



DEL MONTE PACIFIC LIMITED

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DEL MONTE PACIFIC'S SECOND QUARTER 2010 RESULTS

- Sales grew 8%, driven by the Philippines and fresh exports
- Net loss position primarily due to higher raw material costs
- Measures to lower product costs and operating expenses gaining traction
- Second half expected to return to profitability, as indicated earlier this year

Singapore, **10 August 2010** – Singapore Exchange Mainboard-listed Del Monte Pacific Limited (Bloomberg: DELM SP, Reuters: DMPL.SI) today announced a net loss of US\$1.3 million for the second quarter of 2010 compared to a net profit of US\$5.1 million in the same period last year. In spite of an 8% improvement in sales, the loss was due primarily to higher raw material costs and inventory obsolescence.

Sales grew to US\$85.1 million from US\$78.9 million in the prior year quarter due to higher turnover in the Philippines and fresh exports.

Sales in the Philippines grew 13%, higher than the 2% growth registered in the first quarter. This was due to higher sales in the culinary category, led by core products such as spaghetti and tomato sauces, as well as mixed fruits, pineapple products and canned juice drinks, resulting in higher market shares. The beverage segment was marginally down by 1% as higher sales in other juice products offset the decline in Del Monte Fit 'n Right juice drinks. Fit 'n Right continues to face aggressive competition and the Company is taking steps to address this with a product relaunch supported by a new, refreshed advertising campaign.

We expect sales in the Philippines to improve further with a thorough review and investments in the supply chain processes and systems. The execution of these operational improvements is underway and this should favourably impact our results for the remainder of the year.

Fresh export sales registered remarkable growth, which was more than double that of last year. This was achieved through higher volume and better prices.

Strong sales of S&W processed products continued their growth in the second quarter, up 20% versus prior year quarter. This was primarily driven by the strong performance in Singapore and Hong Kong, as well as higher sales in Japan. There were increased listings and better presence in major retailer chain stores in Singapore. In Hong Kong, there was more focus on the tropical fruit and corn ranges with better in-store presence supported by print advertising. Japan had higher sales of specialty fruits.

Processed export sales were lower in the second quarter due to tight supply of pineapple. However, there were better volumes in certain markets and product categories, such as fruits in cups and jars.

Product costs, which increased by US\$5.9 million in the second quarter versus prior year quarter, were driven by sugar, which more than doubled due to global prices, and pineapple production costs which were affected by higher input costs and lower productivity. Other costs which affected the Company's profitability include energy costs in the Philippines which went up by 40% in the second quarter.

To address the issue of higher costs, the Company is working on initiatives to improve efficiency. To achieve this, the Company is increasing usage of natural sugar recovered from pineapple and utilising alternative natural sweeteners. At the same time, the sugar content in certain products is being reduced for a healthier offering. Energy efficiency measures are in place to improve energy consumption.

"The programs we are implementing to improve overall productivity are beginning to gain traction," commented Mr. Joselito D. Campos, Jr., Managing Director and CEO of DMPL. As announced in March this year, a Plantation Oversight Committee has been formed to oversee the streamlining of current procedures, introduce up-to-date methods and upgrade the Company's agricultural practices. The Committee comprises experienced agricultural and management experts. However, due to the long growing cycle of pineapple, the Company expects to reap the full benefits of these measures only in 2011.

In spite of the net loss position, the Company was able to improve gross margins which were higher in the second quarter than in the first quarter. This was due to better prices and sales mix, as well as a lower rate of cost increase compared to the first quarter. As a result, the gross profit of US\$16.5 million in the second quarter reflected a lower rate of decline than in the first quarter.

Below the gross profit line, the Company incurred higher organisational and R&D expenses as it invested in new business growth. Advertising, promotion and selling expenses were slightly higher than prior year to support new products and improve market coverage.

