## THE STRAITS TRADING COMPANY LIMITED

Company Registration No.: 188700008D

## The Straits Trading Group

## Financial Highlights

- Although the performance of the Group's core businesses improved substantially as compared to Q1 2004, the Q1 2005 operating profit before exceptional items decreased $6.9 \%$ to $\$ 19.5$ million, partly due to a lower profit on sale of trading securities and the fall in the fair value of financial assets.
- Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company declined $16.7 \%$ to $\$ 15.5$ million due mainly to a non-recurrent exceptional gain reported in the previous corresponding quarter arising from a significant sale of long-term investments.
- The increase in the Group's net asset value per share to $\$ 3.32$ was due primarily to the adoption of the new financial reporting standard, namely, FRS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.

| \$ million | Q1 2005 | Q1 2004 | $+/(-)$ <br> $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total Revenues | $\mathbf{4 5 . 5}$ | 65.7 | $(30.7)$ |
| Operating Profit Before Exceptional Items | 19.5 | 20.9 | $(6.9)$ |
| Profit Before Taxation | 19.4 | 22.7 | $(14.5)$ |
| Profit Attributable to Equity Holders of the Company | $\mathbf{1 5 . 5}$ | 18.7 | $(16.7)$ |


| Earnings per Share | 4.4 cents | 5.2 cents |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |


|  | As at <br> $\mathbf{3 1 . 3 . 2 0 0 5}$ | As at <br> 31.12 .2004 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Equity Attributable to Equity Holders of the Company | $\mathbf{\$ 1 , 1 8 1 , 4 7 2 , 0 0 0}$ | $\$ 1,094,369,000$ |
| Net Asset Value per Share | $\mathbf{\$ 3 . 3 2}$ | $\$ 3.07$ |

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 2005 are as follows :-

|  | 1st Quarter (Q1) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2005 | 2004 |
|  | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Revenues |  |  |
| Property revenue | 20,271 | 11,274 |
| Hotel revenue | 18,146 | 17,075 |
| Proceeds from sale of trading securities | 4,340 | 35,468 |
| Investment income, gross | 2,515 | 1,871 |
| Other revenues including interest income | 273 | 53 |
| Total Revenues | 45,545 | 65,741 |
| Costs and Expenses |  |  |
| Employee benefits expenses | $(7,048)$ | $(6,807)$ |
| Depreciation and amortisation | $(2,482)$ | $(2,086)$ |
| Exchange gains | 41 | 84 |
| Costs of trading securities sold | $(4,190)$ | $(25,946)$ |
| Fair value changes of financial assets | $(1,377)$ | - |
| Other operating expenses | $(18,388)$ | $(13,530)$ |
| Total Costs and Expenses | $(33,444)$ | $(48,285)$ |
| Profit from Operations | 12,101 | 17,456 |
| Finance costs | $(2,110)$ | $(2,354)$ |
| Share of results of joint venture companies | 43 | - |
| Share of results of associated companies | 9,423 | 5,789 |
| Profit Before Exceptional Items | 19,457 | 20,891 |
| Exceptional items | (14) | 1,842 |
| Profit Before Taxation | 19,443 | 22,733 |
| Taxation | $(3,881)$ | $(4,205)$ |
| Profit for the period | 15,562 | 18,528 |
| Attributable to : |  |  |
| Equity holders of the Company | 15,548 | 18,664 |
| Minority interests | 14 | (136) |
|  | 15,562 | 18,528 |

- Exceptional Items comprise :-
(a) Net surplus on disposal of investments - 5,645
(b) Net deficit on revaluation of oversea commercial investment property

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1(b)(i) A balance sheet (for the issuer and group), together with a comparative statement as at the end of the immediately preceding financial year.

