006 (cont’d)

## GROUP

|  | Attributable to equity holders of the Company |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Share capital \$'000 | Revaluation reserve \$'000 | Exchange translation reserve \$'000 | Reserve on consolidation \$'000 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Fair } \\ \text { value } \\ \text { reserve } \\ \$ ’ 000 \end{array}$ | Revenue reserve \$'000 | Total Reserves \$'000 | Minority interests \$'000 | Total equity \$'000 |
| At 31 December 2004 as previously reported | 356,400 | 149,258 | $(17,862)$ | 2,634 |  | 603,939 | 737,969 | $(17,543)$ | 1,076,826 |
| FRS 16 (revised) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reversal of revaluation surplus for properties under development | - | $(72,815)$ | - | - | - | - | $(72,815)$ | - | $(72,815)$ |
| At 31 December 2004 as restated | 356,400 | 76,443 | $(17,862)$ | 2,634 | - | 603,939 | 665,154 | $(17,543)$ | 1,004,011 |

Effect of adopting :
FRS 39
Net fair value changes on available-for-sale
investments
Net fair value changes on cash flow hedges
Net fair value changes on held-for-trading investments
Impairment on investments

FRS 103
Transfer of reserve on consolidation to revenue reserve

At 1 January 2005 as restated

Exchange adjustment
Share of reserves movement of associated companies

Profit for 1st quarter
Net fair value changes on available-for-sale investments
Net fair value changes on cash flow hedges

Minority interest arising from acquisition of a subsidiary

Dividend on ordinary shares

- 2nd interim dividend for 2004, payable

Net revaluation surplus on subsidiary company acquired

| - | 1,147 | - | - | - | 1,403 | 2,550 | - | 2,550 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $\mathbf{3 5 6 , 4 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{7 7 , 5 9 0}$ | $\mathbf{( 1 7 , 5 4 8})$ | - | $\mathbf{7 6 , 9 5 3}$ | $\mathbf{6 1 7 , 9 1 9}$ | $\mathbf{7 5 4 , 9 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{6 1 , 6 8 9}$ | $\mathbf{1 , 1 7 3 , 0 0 3}$ |

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Statements of Changes in Equity for the period ended 31 March 2006 (cont’d)

## COMPANY

|  | Share capital \$'000 | Revaluation reserve \$'000 | Exchange translation reserve \$'000 | Fair value reserve \$'000 | Revenue reserve \$'000 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \$ ’ 000 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| At 31 December 2005 as previously reported | 356,400 | 26,010 | (468) | 131,681 | 488,639 | 1,002,262 |
| FRS 40 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transfer of reserve arising from investment properties to revenue reserve | - | $(26,010)$ | - | - | 26,010 | - |
| Net revaluation surplus arising from properties reclassified to investment properties | - | - | - | - | 27,477 | 27,477 |
| At 1 January 2006 as restated | 356,400 | - | (468) | 131,681 | 542,126 | 1,029,739 |
| Exchange adjustment | - | - | (25) | - | - | (25) |
| Fair value changes on available-for-sale investments | - | - | - | 49,756 | - | 49,756 |
| Net fair value changes transferred to profit and loss account | - | - | - | $(41,498)$ | - | $(41,498)$ |
| Profit for 1st quarter | - | - | - | - | 44,436 | 44,436 |
| Cancellation of subsidiaries’ indebtedness | - | - | - | - | $(119,658)$ | $(119,658)$ |
| Dividend on ordinary shares <br> - 2nd interim dividend for 2005, payable | - | - |  |  | $(13,036)$ | $(13,036)$ |
| At 31 March 2006 | 356,400 | - | (493) | 139,939 | 453,868 | 949,714 |
|  | Share capital \$'000 | Revaluation reserve \$'000 | Exchange translation reserve \$’000 | Fair value reserve \$'000 | Revenue reserve \$'000 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \text { \$’000 } \end{aligned}$ |
| At 31 December 2004 as previously reported | 356,400 | 29,076 | - | - | 445,400 | 830,876 |
| Effect of adopting FRS 39 : |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fair value changes on available-for-sale investments | - | - | - | $63,970$ |  |  |
| Impairment on investments | - | - | - |  | (130) | (130) |
| At 1 January 2005 as restated | 356,400 | 29,076 | - | 63,970 | 445,270 | 894,716 |
| Profit for 1st quarter | - | - | - | - | 4,392 | 4,392 |
| Fair value changes on available-for-sale investments | - | - | - | 11,177 | - | 11,177 |
| Dividend on ordinary shares <br> - 2nd interim dividend for 2004, payable | - | - |  |  | $(14,256)$ | $(14,256)$ |
| At 31 March 2005 | 356,400 | 29,076 | - | 75,147 | 435,406 | 896,029 |

