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(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability under the Companies Ordinance) The holding company of Dah Sing Bank, Limited (Stock Code: 2356)

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 2023 INTERIM RESULTS

The Directors of Dah Sing Banking Group Limited (the "Company") are pleased to present the interim results and condensed consolidated financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries (collectively the "Group") for the six months ended 30 June 2023. The unaudited profit attributable to shareholders for the six months ended 30 June 2023 was HK\$1,111.9 million.

UNAUDITED INTERIM CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The unaudited 2023 interim condensed consolidated financial statements of the Group have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard No. 34 "Interim Financial Reporting" issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

For the six months ended 30 June

HK\$'000	Note	2023	2022	Variance %
Interest income Interest expense Net interest income	3 3	5,287,210 (3,018,165) 2,269,045	2,696,956 (676,666) 2,020,290	12.3
Fee and commission income Fee and commission expense Net fee and commission income	4 4	474,544 (96,870) 377,674	564,004 (82,402) 481,602	-21.6
Net trading income Other operating income Operating income Operating expenses Operating profit before impairment losses Credit impairment losses	5 6 _ 7 _ 8 _	6,451 38,236 2,691,406 (1,533,321) 1,158,085 (156,893)	93,456 31,245 2,626,593 (1,390,536) 1,236,057 (305,055)	2.5 10.3 -6.3 -48.6
Operating profit before gains and losses on certain investments and fixed assets		1,001,192	931,002	7.5
Net loss on disposal of other fixed assets Net gain on disposal of financial assets at amortised cost Share of results of an associate Impairment loss on investment in an associate Loss on deemed disposal of investment in an associate Share of results of jointly controlled entities	9 9	(1,309) 430,240 (232,000) (6) 13,784	$(426) \\ 24 \\ 453,747 \\ (139,000) \\ 12,736$	
Profit before taxation Taxation	10	1,211,901 (99,978)	1,258,083 (158,747)	-3.7
Profit for the period attributable to Shareholders of the Company	_	1,111,923	1,099,336	1.1
Interim dividend	-	154,633	140,575	
Earnings per share Basic Diluted	11 11	HK\$0.79 HK\$0.75	HK\$0.78 HK\$0.78	

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the six months ended 30 June

HK\$'000	2023	2022
Profit for the period	1,111,923	1,099,336
Other comprehensive loss for the period		
Items that may be reclassified to the consolidated income statement:		
Investments in securities Net change in fair value of debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income Share of other comprehensive income/ (loss) of an associate accounted for using the equity method Net change in allowance for expected credit losses of debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income Deferred income tax related to the above	131,494 123,295 (9,132) (18,619)	(595,340) (63,149) (14,457) 91,893
Deterred medine tax related to the above		(581,053)
Exchange differences arising on translation of the financial statements of foreign entities	(314,537)	(384,843)
Items that will not be reclassified to the consolidated income statement:		
Net change in fair value of equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income Deferred income tax related to the above	55,581 (3,402)	(42) 12
	52,179	(30)
Other comprehensive loss for the period, net of tax	(35,320)	(965,926)
Total comprehensive income for the period, net of tax	1,076,603	133,410

UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

HK\$'000	Note	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
ASSETS			
Cash and balances with banks Placements with banks maturing between one and twelve		16,286,219	17,800,880
months		3,978,059	8,616,565
Trading securities	12	141,141	562,161
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	12	9,562	9,303
Derivative financial instruments Advances and other accounts	13 14	4,290,911 146,297,202	3,901,236 142,712,617
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive	14	140,237,202	142,712,017
income	15	38,077,633	38,617,851
Financial assets at amortised cost	16	35,309,015	32,926,090
Investment in an associate	9	2,016,390	2,159,290
Investments in jointly controlled entities		136,856	123,072
Goodwill		713,451	713,451
Intangible assets Premises and other fixed assets		69,715 2 685 763	69,715
Investment properties		2,685,763 802,691	2,808,838 802,691
Deferred income tax assets	_	192,186	262,273
Total assets	_	251,006,794	252,086,033
LIABILITIES			
Deposits from banks		1,571,096	4,112,493
Derivative financial instruments	13	1,364,766	997,637
Trading liabilities		99,609	730,491
Deposits from customers		202,459,966	199,792,201
Certificates of deposit issued Subordinated notes		2,688,932 3,833,542	4,228,983 3,801,495
Other accounts and accruals	17	7,824,544	7,873,950
Current income tax liabilities	17	245,638	284,504
Deferred income tax liabilities	_	42,581	39,131
Total liabilities	-	220,130,674	221,860,885
EQUITY			
Equity attributable to the Company's shareholders			
Share capital		6,894,438	6,894,438
Other reserves (including retained earnings)	-	23,670,266	23,019,294
Shareholders' funds	18	30,564,704	29,913,732
Additional equity instruments	-	311,416	311,416
Total equity	_	30,876,120	30,225,148
Total equity and liabilities	_	251,006,794	252,086,033

Note:

1. General information

Dah Sing Banking Group Limited (the "Company") is a bank holding company. Its principal subsidiary is Dah Sing Bank, Limited ("DSB"), which is a licensed bank in Hong Kong. The Company together with its subsidiaries (collectively the "Group") provide banking, financial and other related services.

The immediate and ultimate holding company is Dah Sing Financial Holdings Limited, a listed company in Hong Kong.

2. Unaudited financial statements and accounting policies

The information set out in this interim results announcement does not constitute statutory consolidated financial statements.

Certain financial information in this interim results announcement is extracted from the statutory consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 (the "2022 consolidated financial statements") which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies as required by section 662(3) of, and Part 3 of Schedule 6 to, the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap.622), and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority ("HKMA").

The auditor's report on the 2022 consolidated financial statements was unqualified; did not include a reference to any matters to which the auditor drew attention by way of emphasis without qualifying its report; and did not contain a statement under section 406(2), 407(2) or (3) of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance (Cap.622).

Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The accounting policies and methods of computation used in the preparation of the 2023 interim condensed consolidated financial statements are consistent with those used and described in the Group's annual audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

There are no HKFRSs or interpretations that are effective from 1 January 2023 or not yet effective that would be expected to have a material impact on the Group.

The interim condensed consolidated financial statements are presented in thousands of Hong Kong dollars (HK\$'000), unless otherwise stated, and were approved by the Board of Directors for issue on 23 August 2023.

These interim condensed consolidated financial statements have not been audited.

3. Net interest income

For the six months ended 30 June

HK\$'000	2023	2022
Interest income		
Cash and balances with banks	361,517	79,972
Investments in securities	1,765,275	592,237
Advances and other accounts	3,160,418	2,024,747
	5,287,210	2,696,956
Interest expense		
Deposits from banks/ Deposits from customers	2,732,234	586,840
Certificates of deposit issued	108,271	22,125
Subordinated notes	145,517	55,663
Lease liabilities	3,678	4,288
Others	28,465	7,750
	3,018,165	676,666
Included within interest income - Trading securities and financial assets at fair value through profit		
or loss	5,026	3,219
- Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	1,170,170	279,174
- Financial assets at amortised cost	4,112,014	2,414,563
	5,287,210	2,696,956
Included within interest expense		
- Financial liabilities not at fair value through profit or loss	3,015,693	676,171

In the six months ended 30 June 2023 and 2022, there was no interest income recognised on impaired assets.

