

Hembly International Holdings Limited 恒寶利國際控股有限公司

(Incorporated in Cayman Islands with limited liability) (Stock Code: 3989)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNAUDITED INTERIM RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

- Revenue amounted to HK\$367.4 million, an increase of 39.9%
- Gross profit increased by 40.0% to HK\$132.4 million at a margin of 36.0%
- Net profit attributable to shareholders of the Company increased by 30.4% to HK\$45.6 million
- Basic earnings per share was HK18.0 cents per share
- Declared interim dividend of HK3.0 cents per share

INTERIM RESULTS

The board of directors (the "Board") of Hembly International Holdings Limited (the "Company") is pleased to announce the unaudited consolidated results of the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group") for the six months ended 30 June 2007 as follows:

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

		Six months	ended 30 June
		2007	2006
	Notes	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
		(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Revenue	3	367,351	262,584
Cost of sales		(234,937)	(168,006)
Gross profit		132,414	94,578
Other income		4,166	1,730
Administrative expenses		(55,545)	(35,382)
Distribution and selling expenses		(12,916)	(10,022)
Finance costs	4	(14,782)	(9,960)
Profit before tax	5	53,337	40,944
Income tax expense	6	(7,676)	(4,442)
Profit for the period		45,661	36,502
Attributable to:			
Equity holders of the Company		45,647	34,997
Minority interests		14	1,505
		45,661	36,502
Dividend	7	17,758	
Earnings per share	8		
– Basic		HK18.01 cents	HK19.44 cents
– Diluted		HK17.96 cents	N/A

CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AT 30 JUNE 2007

	Notes	30 June 2007 <i>HK\$`000</i> (unaudited)	31 December 2006 <i>HK\$'000</i> (audited)
Non-current assets Property, plant and equipment Prepaid lease payments Loan to a jointly controlled entity Available-for-sale investments Intangible assets – franchise fee Goodwill		191,513 60,945 5,168 5,609 10,492 20,800 294,527	175,106 59,391 5,168 5,424 245,089
Current assets Inventories Trade receivables Deposits, prepayments and other receivables Prepaid lease payments Loans to jointly controlled entities Amount due from a minority shareholder Amounts due from jointly controlled entities Available-for-sale investments Tax recoverable Pledged bank deposits Bank deposits with original maturity of more than three months	9	168,769 267,021 70,692 1,246 6,596 	107,315 187,932 58,229 1,246 5,596 1,300 6,112 1,960 1,584 57,462
Bank balances and cash		195,286 111,373 873,034	150,000 30,982 609,718
Current liabilities Trade payables Other payables and accruals Loans from shareholders of	10	35,426 30,601	58,631 28,802
jointly controlled entities Amounts due to shareholders of jointly controlled entities Taxation payable Obligations under finance leases		7,273 8,803 15,385	6,273 6,682 10,459
 due within one year Bank borrowings – due within one year Bank overdrafts 		896 379,144 13,034	328 287,871 <u>76</u>
Net current assets		<u>490,562</u> 382,472	<u> </u>
Total assets less current liabilities		676,999	455,685

Non-current liabilities	Notes	30 June 2007 <i>HK\$'000</i> (unaudited)	31 December 2006 <i>HK\$'000</i> (audited)
Loans from shareholders of jointly controlled entities		5,168	5,168
Obligations under finance leases – due after one year Bank borrowings – due after one year		2,475 274,277	596 104,710
		281,920	110,474
		395,079	345,211
Capital and reserves Share capital Reserves	11	25,453 369,591	25,288 319,902
Equity attributable to equity holders of the Company Minority interests		395,044 35	345,190 21
		395,079	345,211

Notes:

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

Pursuant to a group reorganisation ("Group Reorganisation") to rationalise the structure of the Group in preparation for the listing of the Company's shares on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange"), the Company issued shares in exchange for the entire issued share capital of Full Prosper and thereby became the holding company of the Group on 13 June 2006. Details of the Group Reorganisation are set out in the prospectus of the Company dated 30 June 2006. The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared as if the current structure had been in existence during the period.

