

Corporate Governance

The Manager of MIT is responsible for the strategic direction and management of the assets and liabilities of MIT as well as its subsidiaries (collectively, the “Group”). As a REIT manager, the Manager is licensed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (the “MAS”) and holds a Capital Markets Services Licence for REIT management (“CMS Licence”).

The Manager discharges its responsibility for the benefit of MIT and its unitholders (“Unitholders”), in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations as well as the trust deed constituting MIT (as amended) (the “Trust Deed”). To this end, the Manager sets the strategic direction of the Group and gives recommendations to DBS Trustee Limited, in its capacity as trustee of MIT (the “Trustee”), on the acquisition, divestment and enhancement of assets of the Group.

The Manager’s roles and responsibilities include:

- carrying on the Group’s business to generate returns in a sustainable manner and conducting all transactions on normal commercial terms and on an arm’s length basis;
- preparing annual budget proposal with forecast on gross revenue, property expenditure, capital expenditure and providing explanations on major variances against prior year’s actual results and written commentaries on key issues and any other relevant assumptions. The purpose of such proposals and analyses is to chart the Group’s business for the year ahead and to explain the performance of MIT’s properties compared to the prior year; and
- ensuring compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including the Securities and Futures Act (Chapter 289 of Singapore), the Listing Manual of Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the “SGX-ST”), the Code on Collective Investment Schemes (“CIS Code”) issued by the MAS (including Appendix 6 of the CIS Code, the “Property Funds Appendix”), the Singapore Code on Takeovers and Mergers, the Trust Deed, written directions, notices, codes and other guidelines that the MAS and other regulators may issue from time to time and any tax rulings.

The Manager is committed to complying with the substance and spirit of the Code of Corporate Governance 2018 (the “Code”). The following describes the main corporate governance policies and practices of the Manager with reference to the Code and, where there are deviations from any of the provisions of the Code, explanations for such deviations are provided in this report including an explanation on how the practices adopted are consistent with the intent of the principles of the Code.

(A) BOARD MATTERS

The Board’s Conduct of Affairs

Principle 1: Effective Board

Our Policy and Practices

The Manager adopts the principle that the Board of Directors (the “Board”) is collectively responsible for the long-term success of MIT and an effective Board for the Manager is one constituted with the right core competencies and diversity of experience, so that the collective wisdom of the Board can give guidance and provide insights as well as strategic thinking to the management team of the Manager (the “Management”).

The key roles of the Board are to:

- guide the corporate strategy and direction of the Manager;
- ensure that Management discharges business leadership and demonstrates the highest quality of management with integrity and enterprise; and
- oversee the proper conduct of the Manager.

In discharging their roles and responsibilities, all Directors of the Board are expected to act and have acted in the best interests of MIT.

The positions of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) are held by two separate persons in order to maintain effective oversight. The Board has also established the Audit and Risk Committee (the “AC”) and the Nominating and Remuneration Committee (the “NRC”), each of which operates under delegated authority from the Board, to assist the Board in discharging its oversight function.

The Board comprises eleven Directors, of whom ten are Non-Executive Directors and six are Independent Directors.

The following sets out the composition of the Board:

- Mr Wong Meng Meng, Non-Executive Chairman and Director
- Ms Mary Yeo Chor Gek, Lead Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairperson of the NRC
- Mr Pok Soy Yoong, Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the AC
- Mr Guy Daniel Harvey-Samuel, Independent Non-Executive Director and Member of the AC
- Dr Andrew Lee Tong Kin, Independent Non-Executive Director and Member of the AC

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- Mr William Toh Thiam Siew, Independent Non-Executive Director and Member of the AC
- Mr Andrew Chong Yang Hsueh, Independent Non-Executive Director and Member of the NRC
- Mr Chua Tiow Chye, Non-Executive Director and Member of the NRC
- Ms Wendy Koh Mui Ai, Non-Executive Director
- Mr Michael Thomas Smith, Non-Executive Director
- Mr Tham Kuo Wei, Executive Director and CEO

The Board comprises business leaders and distinguished professionals with banking, legal, real estate, strategic planning, management and accounting experience.

The diverse professional backgrounds of the Directors enable Management to benefit from their external, varied and objective perspectives on issues brought before the Board for discussion and deliberation. Each Director is appointed on the strength of his or her calibre, experience, stature and potential to give proper guidance to Management on the business of the Group. In addition, the Board considers additional factors such as the age, gender and educational background of its members. The profiles of the Directors are set out in pages 21 to 25 of this Annual Report. The Board is of the view that the present principal directorships included in their individual profiles are sufficient to inform Unitholders of their principal commitments. The Board meets regularly, at least once every quarter, to review the business performance and outlook of the Group and deliberate on business strategy, including any significant acquisitions, disposals, fund-raising and development projects undertaken by the Group. When exigencies prevent a Director from attending a Board or Board committee meeting in person, such Director can participate by audio or video conference.

The meeting attendance of the Board, the AC, the NRC, the annual general meeting (“AGM”) and the extraordinary general meeting (“EGM”) for FY20/21 is as follows:

	Board	AC	NRC	AGM ⁽³⁾	EGM ⁽⁴⁾
Number of meetings held in FY20/21	8	5	1	1	1
Board Members	Membership				
Mr Wong Meng Meng (Appointed on 7 September 2010) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2019)	8	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1
Ms Mary Yeo Chor Gek (Appointed on 15 March 2013) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2019)	8	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1	1
Mr Pok Soy Yoong (Appointed on 26 December 2018) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2019)	8	5	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1
Mr Guy Daniel Harvey-Samuel (Appointed on 14 July 2017) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2020)	8	5	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1
Dr Andrew Lee Tong Kin (Appointed on 26 December 2018) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2019)	8	5	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1
Mr William Toh Thiam Siew (Appointed on 1 September 2018) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2020)	8	5	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1
Mr Andrew Chong Yang Hsueh (Appointed on 26 December 2018) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2019)	8	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1	1
Mr Chua Tiow Chye (Appointed on 15 December 2019) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2020)	8	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1	1

	Board	AC	NRC	AGM ⁽³⁾	EGM ⁽⁴⁾
Number of meetings held in FY20/21	8	5	1	1	1
Board Members	Membership				
Ms Wendy Koh Mui Ai (Appointed on 15 December 2019) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2020)	8	5 ⁽²⁾	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1
Mr Michael Thomas Smith (Appointed on 15 December 2019) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2020)	8	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	N.A. ⁽¹⁾	1	1
Mr Tham Kuo Wei (Appointed on 23 July 2010) (Last reappointment on 30 September 2020)	8	5 ⁽²⁾	1 ⁽²⁾	1	1

Notes:

- (1) N.A. means not applicable.
(2) Attendance was by invitation.
(3) Held on 15 July 2020.
(4) Held on 27 August 2020.

The Board has approved a set of delegations of authority which sets out approval limits for investments and divestments, development, operational and capital expenditures and treasury activities to be undertaken by the Group. Approval sub-limits are also provided at various management levels to facilitate operational efficiency as well as provide a system of checks and balances.

The Board's approval is required for material transactions undertaken by the Group. Such material transactions are also included in the set of delegations of authority which has been communicated to Management in writing. These include:

- equity fund-raising;
- acquisition, development and disposal of properties above Board-prescribed limits;
- overall project budget variance and ad hoc development budget above Board-prescribed limits;
- debt fund-raising above Board-prescribed limits; and
- derivative contracts above Board-prescribed limits.

The Board recognises that the Directors are fiduciaries who are obliged at all times to act objectively in the best interests of MIT and hold Management accountable for performance. In line with this, the Board has a standing policy that a Director must not allow himself or herself to get into a position where there is a conflict between his or her duty to MIT and his or her own interests. The Manager has a policy which provides that where a Director has a conflict of interest in a particular matter, he or she will be required to disclose his or her interest to the Board, recuse himself or herself from deliberations on the matter and abstain from voting on the matter. Every Director has complied with this policy, and where relevant, such compliance has been duly recorded in the minutes of meeting or written resolutions.

The Manager has in place an internal code on general conduct and discipline which sets out the framework and guidelines on ethical values such as honesty and responsibility as well as the appropriate conduct expected of Management and employees. The Board sets the appropriate tone from the top in respect of the desired organisational culture and ensure proper accountability within the Manager.

