NEWS RELEASE

FIRST PACIFIC
FIRST PACIFIC COMPANY LIMITED
(Incorporated in Bermuda with limited liability)

GROUP CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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FIRST PACIFIC'S RECURRING PROFIT ROSE 29% TO US$193.7 MILLION
REPORTED PROFIT GREW TO HISTORIC HIGH OF US$510.4 MILLION
CONTRIBUTION FROM OPERATIONS RISES 33% TO US$251.8 MILLION
FINAL DIVIDEND HK5 CENTS (U.S. 0.64 CENT) AND SPECIAL DIVIDEND HK3 CENTS (U.S. 0.38 CENT) BRINGING TOTAL DIVIDEND UP 83.2% TO HK10 CENTS (U.S. 1.28 CENTS) PER SHARE FOR THE YEAR

- Recurring profit improved 29.2% to US$193.7 million (HK$1,510.9 million)
- Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders increased 210.3% to US$510.4 million (HK$3,981.1 million)
- Profit contribution from operations increased 33.1% to US$251.8 million (HK$1,964.0 million)
- Turnover increased 24.3% to US$3,075.0 million (HK$23,985.0 million)
- Equity attributable to ordinary shareholders increased 95.1% to US$1,137.1 million (HK$8,869.4 million)
- Consolidated gearing ratio improved to 0.68x from 0.83x
- Adjusted net asset value per share increased 67.8% to US$1.47 (HK$11.46) as at year-end
- Final dividend of HK5 cents (U.S. 0.64 cent) and special dividend of HK3 cents (U.S. 0.38 cent) per share recommended, total dividend increased 83.2% to HK10 cents (U.S. 1.28 cents)

Hong Kong, 31st March 2008 – First Pacific Company Limited ("First Pacific" or "the Company") (HKSE: 00142) today announced that the Company's operating businesses performed above expectations driven by strong growth and operational performance in the Philippines and Indonesia. Profit attributable to ordinary shareholders increased 210.3 per cent to a historic high of US$510.4 million (HK$3,981.1 million). Recurring profit, which excludes the effects of revaluation of derivatives, foreign exchange differences and non-recurring items, increased by 29.2 per cent to US$193.7 million (HK$1,510.9 million) reflecting the strong performance and contribution from PLDT and Indofood, the turnaround at Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC"), and an approximately 10 per cent appreciation of the peso in 2007.

Profit contribution from operations increased 33.1 per cent to US$251.8 million (HK$1,964.0 million). Turnover increased 24.3 per cent to US$3,075.0 million (HK$23,985.0 million) principally reflecting higher average selling prices and sales volume of Indofood's key products.

Basic earnings per share increased 208.5 per cent to U.S. 15.89 cents (HK123.9 cents) from U.S. 5.15 cents (HK40.17 cents) as a result of the increase in reported profit during the year. Equity attributable to ordinary shareholders increased 95.1 per cent to US$1,137.1 million (HK$8,869.4 million) from US$582.7 million (HK$4,545.1 million).

Consolidated gearing ratio improved to 0.68x from 0.83x, reflecting the strong underlying performance of the operating companies which translated into an improved consolidated equity position. At 31st December 2007, Head Office level gearing ratio was 0.35x (31st December 2006: 0.16x) resulting from the incremental debt raised to finance the acquisition of an additional 6.4 per cent interest in PLDT and the equity investments made in Maynilad Water Services Inc. ("Maynilad") through MPIC.

At the Head Office, net interest expense rose 58.5 per cent to US$36.3 million (HK$283.1 million) reflecting a higher average net debt balance in 2007.

First Pacific's Board of Directors recommended a final dividend of HK5 cents (U.S. 0.64 cent) and special dividend of HK3 cents (U.S. 0.38 cent) per share, bringing total dividends for 2007 to HK10 cents (U.S. 1.28 cents) (2006: HK5.46 cents; U.S. 0.70 cent) per share. Dividend yield increased to approximately 2 per cent on a higher share price, from 1.4 per cent in 2006.

Manuel V. Pangilinan, First Pacific's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, commented: "We are very pleased that First Pacific has reported an unprecedented attributable profit for 2007. All of our operating businesses performed above expectations, driven by the strong growth and improved operational performance of our businesses in the Philippines and Indonesia.