4. Net fee and commission income

For the six months ended 30 June

HK\$'000	2023	2022
Fee and commission income		
Fee and commission income from financial assets and liabilities		
not at fair value through profit or loss		
- Credit related fees and commissions	75,986	79,277
- Trade finance	23,070	29,084
- Credit card	135,726	115,715
Other fee and commission income		
- Securities brokerage	54,629	81,314
- Insurance distribution and others	17,290	100,982
- Retail investment and wealth management services	79,020	87,224
- Bank services and handling fees	35,805	33,436
- Other fees	53,018	36,972
	474,544	564,004
Fee and commission expense		
Fee and commission expense from financial assets and liabilities		
not at fair value through profit or loss		
- Handling fees and commission	92,535	78,258
- Other fees paid	4,335	4,144
	96,870	82,402

The Group provides custody, trustee, corporate administration, and investment management services to third parties. The assets subject to these services are held in a fiduciary capacity and are not included in these consolidated financial statements.

5. Net trading income

For the six months ended 30 June

HK\$'000	2023	2022
Net (loss)/gain arising from dealing in foreign currencies	(17,358)	102,527
Net gain/(loss) on trading securities	1,610	(4,361)
Net gain from derivatives entered into for trading purpose	20,234	2,155
Net gain/(loss) arising from financial instruments subject to fair value		
hedge	1,269	(2,832)
Net gain/(loss) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or		
loss	696	(4,033)
	6,451	93,456

6. Other operating income

7.

8.

For the six months ended 30 June

HK\$'000	2023	2022
Dividend income from investments in equity instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income, held at the end of the period		
- Listed investments	299	253
- Unlisted investments	19,031	2,290
Gross rental income from investment properties	7,803	9,422
Other rental income	7,546	8,615
Others	3,557	10,665
	38,236	31,245
Operating expenses		
For the six months ended 30 June		
HK\$'000	2023	2022
Employee compensation and benefit expenses (including directors'		
remuneration)	1,043,038	1,020,179
Premises and other fixed assets expenses, excluding depreciation Depreciation	107,338	98,542
- Premises and other fixed assets	98,239	101,650
- Right-of-use properties	72,606	75,069
Advertising and promotion costs	40,533	40,396
Printing, stationery and postage	22,771	15,876
Others	148,796	38,824
	1,533,321	1,390,536
Credit impairment losses		
For the six months ended 30 June		
HK\$'000	2023	2022
New allowances net of allowance releases	196,687	335,151
Recoveries of amounts previously written off	(39,794)	(30,096)
	156,893	305,055
Attributable to:		
Attributable to: - Loans and advances to customers	220,825	363,349
	220,825 (37,033)	363,349 (33,480)

156,893

305,055

9. Share of results of an associate, and impairment loss on investment in an associate

Share of results of an associate

As at the date of this announcement, the results of the Group's associate, Bank of Chongqing ("BOCQ"), for the six months ended 30 June 2023 are not yet publicly available. The Group has determined its share of results of BOCQ for the first half of 2023 by reference to the results published by BOCQ in particular those attributable to the first quarter of 2023 ended 31 March 2023, and taking into account the financial effect of significant transactions or events in the period from 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 which BOCQ had made known to the public.

Impairment loss on investment in an associate

At 30 June 2023, the fair value of the Group's investment in BOCQ had been below the carrying amount for approximately 9.5 years. On this basis, the Group continues to perform an impairment test on the carrying amount of the investment in BOCQ to assess the recoverable amount.

The impairment test is performed by comparing the recoverable amount of BOCQ, determined by a value in use ("VIU") calculation, with the carrying amount of the investment. The VIU calculation uses discounted cash flow projections based on management's estimates of BOCQ's earnings and dividends to be paid in future, and the estimated probable exit value in future after considering the growth of BOCQ and its net asset value for the medium and longer term. The discount rate applied to the VIU calculation was estimated with reference to BOCQ's cost of equity, which is publicly available in the market.

In performing the VIU calculation to arrive at the recoverable amount of the investment, the Group considers all relevant factors including market views and qualitative factors to ensure that the inputs to the VIU calculation are appropriate. Adjustments need to be made to reflect the latest situation affecting BOCQ and also market outlook for the medium and longer term that are relevant in projecting BOCQ's future performance. Significant management judgement is required in estimating the future cash flows of BOCQ.

The latest impairment test performed by the Group for the position as at 30 June 2023 using a discount rate of 12.0% (31 December 2022: 12.0%) concludes that the recoverable amount, based on the VIU calculation, is assessed as lower than the carrying amount, after deducting the cumulative impairment allowance made up to 31 December 2022 of HK\$ 4,675 million, by HK\$232 million. As a result, an additional impairment charge of HK\$232 million was recognised in the first half of 2023 to reduce the value of the investment to HK\$2,016 million.

The calculation of DSB's capital adequacy does not include the retained earnings from this investment (the "Investment"), except for BOCQ cash dividend received by DSB. Provided that the Investment continues to be held at or above the original cost of the investment of HK\$1,213 million, impairment made on the Investment does not affect DSB's capital adequacy.

10. Taxation

Hong Kong profits tax has been provided at the rate of 16.5% (2022: 16.5%) on the estimated assessable profit for the period. Taxation on profits in Mainland China and Macau has been calculated on the estimated assessable profit for the period at the rates of taxation prevailing in the countries in which the Group operates.

Deferred taxation is calculated in full on temporary differences under the liability method at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the year when the liability is settled or the asset is realised.

For the six months ended 30 June

HK\$'000	2023	2022
Current income tax - Hong Kong profits tax - Mainland China and Macau taxation - Over-provision for prior years	92,018 19,006 (60,044)	112,885 14,227
Deferred income tax - Origination and reversal of temporary differences	48,998	31,635
Taxation	99,978	158,747

11. Basic and diluted earnings per share

The calculation of basic earnings per share for the six months ended 30 June 2023 is based on earnings of HK\$1,111,923,000 (2022: HK\$1,099,336,000) and the weighted average number of 1,405,752,132 (2022: 1,405,752,132) ordinary shares in issue during the period.

The calculation of diluted earnings per share for the six months ended 30 June 2023 is based on earnings of HK\$1,111,923,000 (2022: HK\$1,099,336,000) and deducting from it the dilutive effect of share of our profits in an associate amounting to HK\$60,033,000 (2022: Nil) and the weighted average number of 1,405,752,132 (2022: 1,405,752,132) ordinary shares in issue during the period after adjusting for the effect of all dilutive potential ordinary shares. The share options outstanding during the period and at the period end have no dilutive effect on the weighted average number of ordinary shares.