Each Director is given a formal letter of appointment setting out his or her duties and obligations under the relevant laws and regulations governing the Manager and the Group. The Manager also has in place an orientation programme to brief new Directors on the Group's business, strategic directions, risk management policies, the regulatory environment in which the Group operates and the governance practices of the Group and the Manager, including in areas such as accounting, legal and industry-specific knowledge as appropriate. The Board is updated on any material change to relevant laws, regulations and accounting standards by way of briefings from professionals or updates issued by Management.

Management provides the Board with timely and complete information prior to Board meetings, as well as when the need arises.

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Management is required to provide adequate and timely information to the Board, which includes matters requiring the Board's decision, as well as ongoing reports relating to the operational and financial performance of the Group. Management is also required to furnish any additional information requested by the Board in a timely manner in order for the Board to make informed decisions.

Directors have separate and independent access to Management and the Company Secretary.

The appointment and removal of the Company Secretary is subject to the approval of the Board.

The Company Secretary attends to the administration of corporate secretarial matters and advises the Board on governance matters. The Company Secretary also attends all Board and Board committee meetings and provides assistance to the Chairman in ensuring adherence to Board procedures.

The Board takes independent professional advice as and when necessary, at the Manager's expense, to enable it and/or the Independent Directors to discharge their responsibilities effectively. The AC meets the external and internal auditors separately at least once a year, without the presence of Management.

Board Composition and Guidance

Principle 2: Appropriate level of independence and diversity of thought

Our Policy and Practices

The Board reviews from time to time the size and composition of the Board and each Board committee, to ensure that the size of the Board and each Board committee is appropriate in facilitating effective decision making.

The Manager adopts the principle that a board composition with a strong and independent element as well as diversity of thought and background will allow the Directors to engage in robust deliberations with Management and provide external, diverse and objective insights on issues brought before the Board for discussion and deliberation. In particular, the Non-Executive Directors will also conduct periodic review of the investment mandate as well as the strategic focus of MIT with Management. Further, such a board composition, and the separation of the roles of the Chairman and the CEO, provides oversight to ensure that Management discharges its roles and responsibilities effectively and with integrity.

The Board assesses the independence of each Director in accordance with the requirements of the Code and Regulations 13D to 13H of the Securities and Futures (Licensing and Conduct of Business) Regulations ("SFLCB Regulations"). A Director is considered to be independent if he or she is independent in conduct, character and judgement, and has no relationship with the Manager, its related corporations, its substantial shareholders or its officers that could interfere, or be reasonably perceived to interfere, with the exercise of his or her independent business judgement in the best interests of MIT; and is independent from the management and any business relationship with the Manager and MIT, every substantial shareholder of the Manager and every substantial unitholder of MIT, is not a substantial shareholder of the Manager or a substantial unitholder of MIT and has not served on the Board for a continuous period of nine years or longer.

For FY20/21, each of the Independent Directors had carried out an assessment on whether there were any relationships or circumstances which may impact his or her independent status. Accordingly, each of the Independent Directors had either made a negative declaration or disclosed such relationships or circumstances as applicable. The declarations or disclosures made by each Independent Director had been reviewed by the NRC.

The Board of the Manager, after considering the relevant requirements under the SFLCB Regulations, specifically Regulation 13E(b)(i) of the SFLCB Regulations and the Code, wishes to set out its views in respect of each of the Directors as follows:

Name of Director	(i) had been independent from the management of the Manager and MIT during FY20/21	(ii) had been independent from any business relationship with the Manager and MIT during FY20/21	(iii) had been independent from every substantial shareholder of the Manager and every substantial unitholder of MIT during FY20/21	(iv) had not been a substantial shareholder of the Manager or a substantial unitholder of MIT during FY20/21	(v) has not served as a director of the Manager for a continuous period of 9 years or longer as at the last day of FY20/21
Mr Wong Meng Meng ^{(1),(10)}	✓			✓	
Ms Mary Yeo Chor Gek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr Pok Soy Yoong ^{(2),(10)}	✓			✓	✓
Mr Guy Daniel Harvey-Samuel ^{(3),(10)}	✓		✓	✓	✓
Dr Andrew Lee Tong Kin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr William Toh Thiam Siew ^{(4),(10)}	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr Andrew Chong Yang Hsueh ^{(5),(10)}		✓		✓	✓
Mr Chua Tiow Chye ^{(6),(10)}				✓	✓
Ms Wendy Koh Mui Ai ^{(7),(10)}				✓	✓
Mr Michael Thomas Smith ^{(8),(10)}				✓	✓
Mr Tham Kuo Wei ^{(9),(10)}				✓	

Notes:

- Mr Wong Meng Meng is currently a Non-Executive Director of the Sponsor which wholly-owns the Manager and is a substantial unitholder of MIT. Pursuant to the SFLCB Regulations, during FY20/21, Mr Wong is deemed not to be (a) independent from a business relationship with the Manager and MIT as he received fees for his directorship on the Sponsor for the current and immediately preceding financial year; and (b) independent from every substantial shareholder of the Manager and substantial unitholder of MIT, by virtue of his directorship on the Sponsor. Nonetheless, the Board is satisfied that, as at 31 March 2021, Mr Wong was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.
- Mr Pok Soy Yoong is currently a Non-Executive Director of Singapore Cruise Centre Pte. Ltd. which is a related corporation of the Manager. Pursuant to the SFLCB Regulations, during FY20/21, Mr Pok is deemed not to be (a) independent from a business relationship with the Manager and MIT; and (b) independent from every substantial shareholder of the Manager and substantial unitholder of MIT, by virtue of his directorship in the abovementioned related corporation of the Manager. Nonetheless, the Board takes the view that this would not affect Mr Pok's ability to act as an Independent Director and exercise independent judgement on the Board with a view to the best interests of the Unitholders of MIT. The Board is satisfied that as at 31 March 2021, Mr Pok was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.
- Mr Guy Daniel Harvey-Samuel was an Independent Non-Executive Director of JTC Corporation ("JTC") until 31 March 2021. In FY20/21, in connection with all fees including land rents payable to JTC in relation to properties leased from JTC, an aggregate amount in excess of S\$200,000 was paid by the Group to JTC. Under the Code's Practice Guidance 2(b), a director may be considered as not independent if he is, among others, a director of an organisation to which a company or any of its subsidiaries made, or from which the company or any of its subsidiaries received, significant payments or material services in the current or immediate past financial year. As a guide, payments aggregated over any financial year in excess of S\$200,000 should generally be deemed significant.

Pursuant to the SFLCB Regulations, during FY20/21, Mr Harvey-Samuel is deemed not to be independent from a business relationship with the Manager and MIT, by virtue of the fees paid by the Group to JTC. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board takes the view that Mr Harvey-Samuel's status as an Independent Director is not affected as (a) he was appointed as an independent non-executive director of JTC and was not involved in the management of JTC's business; and (b) all JTC leases were entered into on an arm's length basis and in accordance with market practice. The Board is satisfied that, as at 31 March 2021, Mr Harvey-Samuel was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.
- The Board would like to mention that Mr William Toh Thiam Siew currently receives fees for being a member of the investment committees of Mapletree China Opportunity II Fund and Mapletree Global Student Accommodation Private Trust, as well as previously for Mapletree India China Fund (from 1 April 2020 to 27 April 2020 for FY20/21), all of which are private real estate funds and trust managed by wholly-owned subsidiaries of the Sponsor (the "Mapletree Private Funds"). Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board takes the view that Mr Toh's status as an Independent Director is not affected as (a) he is appointed as an independent member of the investment committees of the Mapletree Private Funds; and (b) Mr Toh is not under an obligation to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the Sponsor in such capacity. The Board is satisfied that, as at 31 March 2021, Mr Toh was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.

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- (5) Mr Andrew Chong Yang Hsueh is currently a corporate advisor of Temasek International Advisers which is a subsidiary of Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited. Temasek Holdings (Private) Limited is a related corporation and a substantial shareholder of the Manager (through the Sponsor) and a substantial unitholder of MIT. Pursuant to the SFLCB Regulations, during FY20/21, Mr Chong is deemed not to be (a) independent from a management relationship with the Manager and MIT; and (b) independent from every substantial shareholder of the Manager and substantial unitholder of MIT, by virtue of his employment with Temasek International Advisers. Nonetheless, the Board takes the view that this would not affect Mr Chong's ability to act as an Independent Director and exercise independent judgement on the Board with a view to the best interests of the Unitholders of MIT.

