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## 康師傅控股有限公司\* TINGYI (CAYMAN ISLANDS) HOLDING CORP.

(Încorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 0322)

# FIRST QUARTERLY RESULTS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

#### SUMMARY

	For the three mont	hs ended 31 March	1
RMB'000	2017	2016	Change
		(Restated)	
Revenue	14,197,639	13,687,364	1 3.73%
Gross margin	28.04%	31.41%	↓ 3.37 ppt.
Gross profit of the Group	3,980,784	4,299,333	√ 7.41%
EBITDA	1,732,618	1,831,717	↓ 5.41%
Profit for the period	474,867	473,945	↑ 0.19%
Profit attributable to owners of the Company	433,504	375,910	15.32%
Earnings per share (RMB cents)			
Basic	7.73	6.71	1.02 cents
Diluted	7.73	6.71	1.02 cents

At 31 March 2017, cash and cash equivalents was RMB14,793.084 million, an increase of RMB4,561.272 million when compared to 31 December 2016. Gearing ratio was 0.09 times.

## 2017 FIRST QUARTERLY RESULTS

The Board (the "Board") of Directors (the "Directors") of Tingyi (Cayman Islands) Holding Corp. (the "Company") is pleased to announce the unaudited condensed consolidated results of the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group") for the three months ended 31 March 2017 together with the comparative figures for the corresponding period in 2016. These unaudited condensed consolidated first quarterly financial statements have been reviewed by the audit committee of the Company (the "Audit Committee").

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

For the Three Months Ended 31 March 2017

## For the three months ended 31 March

		ended 3	i Marcii
		2017	2016 (Unaudited
		(Unaudited)	and restated)
	Note	RMB'000	RMB'000
Revenue	2	14,197,639	13,687,364
Cost of sales		(10,216,855)	(9,388,031)
Gross profit		3,980,784	4,299,333
Other revenue		54,582	42,846
Other net income (expenses)		134,249	86,878
Distribution costs		(2,612,198)	(2,775,135)
Administrative expenses		(514,402)	(539,670)
Other operating expenses		(233,638)	(294,343)
Finance costs	5	(130,924)	(107,666)
Share of results of associates and joint ventures		48,835	37,433
Profit before taxation	5	727,288	749,676
Taxation	6	(252,421)	(275,731)
Profit for the period		474,867	473,945
Profit attributable to:			
Owners of the Company		433,504	375,910
Non-controlling interests		41,363	98,035
Profit for the period		474,867	473,945
Earnings per share	7		_
Basic		RMB 7.73 cents	RMB 6.71 cents
Diluted		RMB 7.73 cents	RMB 6.71 cents

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Three Months Ended 31 March 2017

	For the three months ended 31 March	
	2017 (Unaudited) RMB'000	2016 (Unaudited and restated) RMB'000
Profit for the period	474,867	473,945
Other comprehensive income (loss)  Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:		
Exchange differences on consolidation	53,341	(13,015)
Fair value changes in available-for-sale financial assets Reclassification adjustments relating to available-for-sale	(930)	(12,308)
financial assets disposed of during the period	(7,345)	(4,058)
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the period	45,066	(29,381)
Total comprehensive income for the period	519,933	444,564
Total comprehensive income attributable to:		
Owners of the Company	483,922	366,296
Non-controlling interests	36,011	78,268
	519,933	444,564

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At 31 March 2017

	At 31 March 2017	At 31 December 2016 (Audited
	(Unaudited)	and restated)
Note	RMB'000	RMB'000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Investment properties	1,060,000	1,060,000
Property, plant and equipment	31,906,963	32,556,784
Prepaid lease payments	3,910,940	3,932,435
Intangible asset	176,854	179,179
Interest in associates	185,811	160,538
Interest in joint ventures	715,575	676,408
Available-for-sale financial assets	622,776	641,619
Other non-current assets	317,964	_
Deferred tax assets	290,590	276,291
	39,187,473	39,483,254
Current assets		
Inventories	2,780,455	2,482,202
Trade receivables 9	1,534,639	1,589,893
Tax recoverable	_	120,861
Prepayments and other receivables	2,221,017	2,613,009
Pledged bank deposits	106,030	42,352
Bank balances and cash	14,687,054	10,189,460
	21,329,195	17,037,777
Total assets	60,516,668	56,521,031

## CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At 31 March 2017

		At 31 March 2017	At 31 December 2016 (Audited
	Note	(Unaudited) RMB'000	and restated) RMB'000
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Capital and reserves			
Issued capital	10	234,767	234,767
Share premium		523,278	523,278
Reserves		17,864,031	17,365,495
Total capital and reserves attributable to			
owners of the Company		18,622,076	18,123,540
Non-controlling interests		6,013,050	5,977,039
Total equity		24,635,126	24,100,579
Non-current liabilities			
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss		96,067	152,650
Long-term interest-bearing borrowings	11	5,968,959	6,880,190
Employee benefit obligations		185,248	205,573
Deferred tax liabilities		1,160,623	1,473,995
		7,410,897	8,712,408
Current liabilities			
Trade payables	12	8,421,182	6,595,355
Other payables and deposits received		6,718,914	6,697,875
Current portion of interest-bearing borrowings	11	10,561,387	9,163,746
Advance payments from customers		2,584,683	1,015,548
Taxation		184,479	235,520
		28,470,645	23,708,044
Total liabilities		35,881,542	32,420,452
Total equity and liabilities		60,516,668	56,521,031
Net current asset (liabilities)		(7,141,450)	(6,670,267)

#### NOTES TO THE CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### 1. Basis of preparation and accounting policies

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the Group's unaudited condensed consolidated first quarterly financial statements. These condensed consolidated first quarterly financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Accounting Standard ("HKAS") 34 "Interim Financial Reporting", issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). These condensed consolidated first quarterly financial statements should be read in conjunction with the 2016 annual financial statements. The accounting policies adopted in preparing these condensed consolidated first quarterly financial statements for the three months ended 31 March 2017 are consistent with those in the preparation of the Group's annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016, except for the adoption of the new/revised standard of Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRS") which are relevant to the Group's operation and are effective for the Group's financial year beginning on 1 January 2017 and change of presentation currency as described below.

