

Lianhe Global has affirmed 'B' global scale Long-term Issuer and Issuance Credit Ratings of LVGEM (China) Real Estate Investment Company Limited; Issuer Rating Outlook Negative; Removes Rating Watch Negative

HONG KONG, 20 March 2023 – Lianhe Ratings Global Limited ("Lianhe Global"), an international credit rating company, has affirmed 'B' global scale Long-term Issuer Credit Rating of LVGEM (China) Real Estate Investment Company Limited (95.HK) ("LVGEM" or "the company"). The Outlook is Negative.

Lianhe Global has also affirmed 'B' Issuance Credit Rating of the senior unsecured HKD and USD commercial paper notes issued by LVGEM. A full list of issuance ratings is included in this press release.

Lianhe Global has removed the Rating Watch Negative on the company's issuer credit rating.

## **Key Rating Rationales**

The Issuer Rating reflects LVGEM's established track record of above-average profit margin and its focus on the Greater Bay Area (GBA), including the Baishizhou project which so far marks the record-large redevelopment project in Shenzhen. However, LVGEM's rating is constrained by its weakening liquidity profile, modest business franchise in terms of contracted sales scale and significant concentration risks given its land bank locations and revenue drivers relying on the limited number of projects under development.

The Negative Outlook on LVGEM's rating reflects its heightened pressure on liquidity on the backdrop of its weakening contracted sales performance, and heightened refinancing pressure in the next 6-12 months. We would consider revising the Rating Outlook to Stable when there is a clearer sign of the recovery of LVGEM's operating performance, leverage level and liquidity position.

#### **Rating Sensitivities**

We would consider downgrading LVGEM's rating if (1) it were to fail to meet its near and medium term financial obligations when they become due, and/or (2) it were to aggressively increase its financial leverage as measured by debt/capitalization to over 70% or a decrease in its EBITDA interest coverage to below 1.0x consistently, and/or (3) its operating performance were to deteriorate such as a material decline in net cash inflow from operating activities, contracted sales and/or revenue for a sustained period or liquidity profile is worsened.

An upgrade is unlikely given the negative outlook on LVGEM. However, if LVGEM were able to demonstrate the ability to improve its operating performance, manage its financial

obligations in the near to medium term and improve its liquidity position, we may consider revising the outlook to stable.

Any rating action on LVGEM's rating would result in a similar rating action on its HKD and USD commercial paper notes.

### **Full List of Issuance Ratings**

- HKD174.6 million and USD8.758 million 6.0% senior unsecured commercial paper notes due 2023 affirmed at 'B'

#### **About Lianhe Global**

Lianhe Global is an international credit rating company that provides credit ratings to corporations, banks, non-bank financial institutions, local investment and development companies, and other asset classes around the globe. Lianhe Global also provides credit risk research and other services related to credit ratings.

# **Rating Methodology**

The principal methodology used in this LVGEM's rating is Lianhe Global's Chinese Property Developer Rating Criteria published on 31 December 2021 which can be found at the website www.lhratingsglobal.com.

**Note:** The above Issuer/Issuance Credit Ratings are solicited at the request of the rated entity or a related third party.

#### **Contact Information**

Primary Analyst Toni Ho Director (852) 3462 9578 toni.ho@lhratingsglobal.com

Committee Chairperson Ben Yau Senior Director (852) 3462 9586 ben.yau@lhratingsglobal.com

Business Development Contact Joyce Chi Managing Director (852) 3462 9569 joyce.chi@lhratingsglobal.com

#### **Disclaimer**

Credit rating and research reports published by Lianhe Ratings Global Limited ("Lianhe Global" or "the Company" or "us") are subject to certain terms and conditions. Please read these terms and conditions at the Company's website: www.lhratingsglobal.com

A credit rating is an opinion which addresses the creditworthiness of an entity or security. Credit ratings are not a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold any security. Credit ratings do not address market price, marketability, and/or suitability of any security nor its tax implications or consequences. Credit ratings may be subject to upgrades or downgrades or withdrawal at any time for any reason at the sole discretion of Lianhe Global.

All credit ratings are the products of a collective effort by accredited analysts through rigorous rating processes. No individual is solely responsible for a credit rating. All credit ratings are derived by a credit committee vesting process. The individuals identified in the reports are solely for contact purpose only.

Lianhe Global conducts its credit rating services based on third-party information which we reasonably believe to be true. Lianhe Global relies on information including, but not limited to, audited financial statements, interviews, management discussion and analysis, relevant third-party reports, and publicly available data sources to conduct our analysis. Lianhe Global has not conducted any audit, investigation, verification or due diligence. Lianhe Global does not guarantee the accuracy, correctness, timeliness, and/or completeness of the information. Credit ratings may contain forward-looking opinions of Lianhe Global which may include forecasts about future events which by definition are subject to change and cannot be considered as facts.

Under no circumstances shall Lianhe Global, its directors, shareholders, employees, officers and/or representatives or any member of the group of which Lianhe Global forms part be held liable to any party for any damage, loss, liability, cost, expense or fees in connection with any use of the information published by the Company.

Lianhe Global receives compensation from issuers, underwriters, obligors, or investors for conducting credit rating services. None of the aforementioned entities nor its related parties participate in the credit rating process aside from providing information requested by Lianhe Global.

Credit ratings included in any rating report are solicited and disclosed to the rated entity (and its agents) prior to publishing. Credit rating and research reports published by Lianhe Global are not intended for distribution to, or use by, any person in any jurisdiction where such use would infringe local laws and regulations. Any user relying on information available through credit rating and research reports is responsible for consulting the relevant agencies or professionals accordingly to comply with the applicable local laws and regulations.

All published credit rating and research reports are the intellectual property of Lianhe Global. Any reproduction, redistribution, or modification, in whole or part, in any form by any means is prohibited unless such user has obtained prior written consent from us.

Lianhe Global is a subsidiary of Lianhe Credit Information Service Co., Ltd. The credit committee of Lianhe Global has the ultimate power of interpretation of any methodology or process used in the Company's independent credit ratings and research.

Copyright © Lianhe Ratings Global Limited 2023.