Balance Sheets as at 31 March 2005
Non-Current Assets

Property, plant and equipment, net Investment properties, net Base stock
Subsidiary companies, net Joint venture companies, net Associated companies, net Investments, net Properties under development, net Management rights, net
Deferred tax assets
Goodwill on consolidation
Other non-current assets, net

## Current Assets

Properties held for sale Stocks
Marketable securities, net
Trade debtors, net
Other debtors
Other financial assets
Cash at bank and on deposit

## Current Liabilities

Short-term loans
Trade creditors
Other creditors
Provision for taxation
Dividend payable

Net Current (Liabilities)/Assets

## Non-Current Liabilities

Long-term loans
Other non-current liabilities

Deferred tax liabilities

## NET ASSETS

| GROUP |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| 31 March 2005 | 31 December 2004 |
| \$'000 | \$'000 |
| 209,145 | 155,824 |
| 877,719 | 877,545 |
| 1,305 |  |
| - | - |
| 549 | 469 |
| 33,609 | 67,058 |
| 252,553 | 174,054 |
| 81,305 | 80,110 |
| 1,268 | 1,309 |
| 1,232 | 1,325 |
| 12,904 | - |
| 2,896 | 20 |
| 1,474,485 | 1,357,714 |


| COMPANY |  |
| ---: | ---: |
| 31 March 2005 | 31 December 2004 |
| $\$ ’ \mathbf{0 0 0}$ | $\$ ’ 000$ |
|  |  |
| $\mathbf{1 , 4 4 9}$ | 1,465 |
| $\mathbf{4 1 , 7 4 8}$ | 41,748 |
| - | - |
| $\mathbf{6 2 8 , 5 3 6}$ | 597,068 |
| - | - |
| $\mathbf{1 1 , 7 0 0}$ | 37,102 |
| $\mathbf{1 8 9 , 8 1 8}$ | 113,490 |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| - | - |
| ---------- | --------- |
| $\mathbf{8 7 3 , - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -}$ |  |


| 40,431 | 45,531 | - | - |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 117,744 | 1,148 | - | - |
| 50,336 | 40,961 | - | - |
| 47,027 | 18,898 | 74 | 45 |
| 26,414 | 21,084 | 3,204 | 3,438 |
| 869 | - | - | - |
| 101,910 | 55,980 | 38,118 | 40,145 |
| 384,731 | 183,602 | 41,396 | 43,628 |
| $(370,705)$ | $(270,000)$ | - | - |
| $(9,980)$ | $(6,443)$ | (437) | (434) |
| $(48,206)$ | $(34,303)$ | $(3,765)$ | $(3,040)$ |
| $(9,966)$ | $(6,225)$ | - | - |
| $(14,256)$ | - | $(14,256)$ | - |
| $(453,113)$ | $(316,971)$ | $(18,458)$ | $(3,474)$ |
| $(68,382)$ | $(133,369)$ | 22,938 | 40,154 |
| $(114,836)$ | $(108,000)$ | - | - |
| $(42,640)$ | $(30,067)$ | - | - |
| $(14,430)$ | $(9,452)$ | (160) | (151) |
| $(171,906)$ | $(147,519)$ | (160) | (151) |
| 1,234,197 | 1,076,826 | 896,029 | 830,876 |
| ======== | ===== | === | ====== |

Equity attributable to equity holders
of the Company

| Share capital | 356,400 | 356,400 | 356,400 | 356,400 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Reserves | 825,072 | 737,969 | 539,629 | 474,476 |
|  | 1,181,472 | 1,094,369 | 896,029 | 830,876 |
| Minority interests | 52,725 | $(17,543)$ | - | - |
| TOTAL EQUITY | 1,234,197 | 1,076,826 | 896,029 | 830,876 |

(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 31/3/2005 | As at 31/12/2004 |
| :---: | :---: |


| Secured | Unsecured | Secured | Unsecured |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 270,000,000$ | $\$ 100,705,000$ | $\$ 270,000,000$ | $\$ 0$ |

## Amount repayable after one year

| As at 31/3/2005 | As at 31/12/2004 |
| :---: | :---: |


| Secured | Unsecured | Secured | Unsecured |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 108,000,000$ | $\$ 6,836,000$ | $\$ 108,000,000$ | $\$ 0$ |

## Details of any collateral

The secured loans are secured by, inter alia, legal mortgages over the land and buildings erected on 18/20/22 Cross Street and 3 Pickering Street, China Square Central, Singapore and debentures over all the assets of the borrowing subsidiary companies.

