

# Independent Auditor's Report



## Independent auditor's report to the members of Hang Lung Group Limited

(incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

### OPINION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Hang Lung Group Limited ("the Company") and its subsidiaries ("the Group") set out on pages 142 to 205, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at December 31, 2016, the consolidated statement of profit or loss, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at December 31, 2016 and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

### BASIS FOR OPINION

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

### KEY AUDIT MATTERS

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

## Valuation of investment properties and investment properties under development

(Refer to note 11 (property, plant and equipment) and note 1(f) (accounting policy))

### The key audit matter

The aggregate fair values of the Group's investment properties and investment properties under development as at December 31, 2016 amounted to HK\$149,165 million, representing 80% of the Group's total assets as at that date.

The net decrease in fair values recorded in the consolidated statement of profit or loss for the year ended December 31, 2016 amounted to HK\$254 million.

The Group's investment properties, which are located in Hong Kong and Mainland China, comprise shopping malls, office premises, industrial premises, residential premises and car parking bays.

The fair values of the Group's investment properties and investment properties under development were assessed by the management based on independent valuations prepared by an external property valuer.

We identified valuation of the Group's investment properties and investment properties under development as a key audit matter because of the significance of investment properties and investment properties under development to the Group's consolidated financial statements and because the determination of the fair values involves significant judgment and estimation, including selecting the appropriate valuation methodology, capitalisation rates and market rents and, for investment properties under development, an estimation of costs to complete each property development project.

### How the key audit matter was addressed in our audit

Our audit procedures to assess the valuation of investment properties and investment properties under development included the following:

- assessing the competence, capability, experience of the locations and types of properties subject to valuation, independence and objectivity of the external property valuer;
- evaluating the valuation methodology used by the external property valuer based on our knowledge of other property valuers for similar types of properties;
- on a sample basis, comparing the tenancy information included in the valuation models, which included committed rents and occupancy rates, with underlying contracts and related documentation;
- discussing the valuations with the external property valuer in a separate private session and challenging key estimates adopted in the valuations, including those relating to market selling prices, market rents and capitalisation rates, by comparing them with historical rates and available market data, taking into consideration comparability and other local market factors, with the assistance of our internal property valuation specialists; and
- for investment properties under development, comparing the estimated construction costs to complete each property development project with the Group's updated budgets (see further details set out in the key audit matter below).

### Assessing the development costs of investment properties under development in Mainland China

*(Refer to note 11 (property, plant and equipment) and note 1(f) (accounting policy))*

#### The key audit matter

The fair value of the Group's investment properties under development is determined using the direct comparison valuation methodology, with reference to comparable market transactions, to derive the fair value of the property assuming it was completed and, where appropriate, after deducting (1) the estimated development costs to be expended to complete each property development project and (2) the estimated profit margin.

Therefore, any increase in the estimated development costs to be expended to complete each property development project compared with the original management approved budgets could have a significant negative impact on the fair value of the Group's investment properties under development and, hence, the results for the year.

The Group's investment properties under development, which are located in different cities in Mainland China, comprise shopping malls, office premises, hotel premises and residential premises.

We identified the assessing the development costs of the Group's investment properties under development as a key audit matter because the determination of estimated development costs involves significant management judgement and estimation, in particular in relation to project feasibility studies, estimating future development costs to be expended to complete each property development project and the estimated profit margin.

#### How the key audit matter was addressed in our audit

Our audit procedures to assess the development costs of investment properties under development in Mainland China included the following:

- assessing the design, implementation and operating effectiveness of management's key internal controls over the preparation and monitoring of management budgets and forecasts of construction costs for each investment property under development;
- discussing the valuations of investment properties under development with the external property valuer in a separate private session and challenging key estimates adopted in the valuations including those relating to market selling prices, by comparing them with available market data, taking into consideration comparability and other local market factors;
- performing a retrospective review for all investment properties under development by comparing the actual construction costs incurred during the current year with those included in the prior year's forecasts in order to assess the accuracy of the Group's budgeting process;
- conducting site visits to all investment properties under development and discussing with management and the in-house quantity surveyor the development progress and the development budgets reflected in the latest forecasts for each property development project; and
- comparing, on a sample basis, the quantity surveyor's reports for the construction costs incurred for property development projects with the underlying payment records and other documentation relevant to the construction cost accruals and/or payments.

## **INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITOR'S REPORT THEREON**

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the annual report, other than the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. We obtained all of the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report apart from "Chairman's Letter to Shareholders". The remaining information is expected to be made available to us after that date.

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

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

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

The directors are assisted by the Audit Committee in discharging their responsibilities for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

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

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

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

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

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

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

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

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

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Melissa M C Wu.

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