



2014/15 INTERIM RESULTS PERFORMS STRONGLY ACROSS ALL SEGMENTS
NET PROFIT MARGIN REACHES 50.9%
NET PROFIT DOUBLES TO HK\$147.2 MILLION

Financial Highlights

HK\$'000 (Unaudited)	For the 6 months ended 31 March		Changes
	2015	2014	
Total revenue	289,255	223,763	+29.3%
Financing	154,376	127,797	+20.8%
Brokerage	51,261	46,513	+10.2%
Placing & Underwriting	61,096	43,380	+40.8%
Corporate Finance	22,522	6,073	+270.9%
Net profit	147,221	71,046	+107.2%
Net profit margin	50.9%	31.8%	+19.1%pts
Earnings per share			
Basic	5.59 cents	2.72 cents	+105.5%
Diluted	5.39 cents	2.71 cents	+98.9%
Dividend per share	0.70 cent	0.60 cent	+16.7%

(Hong Kong, 19 May 2015) **Emperor Capital Group Limited** (the “Group” or “Emperor Capital Group”) (Stock code: 717), a one-stop comprehensive financial services institution in Hong Kong, today announced its interim results for the six months ended 31 March 2015 (the “Period”).

With strong performances across all segments, the Group’s total revenue registered growth of 29.3% to HK\$289.3 million (2014: HK\$223.8 million) during the Period. Net profit surged by 107.2% to HK\$147.2 million (2014: HK\$71.0 million), which is mainly attributable to the increase in commission income from placing and underwriting activities and interest income from the money lending business. Net profit margin rose by 19.1 percentage points to 50.9% (2014: 31.8%). Basic earnings per share was HK5.59 cents (2014: HK2.72 cents). The Group proposed an interim dividend of HK0.70 cent per share (2014: HK0.60 cent).

Leveraging its integrated business model, the Group strives to capture the full synergies across business lines and derive maximum benefits. The Group has realigned its long-term growth objectives and sharpened its focus on the financing segment, paving a way for continued growth and success. During the Period, the Group strengthened its position in the commercial lending market. Tapping an

increasing demand for loan products driven by rising investment activities, financing segment income soared to a new record high during the Period.

Financing

Built on a renowned reputation for delivering professional and personalised loan services, the Group has developed a niche in the loan market, providing corporate and retail clients with tailored liquidity solutions to meet their corporate goals and personal needs. The Group has aggressively accelerated expansion of the financing segment, by strengthening customer relationships, optimising revenue potential and boosting the efficiency of capital allocation. During the Period, the financing segment continued to perform strongly, with enhanced contributions from interest income of short to mid-term loans. Segmental revenue achieved a robust growth of 20.8% to HK\$154.4 million (2014: HK\$127.8 million), accounting for 53.4% (2014: 57.1%) of total revenue.

The financing segment derives interest income from commercial and personal lending as well as margin and initial public offering (“IPO”) financing. The loans granted to customers range from short-term unsecured loans (e.g. tax loan, bridging loan, term loan, personal loan) to long-term secured loans (e.g. mortgage loan).

Brokerage

During the Period, revenue generated from the brokerage services segment increased by 10.2% to HK\$51.3 million (2014: HK\$46.5 million), accounting for 17.7% (2014: 20.8%) of total revenue.

The Group operates 11 branches, covering key commercial and popular residential areas with convenient pedestrian access. The Group also runs three liaison offices, in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. As a dynamic financial institution, the Group continues to expand its product offerings on a timely basis, in response to market opportunities. In November 2014, the Group started to offer Northbound trading services, for customers to access the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect initiative.

In wealth management division, although the Hong Kong government has suspended new applications under the Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (“CIES”) since January 2015, the Group has strived to unlock the investment potential from existing CIES customers, and attract new CIES customers who had processed applications prior to the suspension being announced. As for the asset management division, the Group runs a private equity fund, namely “Emperor Greater China Opportunities Fund”, and also provides customised discretionary investment services.

Placing and Underwriting

Transactions in secondary markets have become active, in the light of an improved economic outlook and favourable sentiment. During the Period, the Group successfully completed a number of fundraising transactions. Revenue from the placing and underwriting segment grew by 40.8% to HK\$61.1 million (2014: HK\$43.4 million), accounting for 21.1% (2014: 19.4%) of total revenue. The Group served as placing agents in many equity and debt placement deals and IPO-related transactions. The Group also participated in rights issue fundraising exercises.

During the Period, the Group acted as Joint Bookrunner and Joint Lead Manager in the share offer for the IPO of Global International Credit Group Limited, which was listed on the Main Board of the Stock Exchange in December 2014.

Corporate Finance

The division mainly offers advisory and financing services for corporate transactions including IPO, placing, rights issue, corporate restructuring, merger and acquisition. During the Period, revenue from the corporate finance segment increased significantly by 270.9% to HK\$22.5 million (2014: HK\$6.1 million), accounting for 7.8% (2014: 2.7%) of total revenue.

The Group believes, acceleration of economic and financial reforms on the Mainland, will reinforce Hong Kong's position as an ideal investment destination for Chinese investors, and as a platform for overseas investors to gain access to the Mainland. The Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the forthcoming Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect scheme will further widen the sources of investment from China. Moving towards a cross-border market, the Group is well-positioned to seize the enormous opportunities arising from increased outbound capital from the Mainland.

Ms. Daisy Yeung, Managing Director of Emperor Capital Group, said, "Licensed money lenders provide borrowers with efficient and flexible liquidity solutions. With an increasing demand for money lenders services, it creates huge potential for the Group to further expand its financing segment. We will strive to sharpen our competitive edge and increase penetration in the money lending market, whilst seeking to strengthen our lending capacity to enhance overall profitability. With a strong track record and solid business fundamentals, we are poised to expand horizons and scale new heights in the years to come, aiming to maximise returns and value for shareholders."

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About Emperor Capital Group Limited

Established in 1993, Emperor Capital Group Limited (717.HK) is a renowned Hong Kong based financial institution providing a wide range of financial services including (i) commercial and personal lending as well as margin and IPO financing; (ii) brokerage, wealth management and asset management; (iii) placing and underwriting services for listed issuers; and (iv) corporate finance advisory services.

For more information, please visit its website: www.emperorcgroup.com

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