Immediate Release 16 November, 2015



(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)

Website: http://www.fecil.com.hk

(Stock code: 35.HK)

#### DESTINATION BRISBANE CONSORTIUM ENTERED INTO

#### DEVELOPEMENT AGREEMENTS AND FORMATION OF JOINT VENTURE

# FOR QUEEN'S WHARF PROJECT IN BRISBANE

(16 November, 2015, Hong Kong) – The Board of Far East Consortium International Limited ("FEC" or the "Group", SEHK: 35) is pleased to announce that on 16 November, 2015, the Consortium, a joint venture between FEC Australia, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Group, Echo Entertainment Group Limited ("Echo") and Chow Tai Fook Enterprises Limited ("CTF"), entered into development agreements with the Queensland State for the delivery of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane project ("Project") through its various related entities. This follows the Queensland State's selection of the Consortium as the preferred proponent on 20 July, 2015.

The Consortium parties formed two joint venture vehicles (the "Integrated Resort Joint Venture" and the "Residential Joint Venture"), for the purpose of developing, owning and operating the Integrated Resort and developing and selling the Residential component of the Project and entered into security holders' agreements on 16 November, 2015 to regulate parties' relationship in the joint ventures.

# **Capital Commitments and Financing**

The total investment amount for the Integrated Resort is expected to be about A\$1.93 billion (equivalent to approximately HK\$10.67 billion. The equity portion of the total investment is expected to be about 40% (i.e. A\$773 million) (equivalent to approximately HK\$4,275 million) with the balance of about 60% to be funded by bank financing to be undertaken by the Integrated Resort Joint Venture entities.

The issued and paid up capital of the Integrated Resort joint venture entities is owned in the proportion of 25% by the Group, 25% by CTF and 50% by Echo. The issued and paid up capital of the Residential joint venture entities is owned in the proportion of 50% by the Group and 50% by CTF.

The Group will provide equity contributions to the Integrated Resort Joint Venture and the Residential Joint Venture on a pro rata basis in accordance with their respective interests to enable the joint venture entities to complete the respective Integrated Resort and Residential components of the Project.

Together with the Group's portion of land premium for the Residential component, the total capital commitment of the Group for the Project is expected to be about A\$225.75 million (equivalent to approximately HK\$1,248.40 million). The development of the Residential component will be subject to the Residential Joint Venture achieving a satisfactory level of pre-sale of the residential units. The Group intends to fund its portion of capital commitment for the Project from the Group's internal resources.

The total investment amount for the Project includes the payments to the Queensland State Government as their economic benefit (totaling approximately A\$272 million) (equivalent to approximately HK\$1504 million), which includes commitment fee, land premium for the Integrated Resort and Residential components and gaming licence payments, payable in different phases.

# **Project Highlights**

The Project entails the development of an iconic world class Integrated Resort and entertainment precinct with over 1,100 premium hotel rooms and feature Sky Deck as well as residential development at Queen's Wharf, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. The Project comprises the Integrated Resort and the residential component encompassing a total area of approximately 9.4 hectares. The Residential component consists of 3 residential towers comprising approximately 2,000 apartments. The Integrated Resort component includes 5 world class hotels (including Ritz-Carlton Hotel owned by Echo), high end food and commercial outlets and a casino in Brisbane's prime waterfront district.

It is anticipated that the Queensland State Government will hand over the land in the precinct of the Project to the Consortium by 2017. Construction on the site is anticipated to commence in 2017 with the Integrated Resort component expected to open in 2022.

There will a new casino licence to be issued for the Project, under which casino operations are permitted to commence upon completion of the Integrated Resort. In parallel, Echo will cease gaming operations at the current Treasury Hotel and Casino. The investment will be supported by a long-dated casino licence. The proposed casino licence of the Project will deliver the key operating terms for successful delivery of the Integrated Resort, which include casino licence term and Integrated Resort precinct lease term of 99 years, a 25 year casino exclusivity period within 60 kilometers from the Brisbane CBD from commencement of operations of the new Integrated Resort, maximum approved electronic gaming machines of 2,500, and unlimited gaming tables (including electronic derivations).

## **Benefits of the Transaction**

The Project brings together the Group's experience in international hospitality operation and mixed-use development, CTF's extensive VIP customer base in China and Asian markets, as well as Echo's operational experience in casino management and integrated resorts operation. The Project will allow the Group to develop an integrated resort and residential project in Australia and it is a significant step for the Group to expand into a strategic location in Australia.

David Chiu, Chairman of Far East Consortium International Limited, said: "The formation of the joint venture to undertake the development of the Project will provide an opportunity for the Group to diversify its recurring cashflow business and expand its property development as well as hotel portfolio. The Project is expected to contribute significantly to the recurring cashflow stream of the Group as well as add to the residential development pipeline."

## **About Far East Consortium International Limited**

Far East Consortium International Limited was listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in 1972 (HKEx stock code: 35). The Group is mainly engaged in property development and investment, hotel operation and management, as well as car park and facilities management. The Group adopts diversified regional strategy and the "Chinese Wallet" strategy with business covering Hong Kong, Mainland China, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

FEC official website: www.fecil.com.hk

## FEC WeChat and Weibo:



http://www.weibo.com/u/5703712831

## **About FEC Australia, CTF and Echo**

FEC Australia is the wholly owned subsidiary of the Group carrying out property development and investment in Australia. The principal business activities of the Company comprise property development and investment, hotel operation, car park operations and facilities management, and treasury management.

CTF, ultimately majority owned and controlled by Dato' Dr. Cheng Yu Tung and his family members, is a Hong Kong based private investment holding company with substantial interests in property, hospitality, consumer and retail businesses.

Echo is a renowned integrated resort operator with extensive presence and experience in resort properties in Australia, whose shares are listed on the Australian Stock Exchange.

For further information, please contact:

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