

For immediate release

29 August 2014

GUOCO GROUP LIMITED
(the “Company” or “Guoco”)

FINAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
	2014	2013	<i>Increase/ (Decrease)</i>
	HK\$'M	HK\$'M	
Turnover	36,002	24,140	49%
Revenue	21,323	17,030	25%
Profit attributable to equity shareholders of the Company	5,752	6,296	(9%)
	HK\$	HK\$	
Earnings per share	17.70	19.37	(9%)
Dividend per share : Interim	1.00	-	
Proposed final	3.00	1.50	
	4.00	1.50	167%
Special interim dividend in specie	-	5.01	
Total	4.00	6.51	
Equity per share attributable to equity shareholders of the Company	170.93	153.65	11%

(29 August 2014, Hong Kong) Guoco Group (Guoco Group Limited, Stock Code: 53) announced today its final results for the year ended 30 June 2014.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The audited consolidated profit attributable to equity shareholders for the year ended 30 June 2014, after taxation and non-controlling interests, amounted to HK\$5,752 million, as compared to HK\$6,296 million for the previous year. Basic earnings per share amounted to HK\$17.70.

For the year ended 30 June 2014, profits (before taxation) were generated from the following sources:

- principal investment of HK\$3,513 million;
- property development and investment of HK\$2,143 million, including release of operating profits which have been deferred in previous years of HK\$280.6 million;
- hospitality and leisure business of HK\$747 million;
- oil and gas royalty of HK\$291 million; and
- contributions from associates and joint ventures of HK\$1,151 million.

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Revenue increased by 25% to HK\$21.3 billion. The increase was mainly attributable to the increase in revenue derived from the property development and investment sector of HK\$2.5 billion and hospitality and leisure sector of HK\$1.5 billion.

DIVIDENDS

In addition to the interim dividend of HK\$1.00 per share already paid, the Company is recommending a final dividend of HK\$3.00 per share. This gives a total dividend of HK\$4.00 per share for the year keeping intact a healthy dividend pay-out track record over the years.

GUOCO’S CORE BUSINESSES

Principal Investment

With major central banks maintaining an accommodative bias and expectations by investors that interest rates would not be raised soon, a number of global stock indices reached or traded near their all-time highs by the end of Guoco’s financial year.

“Our investment activities performed well on the back of favourable economic environment in the major economies and we took timely opportunity of these rallies to realise profits for the year,” said Mr. Quek Leng Chan, Chairman of Guoco Group.

In order to minimise the risk of any market correction, Guoco’s strategy remained prudently focused on identifying long-term cyclical trends as well as laggards with good recovery potential. Guoco continued to spend more attention on the Asian markets and China in particular due to more attractive price levels and valuation.

Property Development and Investment

GuocoLand Limited (“GuocoLand”)

GuocoLand ended the financial year 2013/14 with a profit attributable to equity holders of S\$304.2 million, representing a significant increase of 651%. The improvement was mainly due to profit recognised for GuocoLand’s completed residential projects, Goodwood Residence and Sophia Residence in Singapore and Seasons Park in Tianjin, China.

GuocoLand is working full steam ahead for the construction of its two iconic projects namely Tanjong Pagar Centre in Singapore, and Damansara City in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Mr. Quek Leng Chan remarked, “Both are large-scale integrated mixed use developments comprising office, retail, residential and hotel spaces. When completed, they would be landmarks in these two capital cities.”

More details are available at www.guocoland.com.sg.

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Hospitality and Leisure Business

GuocoLeisure Limited (“GuocoLeisure”)

GuocoLeisure recorded a profit after tax of US\$38.6 million for the year ended 30 June 2014, a decrease of 11.5% as compared to US\$43.6 million in the previous year. The decrease was mainly due to the impairment charge on the casino brand name, the recoverable amount of which was lower than the carrying cost during the year.

The transformation of GuocoLeisure’s hospitality business operating under GLH Hotels Management (UK) Ltd (“glh”) is on track with the delivery of key initiatives during the financial year. glh saw the launch of 3 new brands - **Clermont**, a global luxury hotel and private residences; **Amba**, a global four-star hotel portfolio; and **every**, a four-star, limited-feature category hotel with focus on technology.

“glh has taken an entrepreneurial approach to general management, aimed at driving up customer services standard and profit across the whole business. The new model resulted in all of its London-based hotels enjoying significant improvements in Trip Advisor rankings, with 9 hotels moving up more than 100 places compared to 18 months ago,” added Mr. Quek Leng Chan.

More details are available at www.guocoleisure.com.

The Rank Group Plc (“Rank”)

Rank registered an increase of 10% in its profit after taxation (before exceptional items and discontinued operations) for the year ended 30 June 2014 to GBP52.8 million.

Integration of the acquired Gala casinos had been completed on budget and on time to enable it to be part of the driver of the growth in Rank’s full year revenue and operating profit.

Mr. Quek Leng Chan commented, “With the cut in bingo duty, major capital investment programmes planned at certain casinos, and a strategic focus on improving its digital capability and multi-channel offer, Rank is well positioned for future growth.”

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Financial Services

Hong Leong Financial Group Berhad (“HLFG”)

“Achieving an annual profit before tax of over RM3 billion marks a significant financial performance milestone for HLFG,” Mr. Quek Leng Chan remarked.

HLFG registered a profit before tax of RM3,009.2 million for the financial year ended 30 June 2014 as compared to RM2,630.0 million in the previous year, an increase of RM379.2 million or 14.4%. The overall increase in profit before tax was contributed by all of its operating divisions as follows, reaping efforts from the continued execution of strategic plans pursued over the last few years:

- The commercial banking division of RM2,613.2 million, an increase of 9.2%;
- The insurance division of RM350.4 million, an increase of 90.5%; and
- The investment banking division of RM78.9 million, an increase of 16.2%.

“HLFG continues to evolve by being relevant and competitive, both locally and around the region, focusing on building long term relationships and creating sustainable growth strategies. This will further transform HLFG into a stronger and profitable financial services group,” Mr. Quek Leng Chan stated.

More details are available at www.hlfg.com.my.

GROUP OUTLOOK

The combination of recovering growth in major economies and the continuing ultra-accommodative monetary policy is positive to financial assets. While major central banks are expected to remain accommodative, divergence is emerging with the Fed finishing its tapering over the next few months and the BoE moving closer to tightening. Under these circumstances, volatility may increase and could put pressure on equity prices. In view of this assessment, Guoco’s Principal Investment will remain prudent in managing its investment portfolio and will focus on identifying long-term cyclical trends and under-valued situations. Each of Guoco’s core businesses will continue respectively to focus on building a high performance business and strengthening the foundations for sustainable profitability and growth and in the process to enhance Guoco’s capital value.

(Please visit www.guoco.com or www.hkexnews.hk for Guoco's full final results announcement.)

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Guoco Group Limited ("Guoco") (Stock Code: 53), listed on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited, is an investment holding and investment management company with the vision of achieving long term sustainable returns for its shareholders and creating prime capital value. Guoco's operating subsidiary companies and investment activities are principally located in Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and the United Kingdom. Guoco has four core businesses, namely, Principal Investment; Property Development and Investment; Hospitality and Leisure Business; and Financial Services.

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