The Board would also like to mention that Mr Andrew Chong Yang Hsueh had during FY20/21 received fees for being the Independent Chairman of the investor committee of Mapletree Europe Income Trust ("MERIT"), which is a private fund managed by a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Sponsor. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board takes the view that his Independent Director status is not affected as (a) Mr Chong is appointed as the Independent Chairman of the investor committee of MERIT; and (b) he is not under an obligation to act in accordance with the directions, instructions or wishes of the Sponsor in such capacity.

The Board is satisfied that as at 31 March 2021, Mr Chong was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.

- (6) Mr Chua Tiow Chye is currently the Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer of the Sponsor which wholly-owns the Manager and is a substantial unitholder of MIT. Mr Chua is also a Non-Executive Director of Mapletree North Asia Commercial Trust Management Ltd. (the manager of Mapletree North Asia Commercial Trust), a related corporation of the Sponsor. Pursuant to the SFLCB Regulations, during FY20/21, Mr Chua is deemed not to be (a) independent from a management relationship with the Manager and MIT by virtue of his employment with the Sponsor; (b) independent from any business relationship with the Manager and MIT as the Sponsor had received payments from the Manager and/or the trustee of MIT during FY20/21; and (c) independent from every substantial shareholder of the Manager and substantial unitholder of MIT by virtue of his employment with the Sponsor and his directorships in the abovementioned related corporations of the Sponsor. The Board is satisfied that, as at 31 March 2021, Mr Chua was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.
- (7) Ms Wendy Koh Mui Ai is currently the Group Chief Financial Officer of the Sponsor which wholly-owns the Manager and is a substantial unitholder of MIT. She is also a Non-Executive Director of Mapletree Logistics Trust Management Ltd. (the manager of Mapletree Logistics Trust), Mapletree Commercial Trust Management Ltd. (the manager of Mapletree Commercial Trust) and Mapletree North Asia Commercial Trust Management Ltd. (the manager of Mapletree North Asia Commercial Trust), all of which are related corporations of the Manager. Pursuant to the SFLCB Regulations, during FY20/21, Ms Koh is deemed not to be (a) independent from a management relationship with the Manager and MIT by virtue of her employment with the Sponsor; and (b) independent from any business relationship with the Manager and MIT as the Sponsor had received payments from the Manager and/or the trustee of MIT during FY20/21; and (c) independent from every substantial shareholder of the Manager and substantial unitholder of MIT by virtue of her employment with the Sponsor and directorships in the abovementioned related corporations of the Sponsor. The Board is satisfied that, as at 31 March 2021, Ms Koh was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.
- (8) Mr Michael Thomas Smith is currently the Regional Chief Executive Officer of Europe and USA of the Sponsor which wholly-owns the Manager and is a substantial unitholder of MIT. Pursuant to the SFLCB Regulations, during FY20/21, Mr Smith is deemed not to be (a) independent from a management relationship with the Manager and MIT; and (b) independent from every substantial shareholder of the Manager and substantial unitholder of MIT, by virtue of his employment with the Sponsor. Mr Smith is also deemed not to be independent from any business relationship with the Manager and MIT as the Sponsor had received payments from the Manager and/or the trustee of MIT during FY20/21. The Board is satisfied that, as at 31 March 2021, Mr Smith was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.
- (9) Mr Tham Kuo Wei is currently the Executive Director and CEO of the Manager. Pursuant to the SFLCB Regulations, during FY20/21, Mr Tham is deemed not to be (a) independent from a management relationship with the Manager and MIT by virtue of his employment with the Manager; (b) independent from any business relationship with the Manager and MIT by virtue of payments which the Manager had made to the Sponsor and/or received from the trustee of MIT during FY20/21; and (c) independent from every substantial shareholder of the Manager and substantial unitholder of MIT by virtue of his employment and directorship in the Manager which is a related corporation of the Sponsor. The Board is satisfied that, as at 31 March 2021, Mr Tham was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.
- (10) As at 31 March 2021, each of the abovementioned Directors was able to act in the best interests of all Unitholders of MIT as a whole.

Based on a review of the relationships between the Directors and the Group in accordance with the requirements of the Code and the SFLCB Regulations and declarations of independence by the Independent Directors, the Board considers the following Directors to be independent:

- Ms Mary Yeo Chor Gek;
- Mr Pok Soy Yoong;
- Mr Guy Daniel Harvey-Samuel;
- Dr Andrew Lee Tong Kin;
- Mr William Toh Thiam Siew; and
- Mr Andrew Chong Yang Hsueh.

In view of the above, more than half of the Board comprises Independent Directors. Non-Executive Directors make up a majority of the Board.

The Board is of the opinion that its current size is appropriate, taking into account the scope and nature of operations of the Manager and MIT, for effective decision-making and constructive debate. The Board comprises Directors who collectively have the core competencies, such as accounting or finance, business or management experience, industry knowledge, strategic planning experience and customer-based experience or knowledge, required for the Board to be effective in all aspects of its roles.

Provision 2.4 of the Code requires the disclosure of the Manager's board diversity policy and progress made towards implementing a board diversity policy. The Manager is in the process of formalising a board diversity policy. Nonetheless, the NRC is of the view that it has been and continues to ensure that the Board and Board committees have an appropriate level of independence and diversity of thought and background in its composition to enable it to make decisions in the best interests of the Group as explained in other parts of this report. The Manager is accordingly of the view that despite this deviation from Provision 2.4 of the Code, its practice is consistent with the intent of Principle 2 of the Code as a whole.

Chairman and CEO

Principle 3: Clear division of responsibilities

Our Policy and Practices

The Board and the Manager adopts the principle of clear separation of the roles and division of responsibilities between the Chairman of the Board and the CEO of the Manager, which has been set out in writing, and that no one individual has unfettered powers of decision-making. The Chairman and the CEO are not related to each other so as to maintain an appropriate balance of power, increased accountability and greater capacity of the Board for independent decision-making.

The Chairman is a Non-Executive Director who is responsible for the overall management of the Board and ensures that the Directors and Management work together with integrity and competency. He also guides the Board in constructive debates on the Group's strategic direction, management of its assets and governance matters.

The CEO is responsible for the running of the Manager's business operations. He has full executive responsibilities over the business and operational decisions of the Group. The CEO is also responsible for ensuring the Group's compliance with the applicable laws and regulations in its day-to-day operations.

As the Chairman is not an independent director, in accordance with Provision 3.3 of the Code, Ms Mary Yeo Chor Gek has been appointed as the Lead Independent Non-Executive Director of the Manager. The principal responsibilities of the Lead Independent Director are to act as Chairman of the Board when matters concerning the Chairman are to be considered, and to be available to the Board and Unitholders for communication of Unitholders' concerns when other channels of communication through the Chairman or CEO are inappropriate, as well as for leading all deliberations on feedback regarding performance of the CEO and any interested party transactions. Ms Yeo also has the discretion to hold meetings with the other independent Directors without the presence of Management as she deems appropriate or necessary and to provide feedback to the Chairman after such meetings.

Board Membership

Principle 4: Formal and transparent process for appointments

Our Policy and Practices

The Manager adopts the principle that Board renewal is an ongoing process to ensure good governance and to remain relevant to the changing needs of the Manager and the Group's business.

The Board established the NRC in January 2016 and it comprises three Directors, being Ms Mary Yeo Chor Gek, Mr Andrew Chong Yang Hsueh and Mr Chua Tiow Chye, all of whom are non-executive and the majority of whom (including the Chairperson) are independent. Ms Yeo is the Chairperson of the NRC and also the Lead Independent Non-Executive Director of the Manager.

The NRC has written terms of reference setting out its scope and authority in performing the functions of a nominating committee, which include assisting the Board in matters relating to:

- the appointment and re-appointment of Board and committee members;
- the appointment of the Executive Director and CEO and the framework for the appointment of key management personnel of the Manager, as well as the succession plan and framework for the Executive Director and CEO and key management personnel of the Manager;
- training and professional development programmes for the Board;
- the process and criteria for evaluating the performance of the Board, the Board committees and the Directors; and
- the determination, on an annual basis and as and when circumstances require, of the independent status of a Director, bearing in mind the relevant principles and provisions of the Code and the SFLCB Regulations, as well as any other applicable regulations and guidelines and salient factors.

The composition of the Board is determined based on the following principles:

- the Chairman of the Board should be a non-executive director of the Manager;
- the Board should comprise directors with a broad range of commercial experience including expertise in funds management, law, finance, audit, accounting and real estate;
- independent directors make up a majority of the Board if the Chairman is not an independent director; and
- non-executive directors make up a majority of the Board.