## (a) Adoption of new/revised HKFRSs

Amendments to HKAS 7 Disclosure initiative

Amendments to HKAS 12 Recognition of Deferred Tax Assets for Unrealised Losses

The adoption of these amendments to HKFRSs did not result in substantial changes to the Group's accounting policies and amounts reported for the current and prior periods.

#### (b) Change of presentation currency

The condensed consolidated first quarterly financial statements for the three months ended 31 March 2017 are presented in Renminbi ("RMB"), which is different from the presentation currency of United States dollars ("US\$") used in the Company's condensed consolidated first quarterly financial statements for the three months ended 31 March 2016 and the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016. Since most of the Group's transaction are denominated and settled in RMB, the directors of the Company considered that the change in presentation currency could reduce the impact of any fluctuations in the exchange rate of the US\$ against the RMB, which is not due to the operations and beyond the control of the Group, on the consolidated financial statements of the Group. It enables the Shareholders of the Company to have a more accurate picture of the Group's financial performance. Accordingly, the directors of the Company have determined the change of presentation currency from US\$ to RMB effective from 1 January 2017. The comparative figures have been restated accordingly to achieve comparability with the current period.

As aforementioned, the condensed consolidated first quarterly financial statements are presented in RMB, which is different from the Company's functional currency of US\$. Each entity in the Group determines its own functional currency and items included in the financial statements of each entity are measured using that functional currency.

## 2. Revenue

The Group's revenue comprises revenue arising from the sale of goods at invoiced value to customers, net of returns, discounts and value added tax, and rental income from investment properties.

## 3. Segment information

#### Segment results

		For th	e Three Months	ended 31 March	2017	
					Inter-segment	
	Instant noodles (Unaudited) RMB'000	Beverages (Unaudited) RMB'000	Instant food (Unaudited) RMB'000	Others (Unaudited) RMB'000	elimination (Unaudited) RMB'000	Total (Unaudited) RMB'000
Revenue						
Revenue from external customers Inter-segment revenue	5,810,796 157	7,982,007 30	218,527 85	186,309 258,631	- (258,903)	14,197,639 —
Segment revenue	5,810,953	7,982,037	218,612	444,940	(258,903)	14,197,639
Segment results after finance cost	539,254	124,727	(2,612)	8,640	4,334	674,343
Share of results of associates and joint ventures Unallocated income, net		50,428	(1,593)	4,110		48,835 4,110
Profit (loss) before taxation	539,254	175,155	(4,205)	12,750	4,334	727,288
Taxation	(146,220)	(99,360)		(6,841)		(252,421)
Profit (loss) for the period	393,034	75,795	(4,205)	5,909	4,334	474,867
		For th	e Three Months	ended 31 March		
	Instant noodles (Unaudited and restated) RMB'000	Beverages (Unaudited and restated) RMB'000	Instant food (Unaudited and restated) RMB'000	Others (Unaudited and restated) RMB'000	Inter-segment elimination (Unaudited and restated) RMB'000	Total (Unaudited and restated) RMB'000
Revenue Revenue from external						
customers Inter-segment revenue	5,494,481 110	7,762,396 513	231,844 176	198,643 277,777	(278,576)	13,687,364
Segment revenue	5,494,591	7,762,909	232,020	476,420	(278,576)	13,687,364
Segment results after finance cost Share of results of associates	464,986	259,504	(17,278)	13	6,020	713,245
and joint ventures Unallocated expenses, net	_ _	40,820	(3,387)	— (1,002)	_ _	37,433 (1,002)
Profit (loss) before taxation Taxation	464,986 (147,058)	300,324 (125,195)	(20,665)	(989) (3,478)	6,020	749,676 (275,731)
Profit (loss) for the period	317,928	175,129	(20,665)	(4,467)	6,020	473,945

Segment information is prepared based on the regular internal financial information reported to the Company's executive directors for their decisions about resources allocation to the Group's business components and review of these components' performance. The Company's executive directors assess the performance of reportable segments based on the net profit for the period and the profit/(loss) before taxation, share of results of associates and joint ventures and unallocated income (expenses), net.

## 3. Segment information (continued)

## Segment assets and liabilities

			At 31 Mai	ch 2017		
	Instant noodles (Unaudited) RMB'000	Beverages (Unaudited) RMB'000	Instant food (Unaudited) RMB'000	Others (Unaudited) RMB'000	Inter-segment elimination (Unaudited) RMB'000	Total (Unaudited) RMB'000
Segment assets Interest in associates Interest in joint ventures Unallocated assets	19,297,998 - -	30,726,563 182,636 666,564	858,898 3,175 49,011	9,036,015 — —	(926,968) — —	58,992,506 185,811 715,575 622,776
Total assets						60,516,668
Segment liabilities Unallocated liabilities	7,443,246	19,174,301	337,112	9,887,633	(1,145,998)	35,696,294 185,248
Total liabilities						35,881,542
			At 31 Decer	nber 2016		
	Instant noodles (Audited and restated) RMB'000	Beverages (Audited and restated) RMB'000	At 31 Decer Instant food (Audited and restated) RMB'000	Others (Audited and restated) RMB'000	Inter-segment elimination (Audited and restated) RMB'000	Total (Audited and restated) RMB'000
Segment assets Interest in associates Interest in joint ventures Unallocated assets	(Audited and restated)	(Audited and restated)	Instant food (Audited and restated)	Others (Audited and restated)	elimination (Audited and restated)	(Audited and restated)
Interest in associates Interest in joint ventures	(Audited and restated) RMB'000	(Audited and restated) <i>RMB'000</i> 30,809,377 172,713	Instant food (Audited and restated) RMB'000 1,023,107 (12,175)	Others (Audited and restated) RMB'000	elimination (Audited and restated) RMB'000	(Audited and restated) RMB'000 55,042,466 160,538 676,408
Interest in associates Interest in joint ventures Unallocated assets	(Audited and restated) RMB'000	(Audited and restated) <i>RMB'000</i> 30,809,377 172,713	Instant food (Audited and restated) RMB'000 1,023,107 (12,175)	Others (Audited and restated) RMB'000	elimination (Audited and restated) RMB'000	(Audited and restated) RMB'000 55,042,466 160,538 676,408 641,619

Segment assets include all assets with the exception of interest in associates and joint ventures and unallocated assets which include available-for-sale financial assets. Segment liabilities include all liabilities with the exception of employee benefit obligation.

