# **Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

## SINGAPORE PRESS HOLDINGS LIMITED

(Co Regn No: 198402868E)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Twenty-Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held at The Auditorium, 1000 Toa Payoh North, News Centre, 1st Storey, Annexe Block, Singapore 318994 on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 10.30 a.m. for the following business:

### **ORDINARY BUSINESS**

- 1. To receive and adopt the Directors' Report and Audited Financial Statements for the financial year ended August 31, 2011.
- 2. To declare a final dividend of 9 cents and a special dividend of 8 cents, on a tax-exempt (one-tier) basis, in respect of the financial year ended August 31, 2011.
- 3. (i) To re-appoint Cham Tao Soon as a Director of the Company, pursuant to Section 153(6) of the Companies Act, Chapter 50 of Singapore (the "Companies Act"), to hold such office from the date of this Annual General Meeting until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company.
  - (ii) To re-appoint Ngiam Tong Dow as a Director of the Company, pursuant to Section 153(6) of the Companies Act, to hold such office from the date of this Annual General Meeting until the next Annual General Meeting of the Company.
- 4. To re-elect the following Directors who are retiring by rotation in accordance with Articles 111 and 112 of the Company's Articles of Association, and who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election:
  - (i) Willie Cheng Jue Hiang
  - (ii) Sum Soon Lim
  - (iii) Yeo Ning Hong
- 5. To re-elect Lee Boon Yang who will cease to hold office in accordance with Article 115 of the Company's Articles of Association, and who, being eligible, offers himself for re-election.
- 6. To approve Directors' fees of up to S\$1,350,000 for the financial year ending 31 August 2012 (2011: up to S\$1,300,000).
- 7. To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
- 8. To transact any other business of an Annual General Meeting.

#### **SPECIAL BUSINESS**

- 9. To consider and, if thought fit, to pass, with or without modifications, the following resolutions which will be proposed as Ordinary Resolutions:
  - (i) "That pursuant to Section 161 of the Companies Act, Chapter 50 and the listing rules of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the "**SGX-ST**"), and subject to the provisions of the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act, Chapter 206, authority be and is hereby given to the Directors of the Company to:
    - (a) (i) issue shares in the capital of the Company whether by way of rights, bonus or otherwise; and/or
      - (ii) make or grant offers, agreements or options (collectively, "Instruments") that might or would require shares to be issued, including but not limited to the creation and issue of (as well as adjustments to) warrants, debentures or other instruments convertible into shares,
      - at any time and upon such terms and conditions and for such purposes and to such persons as the Directors may in their absolute discretion deem fit; and
    - (b) (notwithstanding that the authority conferred by this Resolution may have ceased to be in force) issue shares in pursuance of any Instrument made or granted by the Directors while this Resolution is in force,

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#### provided that:

- (1) the aggregate number of shares to be issued pursuant to this Resolution (including shares to be issued in pursuance of Instruments made or granted pursuant to this Resolution) does not exceed 50 per cent. of the total number of issued shares (excluding treasury shares) in the capital of the Company (as calculated in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) below), of which the aggregate number of shares to be issued other than on a *pro rata* basis to shareholders of the Company (including shares to be issued in pursuance of Instruments made or granted pursuant to this Resolution) does not exceed 10 per cent. of the total number of issued shares (excluding treasury shares) in the capital of the Company (as calculated in accordance with sub-paragraph (2) below);
- (2) (subject to such manner of calculation and adjustments as may be prescribed by the SGX-ST) for the purpose of determining the aggregate number of shares that may be issued under sub-paragraph (1) above, the percentage of issued shares shall be based on the total number of issued shares (excluding treasury shares) in the capital of the Company at the time this Resolution is passed, after adjusting for:
  - new shares arising from the conversion or exercise of any convertible securities or share options or vesting of share awards which are outstanding or subsisting at the time this Resolution is passed; and
  - (ii) any subsequent bonus issue, consolidation or subdivision of shares;
- (3) in exercising the authority conferred by this Resolution, the Company shall comply with the provisions of the listing manual of the SGX-ST for the time being in force (unless such compliance has been waived by the SGX-ST) and the Articles of Association for the time being of the Company; and
- (4) (unless revoked or varied by the Company in general meeting) the authority conferred by this Resolution shall continue in force until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting of the Company or the date by which the next Annual General Meeting of the Company is required by law to be held, whichever is the earlier."
- (ii) "That approval be and is hereby given to the Directors of the Company to grant awards in accordance with the provisions of the SPH Performance Share Plan (the "SPH Performance Share Plan") and to allot and issue such number of ordinary shares in the capital of the Company ("Ordinary Shares") as may be required to be delivered pursuant to the vesting of awards under the SPH Performance Share Plan, provided that the aggregate number of new Ordinary Shares allotted and issued and/or to be allotted and issued, when aggregated with existing Ordinary Shares (including Ordinary Shares held in treasury) delivered and/or to be delivered, pursuant to the Singapore Press Holdings Group (1999) Share Option Scheme and the SPH Performance Share Plan, shall not exceed 10 per cent. of the total number of issued Ordinary Shares (excluding treasury shares) from time to time."