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 2005

|  | 1st Quarter (Q1) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2005 | 2004 |
|  | \$'000 | \$'000 |
| Cash flow from operating activities :- |  |  |
| Profit from operations | 12,101 | 17,456 |
| Adjustments for :- |  |  |
| Interest income | (253) | (45) |
| Investment income | $(2,515)$ | $(1,871)$ |
| Depreciation of property, plant and equipment | 2,434 | 2,038 |
| Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment | 1 | - |
| Property, plant and equipment written off | - | 26 |
| Amortisation of management rights | 48 | 48 |
| Changes in fair value on interest rate cap | (30) | - |
| Operating profit before working capital changes | 11,786 | 17,652 |
| Decrease in properties held for sale | 5,100 | 666 |
| Decrease/(Increase) in stocks | 144 | (77) |
| Decrease in marketable securities, net | 260 | 19,215 |
| Decrease/(Increase) in debtors | 3,695 | (270) |
| (Decrease)/Increase in creditors | $(8,680)$ | 545 |
| Cash generated from operations | 12,305 | 37,731 |
| Interest expense | $(2,110)$ | $(1,967)$ |
| Income tax paid | (146) | (518) |
| Investment income | 2,515 | 1,871 |
| Dividends from associated companies | 2,348 | - |
| Interest income | 253 | 45 |
| Net cash flow from operating activities | 15,165 | 37,162 |
| Cash flow from investing activities :- |  |  |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment | 14 | 2 |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | $(1,581)$ | (774) |
| Sale proceeds from investments | - | 20,615 |
| Purchase of investments | $(1,310)$ | - |
| Expenditures incurred on properties under development | $(1,158)$ | $(1,896)$ |
| Net cash inflow from acquisition of a subsidiary company (see Note) | 29,752 | - |
| Deposits received on sale of properties | 524 | - |
| Net cash flow from investing activities | 26,241 | 17,947 |
| Cash flow from financing activities :- |  |  |
| Repayment of loans, net | - | $(49,815)$ |
| Increase in amount due to minority shareholder of a subsidiary company | 4,410 | - |
| Increase in amount due from a joint venture company | (37) | - |
| Net cash flow from/(used in) financing activities | 4,373 | $(49,815)$ |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 45,779 | 5,294 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January | 55,980 | 23,066 |
| Effect of exchange rate changes on balances held in foreign currencies | 151 | (17) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March | 101,910 | 28,343 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March consist of :Cash at bank and on deposit | 101,910 | 28,343 |

## Note: Acquisition of Subsidiary Company

The attributable assets and liabilities of the subsidiary company acquired during the period are as follows :-

|  | $\underline{\$ \prime 000}$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Property, plant and equipment | 53,955 |
| Base stock | 1,305 |
| Associated companies | 5,238 |
| Investments | 482 |
| Other non-current assets | 2,846 |
| Net current assets | $(21,351,700)$ |
| Non-current liabilities | 123,477 |
|  | $(47,351)$ |
| Less: Interest previously accounted for as associated company | $(70,247)$ |
| $\quad$ Minority interests | 8,879 |
| Adjusted attributable net assets | 12,904 |
| Goodwill on acquisition | 21,783 |
| Cash Consideration | $(1,172)$ |
| Less : Consideration not yet paid | $(50,363)$ |
| Net cash at bank of the subsidiary company acquired | $(29,752)$ |
| Net cash inflow from acquisition of a subsidiary company |  |

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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 capitalisation 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 2005

