

ThaiBev's Q3 profit rises 5.5%

Thai Beverage Public Company Limited (ThaiBev), Southeast Asia's largest producer of alcoholic beverages, posted a 5.5% rise in 3rd quarter profit compared to the same period last year, while 3rd quarter revenue rose slightly. In addition, ThaiBev shares as listed in the Singapore Stock Exchange continued to attract keen interest among fund managers and international investors.

Mr. Thapana Sirivadhanabhakdi, ThaiBev Executive Vice President, said the company's sales revenue in the 3rd quarter of 2006 was 20.74 billion baht, a slight increase from the same period in 2005. The total is divided into 9.99 billion baht revenue realized from beer and water sales, 10.89 billion baht from liquor, and other products and after the deduction of transaction among related companies. While revenue from the first nine months of this year totals 67.37 billion baht, a slight increase from the same period of last year.

The 3rd quarter's net profit was 2.285 billion baht – an increase of 5.5% over the same period last year which was 2.165 billion baht. The total profit for the first nine months of this year is 7.394 billion baht – a slight decrease from last year's figure – as a result of higher prices of raw materials such as molasses, and the cost of fuel. However, the sales total from the 3rd quarter was an improvement of last year's due in part to the bigger demand for Hong Thong whisky and Archa Beer.

Mr. Thapana added that aside from ThaiBev's satisfactory performance in the first nine months of this year, ThaiBev's shares listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange (SGX) have been attracting keen interest from institutional investors from around the world as well as individual investors, particularly among Singaporeans. This is reflected in the high daily traded volumes on the SGX Main Board. From May 30, 2006, when ThaiBev was first listed until November 13, 2006, the average daily volume was 29.23 million shares – among the top five on the SGX.

At the same time, ThaiBev stocks' free float is relatively high at around 22%. ThaiBev also has a policy to pay dividend amounting to at least 50% of its net profit annually. During the first half of this year, the company paid 0.11 baht apiece to shareholders.

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