	2023	2022
Profit attributable to shareholders (HK\$'000) Dilutive effect of share of profits in an associate (HK\$'000)	1,111,923 (60,033)	1,099,336
Profit used to determine diluted earnings per share(HK\$'000)	1,051,890	1,099,336

12. Trading securities and financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

HK\$'000	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Trading securities: Debt securities:		
- Listed in Hong Kong	18,893	16,866
- Unlisted	122,248	545,295
	141,141	562,161
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss: Investment funds:		
- Listed in Hong Kong	9,562	9,303
Total	150,703	571,464
Included within debt securities are:		
- Treasury bills which are cash equivalents	-	89,278
- Other treasury bills	122,248	455,887
- Government bonds	18,893	16,996
	141,141	562,161
By issuers:		
- Central governments and central banks	141,141	562,161
- Corporate entities	9,562	9,303
	150,703	571,464

As at 30 June 2023 and 31 December 2022, there were no certificates of deposit held included in the above balances.

13. Derivative financial instruments

The notional principal amounts of outstanding derivatives contracts and their fair values as at 30 June 2023 were as follows:

	Contract/ notional	Fair	values
HK\$'000	amount	Assets	Liabilities
1) Derivatives held for trading			
a) Foreign exchange derivatives			
Forward and futures contracts	156,299,206	775,512	(807,220)
Currency options purchased and written	24,187,449	150,692	(161,537)
Cross currency interest rate swaps	947,489	22,890	(22,409)
b) Interest rate derivatives			
Interest rate swaps	4,263,375	58,426	(53,630)
c) Equity derivatives			
Equity options purchased and written	385,184	4,502	(4,507)
d) Commodity derivatives			
Commodity swaps	11,921	101	(70)
Total derivative assets/ (liabilities) held for trading	186,094,624	1,012,123	(1,049,373)
2) Derivatives held for hedging			
a) Derivatives designated as fair value hedges			
Interest rate swaps	46,206,160	3,278,788	(315,393)
Total derivative assets/ (liabilities) held for hedging	46,206,160	3,278,788	(315,393)
Total recognised derivative financial assets/ (liabilities)	222 200 794	4 200 011	
Total recognised derivative infancial assets/ (fiddiffues)	232,300,784	4,290,911	(1,364,766)

13. Derivative financial instruments (Continued)

The notional principal amounts of outstanding derivatives contracts and their fair values as at 31 December 2022 were as follows:

		Contract/ notional	Fair va	lues
HK\$'(000	amount	Assets	Liabilities
	Derivatives held for trading a) <i>Foreign exchange derivatives</i>			
	Forward and futures contracts Currency options purchased and written	89,702,960 15,996,882	619,726 54,410	(517,746) (55,034)
	Cross currency interest rate swaps	258,108	8,646	(8,565)
1	b) Interest rate derivatives Interest rate swaps	2,546,183	61,362	(56,702)
	c) <i>Equity derivatives</i> Equity options purchased and written	229,616	2,400	(2,400)
	Total derivative assets/ (liabilities) held for trading	108,733,749	746,544	(640,447)
· ·	Derivatives held for hedging a) Derivatives designated as fair value hedges			
	Interest rate swaps	47,823,185	3,154,692	(357,190)
r	Total derivative assets/ (liabilities) held for hedging	47,823,185	3,154,692	(357,190)
Total	recognised derivative financial assets/ (liabilities)	156,556,934	3,901,236	(997,637)

14. Advances and other accounts

HK\$'000	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Gross loans and advances to customers	139,419,039	136,530,235
Less: impairment allowances - Stage 1 - Stage 2 - Stage 3	(346,414) (249,274) (477,320)	(406,618) (342,731) (887,053)
	(1,073,008)	(1,636,402)
Trade bills	3,026,109	3,666,988
Less: impairment allowances - Stage 1 - Stage 2	(5,447) - (5,447) 3,020,662	(5,569) (1) (5,570) 3,661,418
Other assets	4,951,665	4,182,559
Less: impairment allowances - Stage 1 - Stage 2 - Stage 3	(8,572) (2,377) (10,207) (21,156) 4,930,509	(10,169) (2,238) (12,786) (25,193) 4,157,366
Advances and other accounts	146,297,202	142,712,617

(i)

14. Advances and other accounts (Continued)

(a) Impaired, overdue and rescheduled assets

Impaired loans		
	As at	As at
HK\$'000	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2022
Gross loans and advances	139,419,039	136,530,235
Less: total impairment allowances	(1,073,008)	(1,636,402)
Net	138,346,031	134,893,833
Credit-impaired loans and advances	2,581,753	2,539,012
Less: Stage 3 impairment allowances	(477,320)	(887,053)
Net	2,104,433	1,651,959
Fair value of collateral held*	1,609,444	1,056,118
Credit-impaired loans and advances as a % of total loans		
and advances to customers	1.85%	1.86%

* Fair value of collateral is determined at the lower of the market value of collateral and outstanding loan balance.

(ii) Gross amount of overdue loans

	As at 30 Jun 2023		As at 31 Dec 2022 Gross		
	Gross amount of overdue		amount of overdue		
	loans	% of total	loans	% of total	
Gross loans and advances to customers which have been overdue for:					
 six months or less but over three months 	595,460	0.43	535,376	0.39	
- one year or less but over six	555,400	0.40	555,570	0.57	
months	559,138	0.40	987,443	0.72	
- over one year	923,037	0.66	332,525	0.25	
-	2,077,635	1.49	1,855,344	1.36	
Represented by: - Secured overdue loans and					
advances	1,462,331		888,975		
- Unsecured overdue loans and advances	615,304		966,369		
Market value of securities held against the secured overdue loans and					
advances	2,672,591		1,715,178		
Stage 3 impairment allowances	262,140		632,380		

Collateral held mainly represented pledged deposits, mortgages over properties and charges over other fixed assets such as equipment.

14. Advances and other accounts (Continued)

- (a) Impaired, overdue and rescheduled assets (Continued)
- (iii) Rescheduled loans and advances net of amounts included in overdue loans and advances shown above

HK\$'000	As at 30 Jun 2023	% of total	As at 31 Dec 2022	% of total
Loans and advances to customers	435,359	0.31	339,249	0.25
Stage 3 impairment allowances	141,652		123,023	

(iv) Trade bills

As at 30 June 2023 and 31 December 2022, there were no balance of trade bills that were overdue for more than 3 months.

(b) Repossessed collateral

Repossessed collateral held is as follows:

	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Nature of assets Repossessed properties Others	142,386 5,810	125,262 5,560
	148,196	130,822

Repossessed collaterals are sold as soon as practicable with the proceeds used to reduce the outstanding indebtedness of the borrowers concerned.

Certain other properties in Mainland China with a total estimated realisable value of HK\$57,050,000 (31 December 2022: HK\$59,356,000), which had been foreclosed and repossessed by the Group pursuant to orders issued by courts in Mainland China, represent assets held by the Group for resale and have been reported under "Other assets". The relevant loans had been derecognised.

15. Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income

HK\$'000	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Debt securities: - Listed in Hong Kong - Listed outside Hong Kong - Unlisted	11,766,479 17,103,373 8,477,009	13,609,856 15,742,345 8,590,336
	37,346,861	37,942,537
Equity securities: - Listed in Hong Kong - Unlisted	319 730,453	337 674,977
	730,772	675,314
Total	38,077,633	38,617,851
Included within debt securities are: - Certificates of deposit held - Treasury bills which are cash equivalents - Other treasury bills - Government bonds - Other debt securities	352,970 1,987,974 906,335 1,004,433 33,095,149	234,493 897,617 3,867,536 635,348 32,307,543
	37,346,861	37,942,537
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income are analysed by categories of issuers as follows: Debt securities:		
 Central governments and central banks Public sector entities Banks and other financial institutions Corporate entities 	8,003,467 1,041,344 8,015,401 20,286,649	9,160,937 802,807 5,902,047 22,076,746
	37,346,861	37,942,537
Equity securities: - Corporate entities	730,772	675,314
	38,077,633	38,617,851

17.

16. Financial assets at amortised cost

HK\$'000	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Debt securities:		
- Listed in Hong Kong	12,054,835	11,895,925
- Listed outside Hong Kong	15,612,343	12,981,228
- Unlisted	7,687,165	8,108,343
	35,354,343	32,985,496
Less: impairment allowance		
- Stage 1	(45,328)	(59,406)
Total	35,309,015	32,926,090
Included within debt securities are:		
- Certificates of deposit held	2,692,313	3,120,178
- Treasury bills	925,200	1,121,950
- Government bonds	217,096	214,612
- Other debt securities	31,519,734	28,528,756
	35,354,343	32,985,496
Financial assets at amortised cost are analysed by categories of issuers as follows:		
- Central governments and central banks	1,142,296	1,336,562
- Public sector entities	1,638,092	1,410,432
- Banks and other financial institutions	11,328,257	10,420,964
- Corporate entities	21,245,698	19,817,538
	35,354,343	32,985,496
Other accounts and accruals		
	As at	As at
HK\$'000	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2022
Lease liabilities	474,173	534,378
Other liabilities and accruals	7,350,371	7,339,572
	7,824,544	7,873,950

18. Shareholders' funds

HK\$'000	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Share capital	6,894,438	6,894,438
Consolidation reserve	(220,986)	(220,986)
Premises revaluation reserve	270,120	270,120
Investment revaluation reserve	376,822	97,609
Exchange reserve	(808,351)	(493,815)
General reserve	700,254	700,254
Reserve for share-based compensation	4,987	4,929
Retained earnings	23,347,420	22,661,183
	30,564,704	29,913,732
Proposed dividend/ dividend paid included in retained earnings	154,633	407,668

DSB as a locally incorporated bank in Hong Kong is required to maintain minimum impairment provisions in excess of those required under HKFRS in the form of regulatory reserve. The regulatory reserve, which also covers Banco Comercial de Macau, S.A. ("BCM") and Dah Sing Bank (China) Limited ("DSB China"), is maintained to satisfy the provisions of the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance and local regulatory requirements for prudential supervision purposes. The regulatory reserve restricts the amount of reserves which can be distributed to shareholders. Movements in the regulatory reserve are made directly through equity reserve and in consultation with the HKMA.

As at 30 June 2023, DSB has earmarked a regulatory reserve of HK\$617,258,000 (31 December 2022: HK\$438,466,000) first against its consolidated general reserve; and for any excess amount, the balance is earmarked against its consolidated retained earnings.

19. Contingent liabilities and commitments

(a) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure in respect of projects and acquisition of fixed assets at the end of the reporting period but not yet incurred is as follows:

HK\$'000	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Expenditure contracted but not provided for	60,861	71,857

(b) Credit commitments

(c)

The contract and credit risk weighted amounts of the Group's off-balance sheet financial instruments that commit it to extend credit to customers are as follows:

	Contract amount		
	As at	As at	
	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2022	
Direct credit substitutes	1,281,636	2,135,043	
Transaction-related contingencies	341,123	495,616	
Trade-related contingencies	428,376	247,910	
Commitments that are unconditionally cancellable without			
prior notice	61,537,567	66,596,620	
Other commitments	4,318,441	4,814,077	
Forward forward deposits placed	392,575	317,824	
	(0.000 = 10		
-	68,299,718	74,607,090	
-	Credit risk wei	ghted amount	
	As at	As at	
	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2022	
Contingent liabilities and commitments	2,073,024	2,657,818	
Assets pledged			
	As at	As at	
	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2022	
Trading assets and financial investments pledged to secure			
liabilities	1,444,102	3,185,206	
- of which: under repurchase agreements	1,344,413	2,453,089	
Amount of liabilities secured	1,441,386	2 678 060	
- of which: under repurchase agreements	1,441,380	2,678,069 1,946,069	
- or which, under reputchase agreements	1,371,777	1,240,009	

The table above shows assets where a charge has been granted to secure liabilities on a legal and contractual basis. These transactions are conducted under terms that are usual and customary to collateralised transactions including repurchase agreements and include assets pledged to cover short positions and to facilitate settlement processes with clearing houses.

19. Contingent liabilities and commitments (Continued)

(d) Operating lease commitments

Where a Group company is the lessor, the future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable building operating leases are as follows:

HK\$'000	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Within 1 year Between 1 and 2 years Between 2 and 3 years	11,719 9,752 <u>3,385</u>	12,165 7,941 6,083
	24,856	26,189

In addition, the Group has, as a lessee, entered into a number of leases that have not yet commenced. The aggregate lease payments payable under these leases as at 30 June 2023 amount to HK\$37,309,000 (31 December 2022: HK\$16,596,000).

20. Operating segment reporting

Segment reporting by the Group is prepared in accordance with HKFRS 8 "Operating Segments". Information reported to the chief operating decision maker, including the Chief Executive and other Executive Committee members, for the purposes of resource allocation and performance assessment, is determined on the basis of personal banking, corporate banking, treasury and global markets and banking businesses in Mainland China and Macau. Operating performances are analysed by business activities for local banking business, and on business entity basis for banking businesses in Mainland China and Macau.

Considering the customer groups, products and services of local businesses, the economic environment and regulations, the Group splits the operating segments of the Group into the following reportable segments:

- Personal banking business includes the acceptance of deposits from individual customers and the extension of residential mortgage lending, personal loans, overdraft, vehicle financing and credit card services, and the provision of insurance sales and investment services.
- Corporate banking business includes the acceptance of deposits from and the advance of loans and working capital finance to commercial, industrial and institutional customers, and the provision of trade financing.
- Treasury and global markets activities are mainly the provision of foreign exchange services and centralised cash management for deposit taking and lending, interest rate risk management, management of investment in securities and the overall funding of the Group.
- Mainland China and Macau banking businesses include personal banking, corporate banking business activities provided by subsidiaries in Mainland China and Macau, and the Group's interest in a commercial bank in Mainland China.
- Others include results of operations not directly identified under other reportable segments, corporate investments and debt funding (including subordinated notes).

