

## Travel Expert (Asia) Enterprises Limited 專業旅運(亞洲)企業有限公司

# Travel Expert (Asia) Enterprises Limited announces the interim results for the six months ended 30 September 2013 and appointment of Chief Investment Officer

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	For the six months ended 30 September		
	2013 (HK\$ million)	2012 (HK\$ million)	Change
Gross sales proceeds	966.9	803.8	+20.3%
Revenue, excluding the rental income from investment property of HK\$0.9 million (2012: Nil)	156.4	127.7	+22.5%
Profit for the period	20.7	15.2	+36.2%
Earnings per share (HK cents)	4.1	3.0	+36.7%
Interim dividend (HK cents)	1.5	Nil	+100%

(28 November 2013, Hong Kong) **Travel Expert (Asia) Enterprises Limited** (the "Company") (HKEx stock code: 1235) announced the interim results of the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group") for the six months ended 30 September 2013 (the "Period").

During the Period, the Group continued to maintain its positive business growth. The gross sales proceeds amounted to HK\$966.9 million for the Period, representing an increase of 20.3% as compared with HK\$803.8 million for the corresponding period last year. Total revenue, including rental income from investment property of HK\$0.9 million (2012: Nil), for

the Period increased to HK\$157.3 million (2012: HK\$127.7 million), representing an increase of 23.2% over the corresponding period last year. Similar to the last year, the increase was primarily contributed by the revenue growth in the Group's retail business. The profit for the Period attributable to owners of the Company increased remarkably by 36.2% from HK\$15.2 million to HK\$20.7 million. Basic earnings per share attributable to owners of the Company for the Period was HK4.1 cents, representing an increase of 36.7% from HK3.0 cents. In view of this satisfactory business result, the Board resolved to declare an interim dividend of HK1.5 cents (2012: Nil) per share.

In response to the intense competition, the Group strives to strengthen the position of one-stop travel solution by offering customers extensive range of products to meet their needs. Besides, the Group will develop more choices of theme-type packages in addition to the existing ones such as weddings, wellness and other activities to best suit customers' needs. Apart from expanding the sales networks through opening retails shops in strategic locations, the establishment of e-business sales team can further strengthen the Group's sales channels in delivering comprehensive services to customers.

Furthermore, the Group will continue to spend efforts in increasing the market share by allocating resources in the development of corporate and MICE business, establishing the new brand name "Tailor Made Holidays (度新假期)" in order to seize the opportunities in both retail and wholesale business.

In addition to the ordinary travel business, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company named Travel Expert Asset Management Limited (專業旅運資產管理有限公司) was established during the Period to conduct the approved investment activities using the Group's surplus funds allocated under the investment cap. It is expected that this newly established business unit can better utilize the Group's surplus fund to enhance the capital yield, thus eventually improving the bottom line of the Group.

Looking ahead, apart from diversification of its business to strengthen its market position in Hong Kong, the Group is taking steps in exploring the business expansion opportunities in China through corporation with selected reputable business partners. The business discussions with the relevant partners are still ongoing. Once any definite agreement has been reached, an announcement will be made to public immediately.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER

Travel Expert (Asia) Enterprises Limited is pleased to announce that Mr. Ho Wai Hung, Stanley, was on board on 2 September 2013 as the Chief Investment Officer. In this role, Mr. Ho reports directly to the Chairman of Group and is responsible for managing and controlling the Group's investment activities.

Mr. Ho has over 40 years of investment related experience gained from financial institutions. Prior to joining the Group, he had previously worked as Vice President, Derivative Trading in Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and Senior Manager of Treasury in Hang Seng Bank Limited. He holds a Master degree in Applied Finance awarded from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Ho joining the Group.

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### **About Travel Expert (Asia) Enterprises Limited**

Travel Expert (Asia) Enterprises Limited has been listed on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (stock code: 1235) since 2011. Principal activities of the Group are provision of travel related products and services. The Group has an extensive retail network of more than 60 shops in Hong Kong providing customers with one-stop travel solution and offering diversified travel products at easily accessible locations.

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