## 4. Seasonality of operations

Due to the seasonal nature of the beverages segment, higher revenue is usually expected in the second and third quarters. Higher sales during the period from June to August are mainly attributed to the increased demand for packed beverages during the hot season.

#### 5. Profit before taxation

This is stated after charging:

	For the three months ended 31 March	
	2017	2016 (Unaudited
	(Unaudited) RMB'000	and restated)  RMB'000
Finance costs		
Interest on bank and other borrowings wholly repayable within five years	121,850	107,666
Interest on bank and other borrowings wholly repayable over five years	9,074	
	130,924	107,666
Other items		
Depreciation	904,529	995,556
Amortisation	24,459	21,665

#### 6. Taxation

	For the three months	
	ended 31 March	
	2017	2016 (Unaudited
	(Unaudited) RMB'000	and restated)  RMB'000
Current tax – the PRC Enterprise income tax		
Current period	217,704	226,118
Deferred taxation		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences, net	7,506	20,236
Effect of withholding tax on the distributable earnings of the Group's PRC subsidiaries	27,211	29,377
Total tax charge for the period	252,421	275,731

The Cayman Islands levies no tax on the income of the Company and the Group.

Hong Kong Profits Tax has not been provided as the Group's entities had no assessable profit subject to Hong Kong Profits Tax for the three months ended March 2017 and 2016.

The applicable PRC enterprise income tax for the PRC subsidiaries is at the statutory rate of 25% (2016: 25%).

According to the Tax Relief Notice (Cai Shui [2011] no. 58) on the Grand Development of Western Region jointly issued by the Ministry of Finance, the State Administration of Taxation and China Customs, foreign investment enterprises located in the western region of PRC ("Western Region") with principal revenue of over 70% generated from the encouraged business activities are entitled to a preferential income tax rate of 15% for 10 years from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2020. Accordingly, certain subsidiaries located in the Western Region are entitled to a preferential rate of 15% (2016: 15%).

Pursuant to the PRC Enterprise Income Tax Law, a 10% withholding tax is levied on dividends distributed to foreign investors by the foreign investment enterprises established in the PRC. The requirement is effective from 1 January 2008 and applies to earnings accumulated after 31 December 2007. A lower withholding tax rate may be applied if there is a tax treaty between PRC and jurisdiction of the foreign investors. For the Group's PRC subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures, the applicable rate is 10%. Deferred tax liability is provided on 50% of post-2007 net earnings of the Group's PRC subsidiaries that are expected to be distributed in the foreseeable future. The remaining 50% of post-2007 net earnings of the Group's PRC subsidiaries that are not expected to be distributed in the foreseeable future would be subject to additional taxation when they are distributed. Undistributed earnings of the Group's PRC associates and joint ventures are not subject to withholding tax as these companies are held by a PRC subsidiary.

## 7. Earnings per share

## (a) Basic earnings per share

		For the three months ended 31 March	
		2017	2016 (Unaudited
		(Unaudited)	and restated)
	Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders (RMB'000)	433,504	375,910
	Weighted average number of ordinary shares ('000)	5,604,501	5,602,871
	Basic earnings per share (RMB cents)	7.73	6.71
(b)	Diluted earnings per share		
		For the three ended 31 M	
		2017	2016 (Unaudited
		(Unaudited)	and restated)
	Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders (RMB'000)	433,504	375,910
	Weighted average number of ordinary shares (diluted) ('000)		
	Weighted average number of ordinary shares	5,604,501	5,602,871
	Effect of the Company's share option scheme	1,553	
	Weighted average number of ordinary shares for the purpose of calculated		
	diluted earnings per share	5,606,054	5,602,871
	Diluted earnings per share (RMB cents)	7.73	6.71

## 8. Dividend

The Board of Directors does not recommend the payment of a quarterly dividend for the three months ended 31 March 2017 (2016: nil).

## 9. Trade receivables

The majority of the Group's sales is cash-on-delivery. The remaining balances of sales are mainly at credit terms ranging from 30 to 90 days. The aging analysis of the trade receivables (net of impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts) based on invoice date, at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	At 31 March	At 31 December
	2017	2016
		(Audited
	(Unaudited)	and restated)
	RMB'000	RMB'000
0 - 90 days	1,324,010	1,460,298
Over 90 days	210,629	129,595
	1,534,639	1,589,893

## 10. Trade payables

The aging analysis of trade payables based on invoice date at the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	At 31 March 2017	At 31 December 2016 (Audited		
	(Unaudited) RMB'000	and restated) RMB'000		
0 - 90 days Over 90 days	8,131,365 289,817	5,938,123 657,232		
	8,421,182	6,595,355		

## 11. Approval of first quarterly financial statements

The first quarterly financial statements of 2017 were approved by the board of directors on 22 May 2017.

#### MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

#### **Business Overview Review**

Entering 2017, the global economic environment is still deeply fluctuating. The medium-to-long-term economic growth of China has slowed down, with the diversified trend of consumption becoming increasingly obvious. The population consumption structure and consumption habits are gradually changing. Together with the diversification of channels and the customization of the demand, all these have an impact on the traditional food and beverage industry. From the cost point of view, prices of raw materials such as white sugar, PET resin and palm oil continue to rise and will still continue to be under pressure in the short term. Although the external environment is full of challenges, the Group will continue to carry forward the following existing strategies of stable operation to achieve stability.