"During the year, First Pacific completed the acquisition of an additional 6.4 per cent interest in PLDT for a consideration of approximately US$510 million (HK$4.0 billion) from the Philippine Government. At operating company level, First Pacific participated in the infrastructure sector through MPIC's investments of approximately US$285 million (HK$2.2 billion) in Maynilad and Makati Medical Center and in natural resources through IndoAgri's acquisition of a 64.4 per cent interest in PT Perusahaan Perkebunan London Sumatra Indonesia Tbk ("Lonsum") and other plantations for a total consideration of approximately US$694 million (HK$5.4 billion). Indofood also employed US$26 million (HK$202.8 million) to increase its interest in a shipping operation which supports the flour business and PLDT invested a total of US$51 million (HK$397.8 million) to expand its wireless and information and communications technology operations. In summary, the First Pacific Group invested a total of approximately US$1,566 million (HK$12.2 billion) for business expansion through acquisitions in the year 2007."

Review of Operations

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company ("PLDT") recorded its fifth consecutive year of record profits in 2007. Its profit contribution to the Group increased 28 per cent to US$177.5 million (2006: US$138.2 million) representing 70 per cent of First Pacific's aggregate profit contribution from operations of subsidiary and associated companies during the year.

In peso terms, PLDT's consolidated core net income before non-recurring items, foreign exchange translation and derivative gains increased by 11 per cent to Pesos 35.2 billion (US$767.6 million) (2006: Pesos 31.5 billion; US$615.7 million) reflecting an increase in revenues and EBITDA and lower interest expenses which were partially offset by the approximately 10 per cent appreciation of the peso during 2007. Reported net income improved 2 per cent to Pesos 36.0 billion (US$785.0 million) (2006: Pesos 35.1 billion; US$686.1 million) resulting from higher foreign exchange gains and lower additional depreciation charges, partly offset by higher provision for income taxes.

PLDT's consolidated free cash flow increased 25 per cent to Pesos 46.5 billion (US$1,014.0 million) (2006: Pesos 37.2 billion; US$727.1 million) after implementation of capital expenditure of Pesos 24.8 billion (US$540.8 million) (2006: Pesos 20.7 billion; US$404.6 million). Consolidated capital expenditure increased 20 per cent with provision of additional capacity for wireless and broadband services (as demand was higher than anticipated) and incremental international capacity and redundancy together with upgrading of the fixed line network.

PLDT repaid debts of approximately US$200 million during the year. Consequently, consolidated debt and net debt were reduced to US$1.6 billion and US$0.9 billion, respectively (2006: total debt US$1.8 billion, net debt US$1.3 billion). Net debt to EBITDA and net debt to equity improved to 0.42 time and 0.31 time, respectively.

The sustainable strong performance and robust free cash position enabled PLDT to declare a final dividend of Pesos 68 (US$1.48), and a special dividend of Pesos 56 (US$1.22) per share. Together with the interim dividend of Pesos 60 (US$1.31) per share, total cash dividends for 2007 is Pesos 184 (US$4.01) per share, representing 100 per cent payout of 2007 core earnings.

The combined GSM subscriber base of Smart and Piltel's *Talk 'N Text* grew by 5.9 million to 30.0 million (2006: 24.2 million) representing approximately 55 per cent of the total cellular market in the Philippines based on subscribers and 59 per cent in terms of revenue. The sustainable subscriber growth was driven by an enhanced segment specific acquisition program, attractive packages and the strong economic growth of the Philippines in 2007. At the end of 2007, the cellular penetration rate in the Philippines was approximately 55 per cent.

Smart's wireless broadband service *SmartBro*'s subscriber base increased by 148 per cent to approximately 302,000 (2006: 122,000). Its broadband network expanded to 2,780 wireless broadband-enabled base stations located throughout the Philippines which enabled subscribers in 625 cities and municipalities to access high speed internet services.

PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk ("Indofood") recorded its fourth consecutive year of significantly improved performance. Its contribution to the Group increased 32 per cent to US$72.0 million (2006: US$54.7 million). This result comprised improved operating results driven by volume growth and higher selling prices in the flour and oil businesses. In rupiah terms, Indofood reported a 27.0 per cent improvement in consolidated net sales to Rupiah 27,858.3 billion (US$3,040.3 million) (2006: Rupiah 21,941.6 billion; US$2,398.5 million) due to increases in sales volume and average selling price. Volume growth is driven by more effective segment specific marketing programs, an enhanced stock point distribution system and product innovation. Consumer branded products, Bogasari, Agribusiness and Distribution contributed 34 per cent, 34 per cent, 19 per cent and 13 per cent to consolidated net sales, respectively.