# (iii) "That:

- (a) for the purposes of Sections 76C and 76E of the Companies Act, the exercise by the Directors of the Company of all the powers of the Company to purchase or otherwise acquire issued Ordinary Shares not exceeding in aggregate the Maximum Limit (as hereafter defined), at such price or prices as may be determined by the Directors of the Company from time to time up to the Maximum Price (as hereafter defined), whether by way of:
  - (i) market purchase(s) on the SGX-ST; and/or
  - (ii) off-market purchase(s) (if effected otherwise than on the SGX-ST) in accordance with any equal access scheme(s) as may be determined or formulated by the Directors as they consider fit, which scheme(s) shall satisfy all the conditions prescribed by the Companies Act;

and otherwise in accordance with all other laws and regulations and rules of the SGX-ST as may for the time being be applicable, be and is hereby authorised and approved generally and unconditionally (the "**Share Buy Back Mandate**"),

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- (b) unless varied or revoked by the Company in general meeting, the authority conferred on the Directors of the Company pursuant to the Share Buy Back Mandate may be exercised by the Directors of the Company at any time and from time to time during the period commencing from the date of the passing of this Resolution and expiring on the earliest of:
  - (i) the date on which the next Annual General Meeting of the Company is held;
  - (ii) the date by which the next Annual General Meeting of the Company is required by law to be held; and
  - (iii) the date on which purchases or acquisitions of Ordinary Shares pursuant to the Share Buy Back Mandate are carried out to the full extent mandated;
- (c) in this Resolution:

"Average Closing Price" means the average of the last dealt prices of an Ordinary Share for the five consecutive trading days on which the Ordinary Shares are transacted on the SGX-ST immediately preceding the date of market purchase by the Company or, as the case may be, the date of the making of the offer pursuant to the off-market purchase, and deemed to be adjusted, in accordance with the listing rules of the SGX-ST, for any corporate action which occurs after the relevant five day period;

"date of the making of the offer" means the date on which the Company announces its intention to make an offer for the purchase or acquisition of Ordinary Shares from holders of Ordinary Shares, stating therein the purchase price (which shall not be more than the Maximum Price calculated on the foregoing basis) for each Ordinary Share and the relevant terms of the equal access scheme for effecting the off-market purchase;

"Maximum Limit" means that number of issued Ordinary Shares representing 10% of the total number of the issued Ordinary Shares as at the date of the passing of this Resolution (excluding any Ordinary Shares which are held as treasury shares as at that date); and

"Maximum Price", in relation to an Ordinary Share to be purchased or acquired, means the purchase price (excluding brokerage, commission, applicable goods and services tax and other related expenses) which shall not exceed, in the case of a market purchase of an Ordinary Share and off-market purchase pursuant to an equal access scheme, 105% of the Average Closing Price of the Ordinary Share; and

(d) the Directors of the Company and/or any of them be and are hereby authorised to complete and do all such acts and things (including executing such documents as may be required) as they and/or he may consider expedient or necessary to give effect to the transactions contemplated and/or authorised by this Resolution."

By Order of the Board

**Ginney Lim May Ling Khor Siew Kim** Company Secretaries

Singapore, November 2, 2011

#### Notes

A Member entitled to attend and vote at the General Meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his stead and the proxy need not be a Member of the Company. The instrument appointing the proxy must be lodged at the Company's Share Registration Office, Tricor Barbinder Share Registration Services (A division of Tricor Singapore Pte. Ltd.), 80 Robinson Road, #02-00, Singapore 068898 not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.