The shares of the Company have been listed on the Stock Exchange with effect from 13 July 2006.

The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable disclosure requirements of Appendix 16 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on the Stock Exchange (the "Listing Rules") and with Hong Kong Accounting Standard ("HKAS") 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the "HKICPA").

2. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The condensed consolidated financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis except for certain financial instruments, which are measured at fair value, as appropriate.

The accounting policies used in the condensed consolidated financial statements are consistent with those followed in the preparation of the Group's annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2006 except as described below:

Goodwill

Goodwill arising on an acquisition of additional interest in a subsidiary represents the excess of the cost of acquisition over the Group's interest in the carrying amount of the net assets of the relevant subsidiary attributable to the acquired interest at the date of acquisition. Such goodwill is carried at cost less any accumulated impairment losses.

For the purposes of impairment testing, goodwill arising from an acquisition is allocated to each of the relevant cash-generating units, or groups of cash-generating units, that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the acquisition. A cash-generating unit to which goodwill has been allocated is tested for impairment annually, and whenever there is an indication that the unit may be impaired. For goodwill arising on an acquisition in a financial year, the cash-generating unit to which goodwill has been allocated is tested for impairment before the end of that financial year. When the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit is less than the carrying amount of the unit, the impairment loss is allocated to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to the unit first, and then to the other assets of the unit pro rata on the basis of the carrying amount of each asset in the unit. Any impairment loss for goodwill is not reversed in subsequent periods.

On subsequent disposal of a subsidiary, the attributable amount of goodwill capitalised is included in the determination of the amount of profit or loss on disposal.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets acquired separately and with finite useful lives are carried at costs less accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation for intangible assets with finite useful lives is provided on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives.

Gains or losses arising from derecognition of an intangible asset are measured as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and are recognised in the consolidated income statement when the asset is derecognised. Intangible assets with finite useful lives are tested for impairment when there is an indication that an asset may be impaired.

In the current interim period, the Group has applied, for the first time, the following new standard, amendment and interpretations ("new HKFRSs") issued by the HKICPA that are effective for the Group's financial year beginning 1 January 2007. The adoption of the new HKFRSs has had no material effect on the results or financial position of the Group for the current and prior accounting periods. Accordingly, no prior period adjustments have been required.

HKAS 1 (Amendment)	Capital Disclosures
HKFRS 7	Financial Instruments: Disclosures
HK(IFRIC) – Int 7	Applying the Restatement Approach under HKAS 29
	Financial Reporting in Hyperinflationary Economies
HK(IFRIC) – Int 8	Scope of HKFRS 2
HK(IFRIC) – Int 9	Reassessment of Embedded Derivatives
HK(IFRIC) – Int 10	Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment

The Group has not earlier applied the new and revised standards or interpretations that have been issued but are not yet effective. The directors of the Company anticipate that the application of these standards or interpretations will have no material impact on the results and financial position of the Group.

3. SEGMENT INFORMATION

Period ended 30 June 2007

	Manufacturing and sales of apparel and accessories <i>HK\$</i> '000	Distribution and retailing of apparel and footwear <i>HK\$'000</i>	Elimination HK\$'000	Total <i>HK\$'000</i>
Revenue	227 100	20.251		267 251
External sales Inter-segment sales	337,100 544	30,251	(544)	367,351
Total	337,644	30,251	(544)	367,351
Inter-segment sales are charged at prevailir	ng market rates.			
Segment result	72,897	2,307		75,204
Unallocated income Unallocated corporate expense				2,346 (9,431)
Finance costs				(14,782)
Profit before tax				53,337
Income tax expense				(7,676)
Profit for the period				45,661

Period ended 30 June 2006

	Manufacturing and sales of apparel and accessories <i>HK\$'000</i>	Distribution and retailing of apparel and footwear <i>HK\$'000</i>	Elimination <i>HK\$'000</i>	Total <i>HK\$'000</i>
Revenue				
External sales Inter-segment sales	236,483 1,050		(1,050)	
Total	237,533	26,101	(1,050)	262,584
Inter-segment sales are charged at prevailing	g market rates.			
Segment result	50,807	(825)		49,982
Unallocated income				1,119
Unallocated corporate expense				(197)
Finance costs				(9,960)
Profit before tax				40,944
Income tax expense				(4,442)
Profit for the period				36,502