GROUP

|  | Attributable to equity holders of the Company |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Minority interests <br> \$'000 | Total equity \$'000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Issued capital \$’000 | Revaluation reserve \$’000 | Exchange translation reserve \$’000 | Reserve on consolidation \$’000 | Fair value reserve \$'000 | $\begin{array}{r} \text { Revenue } \\ \text { reserve } \\ \$ ’ 000 \end{array}$ | Dividend reserve \$’000 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Total } \\ & \$ ’ 000 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| At 1 January 2005 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| As previously reported | 356,400 | 149,258 | $(17,862)$ | 2,634 | - | 589,683 | 14,256 | 1,094,369 | $(17,543)$ | 1,076,826 |
| Effect of adopting : |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| FRS 39 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Net fair value changes on available-for-sale investments | - | - | - | - | 63,191 | - | - | 63,191 | - | 63,191 |
| Net fair value changes on cash flow hedges | - | - | - | - | 659 | - | - | 659 | - | 659 |
| Net fair value changes on held-for-trading investments | - | - | - | - | - | 8,536 | - | 8,536 | - | 8,536 |
| Impairment on investments | - | - | - | - | - | (130) | - | (130) | - | (130) |
| FRS 103 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Transfer of reserve on consolidation to revenue reserve | - | - | - | $(2,634)$ | - | 2,634 | - | - | - | - |
| As restated | 356,400 | 149,258 | $(17,862)$ | - | 63,850 | 600,723 | 14,256 | 1,166,625 | $(17,543)$ | 1,149,082 |
| Exchange adjustment | - | - | 282 | - | - | - | - | 282 | 7 | 289 |
| Share of reserves movement of associated companies | - | - | - | - | - | 245 | - | 245 | - | 245 |
| Profit for 1st quarter | - | - | - | - | - | 15,548 | - | 15,548 | 14 | 15,562 |
| Net fair value changes on available-for-sale investments | - | - | - | - | 12,826 | - | - | 12,826 | - | 12,826 |
| Net fair value changes on cash flow hedges | - | - | - | - | 202 | - | - | 202 | - | 202 |

Minority interest arising
from acquisition of a subsidiary

Dividend on ordinary shares

- 2nd interim dividend for 2004, payable

At 31 March 2005

| 356,400 | 149,258 | $(17,580)$ | - | 76,878 | 616,516 | $-1,181,472$ | 52,725 | $1,234,197$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

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Statements of Changes in Equity for the period ended 31 March 2005 (cont’d)

## GROUP

|  | Attributable to equity holders of the Company |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Minority interests \$’000 | Total equity \$'000 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Issued capital \$'000 | Revaluation reserve \$'000 | Exchange translation reserve \$’000 | Reserve on consolidation \$'000 | Fair value reserve $\$ ’ 000$ | Revenue reserve \$'000 | Dividend reserve \$'000 | Total \$’000 |  |  |
| At 1 January 2004 | 356,400 | 154,650 | $(15,045)$ | 2,634 | - | 555,790 | 11,405 | 1,065,834 | $(12,211)$ | 1,053,623 |
| Exchange adjustment |  | - | (853) | - | - | - | - | (853) | 1 | (852) |
| Share of reserves movement of associated companies | - | - | - | - | - | 70 | - | 70 | - | 70 |
| Profit for 1st quarter | - | - | - | - | - | 18,664 | - | 18,664 | (136) | 18,528 |
| Dividend on ordinary shares <br> - 2nd interim dividend for 2003, payable | - | - | - | - | - | - | $(11,405)$ | $(11,405)$ | - | $(11,405)$ |
| At 31 March 2004 | $\underline{\underline{356,400}}$ | 154,650 | $(15,898)$ | 2,634 | - | 574,524 | - | 1,072,310 | $(12,346)$ | 1,059,964 |

## COMPANY

At January 2005
As previously reported
Effect of adopting FRS 39 :
Fair value changes on available-

| for-sale investments | - | - | 63,970 | - | - | 63,970 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Impairment on investments | - | - | - | $(130)$ | - | $(130)$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| As restated | 356,400 | 29,076 | 63,970 | 431,014 | 14,256 | 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