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### EXPLANATORY NOTES & STATEMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 72 OF THE COMPANY'S ARTICLES OF **ASSOCIATION**

- In relation to Ordinary Resolution No. 3(i): 1.
  - Cham Tao Soon will, upon re-appointment, continue as Deputy Chairman, Chairman of the Nominating Committee and a member of the Executive Committee. He will step down as Acting Chairman and as a member of the Remuneration Committee after the conclusion of the Twenty-Seventh Annual General Meeting. He is considered an independent Director.
- 2. In relation to Ordinary Resolution No. 3(ii):
  - Ngiam Tong Dow will, upon re-appointment, continue as Chairman of the Remuneration Committee. He is considered an independent Director.
- In relation to Ordinary Resolution No. 4(i): 3.
  - Willie Cheng Jue Hiang will, upon re-election, continue as a member of the Audit Committee and Remuneration Committee. He is considered an independent Director.
- 4. In relation to Ordinary Resolution No. 4(ii):
  - Sum Soon Lim will, upon re-election, continue as a member of the Executive Committee. He is considered an independent Director.
- 5 In relation to Ordinary Resolution No. 4(iii):
  - Yeo Ning Hong will, upon re-election, continue as Chairman of the Audit Committee and a member of the Executive Committee. He is considered an independent Director.
- 6. In relation to Ordinary Resolution No. 5:
  - Lee Boon Yang will, upon re-election, continue as a member of the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee and Remuneration Committee. He will be appointed Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Executive Committee after the conclusion of the Twenty-Seventh Annual General Meeting. He is considered an independent Director.
- 7. Ordinary Resolution No 6, if passed, will facilitate the payment of Directors' fees during the financial year in which the fees are incurred, that is, during the financial year from 1 September 2011 to 31 August 2012. The amount of Directors' fees is computed based on the anticipated number of Board and Board Committee meetings, assuming full attendance by all the Directors. The amount also includes a contingency sum to cater to unforeseen circumstances such as the appointment of an additional Director, additional unscheduled Board meetings and for the formation of additional Board Committees.

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- The effects of the resolutions under the heading "Special Business" in the Notice of the Twenty-Seventh Annual General Meeting are:
  - (a) Ordinary Resolution No. 9(i) is to authorise the Directors of the Company from the date of that meeting until the next Annual General Meeting, subject to the provisions of the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act, Chapter 206 of Singapore, to issue shares in the capital of the Company and/or to make or grant instruments (such as warrants or debentures) convertible into shares, and to issue shares in pursuance of such instruments, up to a number not exceeding in total 50 per cent. of the total number of issued shares (excluding treasury shares) in the capital of the Company, of which up to 10 per cent. of the total number of issued shares (excluding treasury shares) in the capital of the Company may be issued other than on a pro rata basis to shareholders. For the purpose of determining the aggregate number of shares that may be issued, the percentage of issued shares shall be based on the total number of issued shares (excluding treasury shares) in the capital of the Company at the time that Ordinary Resolution No. 9(i) is passed, after adjusting for (i) new shares arising from the conversion or exercise of any convertible securities or share options or vesting of share awards which are outstanding or subsisting at the time that Ordinary Resolution 9(i) is passed, and (ii) any subsequent bonus issue, consolidation or sub-division of shares. For the avoidance of doubt, any consolidation or sub-division of shares in the capital of the Company will require shareholders' approval.
  - (b) Ordinary Resolution No. 9(ii) is to empower the directors to offer and grant awards, and to allot and issue new ordinary shares in the capital of the Company, pursuant to the SPH Performance Share Plan (which was approved by shareholders at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 5 December 2006), provided that the aggregate number of new ordinary shares allotted and issued and/or to be allotted and issued, when aggregated with the existing ordinary shares (including ordinary shares held in treasury) delivered and/or to be delivered, pursuant to the Singapore Press Holdings Group (1999) Share Option Scheme and the SPH Performance Share Plan, shall not exceed 10 per cent. of the total number of issued ordinary shares in the capital of the Company (excluding ordinary shares held in treasury) from time to time.
  - (c) Ordinary Resolution No. 9(iii) is to renew the mandate to permit the Company to purchase or acquire issued ordinary shares in the capital of the Company on the terms and subject to the conditions of the Resolution.

The Company may use internal sources of funds, or a combination of internal resources and external borrowings, to finance the purchase or acquisition of its ordinary shares. The amount of funding required for the Company to purchase or acquire its ordinary shares, and the impact on the Company's financial position, cannot be ascertained as at the date of this Notice as these will depend on the number of ordinary shares purchased or acquired and the price at which such ordinary shares were purchased or acquired and whether the ordinary shares purchased or acquired are held in treasury or cancelled.

The financial effects of the purchase or acquisition of such ordinary shares by the Company pursuant to the proposed Share Buy Back Mandate on the audited financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries for the financial year ended 31 August 2011, based on certain assumptions, are set out in paragraph 2.6 of the Letter to Shareholders dated 2 November 2011, which is enclosed together with the Summary Financial Report.