CAFÉ DE CORAL HOLDINGS LTD: CLOSE YOUR EYES AND BUY

You have to hand it to the Lo Family, the controlling shareholders of publicly listed Café de Coral Holdings Ltd: The Family has, really, done a wonderful job in the past year, all things considered.

While the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), like most other Asian territories, went through economic turmoil, Café de Coral, came up trumps, all the way.

Of course, the Company did resort to picking up nearly \$HK100 million in a share placement in November 1998, but that is all the more power to the Lo Family's insight into the situation: The Family prepared for the continued downturn in the economy of the HKSAR; and, determined to bolster its financial strength, using somebody else's cash.

Even though, TARGET hastens to add, the Company had oodles of cash at the time of the share placement.

Café de Coral is a very successful fast-food chain, popularly known for its outlets, under the names of Café de Coral and The Spaghetti House.

For the last Financial Year, ended March 31, 1999, the Company brought in a Profit Attributable to Shareholders of about \$HK173.11 million. This compared with a 1998 Profit Attributable to Shareholders of about \$HK142.53 million.

The improvements, which were achieved during the last Year, amounting to about 21.46 percent, were on the back of a record Turnover of \$HK2.35 billion.

The improvement in the Bottom Line of this Company was in spite of the Company, having to close down dud outlets, some in the HKSAR and some in the PRC.

However, it was not just the case of closing down non-performing outlets, ... CLICK TO ORDER FULL ARTICLE