4. FINANCE COSTS

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2007	2006
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Interest on:		
Bank borrowings and overdrafts wholly repayable		
– within five years	14,323	9,714
– over five years	152	148
Obligations under finance leases	122	42
Loans from shareholders of jointly controlled entities	185	56
	14,782	9,960

5. **PROFIT BEFORE TAX**

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2007	2006
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Profit before tax has been arrived at after charging:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	7,142	4,195
Amortisation of intangible assets – franchise fee	88	_
Amortisation of prepaid lease payment	623	305
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	1	145

6. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

Hong Kong Profits Tax is recognised based on management's best estimate of the weighted average annual income tax rate expected for the full financial year. The estimated average annual tax rate used is 17.5% (2006: 17.5%) for the six months ended 30 June 2007.

Taxation arising in other jurisdictions is recognised based on management's best estimate of the weighted average annual income tax rate expected for the full financial year. The estimated average annual tax rate used is 12% (2006: 12%) for the six months ended 30 June 2007.

On 16 March 2007, the PRC promulgated the Law of the PRC on Enterprise Income Tax (the "New Law") by Order No. 63 of the President of the PRC, which will change the tax rate from 12% to 25% for certain subsidiaries from 1 January 2008.

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2007	2006
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Current tax:		
Hong Kong	-	200
Other jurisdictions	7,369	4,175
	7,369	4,375
Underprovision in prior years:		
Hong Kong	307	1
Other jurisdictions		66
	307	67
	7,676	4,442

7. DIVIDEND

During the period ended 30 June 2007, a dividend of HK\$0.07 per share (2006: Nil) amounting to approximately HK\$17,758,000 (2006: Nil) was paid to shareholders as the final dividend for 2006.

The Directors have determined that an interim dividend of HK\$0.03 per share (2006: HK\$0.03 per share) should be paid to the shareholders of the Company whose names appear on the register of members on 22 October 2007.

8. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share attributable to the ordinary equity holders of the Company is based on the following data:

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2007	2006
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(unaudited)	(unaudited)
Earnings		
Earnings for the purpose of basic and diluted earnings per share (Profit for the period		
attributable to equity holders of the Company)	45,647	34,997
Number of shares	'000	,000
Weighted average number of ordinary shares		
for the purpose of basic earnings per share (note)	253,518	180,000
Effect of dilutive potential ordinary shares for		
share options	574	
Weighted average number of ordinary shares		
for the purpose of diluted earnings per share	254,092	

Note: The calculation of the basic earnings per share for the period ended 30 June 2006 is based on the weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue of 180,000,000 shares on the assumption that the Group Reorganisation has been effective on 1 January 2006

9. TRADE RECEIVABLES

The Group allows an average credit period of 60 to 90 days to its trade customers. The following is an aged analysis of trade receivables at the balance sheet date:

	30 June	31 December
	2007	2006
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(unaudited)	
0 – 90 days	234,799	178,755
91 – 180 days	27,033	6,700
181 – 360 days	2,642	619
Over 360 days	2,547	1,858
	267,021	187,932

10. TRADE PAYABLES

The following is an aged analysis of trade payables at the balance sheet date:

	30 June	31 December
	2007	2006
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(unaudited)	
0 – 90 days	32,627	54,924
91 – 180 days	2,397	2,535
181 – 360 days	266	731
Over 360 days	136	441
	35,426	58,631

11. SHARE CAPITAL

	Number of ordinary shares		Amount	
	30 June 2007	31 December 2006	30 June 2007 HK\$'000	31 December 2006 <i>HK\$'000</i>
Ordinary shares of HK\$0.1 each:				
Authorised: At beginning of period/year Increase during the period/year	2,000,000,000	1,000,000 1,999,000,000	200,000	100 199,900
At end of period/year	2,000,000,000	2,000,000,000	200,000	200,000
Issued and fully paid: At beginning of period/year Issue of shares upon	252,880,000	1	25,288	_
Group Reorganisation Issue of shares on capitalisation	-	39,999,999	-	4,000
of share premium account Issue of shares upon the placing	-	140,000,000	-	14,000
and public offer Exercise of share options	1,650,000	70,080,000 2,800,000	- 165	7,008
At end of period/year	254,530,000	252,880,000	25,453	25,288

During the period, a total of 1,650,000 ordinary shares of the Company were issued upon the exercise of 1,000,000, 550,000 and 100,000 share options at an exercise price of HK\$1.88, HK\$2.90 and HK\$2.60, respectively.