For the purpose of segment reporting, revenue derived from customers, products and services directly identifiable with individual segments are reported directly under respective segments, while revenue and funding cost arising from inter-segment funding operation and funding resources are allocated to segments by way of transfer pricing mechanism with reference to market interest rates. Transactions within segments are priced based on similar terms offered to or transacted with external parties. Inter-segment income or expenses are eliminated on consolidation.

All direct costs incurred by different segments are grouped under respective segments. Indirect costs and support functions' costs are allocated to various segments and products based on effort and time spent as well as segments' operating income depending on the nature of costs incurred. Costs related to corporate activities that cannot be reasonably allocated to segments, products and support functions are grouped under Others as unallocated corporate expenses.

20. Operating segment reporting (Continued)

For the six months ended 30 June 2023

	Personal	Corporate	Treasury and Global	Mainland China and Macau		Inter-	
НК\$'000	Banking	Banking	Markets	Banking	Others	segment	Total
Net interest income/ (expenses)	969,887	536,646	525,910	229,212	7,464	(74)	2,269,045
Non-interest income/ (expenses)	328,739	101,036	(94,506)	76,298	11,218	(424)	422,361
Total operating income/ (expenses)	1,298,626	637,682	431,404	305,510	18,682	(498)	2,691,406
Operating expenses	(905,476)	(251,753)	(99,112)	(270,505)	(6,973)	498	(1,533,321)
Operating profit before credit							
impairment (losses)/ write-back	393,150	385,929	332,292	35,005	11,709	-	1,158,085
Credit impairment (losses)/ write-back	(133,933)	(46,157)	27,720	(4,893)	370		(156,893)
Operating profit after credit impairment							
(losses)/ write-back	259,217	339,772	360,012	30,112	12,079	-	1,001,192
Net (loss)/ gain on disposal of other							
fixed assets	(1,306)	-	-	2	(5)	-	(1,309)
Share of results of an associate	-	-	-	430,240	-	-	430,240
Impairment loss on investment in an							
associate	-	-	-	(232,000)	-	-	(232,000)
Loss on deemed disposal of investment							
in an associate	-	-	-	(6)	-	-	(6)
Share of results of jointly controlled							
entities	-	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	13,784		13,784
Profit before taxation	257,911	339,772	360,012	228,348	25,858	-	1,211,901
Taxation (expenses)/ credit	(42,524)	(56,071)	(59,370)	(15,714)	73,701		(99,978)
Profit for the period	215,387	283,701	300,642	212,634	99,559	<u> </u>	1,111,923
For the six months ended 30 June 2023							
Depreciation and amortisation	35,148	7,680	4,403	28,544	95,070	-	170,845
As at 30 June 2023							
Segment assets	57,264,249	65,336,328	90,126,019	35,823,059	7,765,829	(5,308,690)	251,006,794
Segment liabilities	117,123,431	52,259,834	10,605,291	29,617,342	15,833,466	(5,308,690)	220,130,674

20. Operating segment reporting (Continued)

For the six months ended 30 June 2022

			Treasury	Mainland China and			
	Personal	Corporate	and Global	Macau		Inter-	
HK\$'000	Banking	Banking	Markets	Banking	Others	segment	Total
Net interest income/ (expenses)	857,073	573,873	393,865	249,147	(53,702)	34	2,020,290
Non-interest income/ (expenses)	401,075	95,080	42,719	55,049	12,912	(532)	606,303
Total operating income/ (expenses)	1,258,148	668,953	436,584	304,196	(40,790)	(498)	2,626,593
Operating expenses	(800,438)	(227,771)	(85,895)	(272,597)	(4,333)	498	(1,390,536)
Operating profit/ (loss) before credit							
impairment (losses)/ write-back	457,710	441,182	350,689	31,599	(45,123)	-	1,236,057
Credit impairment (losses)/ write-back	(63,196)	(218,946)	20,267	(46,201)	3,021		(305,055)
Operating profit/ (loss) after credit							
impairment (losses)/ write-back	394,514	222,236	370,956	(14,602)	(42,102)	-	931,002
Net (loss)/ gain on disposal of other							
fixed assets	(344)	(60)	-	3	(25)	-	(426)
Net gain on disposal of financial assets							
at amortised cost	-	-	24	-	-	-	24
Share of results of an associate	-	-	-	453,747	-	-	453,747
Impairment loss on investment in an							
associate	-	-	-	(139,000)	-	-	(139,000)
Share of results of jointly controlled							
entities					12,736		12,736
Profit/ (loss) before taxation	394,170	222,176	370,980	300,148	(29,391)	-	1,258,083
Taxation (expenses)/ credit	(65,076)	(36,668)	(61,344)	(9,012)	13,353		(158,747)
Profit/ (loss) for the period	329,094	185,508	309,636	291,136	(16,038)		1,099,336
For the six months ended 30 June 2022							
Depreciation and amortisation	37,889	7,814	4,138	30,756	96,122	-	176,719
As at 31 December 2022							
Segment assets	56,274,744	63,748,997	93,451,822	35,908,242	7,426,257	(4,724,029)	252,086,033
Segment liabilities	117,229,213	48,743,485	14,526,149	29,279,831	16,806,236	(4,724,029)	221,860,885

Geographical information

Geographical segment information is based on the domicile of the legal entities within the Group with business dealing and relationship with, and services to external customers. For the six months ended 30 June 2023 and 2022, no single country or geographical segment other than Hong Kong contributed 10% or more of the Group's assets, liabilities, operating income, or profit before taxation.

21. Additional analysis on claims and exposures

(a) Gross loans and advances to customers by industry sector classified according to the usage of loans and analysed by percentage covered by collateral

HK\$'000	As at 30 J	un 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022	
		% of gross		% of gross
		loans and		loans and
		advances		advances
	Outstanding	covered	Outstanding	covered
	balance	by collateral	balance	by collateral
Loans for use in Hong Kong				
Industrial, commercial and financial				
- Property development	5,249,694	55.1	5,194,440	63.5
- Property investment	21,926,922	90.7	21,406,840	88.0
- Financial concerns	3,160,494	14.3	2,564,573	16.0
- Stockbrokers	1,593,238	74.7	842,926	56.9
- Wholesale and retail trade	4,867,022	91.0	4,825,599	92.7
- Manufacturing	1,542,529	70.6	1,954,317	44.5
- Transport and transport equipment	2,508,893	79.7	2,247,726	78.2
- Recreational activities	82,673	99.8	79,708	99.8
- Information technology	22,853	66.3	22,048	59.8
- Others	6,291,486	75.4	6,054,928	80.1
	47,245,804	77.9	45,193,105	77.6
Individuals				
- Loans for the purchase of flats in Home				
Ownership Scheme, Private Sector				
Participation Scheme and Tenants				
Purchase Scheme	480,008	99.9	484,470	99.7
- Loans for the purchase of other residential				
properties	34,482,868	100.0	33,911,826	100.0
- Credit card advances	3,480,985	-	3,674,222	-
- Others	12,846,740	47.6	12,181,304	45.0
	51,290,601	80.1	50,251,822	79.3
	00 536 405	70.0	05 444 007	70.5
Loans for use in Hong Kong	98,536,405	79.0 75.5	95,444,927	78.5
Trade finance (Note (1))	6,084,419 24,708,215	75.5	5,752,611	72.5
Loans for use outside Hong Kong (Note (2))	34,798,215	58.0	35,332,697	61.4
	139,419,039	73.6	136,530,235	73.8

Note:

(1) Trade finance shown above represents loans covering finance of imports to Hong Kong, exports and re-exports from Hong Kong and merchandising trade classified with reference to the relevant guidelines issued by the HKMA.