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The Board adheres to the principle of progressive renewal and seeks to ensure its composition provides for appropriate level of independence and diversity of thought and background. In identifying suitable candidates for appointment to the Board, the Board prioritises the needs of the Group and takes into account the industry and business experience, skills, expertise and background of the candidates. In addition, the Board gives due regard to the requirements in the Listing Manual and the Code. The Board also considers the candidate's ability to commit sufficient time to the affairs of the Group so as to diligently fulfil director's duties. The Board has the option to engage external consultants if necessary to assist the Board in identifying suitable candidates.

As at least half of the Board comprises Independent Directors, the Manager will not be voluntarily subjecting any appointment or reappointment of directors to voting by Unitholders.

The Manager does not, as a matter of policy, limit the maximum number of listed company board representations its Board members may hold as long as each of the Board members is able to commit his or her time and attention to the affairs of the Group, including attending Board and Board committee meetings and contributing constructively to the management of the Manager and the Group. The Manager believes that each Director is best placed to decide whether he or she has sufficient capacity to discharge his or her duties and responsibilities as Director in the best interests of the Manager and Unitholders. Taking into account the meeting attendance records of the Directors in FY20/21 as well as the contribution and performance of each individual Director at such meetings, the Board is satisfied that all the Directors have been able to adequately carry out their duties as Director notwithstanding their principal commitments.

In keeping with the principle that a Director must be able to commit his or her time and attention to the affairs of the Group, the Board will generally not approve the appointment of alternate directors. There were no alternate directors appointed in FY20/21.

The NRC reviews and makes recommendations of nominations and/or re-nominations of directors on the Board and Board committees to the Board for approval. As a principle of good corporate governance, all Board members are required to submit themselves for re-nomination and re-election at regular intervals during the annual general meeting of the Manager.

Board Performance

Principle 5: Formal assessment of the effectiveness of the Board

Our Policy and Practices

The Manager adopts the principle that the Board's performance is ultimately reflected in the performance of the Manager and the Group.

To assess the performance of the Board and the Board committees, the Manager conducts annual confidential board effectiveness surveys. The survey of the effectiveness of the Board, the AC and the NRC in respect of FY20/21 has been carried out.

To this end, the NRC assists the Board in the assessment of the effectiveness of the Board, its Board committees, as well as the contribution by the Chairman and each Director, by reviewing the performance evaluation process and making recommendations to the Board. The evaluation results are reviewed by the NRC and then shared with the Board. As part of the assessment, the NRC considers the adequacy of Board composition, the Board's performance and areas of improvement, level of strategic guidance to Management and the overall effectiveness of the Board, as well as each individual Director's attendance, contribution and participation at the Board and Board committee meetings. The Board also believes that performance evaluation is an ongoing process and strives to maintain regular feedback and interactions between Directors and Management.

(B) REMUNERATION MATTERS

Procedures for Developing Remuneration Policies

Principle 6: Formal and transparent procedure for fixing the remuneration of Directors

Level and Mix of Remuneration

Principle 7: Appropriate level of remuneration

Disclosure on Remuneration

Principle 8: Clear disclosure of remuneration matters

Our Policy and Practices

The Manager adopts the principle that remuneration matters should be sufficiently structured and benchmarked with good market practices to attract qualified talent to grow and manage its business.

The Manager adopts the principle that remuneration for the Board and Management should be viewed in totality. The remuneration structure supports the continuous development of the management bench strength to ensure robust talent management and succession planning.

Pursuant to the Guidelines to *All Holders of a Capital Markets Services Licence for Real Estate Investment Trust Management (Guideline No: SFA04-G07)*, the Manager has disclosed in this report information on its NRC as set out below.

Additional information on remuneration matters are disclosed in compliance with the requirements of the United Kingdom's Alternative Investment Fund Managers Regulations 2013 (as amended) ("AIFMR").

Nominating and Remuneration Committee

The Manager has an established NRC which consists of a minimum of three members and is constituted in a way that enables it to exercise its judgment and demonstrate its ability to make decisions consistent with the current and future financial status of the business.

The current members are: Ms Mary Yeo Chor Gek, Lead Independent Non-Executive Director, Mr Andrew Chong Yang Hsueh, Independent Non-Executive Director and Mr Chua Tiow Chye, Non-Executive Director. The NRC met once during FY20/21 and was guided by an independent remuneration consultant, Willis Towers Watson, who has no relationship with the Manager, the controlling shareholders of the Manager or its related entities and the Board of Directors that would interfere with its ability to provide independent advice to the NRC.

The NRC has written terms of reference setting out its scope and authority in performing the functions of a nominating and remuneration committee, which include assisting the Board in matters relating to:

- reviewing and recommending to the Board all nominations for the appointment and re-appointment of Directors and of members to the various Board committees;
- reviewing and recommending to the Board the succession plan for the Executive Director and CEO of the Manager;
- the remuneration framework for the Directors, the Executive Director and CEO and Management of the Manager, including all option plans, stock plans and the like as well as the performance hurdles of such plans;
- the specific remuneration package for the Directors and key management personnel; and
- the termination payment, gratuities, severance payment and other similar payments to the Executive Director and CEO of the Manager.

Decision-making Process for Determining the Remuneration Policy

The NRC is responsible for the annual review of remuneration policy (including termination terms), its implementation and ensuring that such terms of remuneration are fair and in compliance with relevant legislation and regulation. The NRC makes remuneration decisions for employees annually in May following the end of the performance year. This timing allows the full-year financial results to be considered along with the other non-financial goals and objectives. The NRC developed the Manager's remuneration policy with a number of principles in mind (the "Remuneration Principles"). The overarching principle is to promote sustainable long-term success of MIT. The remuneration policy should:

- **Align with Unitholders:** A proportion of variable remuneration is deferred and delivered in the form of deferred awards over MIT phantom units, thereby aligning the interests of employees and Unitholders;
- **Align with performance and value creation:** Total variable compensation is managed and structured taking into consideration the level of performance and value creation attained which is being assessed holistically and determined based on financial performance and achievement of non-financial goals;
- **Encourage retention:** Deferred variable compensation does not give rise to any immediate entitlement. Awards normally require the participant to be employed continuously by the Manager until at least the third anniversary of the grant in order to vest in full; and
- **Be Competitive:** Employees receive competitive compensation and benefits packages, which are reviewed annually and benchmarked by an independent remuneration consultant to the external market.

In determining specific individual compensation amounts, a number of factors are considered including non-financial goals and objectives, financial performance of MIT and the individual performance and contributions to MIT during the financial year. Particularly for Management, a portion of their variable compensation is deferred and subjected to downside risks to prevent excessive risk taking.

Corporate Governance

Guided by the Remuneration Principles, the key objectives and features of the Manager's policy on the remuneration of its Directors are as follows:

- the level of directors' fees should be appropriate (but not excessive) to attract and retain the Directors to provide good stewardship of the Manager and the Group;
- directors' fees are reviewed annually and subject to the approval of the Manager's shareholder;
- to ensure that each Directors' fees are commensurate with his or her responsibilities and time spent, each Director is paid a basic retainer and Directors who perform additional services through the Board committees are paid additional fees for such services;
- Non-Executive Directors who are employees of the Sponsor do not receive any director's fees in their capacity as Directors, and the CEO also does not receive any director's fees in his capacity as a Director; and
- no Director is involved in deciding his or her own remuneration.

Directors' fees are paid entirely in cash.

Guided by the Remuneration Principles, the key objectives and features of the Manager's policy on the remuneration of its executives are as follows:

- the level and structure of executive remuneration should be competitive (but not excessive) to attract, motivate and retain a pool of talented executives for the present and future growth of the Manager; and
- executive remuneration should be performance-related with a view to promoting the long-term success and sustainability of the Manager.

The CEO is not present during the discussions relating to his own compensation and terms and conditions of service, and the review of his performance. However, the Board, with the assistance of the NRC, reviews the CEO's performance and the NRC Chairperson, or her designate, will share with the CEO their views of his performance. In accordance with the directions and guidelines from the MAS on the remuneration of key executive officers of REIT managers, the Board, with the assistance of the NRC, reviews the CEO's specific remuneration package to ensure its compliance with the substance and spirit of such directions and guidelines from the MAS.