- 2nd interim dividend for 2004, payable

| Issued capital \$’000 | Revaluation reserve \$'000 | Fair <br> value reserve \$’000 | Revenue reserve \$'000 | Dividend reserve \$’000 | Total $\$ ’ 000$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 356,400 | 29,076 | - | 431,144 | 14,256 | 830,876 |
| - | - | 63,970 | - | - | 63,970 |
| - | - | - | (130) | - | (130) |
| 356,400 | 29,076 | 63,970 | 431,014 | 14,256 | 894,716 |
| - | - | - | 4,392 | - | 4,392 |
| - | - | 11,177 | - | - | 11,177 |
| - | - |  | - | $(14,256)$ | $(14,256)$ |
| 356,400 | 29,076 | 75,147 | 435,406 | - | 896,029 |
| 356,400 | 31,143 | - | 403,638 | 11,405 | 802,586 |
| - | - | - | 4,409 | - | 4,409 |
| - | - |  | - | $(11,405)$ | $(11,405)$ |
| 356,400 | 31,143 | - | 408,047 | - | 795,590 |

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.

Not applicable.
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 2004, except for the adoption of the following new Financial Reporting Standards (FRS) which become effective for the financial year beginning on or after 1 January 2005.

FRS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement
FRS 103 Business Combinations
The impact of the changes in accounting policies are as follows:-
FRS 39
In accordance with the transitional provision of FRS 39, the effect of recognition, derecognition and measurement of financial instruments, for periods prior to 1 January 2005, is not restated. Consequently, the comparative figures for 2004 have not been restated. On 1 January 2005, the following transitional adjustments were made.

|  | Fair value reserve \$'000 | Revenue reserve \$'000 | $\frac{\text { Total }}{\$ ’ 000}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Fair Valuation of : |  |  |  |
| Investments | 63,289 | - | 63,289 |
| Marketable securities | (98) | 8,536 | 8,438 |
| Impairment of : Investments | - | (130) | (130) |
| Hedge Accounting : |  |  |  |
| Cash flow hedges | 659 | - | 659 |
|  | 63,850 | 8,406 | 72,256 |

The adoption of FRS 39 has resulted in an increase in equity as at 1 January 2005 of $\$ 72.256$ million. This is after adjusting for the related deferred taxes. In accordance with the transitional adjustment rules, there is no restatement of the Q1 2004 profit and loss account of the Group and the Company.

FRS 103
FRS 103 requires goodwill acquired in a business combination to be measured at cost and subject to impairment. Further, in accordance with the transitional provisions of FRS 103, the reserve on consolidation of $\$ 2.634$ million, as at 1 January 2005, 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.
$\frac{\text { 1st Quarter (Q1) }}{2005}$

Basic and Diluted Earnings per share for the period based on Group profit attributable to Equity Holders of the Company :-
4.4 cents
5.2 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 200531 December 2004
Net asset value per share based on issued share capital at the end of :-

The Group
\$3.07
The Company
\$2.51
\$2.33
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.

The Group's operating profit before exceptional items fell $6.9 \%$ from $\$ 20.9$ million in Q1 2004 to $\$ 19.5$ million in Q1 2005. The impact of the $\$ 9.4$ million fall in the profit of securities trading was almost entirely mitigated by increases in property profits and contribution from associated companies. The operating profit decline was affected by the $\$ 1.4$ million fall in the fair value of financial assets under the new financial reporting standard, FRS 39.

After tax and exceptional items, the Group's net attributable profit fell 16.7\% from $\$ 18.7$ million in Q1 2004 to $\$ 15.5$ million in Q1 2005. In Q1 2004, the Group reported a net exceptional gain of $\$ 1.9$ million, derived mainly from the sale of shares in Tronoh Consolidated Malaysia Berhad.

Property revenue in Q1 2005 rose 79.8\% to $\$ 20.3$ million compared to $\$ 11.3$ million in Q1 2004. This was due primarily to the sale of several units in Gallop Gables and increased occupancies in the Group's China Square Central and Gallop Green condominium.

