

## For Immediate Release Press Release

## CR Snow acquires Blue Sword minorities and a brewery in Guizhou

[Hong Kong, 4 January 2007] China Resources Snow Breweries Limited (or "CR Snow"), a subsidiary of China Resources Enterprise, Limited (or the "Company") (HKEx: 0291) and a joint venture with SABMiller plc, announced that it has agreed to acquire a 100% equity interest in 藍劍 (集團) 有限責任公司 ("Blue Sword (Group) Company Limited") for a cash consideration of RMB2.5 billion. Prior to completion, Blue Sword (Group) Company Limited will carry out a reorganization whereby all the non-brewery related assets will be transferred out of it, and its assets as at completion will be the 38% equity interest in 14 Blue Sword brewery companies in Sichuan (or collectively the "Sichuan Breweries"), 100% equity interest in 四川藍劍集團 (貴州) 瀑布啤酒有限公司 ("Sichuan Blue Sword Holdings (Guizhou) Waterfall Brewery Limited" or "Blue Sword Guizhou"), RMB100 million cash and the "Blue Sword" trademarks. The remaining 62% equity interest in the Sichuan Breweries is presently owned by CR Snow. After the acquisition, CR Snow will own 100% equity interest in both the Sichuan Breweries and Blue Sword Guizhou. Completion of the transaction is expected to take place in early 2007, following satisfaction of pre-closing conditions.

The Sichuan Breweries joint-venture was formed in October 2001 through a strategic agreement between CRE Beverage Ltd (now named as China Resources Snow Breweries Limited) and Blue Sword (Group) Company Limited, creating the leading brewer in Sichuan. The Sichuan Breweries enjoyed a market share of about 70% in the province last year and their sales network also covers neighbouring regions including Chongqing, Yunnan, Guizhou, Tibet, Shaanxi and Gansu. In 2005, the Sichuan Breweries produced about 908,000 kiloliters of beer based on an annual production capacity of about 1.41 million kiloliters which has now reached about 1.56 million kiloliters. A further capacity of 160,000 kiloliters is currently under construction and scheduled for completion in mid-2007, bringing the total capacity to 1.72 million kiloliters. Located at Guiyang, Blue Sword Guizhou has an annual production capacity of 80,000 kiloliters and its sales volume in 2005 was around 41,000 kiloliters, accounting for around 15% market share of the province.

For the year ended 31 December 2005, unaudited net profit attributable to the assets subject to the acquisition amounted to HK\$96 million, up 40% from HK\$68 million of the previous year. In the first nine months of 2006, the attributable unaudited net profit rose further to HK\$151 million, an increase of 55% from HK\$97 million of the corresponding period in 2005.

"Blue Sword" is a very popular brand in Sichuan Province where beer demand has been strong and increasing. The Sichuan Breweries are well positioned to capitalize on their present dominant market position for further profitability improvement. Meanwhile, CR Snow does not have any brewing plant in Guizhou Province, thus Blue Sword Guizhou will provide a strategic platform to enhance the penetration of our national brand "SNOW" in the local market. Compared with the coastal areas, Guizhou Province has a relatively lower beer consumption rate, offering good growth prospect.

**China Resources Enterprise, Limited** 

39/F China Resources Building, 26 Harbour Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 2827 1028 Fax: (852) 2598 8453 Website: www.cre.com.hk



Mr. Mark Chen, Managing Director of China Resources Enterprise, Limited said, "We are very pleased that we can consolidate our brewery interests in Sichuan. Sichuan is a major profit centre for CR Snow and its contribution has been rising rapidly on expanding market share. The acquisition will boost our operational efficiency in the western and south-western regions and strengthen our brand portfolio, underscoring our confidence for stronger returns in the coming years."

Mr. André Parker, Managing Director of SABMiller Africa & Asia, said, "This acquisition further demonstrates CR Snow's commitment to invest in prominent local brands which not only complements our national branding strategy, but strengthens our leading positions throughout regional markets."

\* \* \*

# About China Resources Snow Breweries Limited

China Resources Snow Breweries Limited was established by the Company in 1993 and became a joint venture with SABMiller plc in 1994. It is engaged in the production, sales and marketing of beer and beverages in China. Its shareholders are China Resources Enterprise, Limited and SABMiller Asia Limited, a subsidiary of SABMiller plc. China Resources Enterprise, Limited has a 51% interest in China Resources Snow Breweries Limited while SABMiller Asia Limited holds the remaining 49% interest. It operates more than 40 breweries in the Chinese Mainland with a total sales volume of about 3.95 million kiloliters in 2005.

### About China Resources Enterprise, Limited

China Resources Enterprise, Limited is listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and is also traded on SEAQ International of the London Stock Exchange. It is one of the constituent stocks of the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong. The Group focuses on the consumer businesses in both the Chinese Mainland and Hong Kong, with core activities being retail, beverage, food processing and distribution, textile and property investment.

#### About SABMiller plc

SABMiller plc is one of the world's largest brewers with brewing interests or distribution agreements in over 60 countries across five continents. The group's brands include premium international beers such as Miller Genuine Draft, Peroni Nastro Azzurro and Pilsner Urquell, as well as an exceptional range of market leading local brands. Outside the USA, SABMiller plc is also one of the largest bottlers of Coca-Cola products in the world. In the year ended 31 March 2006, the group reported US\$15,307 million in revenues and profit before tax of US\$2,453 million. SABMiller plc is listed on the London and Johannesburg stock exchanges.

For further information, please contact: Mr. Francis Kwong, Deputy Managing Director China Resources Enterprise, Limited Tel: +852 2829 9816 Fax: +852 2598 8453 Email: francis.kwong@cre.com.hk