

Letter to Shareholders

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

Dalai Lama

In 2024, we had an up year. At the end of 2024, the net asset value of Lee Hing share was estimated to be HK\$2.94, which was up by 23% from the close of 2023 of HK\$2.39. By comparison, the Hang Seng Index was up by 17.67%.

The Total Comprehensive profit attributable to owners of the Company was due to the increase in the estimated fair value of PureCircle (privatised by Ingredion Incorporated) of HK\$31.4 million. By comparison we made HK\$38.6 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 2024. 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 0.844 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 25,500,000 shares to further reduce our borrowing and for working capital.

Looking forward

This year Ingredion has the right to exercise their call option on our remaining shares in PureCircle. It is also of note that until we clear the accumulated losses of the past, we are not permitted (according to Company Ordinance of Hong Kong) to declare any dividends.

We shall try to look for investments which are both secure and potentially profitable in the current uncertain times. I remain hopeful that people will be more health conscious and will consume less sugar.

Tan Boon Seng
Chairman