

## LINMARK'S PARENT COMPANY CO-HOSTS THE CHINA DEPARTMENT STORE SUMMIT 2005

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### FURTHER STRENGTHENS LINMARK'S DEVELOPMENT IN THE CHINA RETAIL MARKET

(Hong Kong – 25 March 2005) **Linmark Group Limited** (“Linmark” or the “Group”) (stock code: 915), through its parent company Roly International Holdings Ltd., is to co-host the China Department Store Summit 2005 (“Summit” / 第三屆中國百貨業高峰論壇) to be held from 25 – 26 March 2005 in Beijing. The China Commerce Association for General Merchandise (CCAGM / 中國百貨商業協會) is the host of the Summit, which has the full support of the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC (中國國家商務部).

Department stores are traditionally dominant players in the Chinese retail market. However, with the introduction of new retail formats such as supermarkets, specialty stores and warehouse stores, the market share of department stores is being challenged. China's entry into the WTO also posed new challenges to the country's retail industry. To address these developments, department store operators in China need to find out quickly how to adjust their business strategies to meet market changes and sustain development. The Summit provides a valuable platform for participants to discuss and explore the future of the industry.

**Mr. Lu-Yen Wang, Chairman of Linmark**, commented, “We are delighted to have the opportunity to co-host the event for the third time. In 2003 and last year, the Summit was attended by leaders from more than 400 large and medium sized Chinese department stores and other retailers from abroad. It has become the most distinguished annual event for the retail industry in China. For overseas companies, the Summit presents them with a platform to exchange ideas with Chinese retailers. For Linmark, it is an important channel to further strengthen the Group's position as the bridge between the retail markets in China and overseas. It is an instrument in assisting the Group to grasp the business opportunities arising from Chinese retailers' growing demand for one-stop sourcing solutions and more international players starting or increasing to source in China.”

The Summit will cover a comprehensive range of topics including the latest operating environment, branding, operating and development strategies. Speakers include senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC and InvestHK, CEOs or top executives representing foreign brands, department stores and associations such as Christian Dior, Galeries Lafayette from France, Lane Crawford, Ito-Yokado from Japan, Janner's from Scotland, International Association of Department Stores as well as Chinese department store groups including Scitech Group, Hangzhou Tower and Shanghai Bai Lian Group. In addition, leading specialists from prestigious educational institutions such as Peking University and Tsing Hua University will also address the Summit.

“The Group has been strengthening its development in China through diverse channels. Apart from having added three new offices in Dongguan, Guangzhou and Qingdao to expand its sourcing network, Linmark has forged partnerships with Chinese authorities to develop a China Code of Conduct in Social Compliance for the textile industry in China. The Code of Conduct can serve as a useful reference for retail sectors in modernising the sourcing practice. These accomplishments have further cemented the Group’s foundation for development in the China sourcing industry. We look forward to exploring business opportunities and sharing visions with the hundreds of senior executives of department stores from around the world at the Summit,” Mr. Wang concluded.

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#### **About Linmark Group Limited**

Linmark, listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited in May 2002, is a one-stop global sourcing agent. With presence in 37 cities in 25 countries and territories, the Group offers comprehensive and efficient sourcing solutions to its customers, the majority of whom are leading retail chain operators, well-known brands, wholesalers, mail order houses and departments stores in North America, Europe, Asia and the southern hemisphere. Linmark is also one of the constituent stocks on the Hang Seng HK SmallCap Index under the Hang Seng Composite Index.

#### **About China Commerce Association for General Merchandise**

The China Commerce Association for General Merchandise (CCAGM), approved by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and operating under the guidance of the State Economic and Trade Commission, is a nationwide trade organization comprising individual members and corporate members (department stores, supermarkets, wholesalers, specialty stores, consumer goods suppliers). To date, CCAGM has more than 600 formal members (with 4000 informal members) across Mainland China. CCAGM is headquartered in Beijing.

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