

2022/23 Annual Report of Occupational Deafness Compensation Board

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



2022/23 was another busy and challenging year for the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board (the "Board"). With the Covid-19 pandemic gradually easing into the post-epidemic era, the Board was committed to implementing a wide variety of effective hearing conservation education and publicity activities, as well as providing more apposite rehabilitation programmes to persons with occupational deafness ("OD") who were mostly elderly. Concurrently, the medical examination and hearing test services arranged for OD compensation applicants are always of vital importance to the Board. We spared no efforts to increase relevant services provided in the clinics concerned during the year to avoid delaying various examinations amid the epidemic.

Compensation

During the year under review, the Board received a total of 732 applications for compensation, including 598 cases of first-time and 134 cases of further application. 390 applications that met the hearing loss requirement were determined after completing the hearing and medical tests successfully. During the same period, a total compensation amount of about HK\$48.8 million was approved for 336 first-time and 54 further applications for compensation. Of the successful first-time applications, nearly 28% were cases of monaural hearing loss (that is, only one ear was suffering from hearing loss of 40 decibels or above). Through our proactive and diversified education and publicity programmes, the Board constantly reminds practitioners engaged in noisy occupations to always bear in mind the importance of hearing health, which goes a long way to reduce occupational deafness.

Education & Publicity

The Board has always been committed to promoting "prevention is better than cure" and implemented extensive education and promotional activities targeting the general public and employees working in noisy occupations. On top of publicity via the mass media, in the year we also organised roving exhibitions and displayed hearing protection information in different regions of Hong Kong. In addition, we also jointly presented with other occupational safety and health organisations large-scale annual occupational safety promotion and award activities, along with workplace noise management courses and other labour group sponsorship programmes aiming at arousing the attention of employers and employees in noisy industries to the importance of occupational safety and health.

During the year under review, we continued to arrange educational talks for employees engaged in noisy occupations and provided 12 full-day sessions of mobile audiometric screening services. We visited different noisy workplaces to provide complimentary hearing examination and evaluation services for about 460 workers to let them understand their own hearing status onsite.

Rehabilitation Service

To help OD sufferers overcome hearing impairment by providing them with suitable hearing assistive devices (“HAD”), the Board has launched the “HAD Financial Assistance Scheme” which has been well-received among users since 2003. In the reporting year, we received 865 applications for financing their expenses incurred in purchasing, repairing, and replacing HAD, of which 96 were submitted for the first time. During the same period, the Board approved 798 applications with a total subsidy of approximately HK\$5.81 million granted to the OD persons.

In addition to the aural rehabilitation programmes mentioned above, with a view to promoting the psychological and spiritual health of OD persons, the "Occupational Deafness Rehabilitation Network" (the “ODRN”) set up under the Board regularly organises a series of recreational, small-group and volunteer activities to help OD persons enrich themselves and enhance their physical and mental vitality, so that they could regain confidence and motivation to reintegrate into the community and enjoy a quality life. For the year under review, the ODRN organised 561 social rehabilitation activities for which nearly 4,300 participations were recorded including the OD persons as well as their accompanying caregivers.

On the other hand, we arranged more follow-up services to care for those in need and offer them assistance which involved approximately 5300 calls and 360 visits. During the year, the ODRN also arranged 17 sessions of volunteer service and caring ambassador activities such as extending care to those in need during festivals, as well as visiting the elderly living alone and children's families.

Finance

In 2022/23, the Board received a total revenue of nearly HK\$71.17 million, an increase of about 28% from the preceding year. The total expenditure for the year reached approximately HK\$85.19 million (nearly 68% of the total expenditure was spent on OD compensation, HAD Financial Assistance Scheme, medical examination and hearing testing services). Together with other financial costs and losses of approximately HK\$80,000, the Board thus recorded a deficit of approximately HK\$14.1 million for the year. Amid uncertainties in the global and local economic situation, we shall continue to manage our finances with the utmost prudence to ensure the long-term financial stability of the Board.

Acknowledgements

The Covid-19 outbreak has changed many of our living habits and work patterns in the past three years, whilst what remains unchanged is the professionalism and commitment of our management team to serve persons suffering from OD and the working population of Hong Kong as a whole. As the chairman, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to my fellow members of the Board and its Medical Committee for sharing their experience and wisdom during such a challenging tenure, and for giving lots of valuable advice and unwavering support for the arduous work of the Board. I would also like to sincerely thank the Labour Department, the Hospital Authority, the Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic of the Hong Kong University, various occupational safety and health organisations, and our rehabilitation service co-organisers, for working together with concerted efforts to serve the general public and OD persons amid the epidemic. Last but not least, I express special appreciation to all staff of the Board for their unwavering dedication and professionalism in discharging the functions and duties of the Board.

Dr TSANG Ho-fai, Thomas, BBS

Chairman, Occupational Deafness Compensation Board

PROFILE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD

The Board was established on 1 June 1995 under the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance (the “Ordinance”) (Cap.469). It is responsible for carrying out the following functions under the Ordinance:

- (1) to manage the Occupational Deafness Compensation Fund in accordance with the law;
- (2) to process and determine applications for OD compensation;
- (3) to process and determine applications for reimbursement or direct payment of expenses for HAD;
- (4) to conduct or finance educational and publicity programmes for the purpose of preventing noise-induced deafness by reason of employment; and
- (5) to conduct or finance rehabilitation programmes for persons suffering from noise-induced deafness by reason of employment.

The Board consists of nine members, who are appointed by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, including representatives of employers, employees, medical professionals and public officers. It meets regularly to set directions on the programmes of activities to be carried out and to determine applications made under the Ordinance.

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD (“ODCB”)
(2022.4.1–2023.3.31)**



Dr TSANG Ho-fai, Thomas. BBS
ODCB Chairman



Ms CHEUNG Sui-ki, Debbie
Employers' Representative



Ms WONG Yeuk-lan, Eliza
Employers' Representative



Ms LIU Po-chu, Elsie
Employees' Representative



Ms LAM Hoi-ye, Apple
Employees' Representative



Dr HO Wai-kuen
Medical Practitioner
(ENT Surgeon)



Dr SO Hin-pan
Medical Practitioner
Hospital Authority



Dr WAN Yuen-kong, JP
Occupational Health Consultant
Labour Department



Ms WONG Lai-heung, Christina
Senior Labour Officer
Labour Department



Ms NG Wai-ying, Erica
ODCB Executive Director
(Secretary)

PROFILE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS MEDICAL COMMITTEE

The Occupational Deafness Medical Committee (the “Medical Committee”) is another statutory body established under the Ordinance. Its function is to advise the Board on the technical, medical and professional aspects of hearing assessment and provision of HAD to OD persons. The Medical Committee comprises five members who are specialists of the medical profession or expert in the field of audiology.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS MEDICAL COMMITTEE (2022.4.1–2023.3.31)



Dr WAN Yuen-kong, JP
Nominated by
Department of Health



Dr WONG Wai-yeung, Eddy
Nominated by
Hospital Authority



Dr NGAI Chi-man
Nominated by
Hong Kong College of
Otorhinolaryngologists
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine



Dr LO Tsun-yan
Nominated by
Hong Kong College of
Community Medicine
Hong Kong Academy of Medicine



Dr KAM Chi-shan, Anna
Nominated by
Hong Kong Society of Audiology



Mr CHAN Ying-wai, Alfred
ODCB Director of Operations
(Secretary)

OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

(List of membership as at 2023.3.31)

Administrative Affairs Committee

Chairperson: Dr TSANG Ho-fai, Thomas, BBS
Members: Ms CHEUNG Sui-ki, Debbie (Representing Employers)
Ms WONG Yeuk-lan, Eliza (Representing Employers)
Ms LIU Po-chu, Elsie (Representing Employees)
Ms LAM Hoi-ye, Apple (Representing Employees)
Ms WONG Lai-heung, Christina (Senior Labour Officer, Labour Department)

Education and Publicity Committee

Chairperson: Ms LIU Po-chu, Elsie
Members: Ms WONG Yeuk-lan, Eliza (Representing Employers)
Ms LAM Hoi-ye, Apple (Representing Employees)

Finance and Investment Committee

Chairperson: Dr TSANG Ho-fai, Thomas
Members: Ms CHEUNG Sui-ki, Debbie (Representing Employers)
Ms WONG Yeuk-lan, Eliza (Representing Employers)
Ms LIU Po-chu, Elsie (Representing Employees)
Ms LAM Hoi-ye, Apple (Representing Employees)
Dr ZHANG Haito (Co-opted Member)

Labour Group Activities Sponsorship Programme Committee

Chairperson: Ms WONG Yeuk-lan, Eliza
Members: Ms CHEUNG Sui-ki, Debbie (Representing Employers)
Ms LAM Hoi-ye, Apple (Representing Employees)
Ms WONG Lai-heung, Christina (Senior Labour Officer, Labour Department)

Rehabilitation Services Committee

Chairperson: Ms CHEUNG Sui-ki, Debbie
Members: Ms LIU Po-chu, Elsie (Representing Employees)
Dr HO Wai-kuen (Medical Practitioner, ENT Surgeon)
Dr SO Hin-pan (Medical Practitioner, Hospital Authority)
Ms WONG Lai-heung, Christina (Senior Labour Officer, Labour Department)

Research Committee

Chairperson: Dr HO Wai-kuen
Members: Dr SO Hin-pan (Medical Practitioner, Hospital Authority)
Dr WAN Yuen-kong, JP (Occupational Health Consultant, Labour Department)

APPLICATION AND DETERMINATION FOR THE OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION SCHEME

OD is one of the most common occupational diseases detected in Hong Kong. It is caused by prolonged exposure to a high level of noise at work, which results in the damage of the nerve cells of the inner ear. Once damaged or destroyed, these nerve cells will not recover. The resulting hearing impairment will be permanent and cannot be cured. The Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme provides for the payment of compensation to those employees who suffer from noise-induced hearing loss due to employment in specified noisy occupations. Applicants have to fulfil both the occupational and hearing loss requirements as stipulated by the Ordinance in order to be entitled to receiving compensation. Requirements and calculation methods for the Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme are given in *Appendix 1*.

Applications Received

In the year under review, the Board received a total of 732 applications for compensation, including 598 cases of first-time (*Figure 1*) and 134 cases of further application (*Figure 2*). 390 applications that met the hearing loss requirement were determined after completing the hearing and medical tests successfully. During the same period, a total compensation amount of about HK\$48.8 million was approved for 336 first-time and 54 further applications for compensation. Nearly 28% of the cases that applied for and successfully awarded compensation for the first time were cases with monoaural hearing loss, that is, only one ear suffered from a hearing loss of 40 decibels or more.

Figure 1: Profile of Applicants by Age and Gender (First-time Compensation)

| Age | Applicants (Male) | Applicants (Female) | Total Number of Applicants | Percentage |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Under 40 | 52 | 0 | 52 | 8.70% |
| 40 to under 56 | 180 | 4 | 184 | 30.77% |
| 56 or above | 356 | 6 | 362 | 60.53% |
| Total: | 588 | 10 | 598 | |

TABLE SEE CHINESE VERSION

Figure 2: Profile of Applicants by Age and Gender (Further Compensation)

| Age | Applicants (Male) | Applicants (Female) | Total Number of Applicants | Percentage |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Under 40 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0.75% |
| 40 to under 56 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 4.48% |
| 56 or above | 127 | 0 | 127 | 94.77% |
| Total: | 134 | 0 | 134 | |

TABLE SEE CHINESE VERSION

For the year under review, the Board received 598 applications for OD compensation for the first time. The majority of the applicants were engaged in the use of power-driven grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussive tools on rocks, concrete or marble, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those tools whilst they are being so used (65.5%). The next largest group involved those who worked near internal combustion engines or turbines or pressurised fuel burners or jet engines (17.7%), followed by those engaged in the use of power-driven grinding tools on metal or on billets of metal or blooms, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those tools whilst they are being so used (7.9%). A set of the occupational profiles of the applicants who applied for first-time OD compensation is given in *Appendix 2*.

