



VEDAN INTERNATIONAL (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

味丹國際(控股)有限公司

(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

(Stock code: 2317)

RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

RESULTS

The Board of Directors of Vedan International (Holdings) Limited (the "Company") is pleased to announce the audited consolidated results of the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group") for the year ended 31 December 2006, together with the comparative figures for the previous year as follows:

CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Turnover	290,695	257,904
Cost of sales	(237,222)	(213,460)
Gross profit	53,473	44,444
Other gains – net	2,188	2,907
Selling and distribution expenses	(16,058)	(15,555)
Administrative expenses	(19,010)	(17,584)
Operating profit	20,593	14,212
Finance costs	(5,831)	(3,972)
Profit before income tax	14,762	10,240
Income tax expense	(3,827)	(2,293)
Profit for the year	10,935	7,947
Attributable to:		
– equity holders of the Company	10,915	7,947
– minority shareholder	20	–
	10,935	7,947
Earnings per share for profit attributable to the equity holders of the Company during the year		
Dividends	5,458	4,768
Basic earnings per share (US cents)	0.72	0.52
Diluted earnings per share (US cents)	0.72	0.52

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
ASSETS		
Non-current assets		
Land use rights	6,038	5,583
Property, plant and equipment	211,688	216,187
Intangible assets	18,127	19,241
Held-to-maturity financial assets	3,361	3,361
	239,214	244,372
Current assets		
Trade receivables	38,150	35,829
Inventories	65,520	51,993
Prepayments and other receivables	6,312	6,287
Tax receivable	980	1,272
Cash and cash equivalents	17,282	27,987
Due from a minority shareholder	–	3,600
	128,244	126,968
Total assets	367,458	371,340
EQUITY		
Capital and reserves attributable to the Company's equity holders		
Share capital	15,228	15,228
Reserves		
– Proposed final dividend	2,432	1,708
– Others	222,602	216,119
	240,262	233,055
Minority interest	3,722	3,600
Total equity	243,984	236,655
LIABILITIES		
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term bank borrowings	21,336	29,706
Deferred income tax	11,449	12,026
Long-term payable to a related party	11,023	12,560
Post-employment obligations	870	821
	44,678	55,113
Current liabilities		
Trade payables	17,116	18,520
Accruals and other payables	9,376	10,757
Due to a related party	258	274
Short-term bank borrowings		
– Secured	4,421	500
– Unsecured	36,399	41,101
Current portion of long-term bank borrowings	11,162	8,346
Taxation payable	64	74
	78,796	79,572
Total liabilities	123,474	134,685
Total equity and liabilities	367,458	371,340
Net current assets	49,448	47,396
Total assets less current liabilities	288,662	291,768

Notes:

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The consolidated financial statements of Vedan International (Holdings) Limited have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRS"). The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies.

(a) Standards, amendments and interpretations effective in 2006

- HKAS 19 (Amendment), Employee Benefits, is mandatory for the Group's accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2006. It introduces the option of an alternative recognition approach for actuarial gains and losses. It may impose additional recognition requirements for multi-employer plans where insufficient information is available to apply defined benefit accounting. It also adds new disclosure requirements. As the Group does not intend to change the accounting policy adopted for recognition of actuarial gains and losses and does not participate in any multi-employer plans, adoption of this amendment only impacts the format and extent of disclosures presented in the financial statements.
- HKAS 39 and IFRS 4 Amendment – Financial Guarantee
The adoption of HKAS 39 Amendment does not have material impact to the financial statements of the Company and is not relevant to the consolidated financial statements.