12. CAPITAL AND OTHER COMMITMENTS

	30 June	31 December
	2007	2006
	HK\$'000	HK\$'000
	(unaudited)	
Capital commitment contracted for but not provided		
in respect of acquisition of property, plant		
and equipment	1,582	643

During the period, the Group entered into a franchise agreement with an independent third party under which the Group shall pay approximately HK\$10,625,000 (EUR 1,000,000) for the grant of franchise and distribution rights in the PRC up to May 2017. The Group is required to open 30 retail shops in the PRC within five years.

13. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

- (i) During the period, the Group entered into an agreement to purchase 100% shareholding of an entity at a consideration of approximately HK\$4,250,000 (EUR 400,000). The acquisition has not yet been completed as at 30 June 2007.
- (ii) In July 2007, the Group entered into a sourcing agreement with H4T where H4T appointed the Group as the exclusive sourcing agent for all products under the brand, *Sergio Tacchini*, in Asia for a period up to 31 December 2008.
- (iii) As at 30 June 2007, a substantial shareholder of the Company, Charm Hero Investments Limited ("Charm Hero"), who held approximately 40.01% shareholding in the Company, entered into (i) a placing and underwriting agreement (the "Placing and Underwriting Agreement"); and (ii) a subscription agreement (the "Subscription Agreement").

Pursuant to the Placing and Underwriting Agreement, Charm Hero agreed to place up to 23,800,000 shares of the Company at a price of HK\$4.29 per share. After the completion of the Placing and Underwriting Agreement, Charm Hero's shareholding in the Company decreased to approximately 30.66%. Afterward, Charm Hero agreed to subscribe for up to 23,800,000 new shares of the Company at a price of HK\$4.29 per share pursuant to the Subscription Agreement. Upon the completion of the Subscription Agreement, Charm Hero's shareholding in the Company then increased from approximately 30.66% to 36.59%.

MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Business and Financial Review

Overview

In the first half of 2007, the Group continued to record a robust performance with revenue of HK\$367.4 million. This represents an increase of 39.9% over the same period last year. The Group's overall gross margin remained stable at about 36.0%. The sizeable increase in the gross margin of the Group's distribution and retailing business was offset by a slight decrease in the gross margin of the supply chain services business. Profits attributable to the equity holders of the Company surged by 30.4% to HK\$45.6 million as compared to the corresponding period last year. Earnings per share for the period amount to HK18.01 cents, notwithstanding the Group's increased shareholder base resulting from completion of the Company's IPO on 13 July 2006.

While the supply chain business continued its strong organic growth, the distribution and retailing business benefited from the fast-growing retail market in the PRC, particularly in the mid- to high-income segment, and the rapid expansion of the Group's PRC distribution platform.

Supply chain services

Despite fierce competitive market environment, which includes rising raw material prices, increased labour costs, textile trading regulatory changes and pricing pressures exerted by the appreciation of RMB, the Group's supply chain services continued to grow rapidly. Revenue for supply chain services reached HK\$337.1 million, up 42.5% as compared to the same period last year, and accounted for about 91.8% of the Group's revenue in the first half of 2007.

European mid- to high-end brands are focusing more and more on brand management rather than production and product development, which has resulted in a shift of sourcing to Asia and to China, in particular. The Group's early involvement in European markets, coupled with its well-visioned foresight in creating added value for its customers, has proved an effective formula to profit from this rising trend. During the period under review, the Group has not only enjoyed increased orders from existing customers, but also continued to expand its existing customer base.