The remuneration of the Board and the employees of the Manager is paid by the Manager, and not paid by MIT. The Manager has set out in the table below information on the fees paid to the Directors for FY20/21:

Board Members	Membership	Fees Paid for FY20/21
Mr Wong Meng Meng	Non-Executive Chairman and Director	S\$125,500
Ms Mary Yeo Chor Gek	Lead Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairperson of the NRC	S\$92,000
Mr Pok Soy Yoong	Independent Non-Executive Director and Chairman of the AC	S\$103,000
Mr Guy Daniel Harvey-Samuel	Independent Non-Executive Director and Member of the AC	S\$85,500
Dr Andrew Lee Tong Kin	Independent Non-Executive Director and Member of the AC	S\$86,000
Mr William Toh Thiam Siew	Independent Non-Executive Director and Member of the AC	S\$86,000
Mr Andrew Chong Yang Hsueh	Independent Non-Executive Director and Member of the NRC	S\$76,000
Mr Chua Tiow Chye	Non-Executive Director and Member of the NRC	Nil ⁽¹⁾
Ms Wendy Koh Mui Ai	Non-Executive Director	Nil ⁽¹⁾
Mr Michael Thomas Smith	Non-Executive Director	Nil ⁽¹⁾
Mr Tham Kuo Wei	Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer	Nil ⁽²⁾

Notes:

- (1) Non-Executive Directors who are employees of the Sponsor do not receive any fees in their capacity as Directors and NRC member.
 (2) The CEO does not receive any Director's fees in his capacity as a Director.

Link between pay, performance and value creation

Employee remuneration at the Manager comprises fixed pay, variable incentive, allowances and benefits. Fixed pay comprises a salary and an annual wage supplement. All employees receive a salary that reflects their responsibilities and the level of experience and expertise needed to undertake their roles. Allowances and benefits include statutory provident fund contributions and benefits-in-kind to enable employees to undertake their roles by ensuring their wellbeing.

Variable incentive is a material component of total remuneration and comprises Performance Target Bonus (“PTB”), Variable Bonus (“VB”) and Long-term Incentive (“LTI”) award. The PTB amount is determined based on the achievement of non-financial Key Performance Indicators (“KPIs”) which are critical to improving the organisational effectiveness and operational efficiency of the Manager, e.g. digitalisation to improve workflow and processes by implementing Docusign, and enabling different modes of payment collections via electronic platforms, high participation rate in Employee Engagement Survey representing broad-based feedback received, regular active investors and tenants engagement despite safe management measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, raising the capability of the workforce through increased participation in learning and development. The VB amount is assessed based on the achievement of financial KPIs such as net property income yield and margin, occupancy rate, DPU and WALE which measure the financial metrics essential to the unitholders. KPIs and their weightages may change from year to year. The LTI award is a form of unit-linked incentive plan and represents conditional rights to receive a cash sum based on the achievement of MIT’s Total Shareholder Return (“TSR”) targets and value of a notional investment in MIT.

To this end, the NRC has reviewed the performance of the Manager for FY20/21 and is satisfied that all KPIs have largely been achieved.

For Management, a significant proportion of their variable incentive is deferred under the Manager’s VB banking mechanism and vesting schedule of LTI award. Deferral of these two components is a key mechanism to building sustainable business performance. Under the VB banking mechanism, only a portion of a VB award declared in the financial year will be paid out while the rest of the VB award will be deferred and paid out in the subsequent years. The deferred VB award will be subjected to downside risks depending on future performance. This ensures alignment between remuneration and sustaining business performance in the longer term. For the LTI award, it is subject to three to five years vesting schedule. The settlement value of the LTI award is linked to the value of MIT units at the time of vesting.

Employees of the Manager are eligible to be considered for variable pay each year. Variable pay for all employees takes into account MIT, the Manager and the individual’s performance against agreed financial and non-financial objectives similar to that of Management. However, in execution, the PTB and VB are combined to form consolidated variable pay for the employees.

The Manager will continue to be guided by the objective of delivering long term sustainable returns to Unitholders. The remuneration of Management team will continue to be aligned with the goal of value creation for Unitholders. The performance will be measured over a five-year period, with an interim review at the end of the third year.

All fixed pay, variable incentives and allowances are payable wholly in cash. All payments are entirely paid by the Manager and not as an additional expense imposed on MIT.

To assess the individual performance, a 4-point rating scale is used by the supervisors to provide an overall assessment of an employee’s performance, and employees are required to perform a self-evaluation. The overall, final rating is reconciled during each employee’s performance appraisal. The Manager has ensured that this has been adhered to.

The remuneration for the CEO in bands of S\$250,000 and a breakdown of the remuneration of the CEO and all of the key management personnel of the Manager in percentage terms, are provided in the remuneration table below. At present, there are only four key management personnel of the Manager (including the CEO).

Corporate Governance

Total Remuneration Bands of CEO and Key Management Personnel for FY20/21					
	Salary, Allowances and Statutory Contributions	Bonus ⁽¹⁾	Long-term Incentives ⁽²⁾	Benefits	Total
Above S\$1,250,000 to S\$1,500,000					
Tham Kuo Wei	27%	47%	26%	N.M ³	100%
Other Key Management Personnel					
Ler Lily	37%	42%	21%	N.M ³	100%
Peter Tan Che Heng	39%	41%	20%	N.M ³	100%
Serene Tam Mei Fong	45%	40%	15%	N.M ³	100%

Notes:

(1) The amounts disclosed are bonuses declared during the financial year.

(2) The amounts disclosed include the grant value of the LTI awards. The LTI award is a form of unit-linked incentive plan and represent conditional rights to receive a cash sum based on the achievement of the TSR targets and fulfilment of vesting period of up to five years.

(3) Not meaningful.

The total remuneration for the CEO and other key management personnel in FY20/21 was S\$3.18 million.

The Manager is cognisant of the requirements as set out under Provision 8.1 of the Code and the “*Notice to All Holders of a Capital Markets Services Licence for Real Estate Investment Trust Management*” to disclose: (a) the remuneration of its CEO and each individual Director on a named basis; (b) the remuneration of at least its top five executive officers (who are neither Directors nor the CEO), on a named basis, in bands of S\$250,000; and (c) in aggregate the total remuneration paid to its top five key management personnel (who are not Directors or the CEO) and in the event of non-disclosure, the Manager is required to provide reasons for such non-disclosure.

The Board had assessed and decided not to disclose (i) the remuneration of the CEO in exact quantum; (ii) the remuneration of at least its top five key management personnel (who are neither Directors nor the CEO), on a named basis, in bands of S\$250,000; and (iii) the aggregate remuneration paid to its top five key management personnel (who are not Directors or the CEO), as the Manager is of the view that remuneration details are commercially sensitive due to the confidential nature of remuneration matters and with keen competition for management staff in the REIT industry, such disclosure may result in talent retention issues. The Board is of the view that despite the deviation from Provision 8.1 of the Code, the Manager has been transparent on remuneration matters in line with the intent of Principle 8 of the Code, as information on the Manager’s remuneration policies, level and mix of remuneration, procedure for setting remuneration and the relationships between remuneration, performance and value creation has been disclosed in detail in the preceding paragraphs.

Since the remuneration of the CEO and key management personnel of the Manager are not separately billed but paid by the Manager, the Manager is also of the view that the interest of the Unitholders would not be prejudiced as the indicative range of the CEO’s remuneration, as well as the total remuneration for the CEO and key management personnel of the Manager, have been provided.

There were no employees of the Manager who were substantial shareholders of the Manager, substantial unitholder of MIT or immediate family members of a Director, the CEO or a substantial shareholder of the Manager or substantial unitholder of MIT and whose remuneration exceeded S\$100,000 during FY20/21.

In solidarity with its stakeholders in overcoming the challenges posed by COVID-19, the senior management and Board of the Manager had elected to take a reduction in their base salary and basic retainer fee by between 5% to 10% for FY20/21.

Quantitative Remuneration Disclosure under AIFMR

The Manager is required under the AIFMR to make quantitative disclosures of remuneration. Disclosures are provided in relation to (a) the staff of the Manager; (b) staff who are senior management; and (c) staff who have the ability to materially affect the risk profile of MIT.

All individuals included in the aggregated figures disclosed are rewarded in line with the Manager's remuneration policies.

The aggregate amount of remuneration awarded by the Manager to its staff in respect of the Manager's financial year ended 31 March 2021 was S\$8.15 million. This figure comprised fixed pay of S\$4.22 million, variable pay of S\$3.60 million and allowances/benefits-in-kind of S\$0.33 million. There were a total of 42 beneficiaries of the remuneration described above.