(b) Interpretations to existing standards that are not yet effective and have not been early adopted by the Group

The following interpretations to existing standards have been published that are mandatory for the Group's accounting periods beginning on or after 1 May 2006 or later periods that the Group has not early adopted:

- HKFRS 7, Financial Instruments: Disclosures, and the complementary Amendment to HKAS 1, Presentation of Financial Statements – Capital Disclosures (effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007). HKFRS 7 introduces new disclosures relating to financial instruments. This standard does not have any impact on the classification and valuation of the Group's financial instruments.
- HK(IFRIC)-Int 8, Scope of HKFRS 2 (effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 May 2006). HK(IFRIC)-Int 8 requires consideration of transactions involving the issuance of equity instruments – where the identifiable consideration received is less than the fair value of the equity instruments issued – to establish whether or not they fall within the scope of HKFRS 2. The Group will apply HK(IFRIC)-Int 8 from 1 January 2007, but it is not expected to have any impact on the Group's consolidated financial statements; and
- HK(IFRIC)-Int 10, Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment (effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 November 2006). HK(IFRIC)-Int 10 prohibits the impairment losses recognised in an interim period on goodwill, investments in equity instruments and investments in financial assets carried at cost to be reversed at a subsequent balance sheet date. The Group will apply HK(IFRIC)-Int 10 from 1 January 2007, but it is not expected to have any impact on the Group's financial statements.

(c) Standards, amendments and interpretations effective in 2006 but not relevant for the Group's operations

The following standards, amendments and interpretations are mandatory for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2006 but are not relevant to the Group's operations:

- HKAS 21 Amendment – Net Investment in a Foreign Operation;
- HKAS 39 Amendment – Cash Flow Hedge Accounting of Forecast Intragroup Transactions;
- HKAS 39 Amendment – The Fair Value Option;
- HKFRS 6, Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources;
- HKFRS 1 Amendment – First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards and IFRS 6 (Amendment), Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources;
- HK(IFRIC)-Int 4, Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease;
- HK(IFRIC)-Int 5, Rights to Interests arising from Decommissioning, Restoration and Environmental Rehabilitation Funds; and
- HK(IFRIC)-Int 6, Liabilities arising from Participating in a Specific Market – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

2. TURNOVER AND OTHER GAINS – NET

(a) The Group manufacture and sell fermentation-based food additives, biochemical products and cassava starch-based industrial products including modified starch, glucose syrup, MSG, soda, acid and beverages. Turnover recognised for the years ended 31 December 2006 and 2005 is US\$290,695,000 and US\$257,904,000 respectively.

(b) Other gains – net

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Net exchange gain	38	73
Net loss from sale of electricity	(94)	(175)
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	(58)	(395)
Sale of scrap materials	334	406
Interest income from held-to-maturity financial assets	251	189
Operating lease rental income	–	264
Tax refund on reinvestment	–	1,231
Technology support income	941	–
Others	776	1,314
	2,188	2,907

3. EXPENSES BY NATURE

Expenses included in cost of sales, selling and distribution expenses and administrative expenses are analysed as follows:

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Changes in inventories of finished goods and work in progress	15,892	2,361
Raw materials and consumables used	190,941	186,171
Amortisation of trademarks	1,209	1,007
Amortisation of land use rights	125	24
Auditors' remuneration	256	208
Depreciation on property, plant and equipment	27,046	25,267
Operating leases expenses in respect of leasehold land	125	119
Employee benefit expenses	15,799	13,420
Other expenses	20,897	18,022
Total cost of sales, selling and distribution expenses and administrative expenses	272,290	246,599

4. FINANCE COSTS

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Interest expense on bank borrowings	5,498	3,806
Amortisation of discount on long-term payable to a related party	585	471
Interest income	(252)	(305)
	5,831	3,972

5. TAXATION

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
The amount of income tax charged to the consolidated income statement represents:		
Enterprise income tax ("EIT")	4,268	2,326
Deferred income tax	(577)	(33)
Withholding tax	136	–
	3,827	2,293

(i) Vietnam

EIT is provided on the basis of the statutory profit for financial reporting purposes, adjusted for income and expenses items which are not assessable or deductible for income tax purposes. The applicable EIT rates for the Group's operation in Vietnam range from 10% to 25%, as stipulated in the respective subsidiaries' investment licenses.