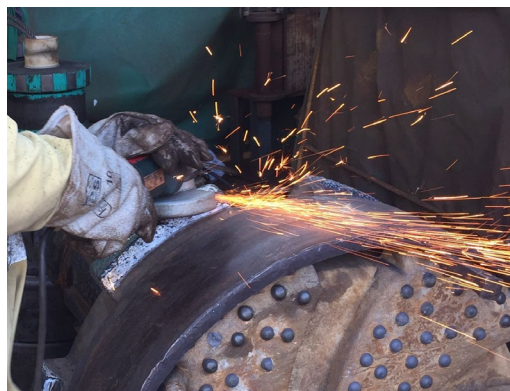
In the year, the Board received 134 applications for further compensation. The majority of the applicants were engaged in the use of power-driven grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussive tools on rocks, concrete or marble, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those tools whilst they are being so used (61.2%), followed by those worked near internal combustion engines or turbines or pressurised fuel burners or jet engines (18.6%) and the others engaged in the use of power-driven grinding tools on metal or on billets of metal or blooms, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those tools whilst they are being so used (11.9%). A set of the occupational profiles of the applicants who applied for further OD compensation is given in *Appendix 3*.



The use of power-driven grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussive tools on rocks



Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines



The use of power-driven grinding tools on metal, billets of metal or blooms

Applications Processed

For the year under review, the Board approved 390 applications with a total compensation amount of HK\$48,800,495.23¹. A breakdown of the applications approved by their respective types is as follows:

| | <u>Number of Approved Applications</u> | <u>Amount of Compensation Paid (HK\$)</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| • Compensation for the first time | 336 | 42,594,826.06 |
| • Further compensation | 54 | 6,205,669.17 |
| Total: | 390 | 48,800,495.23 |

Regarding these 336 applicants who successfully received compensation for the first time, more than half (67.6%) suffered a hearing loss of less than 50dB in the better ear (*Figure 3*). The majority (90.5%) of them suffered from a permanent incapacity of not greater than 20%. The average amount of compensation awarded was HK\$126,770 (*Figure 4*).

On the other hand, for the 54 applicants who successfully received further compensation, a majority (70.4%) of them suffered a hearing loss of less than 60dB in the better ear (*Figure 5*). A large majority (98.1%) of them suffered from an additional percentage of permanent incapacity ranged from 0.5% to 20.5%. The average amount of further compensation paid was HK\$114,920 (*Figure 6*). Two sets of analysis of approved cases of first-time and further compensation by the level of hearing loss are in *Appendix 4* and *Appendix 5* respectively.

A table showing applications versus approved cases of OD compensation for the most recent 3 years is in *Appendix 6*.

¹ In 2022/23, the Board approved 390 applications at a total compensation amount of HK\$48,800,495.23. Nevertheless, the Board had processed 3 review cases for which adjustments were made in the year. Accordingly, the actual compensation payout as shown in the Income and Expenditure Account for the year is HK\$49,258,499.

Figure 3: Approved Cases by Level of Hearing Loss (Compensation for the First Time)

| Hearing Level (dB) | Better Ear | Worse Ear |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| <40 | 93 | N.A. |
| 40 – 49 | 134 | 165 |
| 50 – 59 | 70 | 91 |
| 60 – 69 | 32 | 46 |
| 70 – 79 | 5 | 16 |
| 80 – 89 | 0 | 5 |
| 90 or above | 2 | 13 |
| Total: | 336 | 336 |

Figure 4: Approved Cases by Compensation Payment (Compensation for the First Time)

| Percentage of Incapacity | No. of Cases | Total Payment (HK\$) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 0.5% | 57 | 522,665 |
| 1%-4.5% | 101 | 2,938,684 |
| 5%-10% | 83 | 9,809,168 |
| 11%-20% | 63 | 14,961,796 |
| 21%-30% | 26 | 9,821,097 |
| 31%-40% | 4 | 2,003,884 |
| 41%-50% | 0 | 0 |
| 51%-60% | 2 | 2,537,532 |
| Total: | 336 | 42,594,826 |
| Average Compensation Paid: | | 126,770 |

Figure 5: Approved Cases by Level of Hearing Loss (Further Compensation)

| Hearing Level (dB) | Better Ear | Worse Ear |
|--------------------|------------|-----------|
| <40 | 2 | N.A. |
| 40 – 49 | 18 | 10 |
| 50 – 59 | 18 | 18 |
| 60 – 69 | 13 | 14 |
| 70 – 79 | 3 | 7 |
| 80 – 89 | 0 | 0 |
| 90 or above | 0 | 5 |
| Total: | 54 | 54 |

Figure 6: Approved Cases by Compensation Payment (Further Compensation)

| Additional Percentage of Incapacity | No. of Cases | Total Payment (HK\$) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 0.5% | 3 | 21,612 |
| 1%-4.5% | 17 | 646,565 |
| 5%-10.5% | 23 | 2,633,623 |
| 11%-20.5% | 10 | 2,549,186 |
| 21%-30.5% | 1 | 354,683 |
| 31%-40.5% | 0 | 0 |
| 41%-50.5% | 0 | 0 |
| 51%-59.5% | 0 | 0 |
| Total: | 54 | 6,205,669 |
| Average Compensation Paid: | | 114,920 |

Regarding the 260 applications for compensation for the first time being refused during the year under review, 234 applications (90.0%) were due to failure to meet the hearing loss requirements, 23 applications (8.8%) failed to meet the occupational requirements, whereas 3 applicants (1.2%) did not attend the hearing assessment. On the other hand, 24 applicants had withdrawn the applications by themselves.

Concerning the 60 applications for further compensation being refused, 55 of them (91.7%) could not meet the hearing loss requirements, whereas 5 application (8.3%) failed to meet the occupational requirements. On the other hand, 7 applicants had withdrawn the applications by themselves (*Figure 7*).

Figure 7: Breakdown of Applications Processed in the Year 2022/23

| | No. of Cases (<u>Compensation for the First Time</u>) | No. of Cases (<u>Further Compensation</u>) |
|--|--|---|
| Compensation payment approved | 336 | 54 |
| Failed to meet hearing loss requirements | 234 | 55 |
| Failed to meet occupational requirements | 23 | 5 |
| Failed to attend hearing assessment | 3 | 0 |
| Withdrawn | 24 | 7 |

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR HEARING ASSISTIVE DEVICES



Any person who is entitled to compensation under the Ordinance may also apply for the reasonable expenses incurred in the acquisition, fitting, repair or maintenance of HAD in connection with his/her noise-induced deafness subject to the Medical Committee's determination. For the first-time application relating to the acquisition and fitting of HAD, the claimed amount is subject to a maximum of HK\$20,160 for each eligible person. The aggregate amount of the HAD Financial Assistance Scheme (the "Scheme") given to each eligible person shall not exceed HK\$83,830.

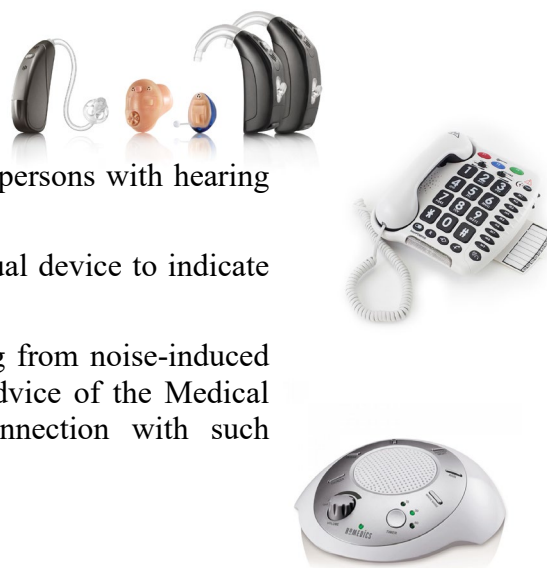
In 2022/23, the Board received 865 applications for the Scheme including 96 first-time submissions. In the year, the Board approved 798 applications with a total financing amount of approximately HK\$5.81 million paid. Acquisition of hearing aids was the major claim which amounted to 90.2% of the total expenses of the Scheme.

With effect from 13 April 2023, the financing amount for first-time applications for HAD under the Scheme has been raised to HK\$24,000 from HK\$20,160, while the aggregate financing limit has been raised to HK\$ 98,060 from HK\$83,830.

In the new normal after the epidemic, the general public has become accustomed to receiving information and handling daily affairs online. Under the circumstances, in addition to organising physical briefings and workshops, the Board also made full use of online videos to introduce "HAD Financial Assistance Scheme: Application Guidelines", "Hearing Aid Fitting and Follow-up Procedures" and "Hearing Aid and Tinnitus Masker Trial Scheme", through which the people concerned who were unable to attend the briefing sessions would be advised to learn the relevant information later on their own. It could also enhance the effectiveness of allowing OD persons making the most of their rights of the Scheme to enhance their communication skills.

Under the Ordinance, HAD shall include:

- (1) hearing aid;
- (2) telephone amplifier specially designed for use by persons with hearing difficulty;
- (3) desktop telephone with flashing light or other visual device to indicate ringing;
- (4) any device the use of which by a person suffering from noise-induced deafness is determined by the Board, upon the advice of the Medical Committee, to be reasonably necessary in connection with such deafness; or
- (5) any accessories or parts of the above HAD.



REPORT ON EDUCATION AND PUBLICITY

Through diversified and extensive educational and publicity programmes, the Board hopes that practitioners engaged in noisy occupations will always bear in mind that OD is a permanent sensorineural hearing loss. We have always been committed to promoting the message of "Prevention is better than Cure" as well as explaining to the public and employees working in noisy industries the importance of preventing problems before they occur.

Roving Exhibitions and Promotional Activities

Given that OD is a permanent sensorineural hearing loss which cannot be cured, the Board has been sparing no efforts to remind the general public of the importance of avoiding hearing loss. On 25 March 2023, we organised the kick-off ceremony of the Board's annual roving exhibitions on "Protect Hearing for Noisy Occupations". At the event, Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS, the distinguished guest Secretary for Labour and Welfare the Honourable Chris Sun, JP, and other participating Board members presided over the kick-off ceremony. Chairman Tsang explained the work of the Board, the Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme, and how to prevent permanent deafness caused by noises at work through the opening ceremony. To enhance the publicity effect, the Board also invited guest artistes Ms Moon Lau and Mr Matthew Ho to perform on stage. Through a pleasant game platform, they called on the public to face up to OD and enhanced their understanding of the importance of hearing protection in the workplace.



Secretary for Labour and Welfare the Honourable Chris Sun, JP (5th from right), ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS (middle), and a group of Board members at the 2023 Roving Exhibition Kick-off Ceremony. Attending Board members and Secretariat staff included: Senior Labour Officer of Labour Department Ms Christina Wong (1st from left), Hospital Authority Dr So Hin-pan (2nd from left), Consultant ENT Surgeon Dr Ho Wai-kuen (3rd from left), Employee Representative Ms Apple Lam (4th from left), Employer Representative Ms Debbie Cheung (5th from left), Employer Representative Ms Eliza Wong (4th from right), Occupational Health Consultant of Labour Department Dr Wan Yuen-kong, JP (3rd from right), Specialist in Otorhinolaryngology Dr Ngai Chi-man (2nd from right), and ODCB Executive Director Ms Erica Ng (1st from right).



ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS (left) explained the way to avoid OD, with the Secretary for Labour and Welfare the Honourable Chris Sun, JP(right) officiated the ceremony and gave opening remarks.



The atmosphere of the kick-off ceremony of roving exhibitions was overwhelming. The performing artistes played interactive games with the audience onsite, explaining the Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme and how to protect hearing followed by an exhibition where the public visited the board information and participated in interactive computer games to enhance their understanding of OD and noises.

Joint Functions on Occupational Safety & Health



In 2022/23, the Board continued to join hands with other major occupational safety and health promotion organisations to co-organise several annual large-scale campaigns, including **The Hearing Conservation Best Practices Award** collaborated with the Occupational Safety and Health Council in recognition of organisations that were committed to promoting effective measures to protect the hearing of workers. We also jointly organised with the Labour Department and other occupational safety promotion organisations **The 23rd Construction Safety Award Forum and Award Presentation** targeting on the construction industry workers to convey the important message of hearing conservation.



ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS presented trophies to various winners of the Hearing Conservation Best Practices Award at the 17th Occupational Health Award Forum and Award Presentation Ceremony online.



ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS (1st from left) and other officiating guests participated in the 23rd Construction Safety Award Forum and Award Presentation Ceremony.



ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS presented trophies to winners of the Construction Safety Award.



In terms of promotion in the construction industry, as the Construction Industry Safety Award Scheme held last year received strong support from the Board and various groups, the Labour Department decided to jointly organise the **2022/2023 Construction Industry Safety Award Scheme** again with industry groups to further enhance the construction industry’s awareness of occupational safety and health, thereby improving the safety performance of construction sites.



ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS (5th from right) and other officiating guests participated in the Construction Industry Safety Award Scheme and Award Presentation.