"We expect improvement in the second half performance, particularly in the fourth quarter, from better volume, pricing and sales mix, and containment of costs," said Mr. Campos, Jr. Importantly, the Company had an unprofitable supply contract the termination of which became effective at the end of the three-year notice period, 31 May 2010. The termination of this supply contract will enable the Company to pursue other opportunities.

For the quarter, the Company recognised a share of loss in FieldFresh India of US\$2.2 million, which was higher than the US\$1.0 million recorded in the same period last year. This was due to necessary expenses to build the business primarily in the Del Monte branded processed foods segment. New products Del Monte Zingo and Twango tomato/chili ketchup launched last April were supported by A&P programs. Both are performing in line with expectation and have strengthened the Culinary portfolio for Del Monte in India. From only 15,000 outlets early this year, Del Monte products are now in 23,000 outlets in 25 cities in India. The new production facility of FieldFresh will be fully operational in the fourth quarter and will support the growth and profitability of the processed foods business.

Mr. Campos said "We are encouraged by the expanding footprint of the Del Monte brand in India through the joint venture FieldFresh, as well as the S&W brand in the region and the continued gains in our fresh business. We remain focused on developing and growing our key branded businesses in the Philippines, India and the rest of Asia."

Disclaimer

This announcement may contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Actual future results may differ materially from those expressed in forward-looking statements as a result of a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Representative examples of these factors include (without limitation) general economic and business conditions, change in business strategy or development plans, weather conditions, crop yields, outgrowers and service providers' performance, production efficiencies, input costs and availability, competition, shifts in customer demands and preferences, market acceptance of new products, industry trends,

and changes in government and environmental regulations. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which are based on current view of management on future events.

About Del Monte Pacific Limited (<u>www.delmontepacific.com</u>)

Listed on the Mainboard of the Singapore Exchange, Del Monte Pacific Limited (Bloomberg: DELM SP/ Reuters: DMPL.SI) is a group of companies that cater to today's consumer needs for premium quality, healthy food and beverage products. It innovates, produces, markets and distributes its products worldwide.

The Group owns the Del Monte brand in the Philippines where it enjoys leading market shares for canned pineapple juice and juice drinks, canned pineapple and tropical mixed fruits, tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce and tomato ketchup.

Del Monte Pacific also owns another premium brand, S&W, globally except the Americas, Australia and New Zealand. As with the Del Monte brand, the S&W brand originated in the USA in the 1890s as a producer and marketer of premium quality processed fruit and vegetable products.

In India, the Group owns approximately 46% of FieldFresh Foods Private Limited (www.fieldfreshfoods.in). FieldFresh markets Del Monte-branded processed products in the domestic market and FieldFresh-branded fresh fruits and vegetables globally and in the domestic market. Del Monte Pacific's partner in FieldFresh India is the well-respected Bharti Enterprises.

Del Monte Pacific holds the exclusive rights to produce and distribute processed food and beverage products under the Del Monte brand in the Indian subcontinent.

With a 20,000-hectare contiguous pineapple plantation in the Philippines, 700,000-ton processing capacity and a port beside the Cannery, Del Monte Pacific's subsidiary, Del Monte Philippines, operates the world's largest fully-integrated pineapple operation. It is proud of its long heritage of more than 80 years of pineapple growing and processing. It has long-term supply agreements with some of the Del Monte trademark owners and licensees around the world.

Del Monte Pacific and its subsidiaries are not affiliated with other Del Monte companies in the world, namely, Del Monte Foods Co. (USA), Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc. (USA), Del Monte Asia Pte. Ltd. and these companies' parent or subsidiaries.

Del Monte Pacific is 78.7%-owned by NutriAsia Pacific Ltd (NPL) (www.nutriasia.com). NPL is owned by the NutriAsia Group of Companies which is in turn majority-owned by the Campos family of the Philippines. The NutriAsia Group is the market leader in the liquid condiments, specialty sauces and cooking oil market in the Philippines.

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