- 1. To implement food safety management, continue to strengthen the food safety system, and improve the internal and external audit and control mechanism;
- 2. To put emphasis on the optimization of free cash flow, control capital expenditure, and constantly revitalize assets;
- 3. To focus on evergreen and distinctive products, optimize the product mix, and consolidate the market share through a multi-price range strategy;
- 4. To continue on brand building, focus on logistics and channel construction diversification, and innovate product upgrades.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the birth of "braised beef noodles". We will continue our efforts to praise the Chinese food culture and continue to carry forward the Group's work for generation change, thereby laying a solid foundation for the Group's transformation and development strategy.

In the first quarter of 2017, the Group's revenue increased by 3.73% to RMB14,197.6 million yoy, (year-on-year compared with the corresponding period in 2016). Revenue from instant noodles and beverages increased by 5.76% and 2.82%, respectively, yoy. Due to the rising prices from key raw material such as sugar and PET resin, the Group's gross profit margin dropped by 3.37 ppt. to 28.04% yoy. Distribution costs represented 18.40% of the revenue for the period and decreased by 1.88 ppt. yoy. EBITDA of the Group decreased by 5.41% to RMB1,732.6 million yoy, and EBITDA margin dropped by 1.18 ppt. to 12.20% yoy. Benefited by the yoy decline from distribution costs and other operating expenses, profit attributable to owners of the Company during the year grew by 15.32% to RMB433.5 million. Profit margin attributable to owners was 3.05%, increased by 0.30 ppt. yoy, earnings per share increased by RMB1.02 cents to RMB7.73 cents.

#### **Instant Noodle Business**

According to the data from AC Nielsen, overall sales volume of the instant noodle market decreased by 3.2% and sales amount decreased by 0.8% in the first quarter of 2017. The market continued to show the upgrade trend of product mix. During the period, the market shares of Master Kong instant noodle in terms of sales volume and sales amount were 44.5% and 51.2%, respectively, ranking No.1 in the market.

In the first quarter of 2017, the Group's revenue from the instant noodle business was RMB5,811.0 million, which grew by 5.76% yoy, accounting for 40.93% of the total revenue of the Group. During the period, gross profit margin of instant noodles decreased by 0.84 ppt. to 27.75% due to rising prices of flour and palm oil. Thanked for the sales growth and saving from distribution costs, profit attributable to owners of the Company in the overall instant noodle business increased by 23.62% to RMB393.0 million, profit margin attributable to owners increased by 0.97 ppt. to 6.76% yoy.

High-priced noodles: The focus was continuously put on the strategy of "Back to Classics" and continuous efforts were made to consolidate hero products. Through the continuous improvement of terminal distribution rate (終端銷貨率), a steady rebound in sales volume and sales amount was achieved since the third quarter of 2016 and the needs of different consumers for multiple specifications such as corned egg set meal, rich ingredients, jumbo noodles, mini cups, dry noodles with sauce and other series under established scenarios were satisfied. Besides, continuous efforts were made to expand market space.

Meanwhile, the emphasis was put on strengthening brand activities and a variety of ways of communication so as to create repeated positive interaction between the images of classic brands and categories and consumers. In addition to actively responding to the national strategy of "Healthy China 2030 (健康中國2030)" and continuing to focus on health and nutrition issues, Master Kong insisted on providing consumers with nutritious diets. Since 2014, Master Kong has been supporting CUBA, providing team members with a steady stream of nutritious diet and energy support. Besides, during the marathon events held in Chongqing, Xiamen, Wuxi and other places in 2017, Master Kong provided energy reserves for thousands of runners before the events and prepared a variety types of noodles such as "Golden Stock Beef" and "Braised Beef" to provide considerate services of energy support for the resumption of physical strength after the events, but also promoted nutritious diet, health and sport and other popular science knowledge during the course of the events as well as conveying the Chinese food culture to many foreign friends. At present, Master Kong's instant noodles have become the best recommended meal for marathon runners. Meanwhile, for the Zhu Ting "Caring Companionship Plan (安心陪伴計畫)", the professional nutritionists and chefs provided by Master Kong also provided balanced and healthy diets and nutrition needed for Zhu Ting to win more honors for Chinese sport! Master Kong not only spread from young target groups to the public, but also penetrated from emotional resonance into needs education in respect of scenarios for the consumption of food with various specifications and carried out diversified cross-border cooperation to enhance brand vitality.

High-end Noodles/Innovative products: With rising consumer income and emergence of the middle-class group in recent years, consumer behavior pursued for a high-end and refined trend. Since 2016, "Premium Soup" series positioning at "less additives, rich, delicious, healthy, nutritious" have been successively launched. The products and flavours were well-received by consumers, with a continued increase in market shares. In February, the new product, "Premium Soup Cup Noodle", which can be grasped with one hand, was launched to meet the market demand for refined and light food. "Golden Stock" joined hands with star Jia Nailiang in March to comprehensively kick off online and offline integrated promotion to enhance brand awareness. The new product, "Pot-cooking Ramen" emphasizing noodle innovation, was synchronically launched in the market in March. It's rough and elastic ramen taste, combined with a concentrated and extracted broth pack, restores the natural delicacy of a bowl of soup.

**Mid-end Noodles/Snack Noodles:** Mid-end noodles focused on affordable and large volume demand in the consumer market. The market leader position was continuously consolidated through the strategy of launching new flavours and jumbo noodles in the market during this quarter. Both sales volume and sales amount increased yoy.

The instant noodle business continued to put efforts on organization refinement, energy saving and efficiency enhancement and food safety control as the core and drove process optimization, while continuing to conduct automation, labor saving and energy saving projects to improve production efficiency and effectiveness and ensure that the market demand was met. Continuous efforts were made to strengthen food safety check and intensify traceability management, provide consumers with safe, delicious and quality-assured products and enhance corporate and brand images.