The Commissioner for Labour Ms May Chan, JP (left in the front photo), presented a certificate of appreciation to ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS at the Construction Industry Safety Award Scheme. Chairman Tsang (rear photo) also presented certificates and trophies to the scheme winners.

During the year, the Labour Department and the Occupational Safety and Health Council co-organised **The Catering Industry Safety Promotion Campaign 2022/23** with the Board and various catering industry groups, aiming to strengthen the awareness of catering industry employers, employees, industry professionals and the public of workplace safety and health. Activities included the “Catering Industry Safety Video Competition” and the “Catering Industry Safety Quiz Competition”.

Visit to Noisy Workplaces

In order to understand in person the daily operations of noisy workplaces and hearing protection measures, the Board Chairman and some members visited the construction site of China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) Limited and its command centre located at Pak Shing Kok Road in Tseung Kwan O on 19 October 2022 (The project was “Design and Construction of Chinese Medicine Hospital & Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute in Tseung Kwan O”) and inspected the audiometric screening service provided to workers. Board delegates learned about the construction company's excellent occupational safety and health management measures and their noise prevention and control process. Afterwards they also inspected the mobile audiometric screening service provided by the Board for their workers onsite.



Assistant Project Director of China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) Mr So Ka-ki (7th from left) warmly welcomed ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS (middle) and a group of Board delegates, including ODCB Director of Operations Mr Alfred Chan (5th from left), Employers' Representative Ms Eliza Wong (6th from left), Employees' Representative Ms Elsie Liu (7th from right), Labour Officer of Labour Department Ms Flora Tang (6th from right), ODCB Employees' Representative Ms Apple Lam (5th from right), Assistant Labour Officer I of Labour Department Ms Cherrie Lau (4th from right) and ODCB Executive Director Ms Erica Ng (3rd from right).



At the outer area of the construction site, ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS (6th from left) and Board delegates learned from the management team of China State Construction Engineering (Hong Kong) about their various safety measures of the work site.



ODCB delegates explained to the project managers and workers the Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme and the proper measures of hearing conservation.



ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS (middle) and delegates inspected the mobile audiometric screening service rendered to workers by the Board.

Mobile Audiometric Screening Service

The mobile audiometric screening service has been well received by workers and administrators engaged in noisy occupations. Workers can undergo hearing assessments at work or designated places nearby thus saving their transportation expenses and time. This service aims at providing workers engaged in noisy occupations with onsite complimentary hearing health assessment services, including brief medical record inquiry, ear canal examination, pure tone audiometric screening and result analysis. Should there be hearing problems with the examined workers, the audiologist will provide assistance and recommendations to them immediately.



The Board arranged **12** sessions of full-day mobile audiometric screening service in the year, providing preliminary and complimentary hearing assessments for about 460 workers. Locations of noisy worksites being visited covered Tseung Kwan O, Kai Tak, Tuen Mun, Lung Kwu Tan, Kwu Tung and Fanling.



The mobile audiometric screening service greatly saved workers' transportation expenses and time if they needed to go to specific locations to undergo hearing assessments.

Publicity in the Mass Media

In order to effectively reach out to the public, the Board actively used a number of different mass media channels to publicise the compensation scheme and messages of hearing protection, including advertising on major local television and radio stations. In addition, to allow commuters know about the Board, we also carried out various publicity campaigns in the public transportation system, including posting posters on buses, minibuses and MTR stations, as well as posting promotional materials and broadcasting the TV advertisements in MTR cars. Moreover, we also displayed electronic promotional banners and TV promotional videos on selected website and mobile apps.



Workplace Safety Talks and Other Reinforcing Publicity

During the year, the Board continued to distribute promotional materials to certain major construction contractors and construction sites in Hong Kong, supporting them in arranging various safety induction and training courses for over 2 300 construction workers.

In addition, we also strengthened street banner publicity of “Protect Hearing for Noisy Occupations” in various districts to reach out to and raise the awareness of hearing protection among daily commuters through street publicity. In the year, the Board displayed banners at designated locations in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories, including Central and Western District, Wan Chai, Island East, Southern District, Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong, Sham Shui Po, Kwai Tsing, Tsuen Wan, Sha Tin, Tai Po, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long and North District, allowing propaganda of hearing protection covered more areas where citizens commute to and from work.



Sponsorship Scheme for Labour Group Activities

As the epidemic eased and the government lifted most of the epidemic prevention measures and restrictions on gatherings by the end of 2022, during the year the Board sponsored a total of 27 activities for members of labour groups to promote the message of hearing protection, contacting about 3 850 workers and event participants.

| | 獲贊助的勞工團體 | Labour Groups Sponsored |
|----|----------------|--|
| 1 | 漁農自然護理署職工會 | Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department Staff Association |
| 2 | 屋宇署非公務員合約僱員工會 | Buildings Department Non-Civil Service Contract Staff Association |
| 3 | 政府機電工程署技術人員工會 | Government Electrical & Mechanical Services Department Technical Staff Union |
| 4 | 政府產業看管人員協會 | Government Property Attendants Association |
| 5 | 港燈電力投資公司職工會 | HK Electric Investments Limited Employees Union |
| 6 | 香港空運貨站職工會 | Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Employees Union |
| 7 | 香港機場餐飲業僱員工會 | Hong Kong Airport Catering Employees Union |
| 8 | 香港機場地勤服務職工會 | Hong Kong Airport Ramp Services Employees Union |
| 9 | 香港叉式剷車專業人員協會 | Hong Kong Fork-lift Trucks Professionals Association |
| 10 | 香港房屋署人員總會 | Hong Kong Housing Department Employees General Union |
| 11 | 香港康樂及文化事務署僱員總會 | Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department Employees General Union |
| 12 | 香港製造業總工會 | Hong Kong Manufacturing Industry Employees General Union |
| 13 | 香港鐵路員工總會 | Hong Kong Mass Transit Railway Staff General Association |
| 14 | 香港五金電子科技業總工會 | Hong Kong Metal and Electronics Industries General Union |
| 15 | 香港郵政合約僱員工會 | Hong Kong Post Contract Staff Union |
| 16 | 香港郵務職工會 | Hong Kong Postal Workers Union |
| 17 | 香港公共醫療員工協會 | Hong Kong Public Medical Staff Association |
| 18 | 香港鐵路職員工會 | Hong Kong Railway Employees Union |
| 19 | 香港鐵道從業員總工會 | Hong Kong Railway Industry Union |
| 20 | 香港鐵路專業人員工會 | Hong Kong Railway Professionals Union |
| 21 | 香港鐵路總工會 | Hong Kong Railway Workers General Union |
| 22 | 香港倉庫運輸物流員工協會 | Hong Kong Storehouses, Transportation & Logistics Staff Association |
| 23 | 香港工會發展及服務中心 | Hong Kong Trade Union Development and Service Centre |
| 24 | 香港大學職員協會 | The University of Hong Kong Staff Association |
| 25 | 水務督察會 | The Waterworks Inspectors' Association |
| 26 | 交通事業從業員協會 | Traffic Services Employees Association |
| 27 | 香港初級公務員協會 | Union of Hong Kong Junior Civil Servants |

In addition, the Board had added a "Protect Hearing for Noisy Worksite" sponsorship programme in the year to sponsor employee groups in noisy industries to hold larger publicity activities on worksite to promote the message of hearing protection to fellow workers. Under this sponsorship scheme, the Board sponsored two worksite promotion activities to deliver important hearing conservation messages to around 4 500 concrete industry drivers and production plant workers.

| | 獲贊助的職工團體 | Employee Groups Sponsored |
|---|-----------|--|
| 1 | 混凝土業職工會 | Concrete Industry Workers Union |
| 2 | 香港泥頭車司機協會 | Hong Kong Dumper Truck Drivers Association |



Labour unions conducted special talks during outing activities to explain to participants how to protect their hearing.



Sponsored employee groups distributed promotional materials to truck drivers.

REPORT ON REHABILITATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMMES

Empowered by the Ordinance, the Board is responsible for conducting and financing rehabilitation programmes for OD persons. Such programmes include aural rehabilitation, social rehabilitation, case counselling service and vocational rehabilitation activities on demand. All activities are organised under the name of ODRN, a set-up formed by the Board and its partnering organisations.

The objective of these rehabilitation programmes is to help OD persons overcome the difficulties caused by hearing impairment by participating in a series of cultural, recreational, small-group and volunteer activities, so that they can have their lives enriched, physical and mental vitality enhanced and self-confidence and motivation regained to communicate with members in the family and social groups thereby enabling them to reintegrate into the community and enjoy a quality life.

Aural Rehabilitation Programmes

The objective of aural rehabilitation is to help OD persons overcome the hearing impairment through the provision of suitable HAD and development of effective communication skills. In the year, we recorded a total of 514 visits to the ODCB Audiology Room where personalised aural rehabilitation assessment and tinnitus counselling services were rendered by the Board's audiologist.



In the year under review, Hong Kong society gradually returned to normal after the rigorous epidemic. During the period, the Board organised a total of 11 professional seminars providing hearing aid pre-fitting information to nearly 380 newly compensated OD persons, aiming to introduce the HAD Financial Assistance Scheme, hearing aid fitting and follow-up procedures, and the hearing aid and tinnitus masker trial scheme. The Board audiologist provided tips on how to choose the right hearing aid and explained the application and related procedures in details.

In addition, many elderly who were solitary, bedridden, institutions-based, or with limited mobility were approached through the assistance of our ODRN partners. The Board arranged these cases with individual consultation services and HAD aids checkups, then found out substantial deterioration in their hearing and many potential problems on their HAD which further hindered their daily communications. The Board audiologist recommended professional solutions according to their needs, and used the opportunity to guide them the effective ways to express and listen; also provided self-confidence training and hands-on practice opportunities for those who had just purchased hearing aids to improve their communication capabilities.



Hearing Aid and Tinnitus Masker Trial Scheme

The hearing aid trial scheme was designed to help those OD persons who have reservation about using hearing aids; while for OD persons who suffered from discomfort caused by tinnitus, the Board continued to launch the trial scheme of various tinnitus maskers. Under the trial scheme, participants could try out behind-the-ear hearing aids, desktop or ear-level tinnitus maskers and sound pillow free of charge for a period of one month. Prior to the trial, the OD persons would be interviewed, followed by an in-depth discussion on the feasibility of individualised management approaches recommended by the audiologist. The Board hopes to make use of such trial scheme to serve as a platform where participants could develop realistic expectations on hearing aids and tinnitus maskers. In the long run, it aims to raise the practical utilisation and users' satisfaction of the trial scheme.

Social Rehabilitation Programmes

To help OD persons face the problem led by hearing impairment, ODRN organised 561 social rehabilitation activities in 2022/23 with the aim of broadening their social circle and increasing their interest and skills to communicate with other people. ODRN staff members always tried their best to reach out to all OD persons through different channels, hoping to provide them with appropriate and timely assistance.

Given that the epidemic was mitigated in the middle of the year, the Board adjusted the content of our plans of the annual rehabilitation service after the relaxation of social distancing measures. During the year, we recorded nearly 4 300 participations including OD persons and their accompanying caregivers. On the other hand, we arranged more caring follow-up services in 2022/23 including approximately 5 300 caring calls and 360 care visits in the hope of providing timely assistance to those in need. ODRN also arranged 17 sessions of volunteer service and caring ambassador activities such as extending care to those in need during festivals, as well as visiting the elderly living alone and children's families.



環保大使
Environmental Protection
Ambassadors

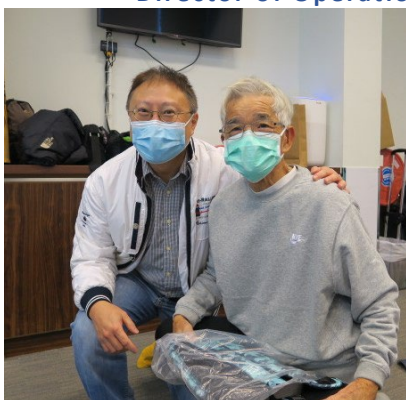


農曆新年花燈送贈活動
Chinese New Year's Lantern
Giveaway Programme



後排：管理局主席曾浩輝醫生，銅紫荊星章(左六)及一眾委員親善探訪「職聰復康網絡」的活動，關懷長者會友的近況。管理局參加者包括勞工處一級助理勞工事務主任劉靜敏女士(右八)、勞工處高級勞工事務主任黃麗香女士(右九)、僱員代表林凱儀女士(右十)及管理局營運監督陳英偉先生(左五)

Back row: ODCB Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang, BBS (6th from left) and a group of members warmly visited an ODRN activity and expressed their care for the elderly members. Board participants included Assistant Labour Officer I of Labour Department Ms Cherrie Lau (8th from right), Senior Labour Officer of Labour Department Ms Christina Wong (9th from right), Employees' Representative Ms Apple Lam (10th from right), and ODCB Director of Operations Mr Alfred Chan (5th from left).