In respect of the Manager's financial year ended 31 March 2021, the aggregate amount of remuneration awarded by the Manager to its senior management (who are also members of staff whose actions have a material impact on the risk profile of MIT) was S\$4.28 million, comprising 8 individuals identified having considered, among others, their roles and decision making powers.

(C) ACCOUNTABILITY AND AUDIT

Risk Management and Internal Controls

Principle 9: Sound system of risk management and internal controls

Our Policy and Practices

The Manager adopts the principle that a sound system of internal controls and risk management is necessary for the Group's business.

The Manager, working with the Sponsor, has established internal controls and risk management systems that address key operational, financial, compliance and information technology risks relevant to the Group's business and operating environment. These systems provide reasonable but not absolute assurance on the achievement of their intended internal controls and risk management objectives.

The key elements of the Group's internal controls and risk management systems are as follows:

Operating Structure

The Manager has a well-defined operating structure with clear lines of responsibility and delegated authority, as well as reporting mechanisms to Management and the Board. This structure includes certain functions, such as Human Resource, Information Systems & Technology, Internal Audit, Legal and Risk Management, which are outsourced to the Sponsor. The Manager also conducts an annual review of such outsourced functions to ensure required performance standards are met.

Policies, Procedures and Practices

Controls are detailed in formal procedures and manuals. For example, the Board has approved a set of delegations of authority which sets out approval limits for investments and divestments, development, operational and capital expenditures and treasury activities. Approval sub-limits are also provided at various management levels to facilitate operational efficiency as well as provide a system of checks and balances.

The Board's approval is required for material transactions, including the following:

- equity fund-raising;
- acquisition, development and disposal of properties above Board-prescribed limits;
- overall project budget variance and ad hoc development budget above Board-prescribed limits;
- debt fund-raising above Board-prescribed limits; and
- derivative contracts above Board-prescribed limits.

The Group's procedures and practices are regularly reviewed and revised where necessary to enhance controls and efficiency. The Group has implemented a Control Self-Assessment ("CSA") programme to reinforce risk awareness and compliance with internal controls within the Group, by fostering accountability, control and risk ownership.

The internal audit function, which is outsourced to the Sponsor, reviews the Group's compliance with the control procedures and policies established within the internal controls and risk management systems. The internal audit function is also involved in the validation of the results from the CSA programme.

Corporate Governance

Whistle-blowing Policy

To reinforce a culture of good business ethics and governance, the Manager has a Whistle-blowing Policy to encourage the reporting, in good faith, of any suspected improper conduct, including possible financial irregularities, while protecting the whistle-blowers from reprisals. Any reporting concerning the Group or the Manager is notified to the AC Chairman of the Sponsor as well as the AC Chairman of the Manager for investigation and to the AC of the Manager on the findings.

For queries or to make a report, please write to reporting@mapletree.com.sg

Risk Management

Risk management is an integral part of the Manager's business strategy in order to deliver sustainable and growing return. In order to safeguard and create value for Unitholders, the Manager proactively manages risks and embeds the risk management process as part of the Manager's planning and decision-making process.

The risk management function which is outsourced to the Sponsor's Risk Management Department oversees the Enterprise Risk Management ("ERM") framework, which is adapted from the International Organisation for Standardisation under (ISO) 31000 Risk Management. It reports key risk exposures, portfolio risk profile and activities in respect of significant risk matters to the AC and the Board independently on a quarterly basis.

The risk management system established by the Manager, which encompasses the ERM framework and the risk management process, is dynamic and evolves with the business. The Manager has identified key risks, assessed their likelihood and impact on MIT's business and established corresponding mitigating controls. The information is maintained in a risk register that is reviewed and updated regularly. The Risk Management Department works closely with the Manager to review and enhance the risk management system in accordance with market practices and regulatory requirements, under the guidance and direction of the AC and the Board.

The Manager's policies and procedures relating to risk management can be found on pages 101 to 103 of this Annual Report.

Information Technology Controls

As part of the Group's risk management process, information technology controls and cybersecurity measures have been put in place and are periodically reviewed to ensure that information technology risks and cybersecurity threats are identified and mitigated. As part of the periodic review, regulatory requirements, such as the MAS Cyber Hygiene Notice and the MAS Technology Risk Management Guidelines (January 2021), are monitored and complied with where applicable.

On an annual basis, the Manager conducts the Business Continuity Plan ("BCP") and IT Disaster Recovery ("ITDR") Tests, as well as engages external specialists to perform a Vulnerability and Penetration Test ("VAPT") on the Group's networks, systems and devices. The BCP and ITDR ensure that information technology systems remain functional in a crisis situation or system failure, and the VAPT ensures that cybersecurity measures deployed continue to be effective.

The Sponsor's Internal Audit Department conducted the annual review of information technology controls as part of the FY20/21 annual CSA programme. The audit findings were submitted to the AC and the Board for review and appropriate remedial actions were implemented as at 31 March 2021.

Financial Reporting

The Board is updated on a quarterly basis on the Group's financial performance. The Manager reports on significant variances in financial performance, in comparison with budgets and financial performance of corresponding periods in the preceding year and provides an updated full year forecast. In addition, the Board is provided with quarterly updates on key operational activities of the Group.

A management representation letter is provided by the Manager to the AC and Board quarterly in connection with the preparation of the Group's financial statements. The representation letter is supported by declarations made individually by the various Heads of Department. Compliance checklists on announcement of financial statements, which are required for submission to the SGX-ST, are reviewed and confirmed by the Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") of the Manager.

The Group's financial results are prepared in accordance with the Singapore Financial Reporting Standards (International) and are reported to Unitholders in accordance with the requirements of the SGX-ST. These results announcements provide analyses of significant variances in financial performance and commentary on the industry's competitive conditions in which the Group operates and any known factors or events that may affect the Group in the next reporting period and the next twelve months.

Detailed disclosure and analysis of the full year financial performance of the Group can be found on pages 145 to 228 of this Annual Report.

Financial Management

As a matter of financial and operational discipline, Management reviews on a monthly basis the performance of the Group's portfolio of properties.

The key financial risks which the Group is exposed to include interest rate risk, foreign exchange rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. Where appropriate, the Manager procures hedging transactions to be entered into so as to protect the Group against interest rate and foreign exchange rate fluctuations. In addition, the Manager proactively manages liquidity risk by ensuring that sufficient working capital lines and loan facilities are maintained for the Group. The Manager's capital management strategy can be found on pages 79 to 80 of this Annual Report. The Manager also has in place credit control procedures for managing tenant credit risk and monitoring of arrears collection.

Internal Audit

The internal audit function, which is outsourced to the Sponsor's Internal Audit Department, prepares a risk-based audit plan annually to review the adequacy and effectiveness of the Group's system of internal controls and this audit plan is approved by the AC before execution. The Sponsor's Internal Audit Department is also involved during the year in conducting ad hoc audits and reviews that may be requested by the AC or Management on specific areas of concern, including validating the responses under the Manager's CSA programme. In doing so, the Sponsor's Internal Audit Department is able to obtain assurance that business objectives for the internal controls processes under review are being achieved and key control mechanisms are in place.

Upon completion of each review, a formal report detailing the audit findings and the appropriate recommendations is issued to the AC. The Sponsor's Internal Audit Department monitors and reports on a quarterly basis the timely implementation of the action plans to Management and the AC.

External Audit

The external auditors also provide an independent perspective on certain aspects of the internal financial controls system arising from their work and report their findings to the AC on an annual basis. The external auditors are also updated on the findings of the Manager's CSA programme.

Interested Person Transactions

All interested person transactions are undertaken on normal commercial terms and the AC regularly reviews all interested person transactions to ensure compliance with the internal control system as well as with relevant provisions of the Listing Manual and the Property Funds Appendix. In addition, the Trustee has the right to review such transactions to ascertain that the Property Funds Appendix has been complied with.

The following procedures are also undertaken:

- transactions (either individually or as part of a series or if aggregated with other transactions involving the same interested person during the same financial year) equal to or exceeding S\$100,000 in value but below 3.0% of the value of the Group's net tangible assets will be subject to review by the AC at regular intervals;
- transactions (either individually or as part of a series or if aggregated with other transactions involving the same interested person during the same financial year) equal to or exceeding 3.0% but below 5.0% of the value of the Group's net tangible assets will be subject to the review and prior approval of the AC. Such approval shall only be given if the transactions are on normal commercial terms and are consistent with similar types of transactions made by the Trustee with third parties which are unrelated to the Manager; and
- transactions (either individually or as part of a series or if aggregated with other transactions involving the same interested person during the same financial year) equal to or exceeding 5.0% of the value of the Group's net tangible assets will be reviewed and approved prior to such transactions being entered into, on the basis described in the preceding paragraph, by the AC (which may, as it deems fit, request advice on the transaction from independent sources or advisers, including the obtaining of valuations from independent professional valuers). Further, under the Listing Manual and the Property Funds Appendix, such transactions would have to be approved by the Unitholders at a meeting of the Unitholders.

