

SGX Research Incentive Scheme

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Qian Hu Corporation

QIAN SP BUY; TP: S\$0.175 Price @04/08/09: S\$0.145 52-week range (SGD): 0.075 – 0.175 Market cap – S\$61.0m

1Q09 Result Review									
FYE Dec (S\$ m)	2QFY09	2QFY08	yoy % chg	1QFY09	qoq % chg				
Revenue	23.7	23.6	0.6	23.2	2.4				
Operating costs	(20.3)	(20.4)	(0.3)	(20.2)	0.6				
EBITDA	3.4	3.2	6.3	2.9	15.4				
EBITDA margin (%)	14.3	13.5		12.7					
Depn & amort.	(0.7)	(0.6)	10.7	(0.7)	(0.9)				
EBIT	2.7	2.6	nm	2.3	20.1				
Interest expense	0.0	0.0	(33.3)	0.0	100.0				
Interest & invt inc	(0.2)	(0.2)	(11.4)	(0.2)	nm				
Associates' contrib	(0.0)	(0.0)	(82.8)	0.0	(600.0)				
Exceptionals	-	-	-	-	-				
Pretax profit	2.6	2.4	7.9	2.1	22.4				
Tax	(0.5)	(0.5)	-	(0.4)	27.0				
Tax rate (%)	20.3	21.9		19.5					
Minority interests	(0.4)	(0.3)	9.1	(0.3)	33.3				
Net profit	1.7	1.5	10.3	1.4	18.9				
EPS (cts)	0.4	0.4	8.4	0.3	17.8				
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FYE Dec (S\$ m)	1HFY09	1HFY08	yoy %	Prev.
	cum	cum	chg	FY09F
Revenue	46.9	46.6	0.6	100.0
Operating costs	(40.5)	(40.5)	0.1	(86.3)
EBITDA	6.3	6.1	3.7	13.7
EBITDA margin (%)	13.5	13.1	3.0	13.7
Depn & amort.	(1.3)	(1.2)	10.3	(2.8)
EBIT	5.0	4.9	2.1	10.9
Interest expense	0.0	0.0	(76.9)	0.0
Interest & invt inc	(0.4)	(0.4)	(13.3)	(0.7)
Associates' contrib	(0.0)	0.0	(300.0)	0.1
Exceptionals	-	-	-	-
Pretax profit	4.6	4.5	3.2	10.3
Tax	(0.9)	(1.0)	(10.7)	(2.4)
Tax rate (%)	19.9	23.0	(13.5)	23.0
Minority interests	(0.7)	(0.7)	(4.7)	(1.5)
Net profit	3.1	2.8	10.4	6.5
FPS (cts)	0.7	0.7	9.1	1.6

- Not surprising that 2Q09 result met our expectation. 2Q09 net profit of S\$1.7m (+ 10.3% yoy) formed 24% of our FY09 estimates. 1H09 net profit of S\$3.1m (+ 10.4% yoy) formed 47% of our FY09 estimates.
- Although the revenue from ornamental fish segment recorded a slight increase, operating profit from this segment fell 12.7% yoy to \$2.0m in the 2Q09 due to lower sales of the group's self-bred Dragon Fish.
- This is not worrying as self-bred Dragon Fish yielded better margin as compared to the sales of Dragon Fish sourced from third parties. With the completion of the new breeding facilities in its Malaysia farm last year, Qian Hu has managed to increase its production of self-bred Dragon Fish in 3Q09, which would generate sales in the coming quarters.
- We have also mentioned earlier that self-bred Dragon Fish would require between three to six months for the fry to grow into a marketable size. As such, the result would be more telling in 3Q to 4Q09.
- Qian Hu was able to better manage cash flow by realising its receivables balances into cash balances for the settlement of trade and other payables. As a result, net cash generated from operating activities was higher yoy in 1H09, also boosted by higher operating profit generated in the period.
- Any additional capex will be funded through group's operating cashflow, as management has indicated that its target is to reduce its current gearing ratio of 0.56x to 0.50x.

Focus intact; expect margins to climb

- Qian Hu is the region's biggest exporter of ornamental fish capturing around 5% of the world market share. While increasing its efforts on expanding its export distribution to more countries around the world, the group will focus on high-growth regions such as the Middle East, Eastern Europe, China and India.
- There will also be focus on containing operating costs and increasing
 productivity. The group's profit should grow at a faster pace than that
 of the increase in revenue as it is operating in a niche market. That
 could be manifested in higher margin going forward, as the group
 leverage on its house brands, strong R&D efforts and an efficient
 supply chain management.
- Management also highlighted that the group aims to increase its visibility in the European continent and is targeting to increase its export of aquarium and pet accessories to more than 40 countries within the year.

Recommendation – Maintain BUY

- Overall, this set of result was a marked improvement for Qian Hu since 1Q09. Its recessionary resilient business model shines once again, and we believe that the group was on track for another profitable year.
- We maintained our estimates but upped our target price to \$\$0.175 (from \$\$0.16), pegged at 10x CY10 P/E, still a discount to the FSSTI average. Qian Hu trades at 8.4x CY10 P/E and 4.7x EV/EBITDA, which are not lofty given its almost recessionary proof business model and strong brand equity, in our opinion.
- Given resilient outlook by the group, we reiterate our Buy recommendation.

Financial summary

FYE Dec	2007	2008	2009F	2010F	2011F
Revenue (S\$ m)	92.1	93.1	100.0	107.5	115.7
EBITDA (S\$ m)	10.1	11.5	12.8	14.0	15.2
EBITDA margins (%)	11.0	12.3	12.8	13.0	13.1
Pretax profit (S\$ m)	4.3	9.2	10.3	11.4	12.3
Net profit (S\$ m)	4.8	6.0	6.5	7.1	7.8
EPS (S cts)	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9
EPS growth (%)	+78%	+11%	+7%	+10%	+9%
P/E (x)	11.1	9.9	9.3	8.4	7.7
Core EPS (cts)	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.9
Core EPS growth (%)	+78%	+11%	+7%	+10%	+9%
Core P/E (x)	11.1	9.9	9.3	8.4	7.7
FD EPS (cts)	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7
FD P/E (x)	11.8	10.6	9.9	9.0	8.3
Gross DPS (S cts)	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4
Dividend yield (%)	1.4	0.3	2.2	2.4	2.6
P/NTA (x)	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.9
ROE (%)	13.7	11.9	11.6	11.6	11.6
Net gearing (%)	3.4	7.2	4.6	3.2	1.9
P/CF (x)	7.6	7.1	6.6	6.0	5.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.5	5.7	5.1	4.7	4.3
% change in EPS estimates	÷	-	-	-	-

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SELL: The stock's total return is expected to be -15% or worse over the next three months.

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