主席曾浩輝醫生及委員林凱儀女士探訪活動後送贈紀念品給參與者
Chairman Dr Thomas Tsang and member Ms Apple Lam visited and presented souvenirs to participants at the activity.



復康服務委員會成員參與心靈綠洲農莊收成義工活動，準備隨後送贈蔬果予有需要人士。管理局參與者包括管理局營運監督陳英偉先生(右一)、委員會主席及僱主代表張瑞祺女士(右二)、僱員代表廖保珠女士(右三)、僱員代表林凱儀女士(右四)、勞工處高級勞工事務主任黃麗香女士(右五)、勞工處勞工事務主任薛婷女士(左五)及管理局行政總監吳惠英女士(左四)。

Members of the Rehabilitation Services Committee participated in the Oasis Farm harvest volunteer event and prepared to give away fruits and vegetables to those in need. Board participants included ODCB Director of Operations Mr Alfred Chan (1st from right), Committee Chairperson and Employer Representative Ms Debbie Cheung (2nd from right), Employee Representative Ms Elsie Liu (3rd from right), Employee Representative Ms Apple Lam (4th from right), Senior Labour Officer of Labour Department Ms Christina Wong (5th from right), Labour Officer of Labour Department Ms Charlotte Sit (5th from left) and ODCB Executive Director Ms Erica Ng (4th from left).



前排:復康服務委員會主席及僱主代表張瑞祺女士(左四)、僱員代表林凱儀女士(中)、勞工處高級勞工事務主任黃麗香女士(右四)及僱員代表廖保珠女士(右三)與活動參與者樂聚一堂，共享收成。

Front row: Rehabilitation Service Committee Chairperson and Employer Representative Ms Debbie Cheung (4th from left), Employee Representative Ms Apple Lam (middle), Senior Labour Officer of Labour Department Ms Christina Wong (4th from right), and Employee Representative Ms Elsie Liu (3rd from right) shared the joy and harvests with activity participants.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD**
(Established under the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance)

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Occupational Deafness Compensation Board (the "Board") set out on pages 35 to 62, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2023 and the income and expenditure account, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Board as at 31 March 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA").

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSA") issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Board in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the "Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Information other than the financial statements and auditor's report thereon

The members of the Board is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD**
(Established under the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance)

(Continued)

Responsibilities of the members of the Board for the financial statements

The members of the Board are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and for such internal control as the members of the Board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the members of the Board are responsible for assessing the Board's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the members of the Board either intend to liquidate the Board or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The members of the Board are responsible for overseeing the Board's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. This report is made solely to you, as a body, for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility towards or accept liability to any other person for the contents of this report.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSAAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Board's internal control.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD**
(Established under the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance)

(Continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (Continued)

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the members of the Board.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Board's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Board to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the members of the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Crowe (HK) CPA Limited
Certified Public Accountants
Hong Kong, 20 October 2023

Lo Charbon
Practising Certificate Number P06029

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

| | <u>Note</u> | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Distribution from Employees' Compensation Insurance Levies Management Board | 4 | 52,608,292 | 50,127,888 |
| Government payments | 5 | 2,928,838 | 2,860,956 |
| Service fee income | | 780,000 | 640,000 |
| Interest income | | 14,779,423 | 1,875,175 |
| Dividend income | | 69,380 | 61,993 |
| | | 71,165,933 | 55,566,012 |
| OTHER NET LOSSES | | | |
| Fair value change of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | | (74,933) | (314,044) |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Occupational deafness compensation | 6 | 49,258,499 | 54,510,365 |
| Hearing assistive devices' financial assistance expenses | 7 | 5,809,929 | 6,566,827 |
| Hearing assessment expenses | | 2,452,851 | 2,061,410 |
| Promotional and publicity programmes | | 4,666,274 | 4,095,229 |
| Rehabilitation programmes | | 4,845,774 | 1,210,778 |
| Administrative expenses | 8 | 17,893,867 | 13,512,412 |
| Rent, rates and management fee | | 261,040 | 250,354 |
| | | <u>(85,188,234)</u> | <u>(82,207,375)</u> |
| DEFICIT FROM OPERATIONS | | (14,097,234) | (26,955,407) |
| FINANCE COST | | | |
| Interest element of lease rentals | | <u>(1,497)</u> | <u>(1,512)</u> |
| DEFICIT AND TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR | | <u><u>(14,098,731)</u></u> | <u><u>(26,956,919)</u></u> |

The notes on pages 39 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

| | <u>Note</u> | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|--|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 9 | 39,285,234 | 44,533,130 |
| Intangible assets | 10 | 49,664 | 61,667 |
| | | 39,334,898 | 44,594,797 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 11 | 1,631,144 | 1,645,965 |
| Prepayment and deposits | | 83,904 | 64,504 |
| Interest receivable | | 3,102,764 | 338,329 |
| Time deposits with original maturities over three months | | 561,800,000 | 569,300,000 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 12 | 15,397,615 | 16,658,026 |
| | | 582,015,427 | 588,006,824 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Accrued charges | | 4,319,826 | 1,543,165 |
| Lease liabilities | 13 | 70,753 | 23,879 |
| | | 4,390,579 | 1,567,044 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>577,624,848</u> | <u>586,439,780</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES | | 616,959,746 | 631,034,577 |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITY | | | |
| Lease liabilities | 13 | 23,900 | - |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>616,935,846</u> | <u>631,034,577</u> |
| RETAINED SURPLUS | | <u>616,935,846</u> | <u>631,034,577</u> |

Approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 20 October 2023.

On behalf of the Board

Dr. Tsang Ho-fai, Thomas
Chairman

The notes on pages 39 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

| | Retained <u>surplus</u> HK\$ |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Balance as at 1 April 2021 | 657,991,496 |
| Deficit and total comprehensive expenditure for the year | <u>(26,956,919)</u> |
| Balance as at 31 March 2022 and 1 April 2022 | 631,034,577 |
| Deficit and total comprehensive expenditure for the year | <u>(14,098,731)</u> |
| Balance as at 31 March 2023 | <u><u>616,935,846</u></u> |

The notes on pages 39 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

| | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Deficit for the year | (14,098,731) | (26,956,919) |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Interest income | (14,779,423) | (1,875,175) |
| Fair value change of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | 74,933 | 314,044 |
| Depreciation charge | 5,422,721 | 1,173,025 |
| Finance cost | 1,497 | 1,512 |
| Amortisation | <u>63,998</u> | <u>68,333</u> |
| | (23,315,005) | (27,275,180) |
| Changes in working capital | | |
| Increase in prepayments and deposits | (19,400) | - |
| Increase/(decrease) in accrued charges | <u>2,776,661</u> | <u>(1,034,271)</u> |
| CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES | (20,557,744) | (28,309,451) |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Decrease in time deposits with original maturities over three months | 7,500,000 | 32,700,000 |
| Interest received | 12,014,988 | 1,957,452 |
| Payment for the purchase of property, plant and equipment | (33,365) | (155,358) |
| Payment for the purchase of intangible assets | (51,995) | (45,000) |
| Payment for the purchase of financial assets at fair value through profit or loss | <u>(60,112)</u> | <u>(1,960,009)</u> |
| NET CASH GENERATED FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES | 19,369,516 | 32,497,085 |
| FINANCING ACTIVITIES | | |
| Capital element of lease rentals paid | (70,686) | (70,488) |
| Interest element of lease rentals paid | <u>(1,497)</u> | <u>(1,512)</u> |
| NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES | <u>(72,183)</u> | <u>(72,000)</u> |
| (DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | (1,260,411) | 4,115,634 |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT BEGINNING OF YEAR | <u>16,658,026</u> | <u>12,542,392</u> |
| CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR | <u><u>15,397,615</u></u> | <u><u>16,658,026</u></u> |

The notes on pages 39 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. CORPORATE STATUS

The Occupational Deafness Compensation Board (the “Board”) is incorporated by virtue of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance (the “Ordinance”) to hold the Occupational Deafness Compensation Fund upon trust and to manage and administer the fund. The registered office and place of operation of the Board is situated at Office A-B, 15/F., Billion Plaza II, 10 Cheung Yue Street, Cheung Sha Wan, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with all applicable Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”), which collective term includes all applicable individual Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards, Hong Kong Accounting Standards (“HKASs”) and Interpretations issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”), and accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong. Significant accounting policies adopted by the Board are disclosed below.

The HKICPA has issued certain new and revised HKFRSs which are first effective or available for early adoption for the current accounting period of the Board. Note 3 provides information on any changes in accounting policies resulting from initial application of these developments to the extent that they are relevant to the Board for the current and prior accounting periods reflected in these financial statements.

b) Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The measurement basis used in the preparation of the financial statements is the historical cost basis except that the financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are stated at their fair value explained in the accounting policies set out in note 2(f).

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRSs requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgments about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgments made by management in the application of HKFRSs that have significant effect on the financial statements and major sources of estimation uncertainty are discussed in note 17.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

c) Property, plant and equipment

The following items of property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see note 2(g)(ii)).

- right-of-use assets arising from leases over leasehold properties where the Board is not the registered owner of the property interest; and
- items of plant and equipment including right-of-use assets arising from leases of underlying plant and equipment (see note 2(e)).

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost of items of property, plant and equipment, less their estimated residual values, if any, using the straight line method over their estimated useful lives as follows:

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Leasehold land and buildings lease and 50 years | shorter of the unexpired term of |
| IT and AV equipment | 3 years |
| Rehabilitation service equipment | 3 years |
| Furniture and fixtures | 5 years |
| Office equipment | 5 years |
| Right of use assets | over the unexpired term of lease |

Where parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, the cost of the item is allocated on a reasonable basis between the parts and each part is depreciated separately. Both the useful life of an asset and its residual value, if any, are reviewed annually.

Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Board and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of any component accounted for as a separate asset is derecognised when replaced. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income and expenditure account during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Gains or losses arising from the retirement or disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the net proceeds on disposal and the carrying amount of the item and are recognised in income and expenditure account on the date of retirement or disposal.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

d) Intangible assets (other than goodwill)

Intangible assets acquired separately

Intangible assets with finite useful lives that are acquired separately are carried at costs less accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses. Amortisation of intangible assets with finite useful lives is recognised in income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives. The estimated useful life and amortisation method are reviewed at the end of each reporting period, with the effect of any changes in estimate being accounted for on a prospective basis.

The following intangible assets with finite useful lives are amortised from the date they are available for use and their estimated useful lives are as follows:

- System development and modification 3 years

Derecognition of intangible assets

An intangible asset is derecognised on disposal, or when no future economic benefits are expected from use or disposal. Gains and losses arising from derecognition of an intangible asset, measured as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset, are recognised in income and expenditure account when the asset is derecognised.

e) Leased assets

At inception of a contract, the Board assesses whether the contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration. Control is conveyed where the customer has both the right to direct the use of the identified asset and to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from that use.

As a lessee

Where the contract contains lease component(s) and non-lease component(s), the Board has elected not to separate non-lease components and accounts for each lease component and any associated non-lease components as a single lease component for all leases.

At the lease commencement date, the Board recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability, except for short-term leases that have a lease term of 12 months or less. The lease payments associated with those leases which are not capitalised are recognised as an expense on a systematic basis over the lease term.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

e) Leased assets (Continued)

As a lessee (Continued)

Where the lease is capitalised, the lease liability is initially recognised at the present value of the lease payments payable over the lease term, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, using a relevant incremental borrowing rate. After initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost and interest expense is calculated using the effective interest method. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or rate are not included in the measurement of the lease liability and hence are charged to income and expenditure account in the accounting period in which they are incurred.

The right-of-use asset recognised when a lease is capitalised is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability plus any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, and any initial direct costs incurred. Where applicable, the cost of the right-of-use assets also includes an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located, discounted to their present value, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is subsequently stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses (see notes 2(c) and 2(g)(ii)).

The initial fair value of refundable rental deposits is accounted for separately from the right-of-use assets in accordance with the accounting policy applicable to investments in debt securities carried at amortised cost. Any difference between the initial fair value and the nominal value of the deposits is accounted for as additional lease payments made and is included in the cost of right-of-use assets.

