

# *Report of the Director of Audit*



**Audit Commission**

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

## **Disaster Relief Fund**

### **Independent Audit Report**

#### **To the President of the Legislative Council**

I certify that I have examined and audited the financial statements of the Disaster Relief Fund set out on pages 57 to 60, which comprise the statement of assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2008, and the statement of receipts and payments for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### **Director of Accounting Services' responsibility for the financial statements**

In accordance with section 16(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2), the Director of Accounting Services is responsible for the compilation and supervision of the accounts of the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, for the management of accounting operations and procedures, and for ensuring that all regulations, directions or instructions made or given under the Public Finance Ordinance relating thereto and in respect of the safe custody of public moneys and its accounting are complied with.

#### **Auditor's responsibility**

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with section 12(1) of the Audit Ordinance (Cap. 122) and the Audit Commission auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and proper presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of

expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used by the Director of Accounting Services, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

### **Opinion**

In my opinion, the financial statements properly present the assets and liabilities of the Disaster Relief Fund as at 31 March 2008 and the receipts and payments for the year then ended in accordance with the cash basis of accounting as described in Note 2 to the financial statements and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Ordinance and section 11(1) of the Audit Ordinance.

(Benjamin Tang)  
Director of Audit

23 October 2008

Audit Commission  
26th Floor  
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Wanchai, Hong Kong

# Disaster Relief Fund

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2008

|                                    | Note | 2008<br>\$'000 | 2007<br>\$'000 |
|------------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                      |      |                |                |
| Investments with the Exchange Fund | 3    | <u>28,034</u>  | <u>30,535</u>  |
| <b>Representing:</b>               |      |                |                |
| <b>Fund Balance</b>                |      |                |                |
| Balance at 1 April 2007            |      | 30,535         | 30,218         |
| (Deficit)/Surplus for the year     |      | <u>(2,501)</u> | <u>317</u>     |
| Balance at 31 March 2008           |      | <u>28,034</u>  | <u>30,535</u>  |

The accompanying Notes 1 to 6 form part of these accounts.

**Mrs. Lucia LI**  
Director of Accounting Services  
15 August 2008



# Disaster Relief Fund

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2008

|  | Note     | 2008<br>\$'000   | 2007<br>\$'000 |
|--|----------|------------------|----------------|
| Cash and bank balances at 1 April 2007         |          | -                | -              |
| <b>Revenue</b>                                 | <b>4</b> | <b>269,617</b>   | 19,706         |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                             | <b>5</b> | <b>(272,118)</b> | (19,389)       |
| (Deficit)/Surplus for the year                 |          | (2,501)          | 317            |
| <b>Other cash movements</b>                    | <b>6</b> | <b>2,501</b>     | (317)          |
| <b>Cash and bank balances at 31 March 2008</b> |          | <b>-</b>         | <b>-</b>       |

The accompanying Notes 1 to 6 form part of these accounts.

**Mrs. Lucia LI**  
Director of Accounting Services  
15 August 2008



# Disaster Relief Fund

## NOTES ON THE ACCOUNTS

### 1. Purpose and Legislation

The Disaster Relief Fund provides a ready mechanism for Hong Kong to respond swiftly to international appeals for humanitarian aid in relief of disasters that occur outside Hong Kong. It was established with effect from 1 December 1993 by a Resolution (hereinafter referred to as the Resolution) passed by the Legislative Council under section 29(1) of the Public Finance Ordinance (Cap. 2) on the same date.

### 2. Accounting Policy

The accounts of the Disaster Relief Fund are kept on a cash basis. Transactions are recorded when moneys are received or paid.

### 3. Investments with the Exchange Fund

- (i) These are investments made under paragraph (i) of the Resolution. They represent the cost of investments together with interest of \$1.80 million received in the year ended 31 March 2008.
- (ii) Effective from 1 April 2007, the return on the investments is calculated on the basis of the average rate of return of the Exchange Fund's investment portfolio over the past six years, subject to the annual investment return in any year being guaranteed to be not lower than the average yield of three-year Exchange Fund Notes for the previous year.

### 4. Revenue

|                                     | 2008                           |                  | 2007             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                     | Original<br>Estimate<br>\$'000 | Actual<br>\$'000 | Actual<br>\$'000 |
| Investment income                   | 2,732                          | 1,798            | 2,882            |
| Appropriations from General Revenue | 16,800                         | 266,800          | 16,400           |
| Refund of grants                    | -                              | 519              | 424              |
| Donations                           | -                              | 500              | -                |
|                                     | <u>19,532</u>                  | <u>269,617</u>   | <u>19,706</u>    |

# Disaster Relief Fund

## 5. Expenditure

|                                       | 2008<br>Actual<br>\$'000 | 2007<br>Actual<br>\$'000 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Relief programmes for:</b>         |                          |                          |
| snowstorms victims in the Mainland    | 237,430                  | -                        |
| flood victims in the Mainland         | 18,620                   | 5,000                    |
| flood victims in South Asia           | 6,040                    | -                        |
| earthquake victims in the Mainland    | 4,000                    | -                        |
| cyclone victims in Bangladesh         | 3,648                    | -                        |
| earthquake victims in Peru            | 1,500                    | -                        |
| cyclone and flood victims in Pakistan | 880                      | -                        |
| earthquake victims in Indonesia       | -                        | 10,389                   |
| typhoon victims in the Philippines    | -                        | 2,500                    |
| drought victims in the Mainland       | -                        | 1,500                    |
|                                       | <b>272,118</b>           | <b>19,389</b>            |

## 6. Other Cash Movements

These are cash movements arising from changes in other assets and liabilities.

|  | 2008<br>\$'000 | 2007<br>\$'000 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Reduction/(Increase) in Assets:</b> |                |                |
| Investments with the Exchange Fund     | <b>2,501</b>   | <b>(317)</b>   |

## Revenue, Expenditure and Fund Balance for the years ended 31 March 1999 to 2008