The industry-leading position was consolidated through the continued effective implementation of the "Back to Classics" strategy, the excellent performance of the high-end products of the "Premium Soup" series, the concurrent implementation of multiple price ranges and the promotion and development of the strategy of product mix optimization.

## **Beverage Business**

According to the data from AC Nielsen, the beverage industry was continued to grow in the first quarter of 2017. During the period, the sales volume and sales amount of the beverage industry in China grew by 6.0% and 7.1%, respectively, yoy. The ready-to-drink (RTD) tea (including milk tea) of the Group's beverage business accounted for 49.7% market share in terms of sales volume and continued to secure top ranking position in the market. The fruit juice brands under Master Kong and Pepsi's Tropicana accounted for a market share of 15.5%, ranking No. 2 in the market. Market share for bottled water was 12.5%, ranking No. 3 for the time being.

According to the database of Canadean, in the first quarter of 2017, in terms of sales volume, the overall market share of Pepsi carbonated drinks was 31.4%, market share of Pepsi Cola was 49.9% in the cola carbonated drinks market and was the No.1 brand. For the juice flavor carbonated drinks, the market share of the Mirinda brand was 31.5%, ranking No. 2.

In the first quarter of 2017, the overall revenue of the beverage business was RMB7,982.0 million, grew by 2.82% yoy, accounting for 56.22% of the Group's total revenue. During the period, gross profit margin of the beverage business dropped by 5.11ppt. to 28.15% yoy, mainly due to the price increase from sugar, PET resin and other key raw materials. And channel inventory health strategy product mix change compared to last year. In the first quarter, advertising and promotion expenses have been decreased yoy, due to the decline of gross profit and the new traffic regulations caused the rising freight, as a result, profit attributable to owners in the beverage business for the period dropped 54.13% yoy to RMB36.91 million. Profit margin attributable to owners decreased by 0.58 ppt. yoy to 0.46%.

**RTD Tea:** Master Kong continued to maintain its leading position in the RTD tea market and still continued to introduce tea drink segmented products such as series of fruit tea apart from consolidating the market share of evergreen products, and wished to drive the healthy and rapid growth of new products through the strong market position of evergreen products.

Master Kong RTD Tea launched the "Jia Ni Jia Nian Wei (加你加年味)" event at the beginning of the year and successfully enhanced the double-digit growth in the sales of large packages. As the official chief partner of National Basketball Association (NBA), Master Kong invited its new ambassador, Li Yuchun, to enthusiastically play the role of a dream youngster with tremendous vitality of ice to communicate with music and sport line consumers, and constantly created package diversification and multi-scenario drinking opportunities and developed sales opportunities. "Green Tea" effectively increased its market share and sales by Li Yifeng and Wu Lei as spokesperson virtue of "Having Another Bottle for Health and Vitality (健康活力派再來一瓶)" and seized the potential market of fruit tea with the launch of grapefruit green tea in a new look in the market. The "Jasmine Series" used romance marketing to create buzz marketing for confession bottles, carry new screen companions Zhao Liying/Yang Yang, create a romantic brand image and consolidate its product category leadership.

**Bottled Water:** In response to the trend of the differentiation of multiple price ranges in the market, the beverage business established a foundation in the low-priced water market with "Master Kong Bottled Drinking Water" and Aquafina. The "Youyue purified water" established a presence in the mid-priced water market whereas natural mineral water, Han Yang Quan, satisfied the demand for high-priced water. Our ongoing efforts have achieved initial results, and revenue from bottled water rebounded this quarter on a year-on-year basis.

"Master Kong Bottled Drinking Water" was committed to diversified specification operation and promoted family packs consumption in cartoons. The "Eight Processes" processing device was granted a national utility model patent in February 2017 and delivers good water giving people peace of mind with a national patent to every family by virtue of a complete plant layout and timely services so that all consumers in China can "drink with peace of mind for health", with the hope of establishing a foundation in the huge family drinking market with a high cost performance. With its international brand background as the starting point, Aquafina advocated "pure happiness" and completed package refinement. The new package highlighted international certification quality such as "NSF" and "ISO22000" and jointly developed the low-priced water market with "Master Kong Bottled Drinking Water". "Youyue", with its product strength upgraded in an all-round manner ranging from the bottle body, the bottle label and the bottle cap, continued to enhance its brand awareness with high quality of an international level endorsed by the NSF certification and continued to establish a presence in channels with a potential, with a view to continuously increasing its market share. Meanwhile, it has also become the designated water for the popular hot drama "Ode to Joy II". Well-known artist, Liu Tao, was appointed as its brand embassador to recommend Youyue as "my pure choice" to continuously enhance product exposure.

Carbonated Drinks: Pepsi carbonated drinks still occupied an important market position. We effectively stabilized our market share through ongoing brand promotion and marketing. Through the "home with children (家有兒女)" family theme of the marketing event of "Bring Joy Home (把樂帶回家)"during the Spring Festival, we obtained more than 1 billion views. This, combined with the innovative events of celebrities paying New Year calls online and New Year red packet, significantly increased the exposure and preference of the "Pepsi Cola" brand. Meanwhile, by taking advantage of the customs of giving presents during festivals, a new gift box package was launched to further consolidate the market share. In addition, to continue the hot craze of Monkey King cans in 2017, new packages such as limited Gold Rooster cans and Silver Rooster cans were launched to continue to expand the position of the brand in the hearts of consumers by taking advantage of the occasion of the Lunar Year of the Rooster.

Juice Drinks: Juice business delivered a good performance this quarter, thanks to its accurate market positioning. With strong product strength and through catering channel penetration, Chinese style juice drinks, "Traditional Fruit Mix Sour Plum" and "Rock Candy Pear, posted a good performance in the first quarter. Led by honey grapefruit and the new product Mango Xiaolao, the trendy and healthy brand of "Light Fruit series" which was popular among consumers, registered a proven growth in performance in the first quarter. The Master Kong juice drinks, through continuous deepening of operation in 3-6 grade business districts with focus on large packages sales and grasping the business opportunities during festive seasons, contributed to a stable growth in results. Tropicana, with mixed fruit juice as the selling point of the product, also recorded considerate growth in results due to active enhancement of the specification.

