



星雅集团
STRACO

MEDIA RELEASE

Straco reports strong growth in earnings for 1Q2009

Financial Highlights (S\$'mil)	3 months to 31 March		
	2009	2008	% change
Sales	7.15	6.17	15.9
Profit/(Loss) before tax	2.99	0.80	273.8
Profits for the year attributable to shareholders	2.15	0.53	305.7
Earnings per share (Scts)	0.25	0.06	316.7
Net asset value per share (Scts)	11.84	10.19	16.2

SINGAPORE, 8 May 2009:- Mainboard-listed Straco Corporation (“Straco” or “the Group”), a developer and operator of tourism-related attractions, reported a four-fold increase in net profits to \$2.15 million for the first quarter ended 31 March 2009, as strong RMB currency against SGD helped boost the Group’s profits. Group revenue was S\$7.15 million, an increase of 15.9% over 1Q2008, as combined visitor numbers to its two main attractions, Shanghai Ocean Aquarium (“SOA”) and Underwater World Xiamen (“UWX”) grew 14.3% over 1Q2008.

For the quarter under review, walk-in visitors grew 22%, tour groups registered growth of 10%, and student groups grew 27%, while corporate groups declined 19% over the corresponding period in FY2008.

Commenting on the results, Straco’s Executive Chairman, Mr Wu Hsioh Kwang said “We are pleased with the first quarter results which saw revenue grow 15.9% and net profits surged to \$2.15 million, despite the slowdowns faced by many economies, including China. Our earnings per share increased more than four-fold to 0.25 cents compared to 1Q2008.”

Mr Wu added: “We are happy that the measures we have put in place have yielded us positive results. Nonetheless, we remain cautiously positive on the outlook for the Group as China domestic tourism is expected to remain strong.”

The National Bureau of Statistics reported that China's economic growth rate slowed to 6.1% in the first quarter of 2009, from 6.8% in the previous quarter, as the global financial crisis continues to affect the World's third-largest economy.

However, positive signs are emerging that the economy possibly is bottoming out, as the government's stimulus measures had produced positive results.

Consumer spending rose 15% in the first quarter, and the consumer price index fell an annualized 0.6% in the same quarter.

It was reported that the Chinese government will take all necessary measures to stimulate its economy and fuel consumer spending. This augurs well for the Group.

In addition, with the Monetary Authority of Singapore's stand on easing of monetary policy, RMB currency is expected to remain strong against SGD.

Other than the above, we are not aware of any impending factors or events that may affect the Group in the next 12 months.

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About Straco Corporation

Straco Corporation Limited is a leading developer and operator of tourism-related assets in China. Straco's key asset is the Shanghai Ocean Aquarium, one of the largest indoor, closed systems aquariums in the world with a total built up area of 20,000 m² and a designed capacity of 21,000 people per day. The world-class aquarium showcases over 10,000 fishes and marine livestock of over 350 species from all over the world. It is situated across the Huang Pu River in the New Pudong Area, next to Shanghai's landmark Oriental Pearl Tower. Straco also owns and operates Lixing cable car service at Mount Lishan in Lishan in Lintong District, Shaanxi province. In 2006, Straco started a joint venture, Straco Creation Pte Ltd (“SCPL”), with Mr Carl Clerico, who is the third generation of the Clerico family which has managed the Lido and Moulin Rouge in Paris for more than 60 years. SCPL's first production “Paris Plumes!” debuted in December 2007, in the major Chinese cities of Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Beijing. In October 2007, Straco acquired Underwater World Xiamen (“UWX”) on Gulangyu Island, a key tourist attraction of Xiamen City. The aquarium, with over 4 million litres of water capacity, features marine animal performances and displays a wide variety of fresh water and marine livestock.

Straco Corporation has been constantly sourcing for tourism projects to tap into the expected tourism boom in Asia. The Group will leverage on its experience and track record in the China market to form strategic investment alliances to develop and operate tourism resources in China and the region.