

## **Hop Hing Group Holdings Limited**

# Hop Hing Announces the Disposal of its Edible Oils Business and 2013 First Quarter Operational Update

Focuses resources on the fast growing QSR Business

**HONG KONG, 25 April 2013** – The Board of Hop Hing Group Holdings Limited (Stock Code: 47) ("the Company" or "Hop Hing") today announced the disposal of its edible oils business and the operational update for the three months ended 31 March 2013.

#### **Disposal of Edible Oils Business**

In response to views and concerns expressed by investors regarding the underperforming edible oils business, after exploring interests of various potential buyers (including selected strategic and financial investors as well as the Hung Family), the Board of the Company agreed to sell this business to Harvest Trinity Limited, a company held by the Hung Family, the substantial shareholder of the Company, at a cash consideration of HK\$400 million (subject to adjustment), which is equivalent to a price to book value ratio of 0.85x. The transaction is subject to approval by its independent shareholders.

The proposed divestment of the non-core edible oils business will allow the Company to focus its resources on the fast growing Quick Service Restaurant ("QSR") business, which was acquired by the Company in March 2012 and operates Yoshinoya restaurants and Dairy Queen stores in Northern China. The disposal will also help enhance the Company's growth and operating profitability as well as improve its capital structure.

The Board also proposed a special dividend of approximately HK\$280 million, or approximately HK\$0.028 per share based on the number of shares in issue as at today's date, to be distributed to the qualifying shareholders, subject to approval by the Independent shareholders in the EGM to be held on or around 6 June 2013 and the completion of the disposal. An independent board committee comprising all independent non-executive directors has been established to advise independent shareholders on this proposed disposal. An independent financial advisor has been appointed to advise the independent board committee and independent shareholders in this regard.

#### **Q1 Operational Update**

The Company also provided an update on its operations for the three months ended 31 March, 2013. It recorded a sales growth of 7.5% and its same store sales decreased by 6.6% for the first three months of 2013 compared with that of the same period last year. There are 27 net new stores opened, contributing to a total number of 432 stores.

The first quarter performance can be attributed to the sluggish Chinese economy, anti-Japan sentiment generated by the Diaoyu Islands situation, the adverse air quality in northern

China, as well as the recent avian flu. These factors impacted the whole QSR industry in China.

Mr. Hung commented, "Despite the challenges faced by the industry as a whole, our QSR business continued to deliver sales growth of 7.5% in the first quarter of this year. This resilient growth was driven by our innovative strategy to increase menu variety, enhance customer experience and our cautious approach in store expansion. Despite the industry headwinds, we are optimistic on the medium to long term prospects of the QSR industry in China and will continue our measured expansion strategy."

### **About Hop Hing Group Holdings Limited**

In March 2012, Hop Hing completed the acquisition of a multi-brand quick service restaurant chain operator, which licensed to operate the "Yoshinoya (吉野家)" and "Dairy Queen" QSR restaurants in Northern China. On 31 March 2013, Hop Hing had 289 and 143 Yoshinoya restaurants and Dairy Queen stores respectively. The Company is also engaged in the purchasing, extracting, refining, blending, bottling, marketing and distribution of edible oils for consumption by households and restaurants and other catering establishments in Hong Kong, Macau and China with a range of well-known brands such as "Lion & Globe" (獅球嚓) and "Camel" (駱駝嚓).

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