**Functional drinks/lactic acid bacteria/coffee drinks/milk drinks:** "Gatorade" continued the 2016 business strategy with focus on sweat drops, and strived to leverage the popular fitness fever to establish its image as the first sport brand through sponsoring running groups. The first quarter posted stronger results compared with the same period last year.

"Weichuan Lactic Acid Drinks" actively developed the room temperature milk drink market through strengthening operation of special channels, resulting in continuous growth in sales.

Through the brand influence of the partner Starbucks and its rapid development in the PRC market, the bottled "Frappuccino" produced in cooperation with Starbucks were well received in the high price instant coffee market since its successful launch in the third quarter of 2016. In the future we will actively develop more appropriate channels to further expand the drinking occasions and sales opportunities. Meanwhile, leveraging "Bernachon", the beverage business continued to expand into the room temperature middle price instant coffee market, and the room temperature "Bernachon" will be launched in Shanghai and other regions to provide momentum for subsequent growth in performance, which will help Master Kong further develop its instant coffee market business.

Regarding the close co-operation with the British brand partner, the "Ovaltine" instant malt drink dairy series is planned to launch to the market this year, marking a further step for Master Kong's expansion into China's diary drink market in the future.

The pace of sales of the beverage business will continue to be adjusted so that stocks in the pipeline tends to remain at a health level. We will continue to consolidate evergreen products, adhere to the multi-prices strategy, strengthen control of all costs, and at the same time explore diversified channels, continue product innovation, and enhance participation and preferences of consumers. We will implement a flat pipeline hierarchy strategy in core cities to enhance distribution in channels and strengthen management of customers in the channels. We will actively develop distributors in non-core cities to build a dense sales network for achieving the purpose of leveraging and exerting forces. On the profit side, in response to the rise in transport costs in the big environmental, we adjust the freight strategy and optimize the transport model for active response and achieving cost saving in the supply chain. After completion of the last batch of voluntary retirement plan in 2016 during Pepsi's integration, the organization has become more stable and will continue to produce synergies in the future. Meanwhile, we will still place food safety on top priority, striving to provide consumers with healthy, safe and high-quality products.

#### INSTANT FOOD BUSINESS

According to the data from Nielsen, overall sales volume of the biscuit market for the first quarter of 2017 decreased by 0.9% yoy, sales amount increased slightly by 0.3% yoy, of which sales volume and sales amount of sandwich crackers increased by 2.7% and 2.4% yoy, respectively. And sales volume of egg rolls decreased by 3.2% while sales amount kept stable. In terms of sales amount, the market share of Master Kong egg rolls was 18.4%, increased 1.3 ppt. yoy and ranked No. 1 in the market. The market share of sandwich crackers was 9.8%, dropped by 0.2 ppt. and ranked No. 2 in the market.

In the first quarter of 2017, revenue of the instant food business was RMB218.6 million yoy and amounted to 1.54% of the Group's revenue. During the period, due to the early Chinese New Year, some customers ahead of stocking, resulting in the overall revenue decreased 5.78% yoy. Gross profit margin dropped 0.42 ppt. to 34.48%. Thanked for the savings from distribution costs and administrative expenses, the loss of instant food business continued to narrow and improved by 79.65% yoy, in the first quarter of 2017 recorded a total loss of RMB4.21 million.

On product innovations, the focus was on core brands operation. The "3+2 Wafer Stick", a new product under Master Kong's 3+2 series, has strengthened the product mix of wafer rolls. Master Kong's "Muffin" has launched the cylindrical large size "Happy Party Big Cake" for happy shares with friends and relatives, and sponsored promotion of the "2017 College Hundred Miles Relay Race" jointly with teddy bear to reflect the brand value of Muffin's healthy products.

Instant food business will remain to focus on the core categories of cakes and snack in the future, to continue to speed up original product innovation and new product development; to strengthen high-end presentation, healthy presentation upgrade and innovation of products; to strengthen items portfolio in emerging channels, and to actively explore opportunities of cooperation by way of consignment. Meanwhile, efforts will be put on activation of fixed assets, promotion of reasonable production line improvement and optimization of production process, optimization of procurement management, and strengthening cost competitiveness.

#### FINANCING

The Group continued to maintain a stable and healthy financial structure through effective control of trade receivables, trade payables, bank balances and cash and inventories. As at 31 March 2017, the Group's bank balances and cash totalled RMB14,793.1 million, an increase of RMB4,561.3 million from 31 December 2016. A sufficient amount of cash holding was still maintained. As at 31 March 2017, the Group's total assets and total liabilities amounted to approximately RMB60,516.7 million and RMB35,881.5 million respectively. This showed an increase in RMB 3,995.6 million and an increase in RMB 3,461.1 million respectively compared to 31 December 2016. The debt ratio increased by 1.93 ppt. to 59.29% compared to 31 December 2016. Gearing ratio was 0.09 times, 0.23 ppt. lower than the ratio on 31 December 2016.

As at 31 March 2017, the Group's total interest bearing borrowings increased by RMB486.4 million to RMB16,530.3 million. At the end of the period, the Group's proportion of the total borrowings denominated in foreign currencies and Renminbi were 67% and 33% respectively, as compared to 72% and 28% respectively as at 31 December 2016. The proportion between the Group's long-term borrowings and short-term borrowings was 36% and 64% respectively, as compared to 43% and 57% respectively as at 31 December 2016. Considering the diverged trends of the interest rates between Renminbi and the US dollars and the Group itself, the Group has adjusted its financing strategy since September 2015 to increase its proportion of onshore financing and to reduce its foreign currencies financing. The Group expects to increase its Renminbi borrowing, and the proportion of Renminbi borrowing of the Group's total borrowings will be increased gradually.

During the period, Renminbi appreciated against US dollar by 0.69%, due to the fluctuation of exchange rate, realized/unrealized exchange losses of RMB8.21million in the Group's income statement from January to March 2017.