Trade finance loans not involving Hong Kong (including trade finance extended by the subsidiary banks of DSB in Mainland China and Macau) totalling HK\$201,685,000 (31 December 2022: HK\$281,123,000) are classified under "Loans for use outside Hong Kong".

(2) "Loans for use outside Hong Kong" include loans extended to customers located in Hong Kong with the finance used outside Hong Kong.

(a) Gross loans and advances to customers by industry sector classified according to the usage of loans and analysed by percentage covered by collateral (Continued)

For each industry sector reported above with loan balance constituting 10% or more of the total balance of loans and advances to customers, the attributable amount of impaired loans, overdue loans, Stage 3, and Stage 1 and Stage 2 impairment allowances are as follows:

HK\$'000			As at 30 Jun 2023	3	
	Outstanding balance	Impaired loans (Stage 3)	Gross loans and advances overdue for over 3 months	Stage 3 impairment allowances	Stage 1 and Stage 2 impairment allowances
Loans for use in Hong Kong					
Industrial, commercial and financial - Property investment	21,926,922	494,394	552,077	31,012	68,546
Individuals - Loans for the purchase of other residential properties	34,482,868	136,550	177,641	17,794	17,300
Loans for use outside Hong Kong	34,798,215	1,246,738	1,094,355	183,509	201,557

	As at 31 Dec 2022					
			Gross loans and			
		Impaired	advances overdue for	Stage 3	Stage 1 and Stage 2	
	Outstanding balance	loans (Stage 3)	over 3 months	impairment allowances	impairment allowances	
Loans for use in Hong Kong						
Industrial, commercial and financial - Property investment	21,406,840	34,299	92,035	2,095	138,453	
Individuals - Loans for the purchase of other residential properties	33,911,826	81,842	92,156	11,350	24,518	
Loans for use outside Hong Kong	35,332,697	1,685,840	1,413,348	618,858	261,878	

(b) Mainland activities exposures

The analysis of Mainland activities exposures is based on the categories of non-bank counterparties and the type of direct exposures defined by the HKMA under the Banking (Disclosure) Rules with reference to the HKMA Return of Mainland Activities, which includes the Mainland activities exposures extended by DSB and its Mainland subsidiary bank only.

HK\$'000

HK\$ ² 000	O. halana		
As at 30 June 2023	On-balance sheet exposure	Off-balance sheet exposure	Total exposures
1. Central government, central government-owned entities and			
their subsidiaries and joint ventures ("JV"s)	6,605,074	120,000	6,725,074
2. Local governments, local government-owned entities and	0.4.5.04.5		
their subsidiaries and JVs	946,916	54,633	1,001,549
3. PRC nationals residing in Mainland China or other entities incorporated in Mainland China and their subsidiaries and			
JVs	9,942,167	1,504,558	11,446,725
4. Other entities of central government not reported in item 1			
above	3,708,807	69,992	3,778,799
5. Other entities of local governments not reported in item 2			
above	1,026,708	170,022	1,196,730
6. PRC nationals residing outside Mainland China or entities			
incorporated outside Mainland China where the credits			
are granted for use in Mainland China	10,693,194	274,943	10,968,137
7. Other counterparties where the exposures are considered to			
be non-bank Mainland China exposures	485,362	832	486,194
	33,408,228	2,194,980	35,603,208
Total assets of DSB and its Mainland subsidiary bank after			
provision	235,901,155		
provision	200,901,100		
On-balance sheet exposures as percentage of total assets	14.16%		

Note:

The balances of exposures reported above include gross loans and advances and other balances of claims on the customers.

(b) Mainland activities exposures (Continued)

HK\$'000

0)	Multiluite dell'Mes exposures (Continued)						

	On-balance	Off-balance	
As at 31 December 2022	sheet exposure	sheet exposure	Total exposures
1. Central government, central government-owned	7 229 050	106 667	7 424 717
entities and their subsidiaries and JVs	7,328,050	106,667	7,434,717
2. Local governments, local government-owned	(21, 102	502 202	1 222 705
entities and their subsidiaries and JVs	631,492	592,303	1,223,795
3. PRC nationals residing in Mainland China or other			
entities incorporated in Mainland China and their		1 000 001	
subsidiaries and JVs	10,500,933	1,932,334	12,433,267
4. Other entities of central government not reported in			
item 1 above	3,753,802	71,984	3,825,786
5. Other entities of local governments not reported in			
item 2 above	943,649	170,022	1,113,671
6. PRC nationals residing outside Mainland China or			
entities incorporated outside Mainland China			
where the credits are granted for use in Mainland			
China	11,535,421	593,574	12,128,995
7. Other counterparties where the exposures are			
considered to be non-bank Mainland China			
exposures	440,041		440,041
	25 122 299	2 166 991	28 600 272
	35,133,388	3,466,884	38,600,272
Total assets of DSB and its Mainland subsidiary bank			
after provision	237,109,784		
	257,109,784		
On-balance sheet exposures as percentage of total			
assets	14.82%		
-	17.02/0		

(c) Analysis of gross loans and advances to customers and overdue loans by geographical area

Loans and advances to customers by geographical area are classified according to the location of the counterparties after taking into account the transfer of risk. In general, risk transfer applies when an advance is guaranteed by a party located in an area which is different from that of the counterparty.

The following table analyses gross loans and advances to customers, impaired loans and advances to customers (Stage 3), overdue loans and advances to customers, Stage 3, and Stage 1 and Stage 2 impairment allowances by geographical area.

As at 30 June 2023

HK\$'000	Gross loans and advances to customers	Impaired loans and advances to customers (Stage 3)	Overdue loans and advances to customers	Stage 3 impairment allowances	Stage 1 and Stage 2 impairment allowances
Hong Kong	115,273,086	1,914,269	1,602,814	378,071	528,505
Mainland China	7,431,340	473,270	276,485	61,774	34,416
Macau	13,826,877	194,214	194,214	37,475	18,587
Others	2,887,736		4,122		14,180
	139,419,039	2,581,753	2,077,635	477,320	595,688

As at 31 December 2022

	Gross loans and advances to customers	Impaired loans and advances to customers (Stage 3)	Overdue loans and advances to customers	Stage 3 impairment allowances	Stage 1 and Stage 2 impairment allowances
Hong Kong	115,359,550	1,605,378	1,084,661	538,724	682,729
Mainland China	6,387,927	688,723	525,772	259,363	36,674
Macau	13,466,251	244,911	244,911	88,966	20,320
Others	1,316,507				9,626
	136,530,235	2,539,012	1,855,344	887,053	749,349

(d) International claims

The information of international claims discloses exposures to foreign counterparties on which the ultimate risk lies, and is derived according to the location of the counterparties after taking into account any transfer of risk. In general, transfer of risk from one country to another is recognised if the claims against a counterparty are guaranteed by another party in a different country or if the claims are on an overseas branch of a bank whose head office is located in a different country. Only regions constituting 10% or more of the aggregate international claims after taking into account any recognised risk transfer are disclosed.

