URC overseas units reap brand plums

We are very thankful and honored to receive the recognition from both experts and consumers

Universal Robina Corp.'s (URC) Vietnam and Thailand units clinched top awards that highlights the reputation of their brand and image.

In Vietnam, URC was named among the country's top 10 most prestigious beverage companies in the non-alcoholic category for a second year in a row.

Presented by news outfits Vietnam Report and Vietnamnet-Ministry of Information and Communication, the award given was evaluated based on several criteria that included financial capacity, reputation and targeted audience survey.

"We are very thankful and honored

to receive this recognition from both experts and consumers," Jai Gamboa, URC Vietnam's General Manager, said.

"This is a testament to all our efforts to continuously improve the sustainability of our business operations."

Viets love URC lines

URC has been in Vietnam since 2003. It now owns advanced production lines in five factories in Binh Duong, Quang Ngai and Hanoi.

URC was also one of Vietnam's top sustainable businesses for 2020. Earlier this year, it's C2 brand was listed as among three fastest-growing brands in urban Vietnam, according to the Vietnam Brand Footprint by Kantar Worldpanel. It remains as the leading ready-to-drink tea brand in Vietnam.

Fun-O meanwhile, continues to be

the most loved biscuit in Thailand. with the brand being recognized by BrandAge magazine as not just the market leader, but also the most admired.



URC's beverage brand C2 is considered among the three fastest growing brands in Vietnam's urban areas.

Light at the end of the tunnel?

From page 9

Another was the continued operation of public transportation, albeit limited in capacity. A more relaxed capacity of 20 percent to 30 percent was allowed for certain establishments, such as restaurants, barber shops and spas, provided its employees were fully vaccinated. Even outdoor physical activities, such as golf, important for the health, particularly of seniors, were permitted provided within a proximate distance of one's residence.

With Christmas around the corner, it is inevitable that crowding and traffic will be more pronounced. And we still have a good number not entirely sold to the idea of vaccinations.

The more positive mindset of vaccinated people also was a crucial differentiator this time around, especially in the National Capital Region where reportedly about 60 percent of its populace were vaccinated at least once during the third quarter. As of this writing, the number of vaccinations has dramatically gone up to about 85 percent of the government's targeted population in Metro Manila.

We have to give credit where

credit is due. The government's vaccination task force, headed by Vaccine Czar Carlito Galvez Jr., was able to ramp up the sourcing of vaccine supplies and the vaccination rate.

At the beginning of the third quarter, only about 11 million vaccine doses were administered. As of the end of September, this went up to about 45 million vaccines, either for the first or second jabs. Today, this number has soared to about 68 million vaccines administered, with 37 million fully vaccinated, representing about 34 percent of the population. The average daily doses doubled from about 350,000 in July to about 760,000 as of November.

This acceleration of vaccinations has clearly yielded the government's hoped for results. From a peak of 26,000 new cases on 11 September, this has dropped to 1,800 as of 4 November.

Kudos to Secretary Galvez and the local government officials for this marked improvement!

But we can't relax and put our guard down, however, as we still have a long way to go. For comparison, the latest worldwide average is 41 percent compared to our 34 percent. For a closer look, the United States is about 59 percent, and nearer home, Indonesia, 30 percent; Vietnam, 34 percent; Thailand, 51 percent: Singapore, 83 percent; Taiwan, 41 percent; Malaysia, 76 percent; Burma, 15 percent; Cambodia, 79 percent; South Korea, 77 percent and Hong Kong, 60 percent.

As you can see, we are at the bottom quartile in the region, doing only better than Burma and about at par with Indonesia and Vietnam.

With the recent relaxation to Alert Level 2, you must have seen all the social media postings of people swarming public places eager to savor once more what it was like before Covid, but unfortunately with most not following suggested distancing. Also, traffic is back at its pre-pandemic peak.

With Christmas around the corner, it is inevitable that crowding and traffic will be more pronounced. And we still have a good number not entirely sold to the idea of vaccinations, so there is still quite a significant chunk of the populace who could be easy prey to infections.

All these obviously should be cause of great concern as this could lead to a possible resurgence of cases. Let us hope that the light that we are seeing at the end of the tunnel is not a freight train barreling toward us.

Until next week... One big fight!

For comments, email bing matoto@uahoo.com



PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF FLASH EXPRESS PHILIPPINES HOME-grown courier firm Flash Express holds a pre-launch at its office in Robinson's Cyber Sigma. At the occasion are (from left) Flash Express Philippines PR and Partnership Manager, Reginald Rex Pumihic; head of legal compliance and spokesperson, Atty. Sherry Bernarbe; legal head for Express operations, Atty. Niquee Louise Yap-Espiritu; Flash Express Philippies Shareholder Representative, Tony Lou; and Flash Express Philippies general manager, Engr. John de Guzman Tarampi.

aboitiz

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES INC. NAC Tower, 32nd Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, Metro Manila, 1634 Philippines

NOTICE is hereby given that the Special Meeting of Stockholders of ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES INC. (the "Company") will be held on December 10, 2021, Friday at 1:00 p.m. (the "2021 SSM"). The meeting will be conducted virtually from the Company's principal office at NAC Tower, 32nd Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City and through the link that is provided in the Company's website at https://aboitiz.com/2021ssm (the "SSM Portal").

