

## **ThaiBev Earns Satisfactory Profit for 1<sup>st</sup> half 2006**

Thai Beverage Public Company Limited (ThaiBev or THBEV), Southeast Asia's and Thailand's leading producer and distributor of alcoholic beverages, today announced its first half-year financial results ending 30 June 2006, showing satisfactory net profit after tax of 5.1 billion Baht, about the same amount compared with the corresponding period in 2005. The Company also announced a dividend payment for the first six months of this year at 0.11 Baht per share, 54% of its net earnings.

As a reflection of strong underlying growth in ThaiBev's business and commitment to enhancing shareholders' value, the Company's dividend payment for the first six months of 2006 will be 0.11 Baht per share, 54% of its net earnings, as proposed by ThaiBev's board of directors, in line with the Company's dividend policy of paying not less than 50% of its net income as dividend.

Mr. Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi, ThaiBev Director and Executive Vice President, said, "2006 was a satisfactory year for ThaiBev. We are pleased with our overall performance. ThaiBev continues to sharpen its strategic focus to be ASEAN's leading producer and distributor of beer and spirits products."

The Group's operating revenue for the first half of 2006 increased by 2% to 46.6 billion Baht on satisfactory sales turnover in both beer and spirits products, compared to 45.5 billion baht in the corresponding period in 2005.

"During the first half of 2006, ThaiBev's sales revenue of its spirits was similar to the corresponding period of 2005, as lower sales volume in brown spirits is compensated by higher prices, attributable to the increased excise tax on spirits in Thailand imposed late last year. The full effect of the increased excise tax is, however, only being felt this year," said Mr. Thapana.

This resulted in ThaiBev's first half 2006 net profit decreasing marginally to 5.1 billion baht. Mr. Thapana mentioned that the situation was still acceptable. ThaiBev's recent launch of Chang Light, a premium beer under the Company's premiumization strategy, and bottled Chang Draught, are offering new opportunities for ThaiBev to enter different market segments, and help lead the Company into international markets.

Note: the Company certifies that the press release contained herein is translated into Thai language with the exact meaning as in English version.

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