THE WHARF (HOLDINGS) LTD: GRANITE SUPPLIER CLAIMS \$HK53.26 MILLION

A wholly subsidiary of The Wharf (Holdings) Ltd (九龍倉集團有限公司) (Code: 4, Main Board, The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd) has been named as Second Defendant in a \$HK53.26-million Claim, lodged in the High Court of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The subsidiary is Wharf Shanghai Ltd (九龍倉上海有限公司), which developed Shanghai Times Square (大上海時代 廣場) in 1997.

The other 2 Defendants in High Court Action Number 2095 are:

Wong and Ouyang (Hongkong) Ltd (王歐陽(香港)有限公司)First DefendantLevett and Bailey Quantity Surveyors Ltd (利比建築工料測量師有限公司)Third Defendant

The Plaintiff in this Action is Goldware (Holdings) Ltd (金磊集團有限公司), trading as Sightwell Industry Company (世和實業公司).

It is the allegation of Goldware that, in 1997, it was invited to tender for the supply of granite for the cladding of Shanghai Times Square, Shanghai, the PRC, proper.

It is alleged at Page 7 of the 68-Page Statement of Claim, written entirely in the Chinese language and attached to the Writ of Summons, that Wharf Shanghai Ltd, the Second Defendant, withheld the contractual drawings (合約圖) of Shanghai Times Square for a period of more than 2 years, thus preventing Goldware from being definitive in respect of its entitlements.

Simply put, without being able to scan the contractual drawings, the Plaintiff claims that it could not know, exactly, how much granite was needed to complete its part of the Shanghai project; and, it followed, it was impossible for this company to know how much money it was entitled to receive with regard to the deliveries of granite.

Further, Goldware, without studying the contractual drawings of the project, taking into consideration the many modifications over the period of the contract, could not know with any degree of certainty as to the exact requirements with regard to granite cladding.

Goldware alleges that it delivered 23,093.94 square metres of granite to the Shanghai Times Square Project by March 2000, that amount of granite, having been approved by Levett and Bailey, the Third Defendant.

Levett and Bailey, it is alleged at Pages 46 and 47 of the Statement of Claim, attested to the fact that Goldware had spent 17.58 million renminbi (about \$HK16.90 million) on the granite, in addition to the tender price for the granite of 12.23 million renminbi (about \$HK11.76 million).

The cost of that granite, delivery charges, supervision, and other costs, incurred by Goldware, were 28.74 million renminbi (about \$HK27.63 million), but Goldware alleges that it only received 12.54 million renminbi (about \$HK12.05 million) in all, according to Page 4.

Management of Goldware claims that it asked for its money – about 16.20 million renminbi (about \$HK15.58 million) – but, up until today, no more money has been forthcoming. Wharf Shanghai Ltd has ... <u>CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE</u>

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