(ii) The PRC

EIT is provided on the basis of the statutory profit for financial reporting purposes, adjusted for income and expenses items which are not assessable or deductible for income tax purposes. The applicable EIT rate for the Group's operation in the PRC range from 18% to 33%.

Xiamen Maotai, Shanghai Vedan and Shandong Snowflake are entitled to full exemption from EIT for the first two years and 50% reduction in EIT for the next three years, commencing from the first profitable year offsetting all unexpired tax losses carried forward from the previous years. Shanghai Vedan and Shandong Snowflake have already triggered their first profitable year.

(iii) Singapore/Hong Kong

No Singapore/Hong Kong profits tax has been provided as the Group had no estimated assessable profit arising in or derived from Singapore and Hong Kong during the year.

(iv) Taiwan

EIT is provided on the basis of the statutory profit for financial reporting purposes, adjusted for income and expenses items which are not assessable or deductible for income tax purposes. The applicable EIT rate for the Group's operation in Taiwan is 25%.

6. DIVIDENDS

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
2006 Interim dividend of 0.200 US cents (2005: 0.201 US cents) per ordinary share, paid	3,026	3,060
2006 Final dividend of 0.158 US cents (2005: 0.112 US cents) per ordinary share, proposed	2,432	1,708
	5,458	4,768

7. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing the profit attributable to equity holders of the Company of US\$10,915,000 (2005: US\$7,947,000) by 1,522,742,000 (2005: 1,522,742,000) ordinary shares in issue during the period.

Diluted earnings per share is calculated adjusting the number of ordinary shares outstanding to assume conversion of all share options. A calculation is done to determine the number of shares that could have been acquired at fair value (determined as the average annual market share price of the Company's shares) based on the monetary value of the subscription rights attached to outstanding share options. The number of shares calculated as above is compared with the number of shares that would have been issued assuming the exercise of the pre-IPO share options.

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Profit attributable to equity holders of the Company	10,915	7,947
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue (thousands)	1,522,742	1,522,742
Adjustments for outstanding share options (thousands)	2,431	5,701
Weighted average number of ordinary shares for diluted earnings per share (thousands)	1,525,173	1,528,443
Diluted earnings per share (US cents per share)	0.72	0.52

8. TRADE RECEIVABLES

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Trade receivables from third parties	37,787	33,542
Trade receivables from related parties	363	2,287
	38,150	35,829

The credit terms of trade receivables range from cash on delivery to 120 days and the ageing analysis of the trade receivables is as follows:

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Current	22,634	23,063
30 – 90 days	14,917	11,760
91 – 180 days	458	305
181 – 365 days	141	60
Over 365 days	–	641
	38,150	35,829

9. TRADE PAYABLES

The ageing analysis of trade payables is as follows:

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Current	15,299	18,161
30 – 90 days	1,804	359
91 – 180 days	9	–
181 – 365 days	4	–
	17,116	18,520

10. SEGMENTAL ANALYSIS

Segment information is presented in respect of the Group's business and geographical segments. Business segment information is chosen as the primary reporting format because this is more relevant to the Group in making operating and financial decisions.

(a) Business segment

The Group has been operating in one single business segment, i.e. the manufacture and sale of fermentation-based food additives, biochemical products and cassava starch-based industrial products including modified starch, glucose syrup, MSG, soda, acid and beverages.

(b) Geographical segment

In presenting information on the basis of geographical segments, segment revenue is based on the geographical presence of customers. Segment assets and capital expenditures are based on the geographical location of the assets.

(i) Segment revenue

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Vietnam	151,419	138,842
The PRC	44,751	38,867
Japan	53,191	52,778
Taiwan	10,607	3,353
ASEAN member countries (other than Vietnam)	25,158	14,119
Other regions	5,569	9,945
	290,695	257,904

(ii) Capital expenditures

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Vietnam	8,811	29,951
The PRC	13,540	10,269
Taiwan	40	–
	22,391	40,220

Capital expenditures are allocated based on where the assets are located.

Capital expenditures comprise additions of land use rights, property, plant and equipment and intangible assets, including additions resulting from acquisitions through business combinations.