At the same time, the Group's strategy of consolidating its customer base to focus on high-end customers with high margins and significant growth potential progressed smoothly. The success of these strategies drove up sales of our high margin products, which helped to offset the production cost hike created by the appreciation of RMB. Hence, gross margin for the supply chain business decreased only slightly from 35.6% to 34.6% during the period.

China has, over time, become the "world's factory" for high-end products, supported by improved production techniques and skilled and articulated human resources. China is therefore well-equipped to cater to the increasing demand for outsourcing of mid- to high-end goods, especially now that low-end goods sourcing has shifted somewhat to other emerging markets with lower production costs. Against this backdrop, the Group is confident that its extensive experience in providing PRC based supply chain services for mid- to high-end brands will serve it well.

During the period under review, the Group has fine-tuned its value added services to customers to include (i) the provision of increased product design and development support; (ii) the adoption of higher product quality standards; and (iii) the implementation of improved logistics management, to fulfil the increased demands and product expectations of high-end customers.

The new phase of the Group's Yangzhou production base began operation in February 2007. These supplementary facilities have strengthened the Group's dual operation model for production management as well as enhancing the Group's high-tech garment manufacturing techniques.

To capture business opportunities brought about by increased sourcing demands for footwear products, the Group has extended its supply chain service capabilities to include footwear items. During the period under review, a footwear research and development center was established in Dongguan. With full support of its customers, this has empowered the Group to achieve horizontal diversification of its product range. These efforts will clearly fuel the Group's supply chain services for future growth.

The Group is committed to expand its capabilities in supply chain services and will seek further opportunities to establish strategic alliances with key international brands to increase collaboration and capitalise on PRC's immense potential.

Distribution and retailing

The Group's distribution and retailing business continued to operate in a favorable business environment due to PRC's strong and sustained economic growth and the increased consumption power of its emerging middle class. This business achieved a turnaround, from a loss in 2006 to a gain in the first half of 2007, and contributed slightly to the Group's bottom line. Gross margin also improved from 40.0% to 51.8%, as compared to the corresponding period last year. These excellent results were achieved through appropriate marketing and sales strategies. At the same time, the Group's operating efficiency also improved with its increase in scale of operation, and in particular, its steady increase in points-of-sale.

Revenue from the Group's distribution and retailing business was HK\$30.3 million, recording growth of 15.9% as compared to the same period last year and accounting for about 8.2% of the Group's revenue. This growth was marginalised as a result of certain transitional arrangements in 2006. The Group had begun distributing *Lotto* products in the PRC through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Scienward (Nanjing) Garment Co., Limited ("Scienward (Nanjing)") in December 2005. In line with the Group's business strategy, distribution was progressively shifted from Scienward (Nanjing) to the Group's 50:50 *Lotto* joint venture. As compared to the same period of 2006, when 100% of the distribution results of the *Lotto* products were taken up by the Group, the Group retained only 50% of such operating results during the period under review.

In the first half of 2007, with growing popularity in sports and sports-inspired apparel, the *Lotto* joint venture also achieved outstanding performance. The gross margin improved substantially from 37.7% to 55.1% for the period under review. This improvement was attributable mainly to an increase in directly-managed shops, which usually enjoy higher gross margin.

To increase market share, the Group employed aggressive branding strategies for *Lotto* during the period under review. This included an arrangement for global spokesman Luca Toni, a popular Italian world-cup champion, to visit the PRC and Hong Kong in May, which successfully stimulated strong brand awareness.

Against this backdrop, the Group will continue to expand its sales network in order to capitalise on the increased popularity of sports brought about by the Beijing Olympics 2008, whilst simultaneously aiming for sustainable growth in the sales of each points-of-sale. Through ongoing proactive marketing campaigns, the Group will definitely maintain and sustain its presence in a growing market.

As at 30 June 2007, the *Lotto* joint venture had 80 points-of-sale including 20 directly-managed shops and 60 franchised shops throughout PRC's first and second tier cities. There was a net increase of 15 new points-of-sale during the period under review. Going forward, expansion will continue in line with the joint venture's three-year shop opening schedule.