		Non-bank private sector			
At 30 June 2023 In millions of HK\$	Banks	Official sector	Non-bank financial institutions	Non- financial private sector	Total claims
Offshore centres	4,935	6,402	6,252	154,641	172,230
- of which: Hong Kong	4,512	5,349	5,932	136,989	152,782
Developing Asia and Pacific	27,984	1,052	2,068	17,538	48,642
- of which: Mainland China	19,380	906	1,915	12,561	34,762

			Non-bank pr		
At 31 December 2022		Official	Non-bank financial	Non- financial private	Total
In millions of HK\$	Banks	sector	institutions	sector	claims
Offshore centres	6,660	8,643	5,483	152,869	173,655
- of which: Hong Kong	5,822	7,398	5,399	137,402	156,021
Developing Asia and Pacific - of which: Mainland China	27,231 19,734	1,094 949	1,375 1,106	17,580 12,901	47,280 34,690

22. Currency concentrations

The following sets out the net foreign exchange position in USD and other individual currency that constitutes more than 10% of the total net position in all foreign currencies as at 30 June 2023 and the corresponding comparative balances.

The Group did not have any structural foreign exchange position as at 30 June 2023 and 31 December 2022. The net option position is calculated in the basis of the delta-weighted position of all foreign currency option contracts.

	At 30 Jun 2023						
	US dollars	Japanese Yen	Renminbi	Macau Pataca	Other foreign currencies	Total foreign currencies	
Equivalent in HK\$ millions							
Spot assets	76,071	487	19,434	9,377	9,379	114,748	
Spot liabilities	(51,343)	(1,192)	(17,962)	(10,368)	(7,850)	(88,715)	
Forward purchases	72,905	5,154	20,928	-	19,491	118,478	
Forward sales	(96,819)	(4,339)	(22,946)	-	(21,152)	(145,256)	
Net options position	(868)	(10)	861	-	25	8	
Net long/ (short) position	(54)	100	315	(991)	(107)	(737)	
					······		
				At 31 Dec 2022			

	At 51 Dec 2022				
Equivalent in HK\$ millions	US dollars	Renminbi	Macau Pataca	Other foreign currencies	Total foreign currencies
Spot assets	72,101	16,890	9,502	9,356	107,849
Spot liabilities	(55,594)	(15,503)	(10,912)	(10,016)	(92,025)
Forward purchases	41,010	5,859	-	16,671	63,540
Forward sales	(56,946)	(6,958)	-	(16,027)	(79,931)
Net options position	33	3	-	(17)	19
Net long/ (short) position	604	291	(1,410)	(33)	(548)

23. Capital adequacy ratio

	As at	As at
	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2022
Capital adequacy ratio		
- Common Equity Tier 1	15.6%	15.2%
- Tier 1	16.3%	15.9%
- Total	19.7%	19.3%

The capital adequacy ratio as at 30 June 2023 and 31 December 2022 represents the consolidated position of DSB (covering BCM and DSB China) computed on Basel III basis in accordance with the Banking (Capital) Rules. This capital adequacy ratio takes into account market risk and operational risk.

DSB as a locally incorporated bank in Hong Kong is subject to the minimum capital adequacy ratio requirement under the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance. BCM is subject to Macau banking regulations and DSB China is subject to the Mainland banking regulations.

24. Liquidity maintenance ratio

	Six months ended 30 Jun 2023	Six months ended 30 Jun 2022	Year ended 31 Dec 2022
Liquidity maintenance ratio	62.5%	45.3%	50.4%

The liquidity maintenance ratio is calculated as the simple average of each calendar month's average consolidated liquidity maintenance ratio of DSB (covering BCM and DSB China) for the six/ twelve months of the financial year. The liquidity maintenance ratio is computed in accordance with the Banking (Liquidity) Rules.

DSB as a locally incorporated bank in Hong Kong is subject to the liquidity requirement under the Hong Kong Banking Ordinance. BCM is subject to Macau banking regulations and DSB China is subject to the Mainland banking regulations.

FINANCIAL RATIOS

	Six months ended 30 Jun 2023	Six months ended 30 Jun 2022
Net interest income/operating income Cost to income ratio Return on average total assets (annualised) Return on average shareholders' funds (annualised) Net interest margin	84.3% 57.0% 0.9% 7.4% 1.93%	76.9% 52.9% 0.9% 7.4% 1.74%
	As at 30 Jun 2023	As at 31 Dec 2022
Loan to deposit ratio	68.0%	66.9%

INTERIM DIVIDEND

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of HK\$0.11 per share for 2023 payable on Thursday, 21 September 2023 to shareholders whose names are on the Register of Shareholders at the close of business on Wednesday, 13 September 2023.

CLOSURE OF REGISTER OF SHAREHOLDERS

For determining shareholders' entitlement to receive the interim dividend:

Latest time to lodge transfers	4:30 p.m. on 8 September 2023 (Friday)
Closure of Register of Shareholders	11 September 2023 (Monday)
(both days inclusive)	to 13 September 2023 (Wednesday)
Record date	13 September 2023 (Wednesday)

In order to qualify for the interim dividend, all transfer documents accompanied by the relevant share certificates must be lodged with the Company's share registrar, Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, Shops 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Wan Chai, Hong Kong before the above latest time to lodge transfers.

CORPORATE AND BUSINESS OVERVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS

The Hong Kong economy improved in the first half of 2023, with real GDP rebounding by 2.2% year-on-year after the 4.3% year-on-year contraction in the second half of 2022. The improving economic conditions were led by the recovery of inbound tourism and domestic demand which increased by 4.8% year-on-year during the period. The revival of inbound tourism was supported by the resumption of normal travel including tourists from Mainland China and the rest of the world. Nonetheless, external trade continued to fall notably, with the weak demand in key markets posing a significant drag on export performance. Investment spending in the period, affected by higher interest rate, was weak.

In addition, the unemployment rate declined to 2.9% in April to June 2023, falling below 3% for the first time in 4 years while inflation edged up by 1.7% year-on-year in the second quarter this year. The number of transactions in the residential property market revived in the first quarter after undergoing a marked correction last year, but cooled down in the second quarter. Recovery in Hong Kong business and consumer sentiment has been observed after the COVID restrictions were lifted since early 2023. Nevertheless, Hong Kong major equity indices have dropped in the first six months of this year.

Major Mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area have shown an uneven pace of recovery since the beginning of 2023, demonstrating that different industries are facing challenges even though industrial production has stabilised at the national level. Curbs on the property sector were a major reason for the economic slowdown in Mainland China. Renminbi has depreciated since last year due to the lukewarm economic growth and higher rates in other currencies, notably US Dollars. While funding pressure for developers has eased somewhat, property investment remained mostly stagnant.

