

Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of the Managing Board of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation ("the Corporation") and its subsidiary ("the Group") set out on pages 24 to 82, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2023 and of its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards issued by the International Accounting Standards Board ("IASB") and Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in compliance with the applicable disclosure requirements of the Hong Kong Companies Ordinance.

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 consolidated financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group 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.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Independent Auditor's Report

Recognition of revenue under the Service Concession and the Supplemental Service Concessions	
<i>Refer to notes 2 and 5 and the accounting policies in note 3(u) to the consolidated financial statements</i>	
The Key Audit Matter	How the matter was addressed in our audit
<p>As disclosed in note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Corporation and MTR Corporation Limited ("MTRCL") entered into the Service Concession in respect of the Corporation's existing railway lines and other rail-related businesses ("Existing Lines") for a period of 50 years starting from December 2007, the Supplemental Service Concession relating to the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ("the XRL") for a period of 10 years starting from September 2018 and the Supplemental Service Concession relating to the Shatin to Central Link ("the SCL") for a period of ten years starting from May 2022 ("the service concession arrangements"). The SCL has been fully integrated with the Corporation's Existing Lines and are collectively referred to as the KCR Network.</p> <p>During the respective concession periods, MTRCL is responsible for the daily operations and maintenance of the transport operations and will fund related capital expenditure, and will receive all revenues generated from the operation of the rail networks and other rail-related businesses.</p> <p>The consideration exchanged between MTRCL and the Corporation under the service concession arrangements includes both fixed amounts and amounts which vary based on the revenue generated from the operation of the rail networks and in accordance with the formulae set out in the service concession agreements, as disclosed in note 2 to the consolidated financial statements.</p> <p>The Corporation recognised total annual payments receivable from MTRCL of \$1,691 million under Concession Income for the year ended 31 December 2023.</p>	<p>Our audit procedures to assess the recognition of revenue under the Service Concession and the Supplemental Service Concessions included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inspecting the agreements relating to the Service Concession and the Supplemental Service Concessions and documentation provided by MTRCL to the Corporation in relation to the amounts of revenue from the KCR Network and the XRL and the amounts due under the service concession agreements, and discussing with the Corporation's management their review procedures exercised thereon; • evaluating the competence and objectivity of the two independent experts; • assessing the adequacy of the procedures performed by the two independent experts for the purposes of our audit; and • obtaining the reports issued by the two independent experts and inspecting the findings and conclusions therein. <p>In addition, our audit procedures included comparing the payments under the Service Concession and the Supplemental Service Concessions to the forecasts prepared by management in order to assess whether there was any indication of impairment of the railway assets or the intangible assets relating to the KCR Network and the XRL and whether there was any provision for onerous contracts relating to the XRL.</p>

Independent Auditor's Report

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The Key Audit Matter	How the matter was addressed in our audit
<p>MTRCL is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls over the revenue from the KCR Network and the XRL and for calculating the amounts due under the service concession agreements and reporting such amounts to the Corporation. MTRCL has appointed its external auditors and another firm of auditors as independent experts, pursuant to and as defined in the Service Concession agreement, to perform certain procedures on the calculation of these amounts and to report thereon.</p> <p>We identified the recognition of revenue under the Service Concession and the Supplemental Service Concessions as a key audit matter because of its significance to the Corporation's total revenue and its significance in assessing the recoverable amounts of the railway assets and the intangible assets relating to the KCR Network and the XRL and if any provision for onerous contracts relating to the XRL is required in view of the net fixed and variable annual payments payable to MTRCL for the year in respect of the XRL's operation; and because the amounts are recognised in reliance on the information reported by MTRCL and the reports issued by the two independent experts.</p>	

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

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

Our opinion on the consolidated 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 consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated 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

Responsibilities of the Board Members for the consolidated financial statements

The Board Members are responsible for the preparation of the consolidated financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRS Accounting Standards issued by the IASB, HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation Ordinance and for such internal control as the Board Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, the Board Members are responsible for assessing the Group'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 Board Members either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board Members are assisted by the Audit Committee in discharging their responsibilities for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated 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, in accordance with section 14B(3) of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation Ordinance, and 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 HKSAs 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 consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated 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 Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board Members.

Independent Auditor's Report

- 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 Group'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 consolidated 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 Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Audit Committee 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.

We also provide the Audit Committee with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence and, where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with the Audit Committee, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Chui Kin Pong.

KPMG

Certified Public Accountants
8th Floor, Prince's Building
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9 May 2024