In line with the change in strategy for *Stonefly* to focus solely on footwear, the performance of the 50:50 *Stonefly* joint venture has improved significantly in its third year. The business has been turned around, moving from a loss in 2006 to breakeven for the period under review. With the shift in emphasis from a combination of apparel and footwear to exclusively footwear, average shop size could be reduced by half, substantially increasing sales per square metre and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation. In light of an increase in wholesale turnover, gross margin dropped slightly from 48.3% to 45.7% as compared to the same period last year.

As at 30 June 2007, the joint venture had 45 points-of-sale, including 23 directly-managed shops and 22 franchised shops throughout the first and second tier cities of the PRC. There was a net increase of 11 new points-of-sale during the period.

The Group's newly established research and development center in Dongguan will facilitate local sourcing. This will greatly enhance the gross margin for *Stonefly* products and allow the Group greater flexibility in offering competitive pricing.

On 1 August 2007, 45 *Sisley* shops, directly managed by Benetton Group, were additionally transferred to the new *Sisley* joint venture. The Group believes these *Sisley* shops will contribute significantly to the revenue of the Group's distribution and retailing business in the second half of 2007.

New business partnerships

As an experienced multi-brand management specialist for internationally renowned brands, the Group constantly seeks opportunities to foster business growth through mergers, acquisitions and other appropriate ventures.

In March 2007, the Chairman, Mr. Ngok Yan Yu, granted an option to the Group for the acquisition of his interests in the *Sergio Tacchini* business within a period of three years commencing from 24 May 2007. With 40 years of history, *Sergio Tacchini* ("ST") is a prominent sports brand famous for its elegant and stylish sportswear, particularly in tennis related fashion apparel. The right to exercise such an option empowers the Group to globalise its retailing network and exponentially increase growth in all aspects, and to become a brand owner as well.

Simultaneous with the granting of this option, Mr. Ngok also concluded a sourcing agreement with the Group through which the Group was appointed exclusive sourcing agent for all ST products within Asia. This exclusive sourcing arrangement will broaden the Group's revenue base for supply chain services and further stimulate the Group's already accelerated momentum.

In June 2007, the Group entered into an exclusive distribution agreement with Moschino S.p.A ("Moschino"), whereby the Group was granted distribution exclusivity for 10 years in the PRC for various prestigious *Moschino* product lines. In addition to enhancing the Group's brand diversification, this partnership largely upscaled its brand portfolio and earmarks a new chapter in its distribution and retailing business. In the past, the Group achieved distributorship of renowned European brands through the setting up of joint ventures, through which its distribution experience and expertise could be enhanced. That given, the Group's well-honed luxury product distribution capability is clearly recognized in Europe which made it the exclusive PRC distributor for *Moschino*.

Under this arrangement, the Group will open 30 *Moschino* shops within five years, of which two flagship stores will be launched in Beijing and Shanghai by the end of 2007.

In July 2007, the Group entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with Mariella S.r.L. ("Mariella") for its lease and its conditional purchase of the *Bond Street* business, which completion of purchase is contingent on the irrevocable acceptance of such purchase by Mariella's creditors. With almost 25 years of history, the brands *Bond Street* and *Bond Street* Collection are characterized by stylish prêt-a-porter collections collaborated with prestigious garment stylists, using Italian fabrics of high-level and from a great span of designs and models. This business was an immediate success especially in the market of high-level sportswear in Italy and various foreign countries. This agreement allows the Group the golden opportunity to further synergize and globalise its retailing network and distribution network both locally and globally. Once this agreement is completed, the Group will immediately become a brand owner of a high-end and established Italian brand.

Going forward, the Group will continue to integrate its two business segments to achieve greater efficiencies and create better synergies to foster design and development of its products. This integration is assured to provide improved benefits for its customers.

Awards and recognition

On 21 May 2007, the Group was awarded "The 2nd Capital Outstanding China Enterprise Award" by Capital Magazine, one of the leading business magazines in Hong Kong, in recognition of its achievements to bring in international renowned brands to successfully tap China's burgeoning retail market.