1(d)(ii) Details of any changes in the company's share capital arising from rights issue, bonus issue, share buy-backs, exercise of share options or warrants, conversion of other issues of equity securities, issue of shares for cash or as consideration for acquisition or for any other purpose since the end of the previous period reported on. State also the number of shares that may be issued on conversion of all the outstanding convertibles as at the end of the current financial period reported on and as at the end of the corresponding period of the immediately preceding financial year.

The selective capital reduction, which involved the cancellation of 30,503,000 ordinary shares in the Company under section 78G of the Companies Act (Cap. 50), became effective on 24 April 2006. After the selective capital reduction, the total number of issued ordinary shares in the Company was reduced from 356,400,000 to 325,897,000.
2. Whether the figures have been audited or reviewed and in accordance with which auditing standard or practice.

The figures have not been audited or reviewed by the Company's auditors.
3. Where the figures have been audited or reviewed, the auditors' report (including any qualifications or emphasis of matter).

Not applicable.
4. Whether the same accounting policies and methods of computation as in the issuer's most recently audited annual financial statements have been applied.

The Group has applied the same accounting policies and methods of computation in the preparation of the financial statements for the current reporting period compared with the audited financial statements as at 31 December 2005, except for the early adoption of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 40 - Investment Property.

The impact of the change in accounting policy is as follows:-
The adoption of FRS 40 has resulted in an increase in equity as at 1 January 2006 of $\$ 32.4$ million at Group level. This is after adjusting for the related deferred taxes. In accordance with the transitional provisions, there is no restatement of the Q1 2005 profit and loss account of the Group and the Company.

Further, in accordance with the transitional provisions of FRS 40, the revaluation reserve of $\$ 76.4$ million, as at 1 January 2006, arising from investment properties, was adjusted to opening revenue reserve.
5. If there are any changes in the accounting policies and methods of computation, including any required by an accounting standard, what has changed, as well as the reasons for, and the effect of, the change.

Please refer to paragraph 4.
6. Earnings per ordinary share of the group for the current financial period reported on and the corresponding period of the immediately preceding financial year, after deducting any provision for preference dividends.

|  | 1st Quarter (Q1) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Basic and Diluted Earnings per share for the period based on Group <br> profit attributable to Equity Holders of the Company :- | $\mathbf{2 0 0 6}$ | 2005 |
| $\mathbf{1 2 . 0}$ cents | 4.4 cents |  |

7. Net asset value (for the issuer and group) per ordinary share based on issued share capital of the issuer at the end of the:-
(a) current financial period reported on; and
(b) immediately preceding financial year.

31 March 200631 December 2005
Net asset value per share based on
issued share capital at the end of :-

| The Group | $\mathbf{\$ 3 . 7 9}$ | $\$ 3.45$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| The Company | $\mathbf{\$ 2 . 6 6}$ | $\$ 2.81$ |

8. A review of the performance of the group, to the extent necessary for a reasonable understanding of the group's business. It must include a discussion of the following:-
(a) any significant factors that affected the turnover, costs, and earnings of the group for the current financial period reported on, including (where applicable) seasonal or cyclical factors; and
(b) any material factors that affected the cash flow, working capital, assets or liabilities of the group during the current financial period reported on.

## Overall review

The Group's core businesses comprise (a) metals and mineral resources, (b) hotel management and investment, (c) property operations and (d) investment holding and trading.

In Q1 2006, the Group’s net attributable profit increased $176 \%$ from $\$ 15.5$ million to $\$ 42.9$ million year-on-year, due primarily to the $\$ 29.1$ million exceptional gain from the divestment of the Group's investment in Killinghall (Malaysia) Berhad and its $51 \%$ interest in Straits Eastern Square Private Limited which owns the 3 Pickering Street property. The gain arising from the changes in the fair value of the financial assets has also contributed to the increase in profit.