Consolidated operating expenses increased 14.8 per cent to Rupiah 3,682.1 billion (US$401.8 million) (2006: Rupiah 3,208.5 billion; US$350.7 million) as a result of increased advertising and promotion spending, transportation and employee-related costs. EBIT margin increased to 10.4 per cent (2006: 9.0 per cent) principally due to higher sales and success in limiting the impact of cost increases. Net income grew 48.3 per cent to Rupiah 980.4 billion (US$107.0 million) (2006: Rupiah 661.2 billion; US$72.3 million) as a result of improvement in operating income offset by increased minority interest following the placement and listing of IndoAgri shares on the Singapore Stock Exchange in February 2007. Consolidated net debt increased 43.9 per cent to Rupiah 7,850.6 billion (US$833.3 million) from Rupiah 5,455.2 billion (US$604.7 million) principally reflecting higher debt at subsidiary level in relation to the Lonsum acquisition. Net gearing was maintained at 1.10 times with increase in cash generated from operations.

Indofood completed the listing of Indofood Agri Resources Limited on the Singapore Stock Exchange; increased plantation landbank to 406,519 hectares through various acquisitions and refinanced part of its foreign currency debts by issuing a Rupiah 2.0 trillion (US$212.3 million) five-year rupiah bond.

Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") completed the acquisition of an 84 per cent interest in Maynilad through its 50 per cent owned joint venture, DMCI-MPIC Water Company Inc. ("DMCI-MPIC") and subscribed for Pesos 750 million (US$18.2 million) five-year convertible notes issued by Medical Doctors, Inc. ("MDI") which operates and manages Makati Medical Center ("MMC") during 2007. The Pesos 750 million notes were fully converted into equity up to January 2008 to a 33.45 per cent ownership in MDI. MPIC's interest in Landco Pacific Corporation ("Landco") remains at 51 per cent.

MPIC achieved a profit turnaround in 2007 and contributed US$2.3 million recurring profit to the Group from a recurring loss of US$3.7 million in 2006. Net income reached Pesos 168 million (US$3.7 million) (2006: loss of Pesos 686 million, US$13.4 million) reflecting core income contribution of Pesos 680 million (US$14.8 million) from Maynilad, a significantly improved core income contribution from Landco of Pesos 139 million (US$3.0 million) and a non-recurring loss of Pesos 27 million (US$0.6 million). MPIC parent company's operating expenses decreased 15 per cent to Pesos 92 million (US$2.0 million) (2006: Pesos 108.0 million; US$2.1 million) as the reorganization and recapitalization program of Metro Pacific Corporation took place in 2006.

Outlook for 2008

Mr. Pangilinan concluded "Given the recent turmoil in financial markets and the expected slowdown in the global economy, which will undoubtedly impact Asia – our view of 2008 prospects is one of caution. It is important that our operating companies continue to show improved performance in profits and particularly in cash flows – as an important sanctuary against uncertain economic times.

"As equity and debt values are anticipated to decline in the course of this turbulence, opportunities for First Pacific to expand its investment portfolio should arise.

"That said, both the Indonesian and Philippine economies should perform reasonably well under the circumstances. Whilst their real growth is expected to slow, prospects for our businesses' growth remain reasonably optimistic."

Further information and analysis

Attached are the First Pacific's Consolidated Financial Statements and Contribution Summary. Further information - including discussion and analysis of First Pacific's individual operations; review of 2007 goals and goals for 2008; and financial analysis - are available under the "News, Announcements and Circulars" section of First Pacific's corporate website at www.firstpacco.com. The 2007 Annual Report will be mailed to shareholders and will be available on www.firstpacco.com before the end of April 2008.

Corporate Profile

First Pacific is a Hong Kong-based investment and management company with operations located in Asia. Its principal business interests relate to Telecommunications, Consumer Food Products and Infrastructure. Listed in Hong Kong (Stock code: 00142), First Pacific's shares are also available in the United States through American Depositary Receipts (ADRs code: FPAFY).

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FIRST PACIFIC COMPANY LIMITED
CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 December US$ million	2007	2006 (Restated)
Turnover	**3,075.0**	2,474.8
Cost of sales	**(2,315.2)**	(1,836.5)
Gross profit	**759.8**	638.3
Gain on divestments and dilutions	**356.1**	104.0
Distribution costs	**(261.4)**	(229.6)
Administrative expenses	**(180.9)**	(150.8)
Other operating expenses, net	**(18.9)**	(103.9)
Net borrowing costs	**(133.0)**	(106.5)
Share of profits less losses of associated companies and joint ventures	**245.7**	141.8
Profit before taxation	**767.4**	293.3
Taxation	**(95.7)**	(71.6)
Profit for the year	**671.7**	221.7
Attributable to:		
Equity holders of the parent	**510.4**	164.5
Minority interest	**161.3**	57.2
	671.7	221.7
Ordinary share dividends		
Interim - HK2.00 cents (U.S. 0.26 cent) (2006: HK1.00 cent or U.S. 0.13 cent) per share	**8.2**	4.1
Proposed/declared special - HK3.00 cents (U.S. 0.38 cent) (2006: HK0.96 cent or U.S. 0.12 cent) per share	**12.3**	3.9
Proposed final - HK5.00 cents (U.S. 0.64 cent) (2006: HK3.50 cents or U.S. 0.45 cent) per share	**20.6**	14.4
Total	**41.1**	22.4

