

Principal Accounting Policies

Apart from the accounting policies presented within the corresponding notes to the financial statements, the other principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below.

1. Basis of Preparation

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRS) issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified in relation to the revaluation of certain financial assets and financial liabilities (including equity investments at fair value through other comprehensive income and derivative instruments), investment properties and defined benefit assets/liabilities, each of which are carried at fair value.

2. Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of Swire Pacific Limited, its subsidiary companies (together referred to as the Group) and the Group's interests in joint venture and associated companies.

The Group uses the acquisition method of accounting to account for business combinations. The consideration transferred for the acquisition of a subsidiary company is the fair value of the assets transferred, the liabilities incurred and the equity interests issued by the Group. The consideration transferred includes the fair value of any asset or liability resulting from a contingent consideration arrangement. Acquisition-related costs are generally expensed as incurred. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date. On an acquisition-by-acquisition basis, the Group recognises any non-controlling interest in the acquired subsidiary either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquired subsidiary's net assets.

The excess of the consideration transferred, the amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquired subsidiary and the acquisition-date fair value of any previous equity interest in the acquired subsidiary over the fair value of the Group's share of the identifiable net assets acquired is recorded as goodwill. If this is less than the fair value of the net assets of the acquired subsidiary, the difference is recognised directly in the statement of profit or loss.

Intercompany transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between Group companies are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of impairment of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiary companies have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

The Group treats transactions with non-controlling interests as transactions with equity owners of the Group. For purchases from non-controlling interests, the difference between any consideration paid and the relevant share acquired of the carrying value of net assets of the subsidiary company is recorded in equity. Gains or losses on disposals to non-controlling interests where control is not lost are also recorded in equity.

When the Group ceases to have control, any retained interest in the entity is remeasured to its fair value, with the change in carrying amount recognised in the statement of profit or loss. The fair value is the initial carrying amount for the purposes of subsequently accounting for the retained interest as an associated company, joint venture company or financial asset. In addition, any amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income in respect of that entity are accounted for as if the Group had directly disposed of the related assets or liabilities. This may mean that amounts previously recognised in the statement of other comprehensive income are reclassified to the statement of profit or loss.

Where the Group enters into a contract that contains an obligation (for example a written put option exercisable by the contract counterparty) to acquire shares in a partly-owned subsidiary company from the owner of the non-controlling interest, which is not part of a business combination, the Group records a financial liability in respect of the present value of the redemption amount with a corresponding charge directly to equity. Changes to the value of the financial liability are recognised in the statement of profit or loss within net finance charges.

The Group's share of its joint venture and associated companies' post-acquisition profits or losses is recognised in the statement of profit or loss, and its share of post-acquisition movements in other comprehensive income is recognised in the statement of other comprehensive income. The cumulative post-acquisition movements are adjusted against the carrying amount of the investment. When the Group's share of losses equals or exceeds its interest in the joint venture or associated company, including any other unsecured receivables, the Group does not recognise further losses, unless it has incurred obligations or made payments on behalf of the joint venture or associated company.

The Group recognises the disposal of an interest in a joint venture company when it ceases to have joint control and the risks and rewards of ownership have passed to the acquirer.

If the ownership interest in an associated company is reduced but significant influence is retained, only a proportionate share of the amounts previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified to profit or loss where appropriate.

Unrealised gains on transactions between the Group and its joint venture and associated companies are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interest in these companies. Unrealised losses on assets transferred between the Group and its joint venture and associated companies are also eliminated unless the transactions provide evidence of impairment of the assets transferred. Accounting policies of joint venture and associated companies have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group.

Dilution gains and losses arising in respect of investments in associated companies are recognised in the consolidated statement of profit and loss.

3. Subsidiary Companies

Investment in subsidiary companies in the Company's standalone financial statements are stated at cost less provision for any impairment losses. Income from subsidiary companies is accounted for on the basis of dividends received and receivable. Long-term loans to subsidiary companies are considered to be quasi-equity in nature where there are no defined repayment terms and no expectation of repayment.

4. Joint Venture and Associated Companies

In the Company's statement of financial position, its investments in joint venture and associated companies are stated at cost less provision for any impairment losses. Income from joint venture and associated companies is recognised by the Company on the basis of dividends received and receivable. Long-term loans to joint venture and associated companies are subject to expected credit losses assessment. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk.

5. Foreign Currency Translation

(a) Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the financial statements of each of the Group's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (the functional currency). The consolidated financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars, which is the Company's functional and presentation currency.

(b) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of profit or loss, except when deferred in other comprehensive income as qualifying cash flow hedges or qualifying net investment hedges.

When a gain or loss on a non-monetary item is recognised directly in other comprehensive income, any associated translation difference is also recognised directly in other comprehensive income. When a gain or loss on a non-monetary item is recognised in the statement of profit or loss, any associated translation difference is also recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

(c) Group companies

The results and financial position of all the Group entities (none of which has the currency of a hyperinflationary economy) that have a functional currency different from the presentation currency are translated into the presentation currency as follows:

- (i) Assets and liabilities for each statement of financial position presented are translated at the closing rate at the date of that statement of financial position;
- (ii) Income and expenses for each statement of profit or loss are translated at average exchange rates (unless this average is not a reasonable approximation of the cumulative effect of the rates prevailing on the transaction dates, in which case income and expenses are translated at the dates of the transactions); and
- (iii) All resulting exchange differences are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in a separate component in equity.

On consolidation, exchange differences arising from the translation of the net investment in foreign operations, and of borrowings and other currency instruments designated as hedges of such investments, are taken to other comprehensive income. When a foreign operation is partly disposed of or sold, exchange differences that were recorded in equity are reclassified to the consolidated statement of profit or loss as part of the gain or loss on sale.

Goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on the acquisition of a foreign entity are treated as assets and liabilities of the foreign entity and translated at the closing rate.

6. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.