## Segmental review

Metals and mineral resources

The Group's general offer for Malaysia Smelting Corporation Bhd’s (MSC) shares was only closed on 13 April 2005. In Q1 2005, our effective shareholding in MSC averaged only around $42.8 \%$ vis-à-vis $63.3 \%$ currently. As MSC is now a subsidiary, its revenue was consolidated into the Group's profit and loss account. As a result, the Group's revenue increased substantially from \$44.2 million in Q1 2005 to \$175.1 million in Q1 2006.

At MSC level, however, its net earnings fell from RM18.7 million in Q1 2005 to RM9.8 million in Q1 2006 due to higher fuel costs and lower production volume during the reported period.

## Hotel management and investment

Hotel revenue increased 32\% from \$18.1 million in Q1 2005 to $\$ 24.0$ million in Q1 2006. All hotels performed within the Group's expectations and achieved higher contributions compared to Q1 2005 except for the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel in Perth.

Although the Perth hotel managed to improve its room rates, results were adversely affected by the increase in security payroll and building maintenance costs. On the other hand, the results of the hotel in Singapore improved significantly with average room rates rising from $\$ 90.3$ in Q1 2005 to $\$ 131.4$ in Q1 2006 on the back drop of strong occupancy.

## Property operations

Property revenue fell 44\% from \$20.3 million in Q1 2005 to \$11.4 million in Q1 2006 as the latter saw the sale of only two units of Gallop Gables condominium compared with seven units in the former. In addition, Straits Trading Building, Singapore had been vacated since February 2006 and hence the loss of rental income.

## Investment holding and trading

Similar to Q1 2005, there were hardly any activities in the Group's trading portfolio. For the Group's long term investments, dividend income was also 20\% lower from $\$ 2.5$ million in Q1 2005 to $\$ 2.0$ million in Q1 2006 in the absence of any special dividend paid during the reported period by some of the Group's investee companies.

## Associated companies

Earnings contribution from associated companies fell substantially from $\$ 7.2$ million in Q1 2005 to \$1.1 million in Q1 2006 as Straits Lion Asset Management Limited and MSC were no longer the Group's associated companies. The former was disposed of last year and the latter has become our subsidiary. In addition, as reported previously, the residential project of Johan Kekal is almost completed and most of the earnings have already been recognised in the previous years.
9. Where a forecast, or a prospect statement, has been previously disclosed to shareholders, any variance between it and the actual results.

Not applicable.
10. A commentary at the date of the announcement of the significant trends and competitive conditions of the industry in which the group operates and any known factors or events that may affect the group in the next reporting period and the next 12 months.

Metals and mineral resources

Earnings from MSC are expected to be lower in 2006 despite the recent rise in tin prices because of lower operating margins due to rising fuel costs and lower production volume. The Group has taken certain initiatives to reduce its operating costs in Indonesia in order to improve profitability.

## Hotel management and investment

Hotel profit is expected to rise with the four new hotel management contracts secured in 2005, giving the Group a portfolio of 11 hotels under its management. This year, we are looking at adding at least two more hotels in the Rendezvous portfolio.

## Property operations

In Q1 2006, we have completed the sale of 18, 20 and 22 Cross Street and our interest in 3 Pickering Street, and vacated Straits Trading Building for the re-development plan. Consequently, for the remaining of 2006, rental incomes are expected to be significantly lower. Overall, depending on the amount of profit realised from the sale of the Group's development properties, property earnings may still be lower.

## Investment holding and trading

Activities from our trading portfolio will remain low. Dividend incomes from our long term investments will likely be lower compared to last year as the Group had received a number of special dividends last year from some of its major investments.

Overall, the Group is confident that the operations will remain profitable in 2006. However, the results for Q2 2006 may be lower compared with Q1 2006 since the forward quarter is unlikely to see the level of exceptional gains achieved in Q1 2006.
11. Dividend
(a) Current Financial Period Reported On

Any dividend declared for the current financial period reported on?
None.
(b) Corresponding Period of the Immediately Preceding Financial Year

Any dividend declared for the corresponding period of the immediately preceding financial year?

None.
(c) Date payable

Not applicable.
(d) Books closure date

Not applicable.
12. If no dividend has been declared/recommended, a statement to that effect.

No dividend has been declared for the 1st quarter ended 31 March 2006.

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BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Emily Teo (Ms)
Secretary
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9 May 2006
Singapore