## FINANCIAL RATIO

	As at 31 March 2017	As at 31 December 2016
Finished goods turnover	12.46 Days	11.58 Days
Trade receivables turnover	9.9 Days	10.23 Days
Current ratio	0.75 Times	0.72 Times
Debt ratio (Total liabilities to total assets)	59.29%	57.36%
Gearing ratio (Net debt to equity attributable to owners of the Company)	0.09 Times	0.32 Times

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

As at 31 March 2017, the Group had 63,066 employees. In respect of talent development, Master Kong focuses on the cultivation of high-level talents by running talent training projects, and continues to run special leadership development courses. It also cooperates with international talent development companies to introduce advanced tools for nurturing talents, establishes standards for nurturing corporate culture and behaviors, and chooses the right persons and provides them with proper trainings.

In respect of cooperation between education institutions and corporate enterprises, the first batch of 15 outstanding graduates recruited and reserved from the Master Kong 2017 Dream Scholarship Program have successfully commenced their employment. The first batch of about 20 outstanding students sponsored by Master Kong for Overseas Academic Exchange have returned to China and continued to participate in the internship program using the summer holidays. The second batch of new students will continue their overseas exchange study programs. Furthermore, the social practice project with Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University and the Stanford University in United States is also actively underway, aiming to further enhance the innovativeness and internationalization of the business functions.

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

On 5 January 2017, in the selection of "2016 Best Sports Marketing Award in China"(2016中國最佳體育行銷獎) run by Sports Money (體育大生意), the Master Kong Rio Noodles Restaurant (康師傅里約麵館) won the award with the highest votes. In the exiting Olympic marketing competition, the Master Kong Rio Noodles Restaurant has aroused wide attention in Rio. This has also been reported in detail by authoritative media and become a hot topic of social media. Some experts have named Master Kong Rio Noodles Restaurant as one of the strongest marketing projects in the history of Olympic Games.

Meanwhile, Master Kong has continued to actively devote in public welfares. On 17 March 2017, in the theme activities of the 25th "World Water Day" jointly supported by the China Beverage Industry Association, the National Water Conservation Office, the Health Communication Branch under the Chinese Preventive Medicine Association, and the Water Education Center under the Ministry of Water Resources Education Center, Master Kong spontaneously joined the initiative of "Save Water for Healthy Drinking water" to promote today's healthy concept of using water. Master Kong's beverage business has for the third consecutive year participated in the "Water Education" activities launched by the China Beverage Industry Association which has become a brand charity activity reflecting the social responsibility of the beverage industry.

For environmental contribution, as a leader of the food industry, Master Kong clearly implements the philosophy of sustainable development. In the pollution control and management in March, Zhengzhou Tingyi Food Co., Ltd. had outstanding performance, with its rate of pollution and concentration reduction ranking among the top three, and was noticed by the Zhengzhou Municipal Environmental Protection Bureau for recognition of its assumption of social responsibilities.

## **PROSPECT**

Looking ahead, we have confronted with challenges such as long-term slowdown of economic growth, short term rising costs of raw materials, industrial upgrade and organizational transformation. For the sustained and healthy development of the future industry, we will firmly maintain the channel inventory at healthy level, and explore more diversified channels and the corresponding business optimization in response to environmental changes. We will continue to improve our free cash flow along with the multi-price portfolio strategy. We will strive to strengthen terminal sales, speed up products circulation, and maximize cost and scale advantages through a variety of process optimization. Meanwhile, we will continue to strengthen channel construction and innovative development strategy, and continue to expand the market shares of core categories and maximize the platform effect leveraging our advantages of marketing network layout and comprehensive product lines, and continue to develop multi-brands multi-categories cooperation opportunities and achieve win-win situation.

Due to the impact of rising raw material costs, the gross profit of the Group will remain under pressure in short term. However, we will ease the pressure on gross margin through strenthening innovation and continuous development strategy, focusing on core business, improving operating cost structure, optimizing product mix and ongoing enhancement of pipeline structure. We will also continue to tap the potential of the supply chain rationalization through coordination and optimization of production and marketing to achieve the overall effect of cost reduction, while enhancing optimization of the overall profit through accurate cost control.

Ongoing strengthening of the food safety system will remain a top priority. Through upgrading the monitoring equipment, we will further improve the internal and external audit and control mechanisms to ensure that consumers are provided with assured and satisfying products.

While China has experienced a long-term slowdown in macroeconomic growth, the food and beverage industry remain to have a huge market size. We will firmly focus on and continue to cultivate this market, continue to tap the potentials of existing products and channels, and at the same time keep innovation and development, updating to high-end products and optimizing product mix, hence further consolidating and strengthening our leading position in the market.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

The Company has, throughout the period ended 31 March 2017, complied with the code provisions of the Corporate Governance Code (the "CG Code") as set out in Appendix 14 to the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Listing Rules"), except for the deviation from code A.4.1 of the CG Code. The reason for the deviation is explained below.

#### Code provision A.4.1

Code provision A.4.1 of the CG Code provides that non-executive directors should be appointed for a specific term, subject to re-election. The Company deviates from this provision because the non-executive Directors and independent non-executive Directors of the Company do not currently have specific terms of appointment. However, the articles of association of the Company provide that all the Directors are subject to retirement by rotation at least once every three years and at each annual general meeting, one-third of the Directors for the time being or, if the number is not a multiple of three, then, the number nearest to but not less than one-third, shall retire from office by rotation and offer themselves for re-election. As such, the Board considers that sufficient measures have been put in place to ensure the Company's corporate governance practice in this aspect provides sufficient protection for the interests of shareholders to a standard commensurate with that of the code.

We will periodically review and improve our corporate governance practices with reference to the latest corporate governance developments.

#### Directors' responsibility for the financial statements

The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for preparing the financial statements of the Group. With the assistance of the Finance and Accounting Department which is under the supervision of the Chief Financial Officer of the Company, the Directors ensure that the preparation of the financial statements of the Group is in accordance with statutory requirements and applicable accounting standards. The Directors also ensure that the publication of the financial statements of the Group is in a timely manner.