For the year ended 31 December U.S. cents	2007	2006
Earnings per share attributable to equity holders of the parent		
Basic	**15.89**	5.15
Diluted	**15.46**	5.06

FIRST PACIFIC COMPANY LIMITED
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

At 31 December US$ million	2007	2006 (Restated)
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	**784.1**	716.8
Plantations	**881.5**	275.0
Associated companies and joint ventures	**1,311.4**	532.3
Goodwill	**347.2**	34.8
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	**79.8**	104.9
Accounts receivable, other receivables and prepayments	**37.0**	15.9
Prepaid land premiums	**151.4**	45.8
Available-for-sale assets	**6.0**	4.9
Deferred tax assets	**45.0**	20.3
Other non-current assets	**110.0**	106.5
	3,753.4	1,857.2
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	**600.8**	267.4
Pledged deposits and restricted cash	**-**	31.3
Available-for-sale assets	**24.1**	102.1
Accounts receivable, other receivables and prepayments	**355.5**	258.1
Inventories	**494.0**	367.4
	1,474.4	1,026.3
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable, other payables and accruals	**485.6**	300.1
Short-term borrowings	**1,000.1**	508.9
Provision for taxation	**52.9**	23.1
Current portion of deferred liabilities and provisions	**17.4**	16.6
	1,556.0	848.7
Net current (liabilities)/assets	**(81.6)**	177.6
Total assets less current liabilities	**3,671.8**	2,034.8
Equity		
Issued share capital	**32.2**	32.0
Other reserves	**1,048.8**	975.5
Retained earnings/(accumulated losses)	**56.1**	(424.8)
Equity attributable to equity holders of the parent	**1,137.1**	582.7
Minority interest	**992.6**	450.1
Total equity	**2,129.7**	1,032.8
Non-current liabilities		
Long-term borrowings	**1,044.5**	647.0
Deferred liabilities and provisions	**180.5**	92.1
Deferred tax liabilities	**310.8**	163.3
Derivative liability	**6.3**	99.6
	1,542.1	1,002.0
	3,671.8	2,034.8

FIRST PACIFIC COMPANY LIMITED
CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY

	Turnover		**Contribution to Group profit**[i]	
For the year ended 31 December	**2007**	2006	**2007**	2006
US$ millions				
PLDT[ii]	**-**	-	**177.5**	138.2
Indofood	**3,040.3**	2,398.5	**72.0**	54.7
MPIC	**34.7**	76.3	**2.3**	(3.7)
From operations	**3,075.0**	2,474.8	**251.8**	189.2
Head Office items:				
- Corporate overhead			**(15.0)**	(13.7)
- Net interest expense			**(36.3)**	(22.9)
- Other expenses			**(6.8)**	(2.7)
Recurring profit			**193.7**	149.9
Foreign exchange and derivative gains/(losses)[iii]			**30.1**	(51.5)
Non-recurring items[iv]			**286.6**	66.1
Profit attributable to equity holders of the parent			**510.4**	164.5

(i) After taxation and minority interest, where appropriate

(ii) Associated company

(iii) 2007's foreign exchange and derivative gains include a gain of US$27.7 million (2006: US$31.2 million) on changes in the fair value of certain PLDT shares designated as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, gains of US$25.6 million (2006: US$7.0 million) on the changes in the fair values of derivatives and foreign exchange translation differences on the Group's unhedged foreign currency denominated borrowings and payables, partly offset by a loss of US$23.2 million (2006: US$89.7 million) on revaluation of option element embedded in Head Office's Exchangeable Notes.

(iv) 2007's non-recurring gains of US$286.6 million mainly comprise a gain on divestment of the Group's interest in PLDT of US$174.7 million on settlement of certain Head Office's Exchangeable Notes with PLDT share and a gain on dilution of the Group's effective interest in Indofood's oils and plantations businesses of US$75.9 million. 2006's non-recurring gains of US$66.1 million mainly comprise a gain on divestment of the Group's interest in PLDT of US$58.2 million on settlement of certain Head Office's Exchangeable Notes with PLDT shares and a gain on dilution upon conversion of PLDT's convertible preference shares of US$38.7 million, partly offset by impairment provisions for certain of the Group's assets.