The lease liability is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in an index or rate, or there is a change in the Board's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee, or there is a change arising from the reassessment of whether the Board will be reasonably certain to exercise a purchase, extension or termination option. When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in income and expenditure account if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

The lease liability is also remeasured when there is a change in the scope of a lease or the consideration for a lease that is not originally provided for in the lease contract ("lease modification") that is not accounted for as a separate lease. In this case the lease liability is remeasured based on the revised lease payments and lease term using a revised discount rate at the effective date of the modification. The only exceptions are rent concessions that occurred as a direct consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic and met the conditions set out in paragraph 46B of HKFRS 16 Leases. In such cases, the Board took advantage of the practical expedient not to assess whether the rent concessions are lease modifications, and recognised the change in consideration as negative variable lease payments in income and expenditure account in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the rent concessions occurred.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

e) Leased assets (Continued)

As a lessee (Continued)

In the statement of financial position, the current portion of long-term lease liabilities is determined as the present value of contractual payments that are due to be settled within twelve months after the reporting period.

The Board presents right-of-use assets in “property, plant and equipment” and presents lease liabilities separately in the statement of financial position.

f) Other investments in equity securities

The Board’s policies for investments in equity securities are as follows:

Investments in equity securities are recognised / derecognised on the date the Board commits to purchase / sell the investment. The investments are initially stated at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs, except for those investment measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVPL) for which transaction costs are recognised directly in income and expenditure account. For an explanation of how the Board determines fair value of financial instruments, see note 15(d). These investments are subsequently accounted for as follows, depending on their classification.

Equity investments

An investment in equity securities is classified as fair value through profit or loss (FVPL) unless the equity investment is not held for trading purposes and on initial recognition of the investment the Board makes an irrevocable election to designate the investment at fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) (non-recycling) such that subsequent changes in fair value are recognised in other comprehensive income. Such elections are made on an instrument-by-instrument basis, but may only be made if the investment meets the definition of equity from the issuer’s perspective. Where such an election is made, the amount accumulated in other comprehensive income remains in the fair value reserve (non-recycling) until the investment is disposed of. At the time of disposal, the amount accumulated in the fair value reserve (non-recycling) is transferred to retained surplus. It is not recycled through income and expenditure account. Dividends from an investment in equity securities, irrespective of whether classified as at FVPL or FVOCI, are recognised in income and expenditure account as other income in accordance with the policy set out in note 2(m)(v).

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

g) Credit losses and impairment of assets

i) Credit losses from financial instruments

The Board recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses (ECLs) on the financial assets measured at amortised cost (including cash and cash equivalents, time deposits with original maturities over three months and other receivables).

Other financial assets measured at fair value including equity securities measured at FVPL are not subject to the ECL assessment.

Measurement of ECLs

ECLs are a probability-weighted estimate of credit losses. Credit losses are measured as the present value of all expected cash shortfalls (i.e. the difference between the cash flows due to the Board in accordance with the contract and the cash flows that the Board expects to receive).

The expected cash shortfalls are discounted using the following discount rates where the effect of discounting is material:

- fixed-rate financial assets and other receivables: effective interest rate determined at initial recognition or an approximation thereof;
- variable-rate financial assets: current effective interest rate.

The maximum period considered when estimating ECLs is the maximum contractual period over which the Board is exposed to credit risk.

In measuring ECLs, the Board takes into account reasonable and supportable information that is available without undue cost or effort. This includes information about past events, current conditions and forecasts of future economic conditions.

ECLs are measured on either of the following bases:

- 12-month ECLs: these are losses that are expected to result from possible default events within the 12 months after the reporting date; and
- lifetime ECLs: these are losses that are expected to result from all possible default events over the expected lives of the items to which the ECL model applies.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

g) Credit losses and impairment of assets (Continued)

i) Credit losses from financial instruments (Continued)

Measurement of ECLs (Continued)

Loss allowances for account receivables are always measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs. ECLs on these financial assets are estimated using a provision matrix based on the Board's historical credit loss experience, adjusted for factors that are specific to the debtors and an assessment of both the current and forecast general economic conditions at the reporting date.

For all other financial instruments, the Board recognises a loss allowance equal to 12-month ECLs unless there has been a significant increase in credit risk of the financial instrument since initial recognition, in which case the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to lifetime ECLs.

Significant increases in credit risk

In assessing whether the credit risk of a financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition, the Board compares the risk of default occurring on the financial instrument assessed at the reporting date with that assessed at the date of initial recognition. In making this reassessment, the Board considers that a default event occurs when (i) the borrower is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Board in full, without recourse by the Board to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or (ii) the financial asset is 90 days past due. The Board considers both quantitative and qualitative information that is reasonable and supportable, including historical experience and forward-looking information that is available without undue cost or effort.

In particular, the following information is taken into account when assessing whether credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition:

- failure to make payments of principal or interest on their contractually due dates;
- an actual or expected significant deterioration in a financial instrument's external or internal credit rating (if available);
- an actual or expected significant deterioration in the operating results of the debtor; and
- existing or forecast changes in the technological, market, economic or legal environment that have a significant adverse effect on the debtor's ability to meet its obligation to the Board.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

g) Credit losses and impairment of assets (Continued)

i) Credit losses from financial instruments (Continued)

Significant increases in credit risk (Continued)

Depending on the nature of the financial instruments, the assessment of a significant increase in credit risk is performed on either an individual basis or a collective basis. When the assessment is performed on a collective basis, the financial instruments are grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics, such as past due status and credit risk ratings.

ECLs are remeasured at each reporting date to reflect changes in the financial instrument's credit risk since initial recognition. Any change in the ECL amount is recognised as an impairment gain or loss in income and expenditure account. The Board recognises an impairment gain or loss for all financial instruments with a corresponding adjustment to their carrying amount through a loss allowance account.

Basis of calculation of interest income

Interest income recognised in accordance with note 2(m)(iv) is calculated based on the gross carrying amount of the financial asset unless the financial asset is credit-impaired, in which case interest income is calculated based on the amortised cost (i.e. the gross carrying amount less loss allowance) of the financial asset.

At each reporting date, the Board assesses whether a financial asset is credit-impaired. A financial asset is credit-impaired when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset have occurred.

Evidence that a financial asset is credit-impaired includes the following observable events:

- significant financial difficulties of the debtor;
- a breach of contract, such as a default or past due event;
- it becoming probable that the borrower will enter into bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation;
- significant changes in the technological, market, economic or legal environment that have an adverse effect on the debtor; or
- the disappearance of an active market for a security because of financial difficulties of the issuer.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

g) Credit losses and impairment of assets (Continued)

i) Credit losses from financial instruments (Continued)

Write-off policy

The gross carrying amount of a financial asset is written off (either partially or in full) to the extent that there is no realistic prospect of recovery. This is generally the case when the Board determines that the debtor does not have assets or sources of income that could generate sufficient cash flows to repay the amounts subject to the write-off.

Subsequent recoveries of an asset that was previously written off are recognised as a reversal of impairment in income and expenditure account in the period in which the recovery occurs.

ii) Impairment of non-financial assets

Internal and external sources of information are reviewed at the end of each reporting period to identify indications that the following assets may be impaired, an impairment loss previously recognised no longer exists or may have decreased:

- property, plant and equipment, including right-of-use assets; and
- intangible assets.

If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated.

- Calculation of recoverable amount

The recoverable amount of an asset is the greater of its fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. Where an asset does not generate cash inflows largely independent of those from other assets, the recoverable amount is determined for the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows independently (i.e. a cash-generating unit). A portion of the carrying amount of a corporate asset (for example, head office building) is allocated to an individual cash-generating unit if the allocation can be done on a reasonable and consistent basis, or to the smallest group of cash-generating units if otherwise.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

g) Credit losses and impairment of assets (Continued)

ii) Impairment of non-financial assets (Continued)

- Recognition of impairment losses

An impairment loss is recognised in income and expenditure account if the carrying amount of an asset, or the cash-generating unit to which it belongs, exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses recognised in respect of cash-generating units are allocated to reduce the carrying value of the assets in the unit (or group of units) on a pro rata basis, except that the carrying amount of an asset will not be reduced below its individual fair value less costs of disposal (if measurable) or value in use (if determinable).

- Reversals of impairment losses

An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a favourable change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount.

A reversal of an impairment loss is limited to the asset's carrying amount that would have been determined had no impairment loss been recognised in prior years. Reversals of impairment losses are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year in which the reversals are recognised.

h) Account and other receivables

A receivable is recognised when the Board has an unconditional right to receive consideration. A right to receive consideration is unconditional if only the passage of time is required before payment of that consideration is due.

Account receivables that do not contain a significant financing component are initially measured at their transaction prices. Account receivables that contain a significant financing component and other receivables are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs. All receivables are subsequently stated at amortised cost, using the effective interest method, less allowance for ECL (see note 2(g)(i)).

i) Accruals and other payables

Accruals and other payables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently stated at amortised cost unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at invoice amounts.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

j) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other financial institutions, and short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible into known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, having been within three months of maturity at acquisition. Cash and cash equivalents are assessed for expected credit losses (“ECL”) in accordance with the policy set out in note 2(g)(i).

k) Employee benefits

Salaries, annual bonuses, paid annual leave, defined contribution retirement plans and the cost of non-monetary benefits are accrued in the year in which the associated services are rendered by employees. Where payment or settlement is deferred and the effect would be material, these amounts are stated at their present values.

Contributions to the Mandatory Provident Funds as required under the Hong Kong Mandatory Provident Fund Schemes Ordinance are charged to the income and expenditure account when incurred.

l) Provisions and contingent liabilities

Provisions are recognised when the Board has a legal or constructive obligation arising as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made. Where the time value of money is material, provisions are stated at the present value of the expenditure expected to settle the obligation.

Where it is not probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required, or the amount cannot be estimated reliably, the obligation is disclosed as a contingent liability, unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote. Possible obligations, whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more future events are also disclosed as contingent liabilities unless the probability of outflow of economic benefits is remote.

Where some or all of the expenditure required to settle a provision is expected to be reimbursed by another party, a separate asset is recognised for any expected reimbursement that would be virtually certain. The amount recognised for the reimbursement is limited to the carrying amount of the provision.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

m) Revenue and other income

Income is classified by the Board as revenue when it arises from the provision of services in the ordinary course of the Board's business.

Revenue is recognised when service is transferred to the customer at the amount of promised consideration to which the Board is expected to be entitled, excluding those amounts collected on behalf of third parties.

Further details of the Board revenue and other income recognition policies are as follows:

i) Distribution from the Employees' Compensation Insurance Levies Management Board

Net resources received from the Employees' Compensation Insurance Levies Management Board is recognised as revenue in accordance with Section 7 of the Employees' Compensation Insurance Levies Ordinance.

ii) Government payments

Revenue from government payments is recognised in accordance with Section 7 of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance.

iii) Service fee income

Service fee income is recognised when the services are rendered.

iv) Interest income

Interest income is recognised as it accrues under the effective interest method using the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset. For financial assets measured at amortised cost that are not credit-impaired, the effective interest rate is applied to the gross carrying amount of the asset. For credit-impaired financial assets, the effective interest rate is applied to the amortised cost (i.e. gross carrying amount net of loss allowance) of the asset (see note 2(g)(i)).

v) Dividends

Dividend income from listed investments is recognised when the share price of the investment goes ex-dividend.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

3. APPLICATION OF AMENDMENTS TO HKFRSs

In the current year, the Board has applied the following amendments to HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA that are first effective for the current accounting period of the Board for the preparation of the financial statements:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Amendments to HKFRS 3 | Reference to the Conceptual Framework |
| Amendments to HKAS 16 | Property, Plant and Equipment - Proceeds before Intended Use |
| Amendments to HKAS 37 | Onerous Contracts - Cost of Fulfilling a Contract |
| Amendments to HKFRSs | Annual Improvements to HKFRSs 2018-2020 |

The application of the amendments to HKFRSs in the current year had no material impact on the Board's financial position and performance for the current and prior years and/or on the disclosures set out in these financial statements.

4. DISTRIBUTION FROM EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION INSURANCE LEVIES MANAGEMENT BOARD

In accordance with Section 7 of the Employees' Compensation Insurance Levies Ordinance, the Employees' Compensation Insurance Levies Management Board shall distribute a proportion of its net resources to the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board on a quarterly basis. The resources of the Employees' Compensation Insurance Levies Management Board mainly consist of a levy imposed on all employees' compensation insurance premiums.

The proportion of the net resources of the Employees' Compensation Insurance Levies Management Board to be distributed to the Occupational Deafness Compensation Board for the years ended 31 March 2022 and 2023 was 7/58.

The present rate of levy on employees' compensation insurance premiums is 5.8% on or after 1 July 2010.

5. GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS

In accordance with Section 7 of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance, the Government has to make payments to the Board in respect of the employees engaged in the civil service.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

6. OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION

In accordance with Section 14(1) of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance, a person who suffers noise-induced deafness is entitled to compensation if he/she satisfies the Board that he/she fulfils the conditions specified in Section 14(2). Moreover, Section 14A(1) provides that after a person has been awarded compensation on an application under Section 15, the person is entitled to further compensation for any additional permanent incapacity resulting from noise-induced deafness suffered if the Board is satisfied that the person fulfils the conditions specified in Section 14A(2). The term “noise-induced deafness” is defined in Section 2 of the Ordinance. Schedule 5 of the Ordinance sets out how the amount of compensation is to be determined.

7. HEARING ASSISTIVE DEVICES’ FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE EXPENSES

In accordance with Section 27B of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance, a person who fulfils the conditions specified in Section 27B(1) may apply to the Board for reimbursement of expenses he or she has reasonably incurred in the acquisition, fitting, repair or maintenance of a hearing assistive device in connection with his or her noise-induced deafness, or for payment by the Board directly to the device provider of such expenses he or she may reasonably incur. The term “hearing assistive device” is defined in Schedule 6 of the Ordinance. According to Schedule 7 of the Ordinance, the aggregate amount of reimbursement and direct payment of expenses shall not exceed HK\$83,830 per claimant on and after 15 April 2021, and shall not exceed HK\$98,060 per claimant on and after 13 April 2023.

Until 31 March 2023, the unused amount granted for the Hearing Assistive Devices’ Financial Assistance Scheme was approximately HK\$358,871,000 (2022: HK\$341,421,000).

8. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

| | <u>Note</u> | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Auditor’s remuneration | | | |
| - Audit services | | 70,500 | 67,500 |
| - Other services | | 2,090 | 2,740 |
| Depreciation charge | 9 | 5,422,721 | 1,173,025 |
| Amortisation | 10 | 63,998 | 68,333 |
| General administrative expenses | | 1,000,148 | 926,893 |
| Staff costs | | | |
| - Salaries and other benefits | | 10,656,692 | 10,564,627 |
| - Retirement benefit | | <u>677,718</u> | <u>709,294</u> |

17,893,867

13,512,412

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

| | Ownership interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use HK\$ | Other properties leased for own use HK\$ | IT and AV equipment HK\$ | Rehabilitation service equipment HK\$ | Furniture and fixtures HK\$ | Office equipment HK\$ | Total HK\$ |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| Cost | | | | | | | |
| At 1 April 2021 | 51,610,839 | 235,444 | 244,997 | 46,596 | 22,860 | 6,868 | 52,167,604 |
| Additions | - | - | 110,069 | - | 4,328 | 40,961 | 155,358 |
| At 31 March 2022 and 1 April 2022 | 51,610,839 | 235,444 | 355,066 | 46,596 | 27,188 | 47,829 | 52,322,962 |
| Additions | - | 141,460 | 30,667 | - | - | 2,698 | 174,825 |
| At 31 March 2023 | 51,610,839 | 376,904 | 385,733 | 46,596 | 27,188 | 50,527 | 52,497,787 |
| Accumulated depreciation | | | | | | | |
| At 1 April 2021 | 6,193,302 | 141,642 | 222,061 | 46,596 | 11,058 | 2,148 | 6,616,807 |
| Charge for the year | 1,032,217 | 70,351 | 55,453 | - | 5,438 | 9,566 | 1,173,025 |
| At 31 March 2022 and 1 April 2022 | 7,225,519 | 211,993 | 277,514 | 46,596 | 16,496 | 11,714 | 7,789,832 |
| Charge for the year | 5,286,201 | 70,706 | 51,084 | - | 4,105 | 10,625 | 5,422,721 |
| At 31 March 2023 | 12,511,720 | 282,699 | 328,598 | 46,596 | 20,601 | 22,339 | 13,212,553 |
| Carrying amounts | | | | | | | |
| At 31 March 2023 | 39,099,119 | 94,205 | 57,135 | - | 6,587 | 28,188 | 39,285,234 |
| At 31 March 2022 | 44,385,320 | 23,451 | 77,552 | - | 10,692 | 36,115 | 44,533,130 |

Right-of-use assets

The analysis of the net book value of right-of-use assets of underlying asset is as follows:

| | Note | 2023 HK\$ | 2022 HK\$ |
|--|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Ownership interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use, carried at depreciated cost in Hong Kong | (i) | 39,099,119 | 44,385,320 |
| Properties leased for own use, carried at depreciated cost in Hong Kong | (ii) | 94,205 | 23,451 |
| | | <u>39,193,324</u> | <u>44,408,771</u> |

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

9. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (Continued)

Right-of-use assets (Continued)

The analysis of expense items in relation to leases recognised in income and expenditure account is as follows:

| | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| Depreciation charge of right-of-use assets by class of underlying assets: | | |
| Ownership interests in leasehold land and buildings | 5,286,201 | 1,032,217 |
| Properties leased for own use | <u>70,706</u> | <u>70,351</u> |
| | <u>5,356,907</u> | <u>1,102,568</u> |
| Interest on lease liabilities | <u>1,497</u> | <u>1,512</u> |

Note:

During the year ended 31 March 2023, there were additions to right-of-use assets of HK\$141,460 primarily related to the capitalised lease payable in respect of the modification of lease under the renewal of tenancy agreement. There were no additions to right-of-use assets during the year ended 31 March 2022.

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities is set out in note 13.

i) Ownership interests in leasehold land and buildings held for own use

The Board holds commercial buildings for its business. The Board is the registered owner of these property interests, including the whole or part of undivided share in the underlying land. Lump sum payments were made upfront to acquire these property interests from their previous registered owners, and there are no ongoing payments to be made under the terms of the land lease, other than payments based on rateable values set by the relevant government authorities. These payments vary from time to time and are payable to the relevant government authorities.

ii) Properties leased for own use

The Board has obtained the right to use properties as its warehouses through tenancy agreements. The leases typically run for an initial period of 2 years. Lease payments remain unchanged.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

10. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

| | <u>System development and modification</u> HK\$ |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Cost | |
| At 1 April 2021 | 479,025 |
| Additions | <u>45,000</u> |
| At 31 March 2022 and 1 April 2022 | 524,025 |
| Additions | <u>51,995</u> |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>576,020</u> |
| Accumulated amortisation | |
| At 1 April 2021 | 394,025 |
| Charge for the year | <u>68,333</u> |
| At 31 March 2022 and 1 April 2022 | 462,358 |
| Charge for the year | <u>63,998</u> |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>526,356</u> |
| Carrying amounts | |
| At 31 March 2023 | <u>49,664</u> |
| At 31 March 2022 | <u>61,667</u> |

The amortisation charge for the year is included in “administrative expenses” in the income and expenditure account.

11. FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS

| | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Investments held for trading: | | |
| Equity securities listed in Hong Kong | <u>1,631,144</u> | <u>1,645,965</u> |

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

12. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND OTHER CASH FLOW INFORMATION

a) Cash and cash equivalents comprise:

| | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cash at banks and on hand | <u>15,397,615</u> | <u>16,658,026</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position and statement of cash flows | <u>15,397,615</u> | <u>16,658,026</u> |

Cash at banks earns interest at floating rate based on daily bank deposit rates.

b) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activity:

The table below details changes in the Board's liabilities from financing activities, including both cash and non-cash changes. Liabilities arising from financing activities are liabilities for which cash flows were, or future cash flows will be, classified in the Board's statement of cash flows as cash flows from financing activities.

| | <u>Lease liabilities</u> | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------------|
| | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
| At 1 April | 23,879 | 94,367 |
| Changes from financing cash flows: | | |
| Capital element of lease rentals paid | (70,686) | (70,488) |
| Interest element of lease rentals paid | (1,497) | (1,512) |
| | (72,183) | (72,000) |
| Other changes: | | |
| Modification of lease | 141,460 | - |
| Interest expenses | 1,497 | 1,512 |
| | <u>142,957</u> | <u>1,512</u> |
| At 31 March | <u>94,653</u> | <u>23,879</u> |

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

12. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND OTHER CASH FLOW INFORMATION (Continued)

c) Total cash outflow for leases:

Amounts included in the statement of cash flows for leases comprise the following:

| | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Within financing cash flows | <u>72,183</u> | <u>72,000</u> |

These amounts relate to the lease rentals.

13. LEASE LIABILITIES

At 31 March 2023, the lease liabilities were repayable as follows:

| | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Within 1 year | 70,753 | 23,879 |
| After 1 year but within 2 years | <u>23,900</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>94,653</u> | <u>23,879</u> |

14. TAXATION

The Board has been granted exemption from taxation under Section 88 of the Inland Revenue Ordinance.

15. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Board is exposed to financial risk through its financial instruments. Financial instruments consist of time deposits, interest receivable, cash and cash equivalents and accrued expenses. The most important components of this financial risk are credit risk and interest rate risk. The Board is also exposed to equity price risk arising from its equity investments in other entities.

a) Credit risk

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss to the Board. The Board's credit risk is primarily attributable to time deposits and cash and cash equivalents. The Board's exposure to credit risk arising from time deposits and cash and cash equivalents is limited because the counterparties are banks with high credit ratings assigned by international credit-rating agencies.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

15. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)

b) Interest rate risk

The Board's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relates primarily to the bank balances and time deposits. Interest income is charged to income and expenditure account as incurred.

The Board's interest rate profile as monitored is set out in (i) below.

i) Interest rate profile

| | <u>Effective interest rate</u> | <u>2023</u> HK\$ | <u>2022</u> HK\$ |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Time deposits, fixed rate | 3% to 5.4% (2022: 0.24% to 1%) | 561,800,000 | 569,300,000 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, variable rate | 0.001% (2022: 0.001%) | 15,397,615 | 16,658,026 |
| | | <u>577,197,615</u> | <u>585,958,026</u> |

ii) Sensitivity analysis

As at 31 March 2023, it is estimated that a general increase/decrease of 20 basis points in interest rates, with all other variables held constant, would decrease/increase the Board's deficit for the year and increase/decrease retained surplus by approximately HK\$30,795 (2022: HK\$33,316).

The sensitivity analyses above have been determined based on the exposure to interest rates at the end of the reporting period. The analysis is prepared assuming the variable rate financial instruments outstanding at the end of the reporting period were outstanding for the whole year. A 20 basis points increase or decrease in interest rates is used when reporting interest rate risk internally to key management personnel and represents management's assessment of the reasonably possible change in interest rates. The analysis is performed on the same basis for 2022.

c) Equity price risk

The Board is exposed to equity price changes arising from equity investments held for trading purposes. All of these investments are listed.

The Board's listed investments are listed on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong. Decisions to buy or sell trading securities are based on daily monitoring of the performance of individual securities compared to that of the index and other industry indicators, as well as the Board's liquidity needs. The portfolio is diversified in terms of industry distribution, in accordance with the limits set by the Board.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

15. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT AND FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (Continued)

d) Fair value measurement

The Board considers that the carrying amount of the Board's financial instruments carried at amortised cost are not materially different from their fair value because of the immediate or short term maturity of these financial instruments.

The following table provides an analysis of financial instruments that are measured at fair value at the end of the reporting period on a recurring basis, categorised into the three-level fair value hierarchy as defined in HKFRS 13, Fair value measurement. The level into which a fair value measurement is classified is determined with reference to the observability and significance of the inputs used in the valuation technique as follows:

- Level 1 fair value measurements are those derived from quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 fair value measurements are those derived from inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices).
- Level 3 fair value measurements are those derived from techniques that include inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement is categorised in its entirety is determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

| | 2023 | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | Level 1 HK\$ | Level 2 HK\$ | Level 3 HK\$ | Total HK\$ |
| Recurring fair value measurement | | | | |
| Held for trading - listed equity securities | 1,631,144 | - | - | 1,631,144 |
| | | | | |
| | 2022 | | | |
| | Level 1 HK\$ | Level 2 HK\$ | Level 3 HK\$ | Total HK\$ |
| Recurring fair value measurement | | | | |
| Held for trading - listed equity securities | 1,645,965 | - | - | 1,645,965 |

There were no transfers between instruments in Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 during the years 2022 and 2023.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

16. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Capital of the Board comprises retained surplus as shown in the statement of financial position.

The Board's primary objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the Board's ability to continue as a going concern and to enable the Board to meet its liabilities as they fall due for the foreseeable future.

The Board's capital structure is regularly reviewed and managed with due regard to the capital management practices of the Board.

17. ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the process of applying the Board's accounting policies which are described in note 2, management has made certain key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimated uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that may have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, as discussed below.

i) Estimated impairment of non-financial assets

Property, plant and equipments, right-of-use assets and intangible asset are stated at costs less accumulated depreciation and impairment, if any. In determining whether an asset is impaired, the Board has to exercise judgement and make estimation, particularly in assessing: (1) whether an event has occurred or any indicators that may affect the asset value; (2) whether the carrying value of an asset can be supported by the recoverable amount, in the case of value in use, the net present value of future cash flows which are estimated based upon the continued use of the asset; and (3) the appropriate key assumptions to be applied in estimating the recoverable amounts including cash flow projections and an appropriate discount rate. When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset including right-of-use assets, the Board estimates the recoverable amount of the smallest group of cash generating unit to which the assets belongs, including allocation of corporate assets when a reasonable and consistent basis of allocation can be established. Changing the assumptions and estimates, including the discount rate or the growth rate in the cash flow projections, could materially affect the recoverable amount.

**OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS COMPENSATION BOARD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

18. POSSIBLE IMPACT OF NEW STANDARDS, AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Up to the date of issue of these financial statements, the HKICPA has issued a number of amendments and a new standard which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 March 2023 and which have not been adopted in these financial statements.

The Board is in the process of making an assessment of what the impact of these amendments and new standard is expected to be in the period of initial application. So far the Board has concluded that the adoption of them is unlikely to have a significant impact on the financial statements in the foreseeable future.

Requirements and Compensation Calculation Methods under the Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme

OD is one of the most common occupational diseases detected in Hong Kong. It is caused by prolonged exposure to high level of noise at work, which results in the damage of the nerve cells of the inner ear. Once damaged or destroyed, these nerve cells will not recover. The resulting hearing impairment will be permanent and cannot be cured.

The Occupational Deafness Compensation Scheme provides for the payment of compensation to those employees who suffer from noise-induced hearing loss due to employment in specified noisy occupations. Applicants have to fulfil both the occupational and hearing loss requirements as stipulated by the Ordinance in order to be entitled to receiving compensation.

Occupational Requirements

To meet the occupational requirements, an applicant should have at least 10 years of employment in aggregate in any of the specified noisy occupations in Hong Kong or at least 5 years of employment in the case of 4 occupations that are particularly noisy. Specified noisy occupations refer to those occupations that are specified under the Ordinance, involving either noisy production processes or the use of noisy machinery. At present, 29 noisy occupations are specified, a full list of which is provided in the notes overleaf.

Moreover, an applicant has to be employed under a continuous contract of employment² in any specified noisy occupations in Hong Kong within the 12 months before making an application for compensation.



² An applicant is regarded as having been employed under a continuous contract of employment if he/she has been employed continuously by the same employer for 4 or more weeks and has worked for 18 hours or more in each of such weeks.

Notes: Noisy Occupations Specified under the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance

According to Schedule 3 of the Occupational Deafness (Compensation) Ordinance, a noisy occupation is one of the following noisy types. For the particularly noisy types 3, 10, 11 and 25, workers with a minimum of 5 years of employment can apply for compensation.

1. the use of power-driven grinding tools on metal or on billets of metal or blooms, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those tools whilst they are being so used;
2. the use of power-driven percussive tools on metal or on billets of metal or blooms, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those tools whilst they are being so used;
3. the use of power-driven grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussive tools on rocks, concrete or marble, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those tools whilst they are being so used;
4. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of plant (excluding power press plant) engaged in the forging (including drop stamping) of metal by means of closed or open dies or drop hammers;
5. work in textile manufacturing where the work is undertaken wholly or mainly in rooms or sheds in which there are machines engaged in weaving man-made or natural (including mineral) fibres or in the high speed false twisting of fibres;
6. the use of, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of, machines engaged in cutting, shaping or cleaning metal nails or screws;
7. the use of, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of, plasma spray guns engaged in the deposition of metal;
8. the use of, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of, any of the following machines: multi-cutter moulding machines, planing machines, automatic or semi-automatic lathes, multiple cross-cut machines, automatic shaping machines, double-end tenoning machines, vertical spindle moulding machines (including high-speed routing machines), edge banding machines, bandsawing machines with a blade width of not less than 75 mm and circular sawing machines;
9. the use of chain saws;
10. the use of, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of, machines engaged in percussive pile or metal plank driving on construction sites;
11. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of abrasive blasting operations;
12. the use of, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of, machines engaged in grinding of glass;
13. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of machines engaged in crushing or screening of rocks or stone aggregate;
14. the use of, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of, machines engaged in granulating of plastic materials;
15. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of machines or hand tools engaged in descaling of ships;
16. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of internal combustion engines or turbines or pressurised fuel burners or jet engines;

17. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of car body repair, or of making metal articles by manual hammering;
18. the use of, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of, machines engaged in extruding of plastic materials;
19. the use of paper corrugating machines, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those machines whilst they are being so used;
20. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of bleaching and dyeing of fabric involving machines using pressurised steam;
21. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of glass-bottling lines;
22. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of metal-can bottling lines;
23. the use of paper folding machines, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those machines whilst they are being so used;
24. the use of high speed web-fed offset printing machines, or work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of those machines whilst they are being so used;
25. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of gun-firing operation;
26. work wholly or mainly in the immediate vicinity of a place where the electric stunning of pigs for the purpose of slaughter takes place;
27. playing mahjong (as the major duty) inside a mahjong parlour licensed under section 22(1)(b) of the Gambling Ordinance (Cap. 148);
28. preparing or serving drinks (as the main duty) in the immediate vicinity of the dancing area of a discotheque; or
29. controlling or operating a system for playing back and broadcasting recorded music in a discotheque.

| |
|---|
| <p>Note: The occupations in grey shade are the 4 particularly noisy occupations. An applicant is only required to be engaged in these occupations in aggregate for 5 years, instead of 10 years, in order to fulfil the employment requirement.</p> |
|---|

Hearing Loss Requirements

Under the Ordinance, an applicant will be determined as suffering from OD if he/she has sensorineural hearing loss, as measured by audiometry averaged over the 1, 2 and 3 kHz frequencies, in the following manner:

- (A) Binaural hearing loss - sensorineural hearing loss amounting to not less than 40 dB in both ears, where such loss of at least one ear is due to noise; or
- (B) Monaural hearing loss - sensorineural hearing loss amounting to not less than 40 dB in only one ear, where such loss is due to noise.

Further Compensation

An applicant who has previously received compensation from the Board shall be entitled to apply for further compensation if he/she fulfils the following requirements:

Occupational Requirements

- Having at least 3 years of employment in aggregate in any specified noisy occupations in Hong Kong after the application date of his/her latest application for which compensation has been approved; and
- Having been employed under a continuous contract in a specified noisy occupation in Hong Kong within the 12 months prior to making the application for further compensation.

Additional Permanent Incapacity Requirements

- Confirmed by hearing test as suffering from noise-induced binaural or monaural hearing loss; and
- The percentage of permanent incapacity of the applicant as determined by the Board is greater than that of the latest application for which compensation has been approved.

Payment of Compensation

Under the Ordinance, the first-time compensation or further compensation is paid in a lump sum calculated with reference to the applicant's age, monthly earnings and percentage of permanent incapacity resulting from OD in the following way:

| Age of Applicant | Amount of Compensation | |
|------------------|------------------------|---|
| Under 40 | 96 months' earnings | Percentage of permanent incapacity (Compensation for the first time) <i>OR</i> Percentage of additional permanent incapacity (Further compensation) |
| 40 to under 56 | 72 months' earnings | |
| 56 or above | 48 months' earnings | |

For the purpose of calculating the amount of compensation, the average monthly earnings received by the applicant in his/her last 12 months' employment in specified noisy occupations in Hong Kong prior to the date of application shall be taken as his/her monthly earnings. If the applicant cannot provide documentary evidence on his/her earnings or the evidence provided by him/her is not accepted by the Board, the median monthly employment earnings of the total employed population of Hong Kong published by the Census and Statistics Department will be adopted for computing the compensation amount. Irrespective of which figure is used, the amount is subject to a maximum of HK\$35,600.

In accordance with the newly amended Ordinance, the applicant's monthly earnings have been raised to a maximum of HK\$36,550 from HK\$35,600 for calculating the compensation amount with effect from 13 April 2023.

The percentage of permanent incapacity is determined by the hearing loss suffered by the applicant in both ears. Under the Ordinance, it ranges from a minimum of 0.5% to a maximum of 60%.

最近 3 年之首次補償申請者所從事的高噪音工作類別

Type of Noisy Occupations Engaged (Compensation for the First Time) for the Most Recent 3 Years

| 噪音工作/Noisy Occupation (類別/Type)* | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | | 2022/23 | |
|---|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| | 數目 Number | (%) | 數目 Number | (%) | 數目 Number | (%) |
| 對石塊、混凝土或大理石使用機動研磨、開鑿、切割或衝擊工具 (3) Using power-driven grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussive tools on rocks, concrete or marble | 177 | 51.3 | 418 | 64.7 | 392 | 65.5 |
| 在內燃機、渦輪機、加壓燃料爐頭或噴射引擎的附近工作 (16) Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines | 87 | 25.2 | 130 | 20.1 | 106 | 17.7 |
| 對金屬或金屬坯段或鋼錠使用機動研磨工具 (1) Using power-driven grinding tools on metal or on billets of metal or blooms | 37 | 10.7 | 33 | 5.1 | 47 | 7.9 |
| 在建築工地內使用撞擊式打樁或板樁的機器 (10) Using machines engaged in percussive pile or metal plank driving on construction sites | 23 | 6.7 | 29 | 4.5 | 45 | 7.5 |
| 使用高速捲筒紙柯式印刷機 (24) Using high speed web-fed offset printing machines | 13 | 3.8 | 28 | 4.3 | 4 | 0.7 |
| 使用鑽板機、刨床機、圓鋸機或自動車床 (8) Using routing, planing, circular sawing machines or automatic lathes | 5 | 1.4 | 2 | 0.3 | 2 | 0.3 |
| 在車身修理或用人手錘鍊製作金屬製品的附近工作 (17) Working near car body repair, or of making metal articles by manual hammering | | | 3 | 0.4 | 1 | 0.2 |
| 在噴砂打磨作業的附近工作 (11) Working near abrasive blasting operations | | | | | 1 | 0.2 |
| 在紡織製造業工作 (5) Working in textile manufacturing with weaving machines | 1 | 0.3 | 1 | 0.2 | | |
| 使用紙張摺疊機 (23) Using paper folding machines | | | 1 | 0.2 | | |
| 使用機器或手提工具清理船舶外殼 (15) Using machines or hand tools engaged in descaling of ships | | | 1 | 0.2 | | |
| 對金屬或金屬坯段或鋼錠使用機動衝擊工具 (2) Using power-driven percussive tools on metal or on billets of metal or blooms | 1 | 0.3 | | | | |
| 在壓碎或篩選石塊或碎石料的機器的附近工作 (13) Working near machines engaged in crushing or screening of rocks or stone aggregate | 1 | 0.3 | | | | |
| 總數: Total: | 345 | 100.0 | 646 | 100.0 | 598 | 100.0 |

* 根據《條例》附表3下指定的高噪音工作類別 / According to the types of noisy occupations specified under Schedule 3 of the Ordinance