## **Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee currently has three Independent Non-executive Directors, Mr. Lee Tiong-Hock, Mr. Hsu Shin-Chun and Mr. Hiromu Fukada. Mr. Lee Tiong-Hock is the chairman of the Committee. The latest meeting of the Audit Committee was held to review the results of the Group for the period under review.

## **Internal Control and Risk Management**

The principal spirit of internal control procedure established by the Company is compliance with five elements in COSO structure, i.e. environment monitor, risk assessment, control, information and communication, and monitor and assessment. It is expected that the objective is to define the management structure and authorization so as to enhance the achievement of operating performance and operational efficiency as well as asset safety protection, which ensures the reliability of financial report while complies with the requirements of national regulations.

The audit committee will assist the Board to review the design and operational effectiveness of the risk management and internal control system of the Group. Under the supervision of the Board, the Company has established a clear structural organization and responsibility and authorization. As of 31 March 2017, we completed the improvement and compliance control of internal control diagnosis and approval authorization including finance and operation. According to the review of internal control and audit department, we have not identified any material deficiency in internal control and risk management.

## Compliance with the Model Code

The Company has adopted the Model Code for Securities Transactions by Directors of Listed Issuers (the "Model Code") as set out in Appendix 10 to the Listing Rules as its own code of conduct regarding directors' securities transactions. All Directors have confirmed, following specific enquiry by the Company, that they fully complied with the required standard as set out in the Model Code throughout the review period.

## PURCHASE, SALE OR REDEMPTION OF SECURITIES

There were no purchases, sales or redemptions of the Company's listed securities by the Company or any of its subsidiaries during the period ended 31 March 2017.

## **SHARE OPTION SCHEME**

At the extraordinary general meeting of the Company held on 20 March 2008, the shareholders approved the adoption of the share option scheme (the "Share Option Scheme"). The terms of the Share Option Scheme are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 17 of the Listing Rules. Detail arrangement for the Share Option Scheme shown as below: (Table A)

	Number of share		Exercise price	
Date of grant	options granted	Exercisable period	(HK\$)	
20 March 2008	11,760,000	21 March 2013 to 20 March 2018 (1)	\$9.28	
22 April 2009	26,688,000	23 April 2014 to 22 April 2019 (2)	\$9.38	
1 April 2010	15,044,000	1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020 (3)	\$18.57	
12 April 2011	17,702,000	12 April 2016 to 11 April 2021 (4)	\$19.96	
26 April 2012	9,700,000	26 April 2017 to 25 April 2022 (5)	\$20.54	
27 May 2013	11,492,000	27 May 2018 to 26 May 2023 (6)	\$20.16	
17 April 2014	12,718,500	17 April 2019 to 16 April 2024 (7)	\$22.38	
5 June 2015	17,054,000	5 June 2020 to 4 June 2025 (8)	\$16.22	
4 July 2016	10,148,000	4 July 2021 to 3 July 2026 (9)	\$7.54	

The summary below sets out the details of movement of the share options during the three months ended 31 March 2017 pursuant to the Share Option Scheme: (Table B)

					Number of share option			W 1 1		
Name	Date of grant	Exercise price HK\$	Closing price of the shares on the date of grant HK\$	Balance as at 1 January 2017	Granted during the period	Exercised during the period	Cancelled/ lapsed during the period	Balance as at 31 March 2017	Weighted average closing price immediately before exercise HK\$	Note
Executive Director	r									
Wei Ing-Chou  Chief Executive O  James Chun-Hsien Wei		9.28 9.38 18.57 19.96 20.54 20.16 22.38 16.22	8.55 9.37 18.42 19.96 20.54 20.05 22.35 15.92	2,000,000 2,816,000 2,200,000 2,264,000 1,368,000 1,390,000 1,486,000 1,726,000 904,000 1,148,000 2,006,000	-	-	-	2,000,000 2,816,000 2,200,000 2,264,000 1,368,000 1,486,000 1,726,000 904,000 1,148,000 2,006,000	- - - - - - -	Table A (1) Table A (2) Table A (3) Table A (4) Table A (5) Table A (6) Table A (7) Table A (8)  Table A (7) Table A (7) Table A (7)
Other employees in aggregate	4 July 2016 20 March 2008 22 April 2009 1 April 2010 12 April 2011 26 April 2012 27 May 2013 17 April 2014 5 June 2015 4 July 2016	7.54 9.28 9.38 18.57 19.96 20.54 20.16 22.38 16.22 7.54	7.54 8.55 9.37 18.42 19.96 20.54 20.05 22.35 15.92 7.54	4,300,000 2,564,000 9,884,000 9,651,000 12,694,000 7,530,000 7,962,000 9,110,000 12,702,000 5,848,000	- - - - - - -	- - - - - - -	- - - - - - -	4,300,000 2,564,000 9,884,000 9,651,000 12,694,000 7,530,000 7,962,000 9,110,000 12,702,000 5,848,000	- - - - - - -	Table A (9) Table A (1) Table A (2) Table A (3) Table A (4) Table A (5) Table A (6) Table A (7) Table A (8) Table A (9)
Total				101,553,000	_	_	_	101,553,000		

For the period of three months ended 31 March 2017, no option had been exercised during the period.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

As at the date of this announcement, Mr. Wei Ing-Chou, Mr. Junichiro Ida, Mr. Wu Chung-Yi, Mr. Teruo Nagano, Mr. Wei Hong-Ming and Mr. Koji Shinohara are Executive Directors of the Company. Mr. Hsu Shin-Chun, Mr. Lee Tiong-Hock and Mr. Hiromu Fukada are Independent Non-executive Directors of the Company.

By Order of the Board Wei Ing-Chou Chairman

Shanghai, the PRC, 22 May 2017

Website: http://www.masterkong.com.cn http://www.irasia.com/listco/hk/tingyi

\* For identification purpose only