The interested person transactions undertaken by the Group in FY20/21 are set out on page 231 to 232 of this Annual Report. For the purpose of the disclosures, the full contract sum is taken as the value of the transaction where the interested person transaction has a fixed term and contract value, while the annual amount incurred and/or accrued is taken as the value of the transaction where an interested person transaction has an indefinite term or where the contract sum is not specified.

Corporate Governance

Dealing in MIT units

The Manager adopts the best practices on dealings in securities set out in the Listing Manual. All Directors are required to disclose their interests in MIT and are also provided with disclosures of interests by other Directors as well as reminders on trading restrictions.

On trading in MIT units, the Directors and employees of the Manager are reminded not to deal in MIT units on short term considerations and are prohibited from dealing in MIT units:

- in the period commencing one month before the public announcement of the Group's annual results;
- in the period commencing two weeks before the public announcement of the Group's quarterly and semi-annual results; and
- at any time whilst in possession of price-sensitive information.

Each Director is required to notify the Manager of his or her acquisition of MIT units or of changes in the number of MIT units which he or she holds or in which he or she has an interest, within two business days of such acquisition or change of interest. In addition, employees of the Manager and the Sponsor are to give pre-trading notifications before any dealing in MIT units.

Role of the Board and AC

The Board recognises the importance of maintaining a sound internal controls and risk management system to safeguard the assets of the Group and Unitholders' interests, through a framework that enables risks to be assessed and managed.

The AC provides oversight of the financial reporting, accounting policies and the adequacy and effectiveness of the Group's internal controls and risk management systems as well as its compliance processes.

The Board and the AC also take into account the results from the CSA programme, which requires the various departments to review and report on compliance with key control processes. As part of the CSA programme, the Internal Audit function performs a validation of Management's self-assessment responses on a sampling basis, after which the validated self-assessment results are reported to the AC and the Board.

It should be recognised that all internal controls and risk management systems contain inherent limitations and, accordingly, the internal controls and risk management systems can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance.

The Board has received written assurance from the CEO and the CFO that the Group's financial records have been properly maintained and the Group's financial statements give a true and fair view of the Group's operations and finances. It has also received assurance from the CEO, the CFO and other relevant key management personnel, who have responsibility regarding various aspects of the risk management and internal controls systems, that the systems of risk management and internal controls in place for the Group are adequate and effective to address the risks (including financial, operational, compliance and IT risks) that the Manager considers relevant and material to the current business environment.

Comment and Opinion on Internal Controls

Based on the internal controls and risk management systems established and maintained by the Manager and the Sponsor, work performed by the Sponsor's Internal Audit and Risk Management Departments as well as by the external auditors, reviews performed by Management and the above-mentioned assurance from the CEO, the CFO and other relevant key management personnel, the Board is of the opinion that the Group's internal controls and risk management systems, addressing key financial, operational, compliance, information technology and risk management objectives and which the Group considers relevant and material to its operations, were adequate and effective to meet the needs of the Group in its business as at 31 March 2021. However, the Board also notes that the system of internal controls and risk management provides reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the Group will not be adversely affected by any event that could be reasonably foreseen as it strives to achieve its business objectives. In this regard, the Board also notes that no system of internal controls and risk management can provide absolute assurance against the occurrence of material errors, poor judgment in decision making, human error, losses, fraud or other irregularities. The AC concurs with the Board's comments provided in the foregoing. For the financial year ended 31 March 2021, the Board and the AC have not identified any material weaknesses in the Group's internal controls and risk management systems.

Audit and Risk Committee

Principle 10: The Board has an AC which discharges its duties objectively.

Our Policy and Practices

The Board is supported by the AC which provides additional oversight of financial, risks and audit matters, so as to maximise the effectiveness of the Board and foster active participation and contribution.

The Manager adopts the principle that the AC shall have at least three members, all of whom must be non-executive and the majority of whom, including the AC Chairman, must be independent. The Board is of the view that the AC members collectively have recent and relevant expertise or experience in financial management and are appropriately qualified to discharge their responsibilities.

The AC presently consists of four members, all including the AC Chairman are independent and are appropriately qualified to discharge their responsibilities. They are:

- Mr Pok Soy Yoong, Chairman;
- Mr Guy Daniel Harvey-Samuel, Member;
- Dr Andrew Lee Tong Kin, Member; and
- Mr William Toh Thiam Siew, Member.

None of the AC members are a partner or director of the incumbent external auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (“PwC”), within the previous two years, nor does any of the AC members have any financial interest in PwC.

The AC has written terms of reference setting out its scope and authority, which include:

- examination of interested person transactions;
- review and approval of the scope of internal audit activities;
- review of the adequacy, effectiveness, independence, scope and audit findings of internal and external auditors as well as Management’s responses to them and the implementation of remedial actions to address such findings;
- evaluation of the nature and extent of non-audit services performed by external auditors. In this regard, for FY20/21, MIT paid S\$418,000 to PwC for services engaged. Of the total amount, S\$349,000 was for audit services, including the Group’s share of audit fees for its joint ventures, and S\$69,000 was for non-audit services relating to advisory services for the Group. The AC has undertaken a review of all non-audit services provided by PwC and is of the opinion that such non-audit services would not affect the independence of PwC as the external auditors;
- review of the quality and reliability of information prepared for inclusion in financial reports;
- authority to investigate any matters within its terms of reference, full access to and co-operation by Management and full discretion to invite any Director or executive officer to attend its meetings, and reasonable resources to enable it to discharge its functions properly;
- making recommendation to the Board on the appointment and re-appointment of external auditors; and
- approval of the remuneration and terms of engagement of external auditors.

In addition, the AC also:

- reviews significant financial reporting issues and judgements so as to ensure the integrity of the financial statements of the Group and any formal announcements relating to the Group’s financial performance;
- reviews at least annually the adequacy and effectiveness of the Group’s internal controls and risk management systems;
- reviews the assurance from the CEO and the CFO on the financial records and financial statements;
- meets with the external and internal auditors, without the presence of Management, at least once a year to review and discuss the financial reporting process, system of internal controls (including financial, operational, compliance and information technology controls), and significant concerns, audit comments and recommendations;
- reviews and, if required, investigates the matters reported via the whistle-blowing mechanism, by which employees may, in confidence, raise concerns about suspected improprieties including financial irregularities. The objective of the whistle-blowing mechanism is to ensure that arrangements are in place for independent investigations of any reported matters and reviews of such investigations, to ensure appropriate follow-up actions are taken; and
- discusses during the AC meetings, any changes to accounting standards and issues which have a direct impact on the financial statements.

In the review of the financial statements, the AC has discussed with Management the accounting principles that were applied and their judgment of items that might affect the integrity of the financial statements. The following significant matter impacting the financial statements was discussed with Management and the external auditor and reviewed by the AC:

Corporate Governance

Key Audit Matter	How This Issue was Addressed by the AC
Valuation of investment properties	<p>The AC considered the valuation methodologies, assumptions and outcomes applied by MIT's independent valuers in determining the valuation of the investment properties. The AC discussed the details of the valuation with the independent valuers and Management and considered the results of work performed and assessment by the external auditor.</p> <p>The AC was satisfied with the appropriateness of the valuation methodologies, assumptions and outcome applied by the independent valuers and disclosed in the financial statements.</p> <p>The COVID-19 outbreak has affected the global economic outlook and it remains uncertain as there is no visibility over the severity and duration of the pandemic as well as the eventual economic recovery.</p> <p>The independent valuers have indicated that the assessments are reflective of the market conditions and have taken into account the impact of COVID-19 pandemic outbreak based on information available as at 31 March 2021. The valuation reports from independent property valuers for certain investment properties have also highlighted the prevailing uncertainty of the COVID-19 outbreak.</p> <p>Accordingly, the valuation of these investment properties may be subject to more fluctuation than during normal market conditions.</p> <p>The valuation of investment properties is also an area of focus for the external auditor. The external auditor has included this item as a key audit matter in its audit report for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.</p> <p>The AC will work with the Management to closely monitor the situation and deliberate over the review of property values as and when deemed necessary.</p>

A total of five AC meetings were held in FY20/21.