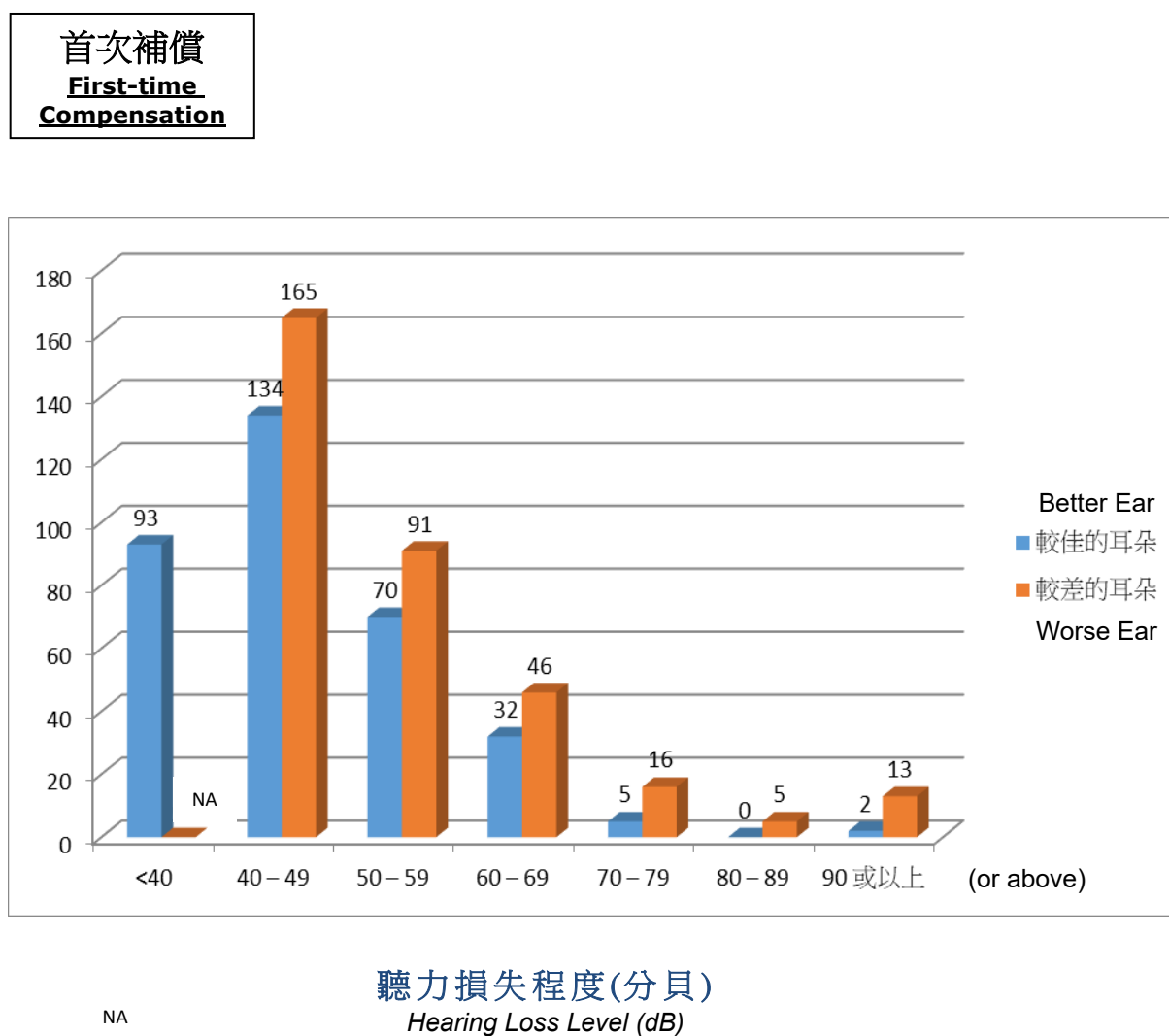
最近 3 年之再次補償申請者所從事的高噪音工作類別
Type of Noisy Occupations Engaged (Further Compensation) for the Most Recent 3 Years

| 噪音工作/Noisy Occupation (類別/Type)* | 2020/21 | | 2021/22 | | 2022/23 | |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 數目 Number | (%) | 數目 Number | (%) | 數目 Number | (%) |
| 對石塊、混凝土或大理石使用機動研磨、開鑿、切割或衝擊工具 (3) Using power-driven grinding, chiselling, cutting or percussive tools on rocks, concrete or marble | 30 | 35.7 | 56 | 44.4 | 82 | 61.2 |
| 在內燃機、渦輪機、加壓燃料爐頭或噴射引擎的附近工作 (16) Working near internal combustion engines, turbines, pressurised fuel burners or jet engines | 30 | 35.7 | 22 | 17.5 | 25 | 18.6 |
| 對金屬或金屬坯段或鋼錠使用機動研磨工具 (1) Using power-driven grinding tools on metal or on billets of metal or blooms | 16 | 19.0 | 31 | 24.6 | 16 | 11.9 |
| 在建築工地內使用撞擊式打樁或板樁的機器 (10) Using machines engaged in percussive pile or metal plank driving on construction sites | 2 | 2.4 | 7 | 5.5 | 7 | 5.2 |
| 使用鑽板機、刨床機、圓鋸機或自動車床 (8) Using routing, planing, circular sawing machines or automatic lathes | 3 | 3.6 | 3 | 2.4 | 2 | 1.5 |
| 使用高速捲筒紙柯式印刷機 (24) Using high speed web-fed offset printing machines | | | 5 | 4.0 | 1 | 0.8 |
| 對金屬或金屬坯段或鋼錠使用機動衝擊工具 (2) Using power-driven percussive tools on metal or on billets of metal or blooms | 1 | 1.2 | 1 | 0.8 | 1 | 0.8 |
| 使用擠出塑料的機器 (18) Using machines engaged in extruding of plastic materials | | | 1 | 0.8 | | |
| 使用鏈鋸 (9) Using chain saws | 1 | 1.2 | | | | |
| 使用機器或手提工具清理船舶外殼 (15) Using machines or hand tools engaged in descaling of ships | 1 | 1.2 | | | | |
| 總數: Total: | 84 | 100.0 | 126 | 100.0 | 134 | 100.0 |

* 根據《條例》附表3下指定的高噪音工作類別 / According to the types of noisy occupations specified under Schedule 3 of the Ordinance

獲取首次補償者的聽力損失程度分析圖 (2022/23年度)

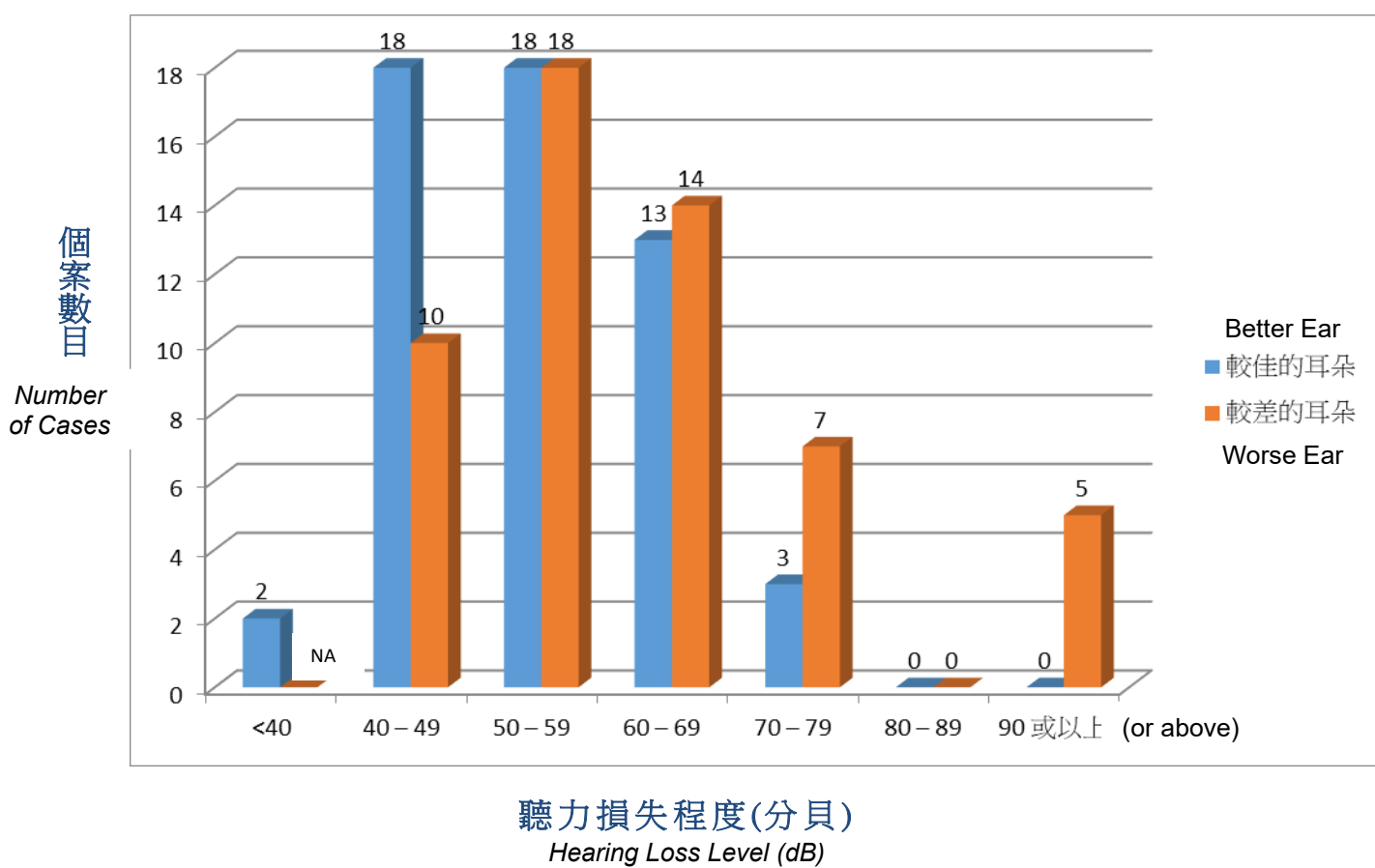
Analysis of Approved Cases of First-time Compensation by Level of Hearing Loss (Year 2022/23)



獲取再次補償者的聽力損失程度分析圖 (2022/23年度)

Analysis of Approved Cases of Further Compensation by Level of Hearing Loss (Year 2022/23)

再次補償
Further
Compensation

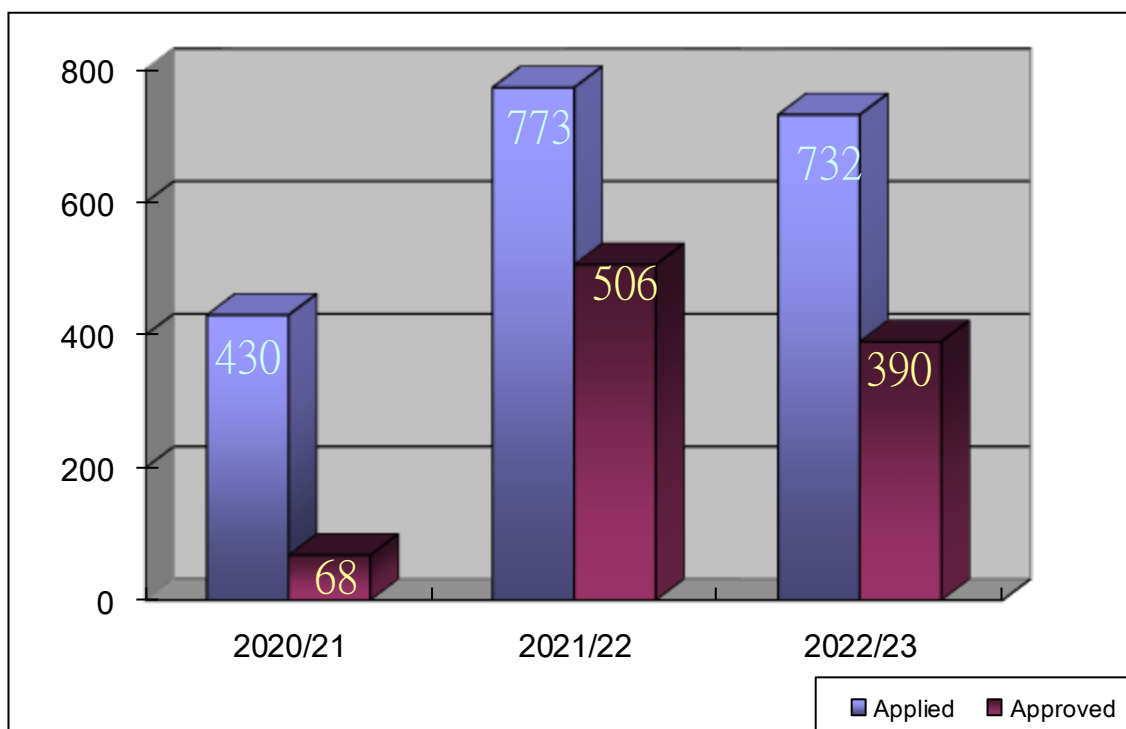


最近3年之職業性失聰補償申請及獲批個案數字

Applications versus Approved Cases of Occupational Deafness Compensation

for the Most Recent 3 Years

個案數目 Number of Cases



申請個案 獲批個案

| 年份 Year | 申請個案 Number of Applications | 獲批個案 Number of Approved Cases | 補償總金額 (港元) Total Amount of Compensation (HK\$) |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 2020/21 | 430 | 68 | \$7,049,877 |
| 2021/22 | 773 | 506 | \$54,931,987 |
| 2022/23 | 732 | 390 | \$48,800,495 |