Operating expenses

During the period under review, operating profit rose by 33.8% to HK\$68.1 million with operating margin decreasing from 19.4% to 18.5%. The operating margin decrease was attributed to the substantial increase in the Group's administrative expenses.

The Group's distribution and selling expenses surged by 28.9% to HK\$12.9 million, as compared to the corresponding period last year. This increase in distribution and selling expenses (as marginalized as a result of the Group's 2006 transitional arrangements as previously detailed) was principally due to the increase in sales commission and overseas sales and marketing expenses derived from the Group's supply chain services. With more efficient expenditure management and better operating efficiency achieved through increased scale of the Group's operations, the Group's distribution and selling expenses, as a percentage of revenue, recorded a reduction from 3.8% to 3.5%. In line with the Group's strategy to prioritize on sales network build-up and expansion before the launching of any sizeable advertising/promotional campaigns (which launching time should naturally follow the completion of a substantial and sizeable sales network), the Group succeeded to achieve a controlled and mild increase in its distribution and selling expenses for the period under review.

The Group's administrative expenses substantially increased by 57.0% to HK\$55.5 million during the period under review, which, as a percentage of revenue, increased from 13.5% to 15.1%. The substantial increase in administrative expenses was mainly attributable to a newly required charge of share option expenses of about HK\$3.1 million in compliance with the new HKFRS 2 requirements and the increase in listing related and compliance related costs (namely, legal and professional fees). Higher expenses in staff salaries and emoluments also contributed to the increase in the administrative expenses, given more human resources are required to cope with the Group's vast expansion. Additional depreciation in respect of the set up of new back up offices has also increased the Group's administrative expenses during the period.

Finance costs

Finance costs increased by 48.4% to HK\$14.8 million, as compared to the same period last year. This substantial increase is mainly attributable to a higher level of bank borrowings necessitated to finance the Group's vast expansion.

Liquidity, Financial Resources And Capital Structure

The Group's financial positions remained sound during the period under review. As at 30 June 2007, the Group had cash and cash equivalents of HK\$343.6 million, primarily denominated in RMB and HK dollars, (31 December 2006: HK\$238.4 million) and total bank borrowings of HK\$666.5 millions, (31 December 2006: HK\$392.7 million), of which 58.8% constituted short-term bank borrowings and 41.2% constituted long-term bank borrowings. The Group's bank borrowings were primarily denominated in RMB, HK dollars and US dollars. As at 30 June 2007, 21.4%, 57.6%, and 20.4% of the Group's total bank borrowings were denominated in RMB, HK dollars and US dollars respectively, with 14.6% of the total bank borrowings subject to fixed interest rates and 85.4% subject to floating interest rates.

The net gearing ratio (which is calculated on the basis of total bank borrowings (net of cash and cash equivalent) over the total shareholders' equity of the Company) increased from 0.45 as at 31 December 2006 to 0.82 as at 30 June 2007. The current ratio (which is calculated on the basis of current assets over current liabilities) increased from 1.53 as at 31 December 2006 to 1.78 as at 30 June 2007. The high debt gearing ratio as recorded at 30 June 2007 was mainly attributable to the seasonal demand cycle's impact on the Group's working capital increase, which was well supported by bank trading facilities.

The interest coverage, expressed as a multiple of EBITDA over the interest expenses, was 5.14, which level is considered comfortable.

During the period under review, the Group actively managed financial risks and continuously reviewed its financial positions. To maintain a balance between long-term and short-term financings, on 27 April 2007, the Group obtained a 3-year syndicated term loan and revolving credit facility in an aggregate amount of HK\$200 million. The loan bears interest rate of 155 basis points over the HIBOR. The syndicated term loan is repayable in installments over a three years period. The proceeds were designated to be used to finance general working capital and capital expenditure of the Group. In addition, subsequent to the balance sheet date, the Group has issued 23,800,000 new shares at a price of HK\$4.29 each to raise about HK\$99.0 million after deducting all related expenses. The net proceeds were intended to be used for further acquisition opportunities as well as working capital of the Group. With the net proceeds from the issue of new shares, the Group's net gearing ratio and current ratio were significant improved.