In the first half of 2023, global recession risks have reduced but the economic conditions were uneven across different regions and sectors. Interest rates have increased in key markets in the first half of the year with the exception of Mainland China, putting a drag in the economic growth of some sectors. There are other uncertainties and volatility in financial markets, including geopolitical tensions among major economies such as the US, China, and Russia, as well as the mini-crisis in the US regional banking sector.

In the first half of the year, our profit attributable to shareholders recorded a modest rise of 1% to HK\$1,112 million, as the lower credit impairment loss was largely offset by a higher impairment charge on the investment in Bank of Chongqing ("BOCQ").

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our business performance reported a solid growth in the first half of the year. Net interest income grew by 12% due to a higher net interest margin during the period. Loan growth remained subdued at 2% compared to the end of 2022. The rapid rise in interest rates curtailed demand for mortgage loans and corporate lending. Our net interest margin rose to 1.93%, compared to 1.74% in first half of 2022, supported by higher asset yields and carefully managed funding cost. Net fee and commission income declined by 22% mainly due to lower investment and securities trading income and a result of no amortization of bancassurance fee because the Hong Kong and Macau Distribution Agreements entered into with Tahoe were terminated in the second half of 2022. Other non-interest income, including trading income, dropped by 64% due largely to the higher cost of funding swaps.

Whilst we continued to remain vigilant in expense control during the first half of 2023, our operating expenses recorded a rise of 10% led by higher inflation and increase in staff number to replenish the unfilled headcounts from last year and to support the new bancassurance arrangement entered into with Sun Life which has commenced in the second half of 2023. In addition, there were some reversals of unutilised expense accruals in the first half of 2022 which did not recur in the current period. Credit impairment losses reduced by 49%, driven by prudent credit risk management and improved economic conditions during the period.

The performance of our banking subsidiary in Macau recovered largely due to a lower credit impairment charge. However, its operating income was still behind the level achieved during the pre-COVID period, with investment sentiment and loan demand remaining weak. The performance of our Mainland subsidiary was subdued, in part due to the slower than expected economic recovery in the Mainland and margin compression with both falling interest rates and intense competition. We were pleased to open our new Shenzhen Branch of Dah Sing Bank in early August this year.

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL REVIEW (Continued)

Our overall business performance for the six months ended 30 June 2023 was stable and profit growth was moderate. Operating profit after credit impairment losses grew by 8% to HK\$1,001 million, compared to a drop of 19% in the same period last year. We conducted a regular review of the Value in Use of our investment in BOCQ, resulting in an impairment charge against the value of this investment in the amount of HK\$232 million, higher than the HK\$139 million recorded in the first half of 2022.

Our profit for the first half of 2023 represented a return on assets of 0.9% and return on shareholders' funds of 7.4%. Our capital and liquidity positions remain robust. As at 30 June 2023, our consolidated Common Equity Tier 1 ratio and total consolidated capital adequacy ratio were at 15.6% and 19.7% respectively, while liquidity maintenance ratio was at 62.5%. Loan to deposit ratio was at 68.0%, compared to 66.9% as at the end of last year.

PROSPECTS

Economic conditions in our major markets experienced a mild improvement in the first half of the year. The Hong Kong Government's forecast for real GDP growth for 2023 is at 4%-5%, higher than last year. Inflation held steady at 1.9% in June, and is expected to remain at a moderate level while the unemployment rate will continue to be under control. While there is likely to be continued growth in the second half of the year, led by the gradual rebound in consumption demand following the lifting of COVID restrictions and increase in inbound tourists in Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China, exports of goods and external demand will likely continue to face challenges.

Loan demand will continue to be affected by the high interest rate environment, with investment sentiment and loan demand expected to remain sluggish. Credit quality improved in the first half of the year, and we expect impairment charges to be generally under control in the second half of 2023, although if economic growth slows there is some potential downside risk. Following the increase of interest rates in Hong Kong in the first half of the year, further to increases in US rates by the Federal Reserve, we are expecting the tightening to taper off in the second half of the year.

Whilst we anticipate continued gradual growth in our core markets under the current economic environment, we remain cautious about the outlook for the second half of the year and will continue to manage our wholly-owned businesses accordingly in a conservative manner.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODE

During the six months ended 30 June 2023, the Company has applied the principles and complied with the code provisions as set out in the Corporate Governance Code ("CG Code") under Part 2 of Appendix 14 of the Listing Rules, with the exception of code provision F.2.2.

Pursuant to code provision F.2.2 of the CG Code, the chairman of the board should attend the annual general meeting. Mr. David Shou-Yeh Wong, the Chairman of the Board, was unable to attend the 2023 Annual General Meeting (the "2023 AGM") of the Company held in Hong Kong on 2 June 2023 as he was away from Hong Kong at that time. Mr. Hon-Hing Wong (Derek Wong), Vice Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive of the Company, took the chair of the 2023 AGM.

CODE FOR SECURITIES TRANSACTIONS BY DIRECTORS

The Company has adopted its own code of conduct for directors' securities dealing ("Directors' Dealing Code") on terms no less exacting than the prevailing required standard set out in the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers ("Model Code") under Appendix 10 of the Listing Rules. Following specific enquiry, the Directors of the Company confirmed that they had complied with the required standard set out in the Model Code and the Directors' Dealing Code throughout the six months ended 30 June 2023.

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial information in this interim results announcement is unaudited and does not constitute statutory financial statements.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee has reviewed with Management the accounting principles and practices adopted by the Group and discussed internal controls and financial reporting matters including a review of the unaudited interim financial statements for the six months ended 30 June 2023.

REMUNERATION AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

There have been no material changes to the information disclosed in the Company's 2022 Annual Report in respect of the remuneration of employees, remuneration policies and training schemes.

PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF SECURITIES

There was no purchase, sale or redemption by the Company, or any of its subsidiaries, of listed securities of the Company during the six months ended 30 June 2023.

INTERIM RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT AND INTERIM REPORT

This announcement is published on the websites of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited ("HKEX") at www.hkexnews.hk and Dah Sing Bank at www.dahsing.com.

The 2023 Interim Report of the Group containing all the information required by the Listing Rules will be published on the websites of HKEX and Dah Sing Bank in due course. Printed copies of the 2023 Interim Report will be sent to shareholders who have elected to receive printed versions of the Company's corporate communications before the end of September 2023.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As at the date of this announcement, the Board of Directors of the Company comprises Messrs. David Shou-Yeh Wong (Chairman), Hon-Hing Wong (Derek Wong) (Vice Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive), Gary Pak-Ling Wang and Nicholas John Mayhew (Deputy Chief Executive) as Executive Directors; Messrs. Robert Tsai-To Sze, Seng-Lee Chan, Blair Chilton Pickerell and David Wai-Hung Tam as Independent Non-Executive Directors.

By Order of the Board Richard Tsung-Yung Li Company Secretary

Hong Kong, Wednesday, 23 August 2023