Strategic Investors Century Pacific Group and JE Holdings Take Up Arran's Slice of PIZZA

Shakey's Pizza Asia Ventures, Inc. (PSE:PIZZA), one of the leading casual dining restaurant chains and food service group in the Philippines, announced that Century Pacific Group, Inc. (CPG) and JE Holdings, Inc. (JE) have purchased via private placement the stake of one of its long-standing strategic investors, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund GIC through affiliate Arran Investment Pte Ltd. CPG and JE are the private holdings companies of the Po and Gokongwei families, respectively.

Vic Gregorio, President and Chief Executive Office of PIZZA, shared, "Shakey's Pizza is deeply grateful for the trust of our shareholders, both outgoing and current. They have been very supportive of our growth plans, especially when we were prudently navigating through the pandemic and when we boldly entered new grounds, and have helped propel the company to greater heights through the years."

"We also thank the Po and Gokongwei families. We take this as a sign of your confidence in the business and our growth ambitions. As we move forward, we will continue to manage your capital responsibly and with integrity to create more value for all our stakeholders."

GIC held 283 million shares, representing a 16.8% stake in the Company. CPG purchased 185 million shares, bumping up its holdings to 62%. Meanwhile, JE Holdings took up 98 million shares, laddering up to a 14.9% stake in PIZZA. Shares were purchased at Php 9.50 apiece.

Chris Po, PIZZA Chairman, said, "GIC had been with Shakey's prior to our IPO in 2016. As strategic investors, they have been big supporters and have added value to the company. Thus, in turn, I am pleased that the Company was able to generate gains for them. I am also grateful for the opportunity to increase our investments in PIZZA as we are firm believers and are excited by our future prospects. We are also grateful to the Gokongwei family for their belief in our company and the additional investment."

Lance Gokongwei, Chairman and President of JE, weighed in, "Since being elected in 2021 as a Board Member of PIZZA, I have seen the Company navigate through a pandemic and emerge from it a better, more diversified group. This gives me confidence in the Group's vision and capability to execute. We are pleased with the opportunities that lie ahead, strongly support PIZZA's expansion in the years to come, and look forward to creating synergies with the Gokongwei Group."

JE Holdings entered PIZZA as a strategic investor in 2021, infusing Php 1.25 billion in capital to support organic and inorganic opportunities. Since its entry, the Group has expanded its portfolio of Wow Brands with the acquisition of Potato Corner, the leading kiosk-based flavored fries chain in the country, and realized synergies with JE Holdings.

To date, PIZZA has close to 2,000 stores and outlets globally, spanning 5 Wow Brands. In its previous earnings release, the Group's systemwide sales for the first six months of the year increased by 51% year-on-year, while net income almost doubled with 96% growth year-on-year. The Group recently upgraded its outlook for the year to better than 30% year-on-year growth for both top and bottomline.