

Letter to Shareholders

“I always like to look on the optimistic side of life, but I am realistic enough to know that life is a complex matter.”

Walt Disney

“In order to carry a positive action we must develop a positive vision.”

Dalai Lama

In 2023, we had a down year. At the end of 2023, the net asset value of Lee Hing share was estimated to be HK\$2.39, which was down by 3.5% from the close of 2022 of HK\$2.48. By comparison, the Hang Seng Index was down by 13.82%.

The Total Comprehensive loss attributable to owners of the Company was due to the decrease in the estimated fair value of PureCircle (privatised by Ingredion Incorporated) of HK\$42 million. By comparison we made HK\$25 million from the increase in the market price of IGB Berhard (IGBB).

We have yet to receive the audited accounts of PureCircle for the period ended 31 December 2023. Under the terms of the privatisation of PureCircle, Ingredion is obliged each year to make an offer to buy 6.25% of the privately held PureCircle shares. Last year they offered USD 0.709 per share. We have used this as an indicative value of our shareholding in PureCircle because PureCircle is a private company with restriction on the sale of the shares. We have taken the opportunity to sell 3,000,000 shares to further reduce our borrowing and for working capital.

We sold the Company's apartment in May 2023 at a loss of about HK\$6 million. This helped to reduce the debt owed to banks as well as to my wife and I.

Looking forward

I remain hopeful that people will be more health – conscious and will consume less sugar. In this regard, the future of stevia is still bright.

Tan Boon Seng
Chairman