Foreign Exchange Exposure

The majority of the Group's sales, purchase and operating expenses were denominated in RMB, HK dollars and US dollars. Although the Group has been and will continue to be exposed to foreign currency exchange risks, the Board does not expect future currency fluctuations would materially impact the Group's operations. The Group has adopted no formal hedging policies and no instruments have been applied for foreign currency hedging purposes during the period under review.

Charges On Assets

As at 30 June 2007, the Group's bank deposits of about HK\$36.9 million, available-for-sale securities of about HK\$7.6 million, property, plant and equipment with an aggregate net book value of about HK\$119.2 million, and land use rights with an aggregate net book value of about HK\$30.7 million were pledged to secure the general banking facilities and bank borrowings granted to the Group.

Contingent Liabilities

As at 30 June 2007, neither the Group nor the Company had any material contingent liabilities.

Employment Information

As at 30 June 2007, the Group had about 2,580 employees in total, stationed mainly in the PRC, Hong Kong and Europe. The Group's emolument policies, which are reviewed periodically, are linked to the performance of individual employees and are based on salary trends prevailing in the aforesaid regions.

In addition, the Group maintains a share option scheme for the purpose of providing incentives and rewards to eligible participants based on their respective contributions to the Group.

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF LISTED SECURITIES OF THE COMPANY

Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries has purchased, redeemed or sold any of the Company's listed securities during the period.

INTERIM DIVIDEND

The Directors has resolved to declare an interim dividend of HK3.0 cents per share for the six months ended 30 June 2007 (six months ended 30 June 2006: HK3.0 cents), payable on or about Thursday, 1 November 2007, to the shareholders whose names appear on the register of members of the Company on Monday, 22 October 2007.

CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF MEMBERS

The register of members of the Company will be closed from Tuesday, 16 October 2007 to Monday, 22 October 2007, both days inclusive, during which period no transfer of shares will be registered. In order to qualify for the interim dividend, all shares transfer documents accompanied with the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's branch share registrar in Hong Kong, Tricor Investor Services Limited of 26/F., Tesbury Centre, 28 Queen's Road East, Wanchai, Hong Kong, for registration not later than 4:00 p.m. on Monday, 15 October 2007.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

The Board believes that high standards of corporate governance are essential to the success of the Company and is committed to maintain a high level of corporate governance standards and practices. The Company has complied with all the code provisions set out in the Code on Corporate Governance Practices contained in Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules during the period.

DIRECTORS' SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") as set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules as its own code for dealing in securities of the Company by the Directors. The Company has made specific enquiries with all its directors regarding any non-compliance with the Model Code, and all Directors confirmed that they had complied with the required standard set out in the Model code for the period.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The audit committee comprises three independent non-executive directors, namely, Mr. Lo Ming Chi, Charles, Mr. Pao Ping Wing and Mr. Kwan Hung Sang, Francis. Mr. Lo Ming Chi, Charles has been appointed as the chairman of the audit committee.

The audit committee has reviewed the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group and has also discussed auditing, internal controls and financial reporting matters including the review of the unaudited interim results for the six months ended 30 June 2007 with the management.

In addition, the Group's external auditors performed an independent review of the interim financial information for the six months ended 30 June 2007 in accordance with Hong Kong Standard on Review Engagements 2410 "Review of Interim Financial Information Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity" issued by the HKICPA. The auditors based on their review, concluded that nothing has come to their attention that causes them to believe that the interim financial information is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with HKAS 34 "Interim Financial Reporting".

By order of the Board Hembly International Holdings Limited NGOK Yan Yu Chairman

Hong Kong, 13 September 2007

As at the date of this announcement, the Board of the Company comprises five executive directors, namely, *Mr. Ngok Yan Yu, Mr. Lam Hon Keung, Keith, Ms. Tang Chui Yi, Janny, Mr. Wong Ming Yeung and Mr. Marcello Appella; two non-executive directors, namely, Mr. Antonio Piva and Mr. Je Kin Ming; three independent non-executive directors, namely, Mr. Lo Ming Chi, Charles, Mr. Pao Ping Wing and Mr. Kwan Hung Sang, Francis.*