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(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability) (the "Company", Stock Code: 2388)

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

## CONTINUING CONNECTED TRANSACTIONS DELAY IN DESPATCH OF CIRCULAR

The Company has been informed that, due to the large number of shareholders of the Company, it will take a longer time to complete bulk printing of the Circular and for the Company's share registrar to arrange for despatch of the Circular. In light of the above, the Company has applied to the Stock Exchange for an extension of the deadline for despatch of the Circular to on or before February 1, 2008.

## INTRODUCTION

Reference is made to the Company's announcement dated January 2, 2008 (the **Announcement**) in relation to, among others, the Investment Connected Transactions and the Inter-bank Connected Transactions, which constitute non-exempt continuing connected transactions of the Company under Rule 14A.35 of the Listing Rules. Unless the context requires otherwise, capitalised terms used herein shall have the same respective meanings adopted in the Announcement.

## DELAY IN DESPATCH OF CIRCULAR

Pursuant to Listing Rule 14A.49, the Company is required to send a circular in relation to the Investment Connected Transactions and the Inter-bank Connected Transactions to its shareholders (the **Circular**) within 21 days after publication of the Announcement, that is, on or before January 23, 2008.

The Company has been informed that, due to the large number of shareholders of the Company, it will take a longer time to complete bulk printing of the Circular and for the Company's share registrar to arrange for despatch of the Circular. In light of the above, the Company has made an application to the Stock Exchange for a waiver from strict compliance with Listing Rule 14A.49 and an extension of the deadline for despatch of the Circular to on or before February 1, 2008.

By Order of the Board Jason C.W. YEUNG Company Secretary

Hong Kong, January 23, 2008

As at the date of this announcement, the Directors of the Company are: Mr. XIAO Gang\* (Chairman), Mr. SUN Changji\* (Vice-chairman), Mr. HE Guangbei (Vice-chairman and Chief Executive), Mr. LI Zaohang\*, Mr. ZHOU Zaiqun\*, Mdm. ZHANG Yanling\*, Mr. LEE Raymond Wing Hung, Mr. GAO Yingxin, Dr. FUNG Victor Kwok King\*\*, Mr. KOH Beng Seng\*\*, Mr. SHAN Weijian\*\*, Mr. TUNG Chee Chen\*\*, Mr. TUNG Savio Wai-Hok\*\* and Mdm. YANG Linda Tsao\*\*.

<sup>\*</sup> Non-executive Directors

<sup>\*\*</sup> Independent Non-executive Directors