(iii) Total assets

	2006	2005
	US\$'000	US\$'000
Vietnam	308,925	298,818
The PRC	56,728	58,425
Hong Kong	763	12,461
Taiwan	173	1,571
Singapore	869	65
	367,458	371,340

Total assets are allocated based on where the assets are located.

BUSINESS OVERVIEW

The total turnover of the Group increased by 12.7% to US\$290,695,000 in 2006. It is the fifth consecutive year that its turnover has double-digit growth. The Group's two main production bases, Vietnam and China, also recorded steady growth in turnover, increasing by 10.7% and 24.8% to US\$245,408,000 and US\$45,287,000 respectively. Due to the low international demand for lysine and hence suppressed price, the Group continued to strategically reduce lysine production, which caused turnover from lysine sales to decrease by approximately 24.6%. As for MSG and GA, their turnover increased by approximately 14.4%, and native starch also brought in turnover approximately 2.937% higher than last year's. Other products, including fertilizers, caustic soda and hydrochloric acid also increased. These achievements indicated that the Group is making steady progress in different markets and with different products as guided by its strategies. Although still facing pressure from persistently high material costs and severe competition, the Group overcame all the different challenges and reported increase in gross profit and net profit by 20.3% and 37.3% to US\$53,473,000 and US\$10,915,000 respectively. The improved profitability and turnover of the Group were the fruits of its efforts to gradually raise product prices, apply stringent cost control, undertake flexible production strategy and realize the goals it set for the supply chain in China.

During the year, the Group's principle markets including Vietnam, Japan, China and ASEAN, all recorded growth, with the ASEAN region, in particular, reporting a marked 78.2% growth in 2006 against 54.2% in 2005. In term of transaction amount, Vietnam recorded the highest at US\$12,577,000 among all markets. It reflected that, with a large-scale and vertically integrated operation in Vietnam where it has a firm foothold, the Group has been able to ride on the booming Vietnam economy to achieve sustained growth and the country's AFTA membership and geographical advantage to tap the ASEAN market. The Group expects trade activities among AFTA member countries to increase and in turn present more opportunities for its business.

Since China became an ASEAN member, trade and bilateral investment activities between her and other members have grown continuously. In addition to the production base in Vietnam, the Group also has three production bases, namely Xiamen Mao Tai, Shanghai Vedan and Shandong Vedan Snowflake, in China. These facilities have capacities sufficient to satisfy the demand of the rapidly growing AFTA and China markets. The Group sees bright prospects and enormous room for growth for its operations.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Cash flow and financial resources

As at 31 December 2006, the Group's cash and bank savings amounted to US\$17,282,000, US\$10,705,000 less than in 2005. The decline was mainly due to the injection of US\$8,400,000 as capital into the Joint Venture Company, Shandong Vedan Snowflake, in early 2006. The Group's deposits are mainly denominated in US dollars (42%), Vietnamese Dong (30.5%) and Renminbi (26.8%). Account receivables totaled at US\$38,150,000, US\$2,321,000 more than in 2005. The 6.5% growth is lower than the 12.7% turnover growth. Overall inventory increased by approximately 26%, or US\$13,527,000 due to increase in inventory of finished products.

Total bank loans decreased to US\$73,318,000, US\$6,335,000 less than at the end of 2005. Of the total loan amount, US\$51,982,000 was short-term loans and US\$21,336,000 was long-term loans, 96%, or US\$70,385,000, of the bank loans are denominated in US dollars, and the rest are in Renminbi and Taiwan dollar. During the year, the total cost of bank loans increased to 7.2% per annum from 5.7% per annum in 2005, as a result of US interest rate hike. Current ratio improved slightly from 1.60 last year to 1.63. Gearing ratio dropped from 33.7% to 30.1%, while net gearing ratio increased from 21.8% to 23%.

As at 31 December 2006, the Group's had a net asset value of US\$243,984,000.

Capital Expenditure

During the year, the Group's capital expenditure amounted to approximately US\$22,000,000. At the end