

## REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

For the six months ended 30th June, 2006, the Group attained an unaudited consolidated profit attributable to shareholders of HK\$209.1 million, representing an increase of about 47.3% as compared with the HK\$142.0 million (as restated) recorded for the corresponding period in 2005.

As at 30th June, 2006, the Group beneficially held approximately 45.6% of the issued ordinary shares of Regal Hotels International Holdings Limited, apart from certain holdings in its issued warrants and convertible preference shares. As explained before, Regal's hotel properties in Hong Kong have been stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and amortisation in its audited financial statements since 2005. Accordingly, the attributable share of the net assets of Regal reflected in the interests of the Group held in Regal has correspondingly been adjusted.

In order to more fairly reflect the underlying net asset value of the Group, supplementary information on the Group's net assets position, compiled on a proforma basis that Regal were to state its five hotel properties in Hong Kong based on their aggregate independent professional valuations of HK\$14,500 million as at 31st December, 2005, is provided in the section headed "Management Discussion and Analysis" on pages 7 to 10 in this Interim Report.

The Group owns a 30% interest in the joint venture development project at Ap Lei Chau Inland Lot No.129, comprising primarily residential accommodation having gross floor area of about 900,000 square feet together with ancillary retail, recreational and car parking facilities. The application to revise the flat mix of the proposed development, with a view to increasing the average size of the residential units to suit market demands, has been approved by the Town Planning Board. Site formation works for this project are in progress.

The Group has decided to retain for rental income all the office floors with total gross floor area of about 60,900 square feet, and certain ground floor shops with total gross floor area of about 2,200 square feet, in the commercial building at 211 Johnston Road, Wanchai. Consequently, this property has been reclassified from property held for sale to investment property in the Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements presented in this Interim Report. A fair value gain on this property has been reflected in the financial results for the period under review by reference to its independent professional market valuation as at 30th June, 2006. Progressively increasing rental rates have been achieved on new leasings or tenancy renewals and, at present, nearly all of the units are leased.

The Group has lately re-launched the marketing of part of its retained duplex units in the "Rainbow Lodge" residential development at 9 Ping Shan Lane, Yuen Long, New Territories and further units have since been sold.



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Each of the Group and Regal beneficially owns a 50% equity interest in a company which, in turn, holds a 59% interest in an investee company established in the PRC. The investee company has entered into the Land Grant Contracts for the Phase I land sites comprised in a comprehensive development project located at Chao Yang Men Wai Da Jie in the Central Business District of Beijing, PRC and the related land premium payable under the Land Grant Contracts was fully settled in April 2006. The overall development project entails total permissible gross floor area of about 4,630,000 square feet, planned to comprise office, residential, hotel, commercial and carparking accommodations. While the requisite development and design plans are being revised, the investee company is actively working to secure its rights to the remaining land site comprised in the overall development project.

The Group's building construction arm, Chatwin Engineering Limited, is taking steps to expand its business undertakings and has successfully secured new contracts in both the public housing estate sector as well as in the private sector. In addition, to support its core property businesses, the Group continues to operate profitably a wide range of property related services encompassing development consultancy comprising architectural, engineering and interior design services, project management, building services and estate management.

For the six months ended 30th June, 2006, Regal achieved an unaudited consolidated profit attributable to ordinary shareholders of HK\$310.8 million, as compared with the profit of HK\$302.3 million for the corresponding period in 2005.

The results achieved by Regal for the period under review are considered to be satisfactory, particularly as the profit attained by the core hotel operations of Regal was able to grow by about 25.4% over the same period last year. Due to the increased interest rates prevailing during the current period, the higher income from securities investments as well as the business interruption insurance compensation recorded in the prior comparative period, the growth in the overall profits achieved was affected when compared on year-on-year basis, though this was to certain extent compensated by the increased contribution from the Regalia Bay development.

In the first six months of 2006, there were a total of approximately 12.2 million visitor arrivals to Hong Kong, representing an increase of about 11.1% as compared with the same period last year. Benefiting from the Individual Visitor Scheme, visitors from mainland China also increased by about 14% to over 6.7 million, accounting for about 55% of the total visitors to Hong Kong during the period. Based on the information published by the Hong Kong Tourism Board, the average occupancy rate for all the surveyed hotels in Hong Kong during this six month period was about 86%, corresponding to an increase of about 3.6% over that recorded in the first half of 2005, while the average achieved room rate has over the same comparative period gained by about 16.2%.

