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(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liab) (Stock Code: 22)

DELAY IN DESPATCH OF CIRCULAR REGARDING A CONNECTED AND MAJOR TRANSACTION

The Company expects that the despatch of a circular relating to the Acquisition as announced by the Company on 1 June 2004 will be delayed to a date on or around 4 November 2004 as more time is needed for the Company to prepare an extra 3 months stub period audit for Beilun Company and further working capital information relating to the effect of the Acquisition on the Company as well as financial information of Beilun Company relating to the month ended 30 June 2004 for inclusion in the Circular.

On 1 June 2004, the Company issued a press announcement (the "Announcement") relating to the Acquisition. Capitalised terms used in this announcement shall have the same meanings as those defined in the Announcement unless otherwise stated.

On 18 June, 12 July, 28 July, 10 August, 25 August, 10 September, 16 September and 30 September 2004, the Company announced that additional time was required to despatch the circular to the shareholders of the Company in relation to the Acquisition (the "Circular") to compile and furnish, among other things, as the original accountants' report of the Beilun Company had expired before the despatch of the Circular, the Company was required to furnish an extra 3 months stub period audit for Beilun Company. As part of the process, the Company will prepare further working capital information relating to the effect of the Acquisition on the Company as well as financial information of Beilun Company relating to the month ended 30 June 2004 for inclusion in the Circular. As a result, the despatch of the Circular will be further delayed to a date on or around 4 November 2004.

As the despatch of the Circular has been delayed on several occasions, the Stock Exchange has indicated to the Company that no further waiver from the requirement under rules 14.38 and 14A.49 of the Listing Rules, both of which provide that a circular must be despatched to the Company's shareholders within 21 days of the publication of the Announcement, will be granted. In such circumstances, the Board regrets that such delay in the despatch of the Circular amounts to a breach of the Listing Rules.

By order of the Board **Yan Sheng** Chief Executive Officer

The Board comprises Mr. Lau Kan Shan, Mr. Yan Sheng, Mr. Yuen Hiu Kwan and Ms. Ching Yung, all of whom are executive Directors, Mr. Chan Wai, Dune, Mr. Lau Wai, and Mr. Cheng Chun Pong, Paul, all of whom are independent non-executive Directors.

Hong Kong, 21 October 2004

* For identification purposes only