The Agenda* of the meeting is as follows:

- Call to Order
- Proof of Notice of Meeting and Determination of Quorum Approval and Ratification of the Sale of 1,840,334,941 Common Shares, Equivalent to 25.01% Equity Interest in Aboitiz
- Ratification of the Acts, Resolutions, and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Corporate Officers, and Management Other Business
- Adjournment

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on November 5, 2021 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at this meeting.

In light of the continuing COVID-19 global pandemic and government-imposed restrictions on mass gathering, the Company will conduct the 2021 SSM virtually through an online platform and streamed live at 1:00 p.m. (Philippine time) on December 10, 2021.

Stockholders may attend by registering at the SSM Portal beginning November 8, 2021 until 10:00 a.m. on December 10, 2021. Once registered, stockholders may send in their questions or remarks through the SSM Portal.

Stockholders may vote through proxy, or remotely in absentia.

Registered stockholders may cast their votes by remote communication or in absentia using the online voting platform available at the SSM Portal, which was activated on November 8, 2021. Votes cast by registered stockholders until 10:00 a.m. of December 10, 2021, will be tabulated and presented during the 2021 SSM. Stockholders may still vote after the cut-off time, and the final votes received through proxy and through the SSM Portal after the adjournment of the meeting will be included in the minutes of the 2021 SSM. The procedures for attendance and voting during the 2021 SSM will be included in the Information Statement to be distributed to the stockholders and will be published in the Company's website at www.aboitiz.com.

Stockholders may send their duly accomplished proxies on or before the close of business hours on December 3, 2021 to the Corporate Secretary through email at aboitizboardsecretariat@aboitiz.com and hard copies at the 18th Floor, NAC Tower, 32nd Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Validation of proxies will be on December 7, 2021 at the Office of the Corporate Secretary. WE ARE NOT SOLICITING PROXIES.

For the Board of Directors,

(sgd.) MANUEL ALBERTO R. COLAYCO Corporate Secretary

*The rationale for each Agenda item is explained in the Information Statement and may also be viewed at AEV's website at https://aboitiz. com/2021ssm under Special Stockholders' Meeting in the Investor Relations Page.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are very fortunate to have been able to declare and distribute dividends to all our stockholders annually since 1999. However, we note that some of you have not encashed or altogether failed to claim your dividend checks. We want to ensure that you receive your dividend checks as well as other pertinent information or materials from the Company on time by strengthening our communication channels. In this regard, please allow us to assist you in any of your concerns regarding unclaimed dividend checks and updating of your contact details and other relevant information by contacting:

For Luzon-based stockholders STOCK TRANSFER SERVICE, INC.

Telephone No.:

Attention: Mr. Michael C. Capoy Unit 34-D Rufino Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

> (632) 8403-2410 (632) 8403-2412

(632) 8403-3798

Fax No.: (632) 8403-2414

mccapoy@stocktransfer.com.ph Email address:

For Visayas and Mindanao-based stockholders ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES INC.

Attention: Ms. Marinel Mangubat

Aboitiz Corporate Center, Gov. Manuel A. Cuenco Avenue, Kasambagan, Cebu City 6000

Telephone No.: (6332) 411-1757

(632) 8886-2800 local 21757 Fax No.:

(632) 8886-2407 marinel.mangubat@aboitiz.com Email address:

aboitiz.shareholder.services@aboitiz.com

We appreciate your continued support and trust in our Company.

Definitive Information Statement



Dear Valued Stockholders,

In line with the Aboitiz Group's sustainability efforts, Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. (AEV or the "Company") is delivering its Definitive Information Statement (SEC Form 20-IS) for the 2021 Special Stockholders Meeting (2021 SSM) via QR code, which is accessible below:



How to access the Information Statement:

- Open a QR code reader on your smartphone
- Allow the QR code reader to scan the code
- Press OK or click the link to view the *Information Statement*
- QR Code also includes the Notice and Agenda, sample proxy forms, and other details about the 2021 SSM

These documents (Information Statement, Notice and Agenda, sample proxy forms, and other details about the 2021 SSM) are also available at https://aboitiz.com/2021ssm.

If you wish to receive hard copies of the Information Statement, you may send your request through email to aboitizboardsecretariat@aboitiz.com, or contact Ms. Marinel Mangubat at marinel.mangubat@aboitiz.com. We encourage stockholders to take advantage of all online and electronic opportunities to receive their copies of the Information Statement and other documents related to the 2021 SSM.

Thank you and we appreciate your continued support and trust in the Company.