



亞洲金融
ASIA FINANCIAL

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Asia Financial Announces 2024 Interim Results

Asia Financial Holdings Limited (“Asia Financial”) announces the interim results for the first half of 2024 ending 30 June 2024. Mr. Bernard Charnwut Chan, Chairman and President of Asia Financial, said, “**Asia Financial posted a net profit attributable to its shareholders of HK\$361.4 million for the first half of 2024, representing a solid 20.6% growth over the first half of 2023.** Several factors underpinned our resilient performance, including positive results and earnings growth from our trading investments, our insurance operations delivered satisfactory outcomes, and consistent returns generated across our joint venture and associate holdings.”

“Wholly owned subsidiary, **Asia Insurance Company Limited** (“Asia Insurance”) **achieved a net profit of HK\$249.2 million in the first half of 2024, a 2.7% decrease compared with the same period in 2023.** Despite the prevailing softness in the local market, particularly within Small to Medium Enterprises categories, Asia Insurance has delivered a solid 31.9% increase in insurance revenue over the first half of 2024. However, a reduction in our insurance service result by 30.3% was mainly due to the increase in insurance liability reserves. We continue diversifying our reinsurance business into new international markets, have successfully consolidated our collaborative relationships within the insurance and banking sectors and are actively pursuing the development of additional business distribution avenues. At the heart of our exceptional reputation lies the depth and strength of our client relationships and core business partnerships fostered through our consistently professional and innovative approach. Upholding the highest service standards has been a cornerstone of our success.”

Mr. Chan continued to state, “In the first half of 2024, strategic joint ventures and associated entities have provided meaningful contributions. BC Reinsurance Limited and Professional Liability Underwriting Services Limited have demonstrated commendable and stable profitability while Hong Kong Life Insurance Limited and Avo Insurance Company Limited returned a moderate loss.”

“Asia Financial holds a 5% equity interest in PICC Life Insurance Company Limited, and their expansive network of branch offices plays a pivotal role in sustaining its strong financial standing.”

“Our 4.7% holding in Bumrungrad Hospital Public Company Limited (“Bumrungrad Hospital”) in Bangkok is our most significant investment in listed equities. For the first half of 2024, its share price increased by 11.3% in Thai Baht terms and 3.7% in Hong Kong Dollar terms, driven by the Thai Baht's depreciation against other major currencies. The outlook for the remainder of the year remains optimistic. Due to the growing global demand for high-quality, culturally tailored medical tourism services, the hospital is poised to build upon its strong momentum and deliver sustained growth.”

“The Group’s holding in Bank Consortium Holding Limited (“BCH”), one of our joint ventures, demonstrated remarkable financial stability and generated consistent profits in the first half of 2024. Bank Consortium Trust Company Limited (“BCT”), a wholly owned subsidiary of BCH, has firmly cemented its position as one of the top providers of Mandatory Provident Fund services in the Hong Kong market.”

Mr. Chan raised, “Our real estate ventures in Shanghai have been a steady component of our asset portfolio, comprising 4.4% of our total assets. Our group maintains a 27.5% stake in the mixed-use development project in Jiading District in Shanghai and is consistently delivering strong sales performance. All prior phases sold out and significantly contributed to our profitability.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Chan said, “Despite the global economic headwinds, worldwide economies, particularly those in developed countries, are expected to be resilient during the second half of the year. Our projections for the insurance business remain cautiously optimistic. Our commitment lies in expanding services that enhance everyday living, including insurance, retirement planning and healthcare, focusing on Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China and the rest of the world for reinsurance business. By consistently reviewing and perfecting our business model, we are well-positioned to navigate the current challenges and capitalise on emerging opportunities in the insurance sector.”

“Our trading investments generated positive returns in the first half of 2024, driven by strong performance across different asset classes including value-oriented equities, investment grade fixed income bonds, and diversified alternative investments. We have actively adjusted the portfolio from a home-biased allocation to focus on a broader geographic diversification in developed markets and selective developing markets. This has helped our trading investments navigate market changes and volatility while maintaining the flexibility to capitalise on timely opportunities. Our long-term strategic holdings provided solid dividend income which complemented investment returns. This balanced, active trading and strategic holdings approach has been a key differentiator, enabling us to deliver resilient investment performance. We remain committed to optimising and fine-tuning the portfolio to optimise risk-adjusted returns and sustainable shareholder value.”

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