The Manager, on behalf of the Group, confirms that the Group has complied with Rules 712 and 715 of the Listing Manual in relation to the Group's auditing firm.

Internal Audit

Our Policy and Practices

The Manager adopts the principle that a robust system of internal audits is required to safeguard Unitholders' interests, the Group's assets, and to manage risks. Apart from the AC, other Board committees may be set up from time to time to address specific issues or risks.

The internal audit function of the Group is outsourced to the Sponsor's Internal Audit Department and the Head of Internal Audit reports directly to the AC Chairman of both the Manager and the Sponsor.

The AC is consulted and provides objective feedback to the AC of the Sponsor on the hiring, removal, remuneration and evaluation of the Head of Internal Audit. The Sponsor's Internal Audit Department (including the Head of Internal Audit) has unfettered access to all of the Group's documents, records, properties and personnel, including access to the AC and has appropriate standing within the Group.

The role of the Sponsor's Internal Audit Department is to conduct internal audit work in consultation with, but independently of, Management. Its annual audit plan and audit findings are submitted to the AC for review and approval respectively. The AC also meets with the Head of Internal Audit at least once a year without the presence of Management.

The Sponsor's Internal Audit Department is a member of the Singapore branch of the Institute of Internal Auditors Inc. (the "IIA"), which has its headquarters in the United States. The Sponsor's Internal Audit Department subscribes to, and is in conformance with, the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing developed by the IIA (the "IIA Standards") and has incorporated these standards into its audit practices.

The IIA Standards cover requirements on:

- independence and objectivity;
- proficiency and due professional care;
- managing the internal audit activity;
- engagement planning;
- performing engagement;
- communicating results; and
- monitoring progress.

The Sponsor's Internal Audit Department employees involved in information technology audits are Certified Information System Auditors and members of the Information System Audit and Control Association (the "ISACA") in the United States. The ISACA Information System Auditing Standards provide guidance on the standards and procedures to apply in information technology audits.

To ensure that the internal audits are performed by competent professionals, the Sponsor's Internal Audit Department recruits and employs qualified employees. In order that their technical knowledge remains current and relevant, the Sponsor's Internal Audit Department identifies and provides training and development opportunities to the employees.

In compliance with the IIA Standards, an external quality assessment review ("QAR") of the Sponsor's Internal Audit Department is conducted at least once every five years by a qualified, independent reviewer. The last external QAR of the Sponsor's Internal Audit Department was completed in 2018 and it was assessed that the Group's internal audit function is in conformance with the IIA standards. The next external QAR will be conducted in 2023.

For FY20/21, the AC is of the opinion that the internal audit function is independent, effective and adequately resourced.

(D) UNITHOLDER RIGHTS AND ENGAGEMENT

Unitholder Rights and Conduct of General Meetings

Principle 11: Fair and equitable treatment of all Unitholders

Engagement with Unitholders

Principle 12: Regular, effective and fair communication with Unitholders

Our Policy and Practices

The Manager adopts the principle that all Unitholders should be treated fairly and equitably in order to enable them to exercise their ownership rights arising from their unitholdings and have the opportunity to communicate their views on matters affecting MIT. The Manager provides Unitholders with regular, balanced and clear assessments of MIT's performance, position and outlook.

To this end, the Manager issues via SGXNET announcements and press releases on the Group's latest corporate developments on an immediate basis where required by the Listing Manual. Where immediate disclosure is not practicable, the relevant announcement will be made as soon as possible to ensure that all stakeholders and the public have equal access to the information.

The public can access the electronic copy of the Annual Report via SGXNET as well as MIT's website and under normal circumstances, all Unitholders will receive a booklet containing the Letter to Unitholders, instructions on accessing the Annual Report online with the option of receiving a printed version of the Annual Report, a notice of annual general meeting and a proxy form with instructions on the appointment of proxies. However, in view of the COVID-19 situation, the Manager will be conducting MIT's 11th annual general meeting by electronic means; and therefore, alternative arrangements will be made to take into account the online nature of the annual general meeting¹. The notice of annual general meeting for each annual general meeting is also published via SGXNET and MIT's website as well as in the newspaper.

An annual general meeting is held once a year to provide a platform for Unitholders to interact with the Board and Management, in particular the Chairman of the Board, the Chairman of the AC, the CEO and the CFO. The external auditors are also present to address Unitholders' queries about the audit and the financial statements of the Group.

A record of the Directors' attendance at the AGM can be found in the record of their attendance of meetings set out at pages 82 and 83 of this Annual Report.

¹ Please refer to the notice of annual general meeting dated 21 June 2021 for further information.

Corporate Governance

Provision 11.4 of the Code requires an issuer's constitutive documents to allow for absentia voting at general meetings of Unitholders. The Trust Deed currently does not provide for absentia voting which may be considered by the Manager following careful study to ensure that the integrity of information and authentication of the identity of Unitholders through the web are not compromised and legislative changes are effected to recognise remote voting. The Manager is of the view that despite the deviation from Provision 11.4 of the Code, its current practice remains consistent with Principle 11 of the Code as a whole because Unitholders nevertheless have opportunities to communicate their views on matters affecting the Group even when they are not in attendance at general meetings. For example, in an ordinary meeting setting (i.e. physical meetings), Unitholders may appoint proxies to attend, speak and vote, on their behalf, at general meetings. Where a general meeting is convened, all Unitholders are entitled to receive a circular enclosing a proxy form with instructions on the appointment of proxies. Prior to voting at an annual general meeting or any other general meeting, the voting procedures will be made known to the Unitholders to facilitate them in exercising their votes.

To safeguard Unitholders' interests and rights, a separate resolution is proposed for each substantially separate issue at an annual general meeting. Each resolution proposed at an annual general meeting and any other general meeting will be voted on by way of electronic polling. An independent scrutineer is also appointed to validate the vote tabulation and procedures. The Manager will announce the results of the votes cast for and against each resolution and the respective percentages and prepare minutes of such meetings.

MIT's 11th annual general meeting will be conducted by electronic means and therefore physical attendance in person will not be permitted. Unitholders may appoint the Chairman of the meeting as proxy to vote on their behalf at the general meeting and submit questions relating to the business of the meeting in advance, or during the audio-visual webcast via the online chat box function. Please refer to the notice of annual general meeting dated 21 June 2021 for further information.

The Manager has an Investor Relations Department which works with the Legal and Corporate Secretariat Department of the Sponsor to ensure the Group's compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to listed REITs, as well as to incorporate best practices in its investor relations programme. To keep the Board abreast of market perception and concerns, the Investor Relations Department provides regular updates on analyst and investor feedback.

The Manager's investor relations policy prioritises proactive engagement and timely and effective communication with its stakeholders. The Manager regularly communicates major developments in the Group's businesses and operations to Unitholders, investors, analysts and the media through the issuance of announcements and press releases. In addition, all announcements and press releases are first made on SGXNET and subsequently on MIT's website. The Manager also communicates with MIT's investors on a regular basis through group/individual meetings with investors, investor conferences and non-deal roadshows. The Manager's CEO and CFO are present at briefings and communication sessions to answer questions from investors. "Live" audio webcast of analyst briefings are conducted, where practicable. Stakeholders can subscribe for email alerts to receive the latest updates on the Group and also contact the Investor Relations Department via a dedicated email address. Further details on the Manager's investor relations activities and efforts are found on pages 104 to 106 of this Annual Report.

Minutes of general meetings recording the substantive and relevant comments made and questions raised by Unitholders are available to Unitholders for their inspection upon request. Minutes of the general meetings (which record substantial and relevant comments and queries from Unitholders and the response from the Board and Management) are also available on MIT's website at www.mapletreeindustrialtrust.com.

MIT's distribution policy is to distribute at least 90% of its taxable income and such distributions are typically paid on a quarterly basis. For FY20/21, MIT made four distributions to Unitholders.

Principle 13: Engagement with Stakeholders

Our Policy and Practices

The Manager adopts the principle that to build confidence among stakeholders, there is a need to deliver sustainable value. The Sustainability Report from pages 107 to 144 in the Annual Report provides the Group's approach in identifying its material stakeholders, as well as addressing stakeholders' concerns and methods of engagement. The Sustainability Report also sets out the key areas of focus in relation to the management of stakeholder relationships for the financial year ended 31 March 2021.