

**CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES (FAR EAST)
LIMITED**

(Incorporated in the Republic of Singapore)

Registration No. 196200046K

RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUERIES FROM SIAS

The board of directors (the “**Board**”) of Chemical Industries (Far East) Limited (the “**Company**”) and together with its subsidiaries, the “**Group**”) refers to the Company’s announcement dated 18 February 2024 in relation to its responses to certain queries raised by the Securities Investors Association (Singapore) (“**SIAS**”) on 14 February 2024 (the “**Previous Response**”), and the further queries raised by SIAS on 21 February 2024 in relation to the Previous Response, as reported by the Business Times on 21 February 2024. Unless otherwise defined herein, capitalised terms in this announcement have the same respective meanings given to them in the Previous Response.

The Board sets out below the Company’s response to the further queries raised by SIAS.

Query 1

“As a follow-up enquiry, SIAS seeks to understand the outcome of the NC interviews with the shortlisted candidates and requests a timeline regarding the appointment of a new CEO. In addition, to help shareholders better understand the CEO-selection process, can the company clarify if the CEO-candidate would be required to go through a final round of interview with the entire board prior to his/her appointment?”

Company’s Response

The nominating committee is currently in the process of interviewing the shortlisted candidates, ensuring a thorough assessment. If the nominating committee identifies suitable candidates, the Board will conduct final interviews to select the new chief executive officer (“**CEO**”). Given the importance of this decision, the Board requires adequate time for deliberation.

In the meantime, the Company has made arrangements for its interim executive leadership. Please refer to the Company’s announcement dated 14 March 2024 in relation to the appointment of an acting CEO.

Query 2

“SIAS would like to seek clarifications from the board regarding its statement that Mr Lim does not use the listed company's premises as his 'personal office', which appears contradictory to the findings shown above. What was the board's basis in making that statement? Otherwise, please also clarify how long this arrangement has been in place and whether the company's premises will continue to be utilised by Mr Lim as the registered address for his private companies.”

Company's Response

The companies referred to by the SIAS (the “**Relevant Companies**”) utilise the Company's premises at 17 Upper Circular Road (the “**Premises**”) solely as their registered office and do not engage in any business operations from the Premises. The Relevant Companies are investment holding companies of Mr. Lim and do not conduct any business operations. Some of the Relevant Companies have already been struck off from the Register of Companies maintained by the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority. Accordingly, the Board is of the view that Mr. Lim does not use the Premises as his ‘personal office’.

Query 3

“Would this be considered a private benefit received by the director and thus be considered as part of the director's remuneration? Please explain.”

Company's Response

Please refer to the Company's response to Query 2 above.

Query 4

“In addition, it is noted that the company secretary, Ms Foo Soon Soo, also serves as the secretary of Mr Lim Soon Peng's private company, S. P. Lim Holdings Pte Ltd (UEN: 201835203K), and possibly for some of his other companies as well. Is the board aware of this situation? Could this potentially be a conflict of interest?”

Company's Response

The Board is aware that KCK CorpServe Pte Ltd (“**KCK**”), Ms Foo's employer, provides corporate secretarial services to both the Group and Mr Lim's companies. The Relevant Companies pay a fee to KCK for Ms Foo's service. The Company does not pay any fees incurred by the Relevant Companies for their engagement of KCK's corporate secretarial services.

As a professional external corporate secretarial services provider, neither KCK nor Ms. Foo are involved with the management and affairs of either the Group or the Relevant Companies. They assist with statutory compliance with the Companies Act and related company regulations. The Company is therefore of the view that there is no conflict of interest.

Query 5

“Did Mr Lim seek to declare the utilisation of the office premises for his other personal companies to the Board of Chemical Industries Far East Limited? Similarly, the utilisation of Ms Foo to cover duties of Company Secretary for his other companies, was this declared and separate remuneration provided to Ms Foo in respect of the personal companies work? Was there a mixing of resources used for the listco with those of Mr Lim's personal entities.”

Company's Response

Please refer to the Company's responses to Queries 2 and 4 above.

Query 6

“In addition, could the board clarify whether Mr Lim Soo Peng compensates Ms Foo Soon Soo separately, and out of his own pocket, for her services as the secretary of his companies or does the listed entity cover the fees for Ms Foo Soon Soo to act as the secretary of Mr Lim's private companies?”

Company's Response

Please refer to the Company's response to Query 4 above.

Query 7

“Lastly, it is noted that the company's responses were signed off by the company secretary on behalf of the board. Can all the board members, especially the independent chairman and the independent directors, clarify if they have reviewed and approved the company's SGX announcements, including the response to SGX RegCo?”

Company's Response

The entire Board reviews and approves all SGX announcements before release by the Company Secretary on behalf of the Board. Depending on the nature of the SGX announcement, the initial draft of the SGX announcement may either be prepared by the Company's management and/or the company secretary, with the assistance of the Company's legal adviser, as may be required, subject to the direction and supervision of the Board.

Query 8

“Who drafted the responses and what level of due diligence did the board undertake regarding the company's announcements on SGX?”

Company's Response

Please refer to the Company's response to Query 7 above.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

FOO SOON SOO
Company Secretary

14 March 2024