Partly affected by the works being carried out at some of the hotels on renovation of rooms as well as for the asset enhancement programme as referred to below, the combined average room occupancy for the five Regal Hotels in Hong Kong during the six months under review was about 2.2% marginally below the level attained in the first half of 2005, but the combined average room rate has improved by 15.5%. While the Regal Airport Hotel is continuing to catch up on its room occupancy, the other four Regal Hotels in Hong Kong are operating steadily at a level of about 90%.

Total hotel profits (including management fees and rental income) for the period amounted to HK\$289.1 million, representing an increase of about 25.4% above the corresponding figure attained last year. Over the same comparative period, the gross operating profit margin of the hotel operations of Regal in Hong Kong also improved from 45% in 2005 to 50% in the current year.

Extensive renovation and upgrading works have been carried out progressively at the five Regal Hotels in Hong Kong in recent years to enhance their quality and facilities, and these have enabled them to achieve increasing room rates without affecting market competitiveness. To cater to the growing business from the conventions and exhibitions market, particularly after the opening of the Asia World-Expo convention center at the Hong Kong International Airport in December last year, the Regal Airport Hotel has recently completed the conversion of a portion of the basement floor into an Executive Conference Center comprising 13 new state-of-the-art meeting and conference rooms, as well as the renovation of 21 hotel rooms to be fitted with spa facilities.

The asset enhancement programme planned at four Regal Hotels in Hong Kong (other than Regal Kowloon Hotel) will add, in stages, an aggregate of 461 additional hotel rooms, boasting the total room count of the hotels owned by Regal in Hong Kong to over 3,800. The asset enhancement programme for the addition of 274 hotel rooms in Regal Riverside Hotel in the three additional floors to be added on top of the existing building structure is aimed to be completed before the holding of the Olympic Equestrian Events to be held in Shatin in August 2008, subject to agreement being able to be concluded with the government in the near future on the amount of applicable land premium payable. All the other portions of the asset enhancement programme are scheduled to be completed before the end of the third quarter of 2007.

Regal views the PRC market as critically important within its overall business development plans and intends to expand its hotel network to other selected cities in mainland China when appropriate opportunities arise.

Although the volume of transactions in the high-end luxury residential market in Hong Kong has slowed down recently, Regal remains optimistic of the future of this segment of the property market. Pending the revival of an active market, certain house units in the Regalia Bay development in Stanley, Hong Kong, which is 70% owned by Regal, have in the meanwhile been leased out at satisfactory rental yield.

Subsequent to the half year end date, Regal disposed of in August 2006 its equity investments held in a listed company for an aggregate consideration of approximately HK\$195 million and the gain arising from such disposal will be reflected in the results for the full year ending 31st December, 2006.



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## OUTLOOK

Business at the five Regal Hotels in Hong Kong continued to operate satisfactorily during the past two months. As the last quarter is traditionally the high season of the year, the directors of Regal believe that the operating results of the Regal Hotels in Hong Kong in the second half of 2006 should be even more encouraging than those achieved in the period under review.

The government is committed to maintaining Hong Kong as the most important hub and gateway in the region for both international as well as mainland Chinese travelers. Apart from the various major facilities that have been or are being built out in the airport area, such as the Asia World-Expo, the SkyMart and the passenger ferry terminal, the Airport Authority is planning to further upgrade and expand the Hong Kong International Airport, in anticipation of the steadily increasing passenger traffic at the airport. In addition, the government is actively co-ordinating on the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge to link land traffic with Macau and the affluent Pearl River Delta area. In the meantime, to strengthen Hong Kong's position as one of the most popular tourist destination in the region, many new tourist attractions will continue to be rolled out in Hong Kong, including the Tung Chung Cable Car, the Ocean Park redevelopment project and the Hong Kong Disneyland Phase 2.

Regal is confident of the growing prospects of the tourist industry in Hong Kong and the Regal Hotels are well poised to benefit from the resultant increase in the market demands in the local hotel sector. Apart from the internal expansion through the asset enhancement programme, Regal is looking to further develop its hotel network, both in hotel ownership as well as in hotel management contracts. To facilitate this planned business expansion, Regal has been actively working on the separate listing of a real estate investment trust involving its five Regal Hotels in Hong Kong.

With the vast experience and expertise readily available within the Group in different facets of the property businesses, the Group is well positioned and prepared to undertake new development projects and property investments. Due to the scarcity of land supply in Hong Kong, the Group believes that the real estate market in mainland China will comparatively provide more attractive opportunities for its planned business expansion. Accordingly, in addition to the joint venture composite development project that is being undertaken in Beijing, the Group is actively reviewing other potential development projects in mainland China with a view to strengthening its overall property portfolio.

By Order of the Board

**LO YUK SUI**

Chairman

Hong Kong, 18th September, 2006