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Miscellaneous	
* Asterisks denote mandatory information	
Name of Announcer *	ASIA PACIFIC BREWERIES LTD
Company Registration No.	193100007K
Announcement submitted on behalf of	ASIA PACIFIC BREWERIES LTD
Announcement is submitted with respect to *	ASIA PACIFIC BREWERIES LTD
Announcement is submitted by *	Anthony Cheong Fook Seng
Designation *	Company Secretary
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>> Announcement Details
The details of the announcement start here ...

Announcement Title *	JAPANESE BANKS WITHDRAW SUITS WITH COSTS PAYABLE TO APBS
Description	<p>The Company understands that Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd ("Mizuho") have done a media release in relation to the withdrawal of their Suit No. 775 of 2004 against Asia Pacific Breweries (S) Pte Ltd ("APBS") with costs payable to APBS. The Company wishes to clarify that APBS has no banking relationship with Mizuho and/or its predecessor Fuji Bank.</p> <p>The Company also notes that lawyers for Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation ("Sumitomo"), Singapore Branch have informed the Honourable Justice Belinda Ang of their clients' intention to withdraw their Suit No. 781 of 2004 against APBS with costs payable to APBS.</p> <p>The withdrawals are on Mizuho and Sumitomo's own accord and there has been no discussions or settlement reached with APBS.</p> <p>The withdrawal by the Japanese banks come in the midst of cross examination of Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB's ("SEB") first witness, Client Executive – Head of Financial Institutions Group Asia, Mr Eddie Amin and represents a significant development as the Suits by four banks against APBS were supposed to be heard together.</p> <p>The abovementioned Suits arise from claims that are part of the approximately S\$117 m, which Chia Teck Leng cheated from four banks, Mizuho, Sumitomo, SEB and Bayersche Hypo- und Vereinsbank Aktiengesellschaft ("HVB").</p> <p>As announced in 2004, in addition to Mizuho and Sumitomo, SEB and HVB are also suing APBS in Suit No. 774 of 2004 and 763 of 2004 respectively.</p> <p>As far as the Company is aware, hearing is expected to continue in relation to SEB and HVB. APBS remains confident of its position and has instructed its lawyers to vigorously defend the remaining Suits.</p> <p>Appended for information, is the Media Statement issued by the Company.</p> <p>Statement by Asia Pacific Breweries (Singapore) Pte Ltd on the withdrawal of claims by Mizuho Corporate Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation</p> <p>Singapore, 8 October 2007 – Asia Pacific Breweries (Singapore) Pte Ltd ("APBS" or the "Company") today announced that the legal suits by Mizuho Corporate Bank Ltd ("Mizuho") and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation ("Sumitomo") against the Company have collapsed, with both banks having applied to the Singapore High Court today to withdraw their claims with costs payable to APBS.</p> <p>The withdrawals are on Mizuho and Sumitomo's own accord and there has been no discussions or settlement reached with APBS.</p> <p>The abovementioned Suits arise from claims that are part of the approximately S\$117 m, which Chia Teck Leng cheated from four banks, Mizuho, Sumitomo, Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB ("SEB") and Bayersche Hypo- und Vereinsbank Aktiengesellschaft ("HVB").</p>

APBS is pleased to learn of the decision by Mizuho and Sumitomo to withdraw their claims. It is testimony to its stand that APBS is a victim of fraud as Chia Teck Leng acted alone. His actions were not discovered as the banks were lax in their due diligence. Their eagerness to lend to APBS has led them to over-look their internal procedural requirements and good banking practices. There was too much reliance on Chia as he was the sole point of contact in APBS with all the banks. The banks did not meet with any other management staff and relied on Chia as the only person in all transactions. So eager were they to lend money to APBS that they failed to properly establish the purpose of the loans. Ultimately, the banks' over-eagerness, indiscretion and oversight caused them to be careless in their checks and they failed to discover the forgeries that were used to open the bank accounts, accepting Chia as a sole signatory.

The withdrawal of claims by Mizuho and Sumitomo against APBS is a significant development in this trial. APBS strongly believes that it has no responsibility to repay loans which were never authorised by the Company in the first place. APBS is confident that the Company has a good defence and has instructed its lawyers, Drew & Napier LLC, to continue to vigorously defend the claims by the remaining 2 banks.

APBS' business is operating as usual and has not been in any way affected by the trial.

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