The Group's hotels in Australia, except for Rendezvous Allegra in Adelaide, have generally done well with rises in both occupancies and room rates. The hotel in Perth which has recently completed its room refurbishment has, particularly, recorded a substantial rise in room revenue. Total hotel revenue improved $6.3 \%$ from $\$ 17.1$ million in Q1 2004 to $\$ 18.1$ million in Q1 2005. The increase in revenue was also due to better results from the Group's hotels in Singapore and Shanghai. The latter was opened in March 2004 and only made a one-month contribution in Q1 2004.

Profit from securities trading fell most significantly from \$9.5 million in Q1 2004 to only $\$ 0.2$ million in Q1 2005 as the size of the trading portfolio has been substantially reduced to $\$ 41.0$ million in December 2004. This drop in profit was anticipated and noted in our previous announcement dated 25 February 2005.

Income from the Group's investments rose from \$1.9 million in Q1 2004 to \$2.5 million in Q1 2005 with special payouts from the Group's long-term investments.

The Group has acquired an additional $8.19 \%$ of Malaysia Smelting Corporation Berhad (MSC) from another substantial shareholder of MSC in February 2005 and undertook a mandatory general offer (MGO) for the remaining MSC shares. The MGO was closed on 13 April 2005 but on 16 March 2005, MSC became a subsidiary of the Group as the shareholding in MSC amounted to $50.20 \%$ after several open and off market acquisitions before the MGO. As MSC only became a subsidiary towards the quarter end, its earning contributions have been included under associated companies as the financial impact from 17 March 2005 to 31 March 2005 is not significant. The $62.8 \%$ improvement in the share of profit from associated companies was attributable partly to the better performance from MSC as well as the increased shareholding in this tin subsidiary.
9. Where a forecast, or a prospect statement, has been previously disclosed to shareholders, any variance between it and the actual results.

This current announced results are broadly in line with the prospect statement disclosed in the 2004 full year financial statements announcement made on 25 February 2005.
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.

Rental incomes from the Group's China Square Central and Gallop Green condominium are expected to be stable as they are already at near full occupancy. Rental from the Straits Trading Building, however, is expected to be lower in 2005 because of the Group's decision to either divest or refurbish the building. Any improvement in the Group's property related profit this year will likely be from the sale of Gallop Gables condominium units and/or the Cable and Nathan Road bungalow lots.

Outlook for the Group's hotel business remains positive. Yield enhancing will be the focus this year with gradual increases in room rates. The Group's hotel operations in Australia and China are expected to continue to perform well. Profits are expected to increase with the openings of Rendezvous Sanctuary Resort in Broome, Western Australia in August this year, Rendezvous Resort, Phuket in mid-2006 and Rendezvous Lanko Hotel in Chongqing, China in 2006/7.

The Group's long-term investments will continue to generate a stable stream of dividend income. Profit from securities trading, as previously mentioned, is expected to be much lower this year as the short-term equity portfolio has been reduced substantially. The Group had capitalised on the strong equity markets and realised a profit of $\$ 20.6$ million in 2004.

From Q2 2005 onwards, earning contributions from MSC will be fully consolidated. The Group now owns 63.16\% of MSC after the close of the MGO on 13 April 2005. With the increased shareholding, contributions from MSC are expected to increase in 2005.

Overall, the Group is confident that its operations will be profitable in 2005.

## 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 2005.

## PART II - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR FULL YEAR ANNOUNCEMENT (This part is not applicable to Q1, Q2, Q3 or Half Year Results)

13. Segmented revenue and results for business or geographical segments (of the group) in the form presented in the issuer's most recently audited annual financial statements, with comparative information for the immediately preceding year.

Not applicable.
14. In the review of performance, the factors leading to any material changes in contributions to turnover and earnings by the business or geographical segments.

Not applicable.
15. A breakdown of sales.

Not applicable.
16. A breakdown of the total annual dividend (in dollar value) for the issuer's latest full year and its previous full year.

Total Annual Dividend (Refer to Para 16 of Appendix 7.2 for the required details)

|  | Latest Full Year (S\$'000) | Previous Full Year (S\$'000) |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Ordinary | 0 | 0 |
| Preference | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 0 | 0 |

Not applicable.

## BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Emily Teo (Ms)
Secretary
27 April 2005
Singapore

