

11. Internal Control and Risk Management

11.1 Internal Control

The Board of Directors has always realized the significance of its good and effective internal control system, including its good corporate governance guidelines. It believes that a good internal control system is founded on a good performance process, organization chart and work system, which could help achieve goal or mission with efficiency and effectiveness, as well as minimize risk and prevent possible damage in the Company's business operations. The Board of Directors has thus authorized the Audit Committee comprising independent directors to audit the evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal control system. The Internal Audit Office, which independently performs its duty and directly reports to the Audit Committee, audits the work operation system in various departments of the Company as per the annual audit plan approved by the Audit Committee to ensure each department's efficient and effective performance of work and optimized use of its resources. This also includes the control of the work performance, the timely, accurate and reliable financial reports, as well as the compliance with the policies as well as laws and regulations of the government agencies and relevant authorities. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the internal control system is regularly reviewed to ensure the optimum benefit to the shareholders from the business operation based on fairness in terms of benefits to all stakeholders. In addition, the Audit Committee shall have the duties to consider, select and submit for appointment of the auditor, including remuneration of the auditor, consider accurate and complete disclosure of the Company's connected transactions or any transactions which may give rise to any conflicts of interest.

11.2 Risk Management

The Board of Directors has realized the significance of using the risk management system in the administration by assigning the Corporate Governance and Risk Management Committee to supervise and review the Company's overall risks, risk management strategy and risk alert system. This is to ensure proper and timely response to various challenges, as well as to provide training for executives and staff about the risk management guidelines for their understanding and engagement in the firmwide risk management. The Company's management takes into account various risk factors currently sustained or threatened to be sustained in the future by the Company to analyze impact and possibility of such risks and to determine measures to prevent and deal with such risks to stay at an acceptable level in line with the Company's policy, and to report to the Corporate Governance and Risk Management Committee to consider the adequacy and appropriateness. The effectiveness of the risk management system is reviewed and evaluated every year, and at any time when the risk level has changed, whereby the results are regularly monitored on a quarterly basis by the secretary to the Corporate Governance and Risk Management Committee and reported to the management and the Corporate Governance and Risk Management Committee for acknowledgement and further report to the Board of Directors. The significant risk factors and management are described in Risk Factors on pages 77 to 81.

11.3 The Board of Directors has evaluated the adequacy of the internal control system based on the Internal Control Adequacy Evaluation Form, taking into consideration five components, i.e., corporate internal control, risk assessment, control measures, information and communication system, and follow-up system. It was concluded that the Company's internal control system was considered adequate and appropriate to the business operation without material fault in the internal control system; and it could prevent improper or unauthorized use by executives or employees of the property of the Company and the subsidiaries. The financial report of the Company was accurate and reliable in accordance with the generally accepted accounting standards and the financial reporting standards. The Company's business operation was in accordance with the law on securities and exchange and other applicable laws.

The Board of Directors, the Audit Committee and the auditor were of the opinion that the Company's business operation was transparent and in accordance with the good corporate governance principles, its internal control system was suitable, effective and capable of preventing improper or unauthorized use by executives or employees of the property of the Company.

The Head of the Internal Audit Unit is Miss Vasana Wattananukulchai, General Manager of Internal Audit Office. The Audit Committee is of the view that Miss Vasana Wattananukulchai has knowledge, abilities and work experience and is qualified to efficiently and adequately perform duties as the Head of the Internal Audit Unit. The appointment, removal and transfer of a person holding an office as Head of the Internal Audit Unit shall be subject to the Audit Committee's approval. (The details are described on pages 198 to 199).

The Head of the Compliance Unit is Mr. Phakpoom Thaweewittayarut, Deputy Managing Director - Administration and Company Secretary, who shall be responsible for compliance matters. (The details are described on pages 199 to 200).

12. Connected Transactions

12.1 Criteria and Procedures for Approval of Execution of Connected Transactions

Transactions with persons who may have a conflict of interests are subject to the conditions and criteria in the ordinary course of business. The execution of connected transactions and transactions with a conflict of interests are in accordance with the regulations of the Stock Exchange of Thailand and the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In the consideration and approval of any connected transaction, the Company shall propose such matter to the Board of Directors' Meeting, in which the directors having any involvement which may give rise to a conflict of interests shall not be entitled to attend and vote on such matter. Furthermore, the Audit Committee, as assigned by the Board of Directors, shall consider the disclosure of the Company's information in respect of the connected transaction or the transaction which may have a conflict of interests, to ensure accuracy and completeness.

In respect of connected transactions with general commercial terms which the Company and its subsidiaries have or may have in the future, the Company already requested approval in principle from the Board of Directors' Meeting.

12.2 Policy or Trend of Future Connected Transactions

The Company shall comply with the requirements and regulations of the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Stock Exchange of Thailand, as well as the rules on disclosure of information on connected transactions and acquisition and disposition of material assets of the Company and its subsidiaries, including the accounting standards as prescribed by the Federation of Accounting Professions. Should there be any transaction which may have a conflict of interests in the future, for example, engagement of a group of persons who may have a conflict of interests for construction, project management, maintenance, the Board of Directors, together with the Audit Committee, will consider the necessity and justification for execution of such transaction, as well as pricing and conditions on the execution of such transaction whether they are in the ordinary course of business, and in comparison with third party prices or market price, provided that the interested parties shall not take part in the consideration and approval for execution of the transaction. The Company has no policy for lending loans or providing guarantee to any person who may have a conflict of interests in accordance with the definition of the SEC Office.

In case that the Audit Committee has no expertise to consider any potential connected transaction, the Company will arrange for an independent expert or the Company's auditor to provide an opinion on such connected transaction in support of the decision-making by the Board of Directors and/or the Audit Committee or shareholders, as the case may be. In this regard, the Company discloses its connected transactions in the Company's notes to the financial statements as audited by the Company's auditor.