



**Attention: Business News Editor
Press Release
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Dairy Farm South Asia Achieves Double-Digit Growth In 2004 Sales increased 25%, profit before interest and tax rose 50%

Singapore, 28 February 2005 – Dairy Farm South Asia announced that its recurring profit before interest and tax (PBIT) improved 50% in US dollars terms for the 12 months ended 31 December 2004, compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. Sales including associates increased 25% for the same period.

Dairy Farm South Asia Regional Director Michael Kok said: "We are heartened by the performance of our South Asian region which has turned in its sixth consecutive year of double-digit sales and profit growth.

"The improvement was due mainly to our businesses in Singapore and Malaysia, both of which benefited from the successful rollout of new stores and from the full year contributions of Shop N Save and Tops supermarkets respectively. Indonesia's performance improved following progress at Hero supermarkets and the expansion of the Giant hypermarket network."

Commenting on store expansion activities, Mr Kok said: "We opened 155 new stores last year across Singapore, and Malaysia, and through our associate companies in Indonesia and India. About half of the new stores were in Singapore where our retail banners enjoy strong and growing customer support."

At 31 December 2004, Dairy Farm and its associate companies operated 1,068 stores in South Asia, with 488 in Singapore, 223 in Malaysia, 233 in Indonesia and 124 in India.

Singapore

Singapore achieved double-digit growth in sales and PBIT with the opening of 80 new stores and an expanded base following the full integration of the Shop N Save supermarket chain acquired in late 2003.

Shop N Save and Cold Storage supermarkets performed well, which together covers the full spectrum of the Singapore market.

7-Eleven convenience store chain achieved strong growth in both sales and PBIT, due to its enlarged network of 261 stores.

Guardian, as the leading drugstore chain with dispensing services, continued to post robust results. Guardian opened 16 new stores and further improved in sales and PBIT.

Giant hypermarket chain opened two new stores last year and plans to open more stores across the country, including a new 70,000 sq ft Giant store at the revamped Marina Square Mall.

Dairy Farm operated 488 stores in Singapore at end December 2004.

Malaysia

The growing popularity of Giant and Guardian led to double-digit growth in sales and PBIT. Forty-three new stores were opened, of which 37 were by Guardian and six by Giant.

At end December, Dairy Farm had 223 stores in Malaysia, including 13 hypermarkets, 47 supermarkets and 157 health and beauty stores.

Indonesia

Despite challenging market conditions, Dairy Farm's associate company, PT Hero Supermarket improved in sales and PBIT. This was the result of improvements at Hero supermarkets, and the successful opening of four new Giant hypermarkets.

PT Hero operated 233 outlets in Indonesia at end December, including 99 supermarkets and 10 hypermarkets.

India

Dairy Farm's two joint ventures, Foodworld supermarkets and Health & Glow health and beauty stores, performed better than the prior year. Further improvement is expected this year from both chains. There were a total of 124 stores in India at end December.

General Outlook

Commenting on the outlook for 2005, Mr Michael Kok said: "We are hopeful of attaining stable growth in 2005 through the organic expansion of all our banners in South Asia."

Dairy Farm is a leading pan-Asian retailer. At 31 December 2004, the Group and its associates operated 2,902 outlets - including supermarkets, hypermarkets, health and beauty stores, convenience stores, home furnishings stores and restaurants - employed 59,000 people, and had 2004 total sales of US\$5.1 billion. Dairy Farm is a member of the Jardine Matheson Group.

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This and other Dairy Farm Group announcements can be accessed through its website at www.dairyfarmgroup.com.

Dairy Farm South Asia Operations as at 31 December 2004

Total number of stores: 1,068

A. SINGAPORE – 488

Cold Storage – 33 supermarkets (inclusive of four Market Place and Jasons supermarkets)

Shop N Save – 35 supermarkets

G'Value – 9 supermarkets

Giant – 6 hypermarkets

Guardian – 112 health and beauty stores (56 with pharmacy/dispensary services)

7-Eleven – 261 convenience stores

Photo Finish – 32 photo developing and printing stores

B. MALAYSIA – 223

Giant – 13 hypermarkets and 40 supermarkets

Cold Storage – 7 supermarkets

Guardian – 157 health and beauty stores

Photo Finish – 6 photo developing and printing stores

C. INDONESIA – 233

Hero – 99 supermarkets

Giant – 10 hypermarkets

Guardian – 43 health and beauty stores

Starmart – 81 convenience stores

D. INDIA – 124

Foodworld – 94 supermarkets

Health and Glow – 30 health and beauty stores