



Corporate Update

Singapore, December 27, 2022, **Raffles Financial Group Limited** (CSE: RICH) (FSE: 4VO) (OTCQX: RAFFF) (“**RFG**” or the “**Company**”) This is to give shareholders a corporate update of the Company and its only operating subsidiary, Raffle Financial Pte Ltd (“**RFP**”).

Disclosure of Financial Information for FY2022 of the Major Operating Subsidiary

The audit on the only operating subsidiary of RFG, Raffles Financial Private Limited (“**RFP**”), which is performed by an auditor in Singapore, is completed and its audit report for the financial year ended June 30, 2022¹ (“**FY2022**”) is issued to the Board. RFG believes RFP’s audited financial information is relevant information for our shareholders to understand the financial performance of the Group. Therefore, although the RFG’s audit is still pending, the Board wishes to present the following management discussion and analysis of the key financial performance of RFP to our shareholders.

Statement of Comprehensive Income (Presented in Singapore Dollars)	(“FY2022”) July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 SGD	(“FY2021”) July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 SGD
Revenue	-	4,999,880
Other income	5,266	9,161,901
Expenses:		
Staff and contract officers’ cost	519,618	681,114
Office Rental	33,336	83,766
Professional fee	53,671	39,739
Listing fee	-	7,177
Realised loss / (gain) on disposal of subsidiary	151,714	(931,029)
Others – waiver of an intercompany loan receivables	58,299	2,968,000
Loss allowance on other receivables - net	2,988,736	4,102,796
Other expenses	40,215	165,550
	3,845,589	7,117,113
(Loss) / Profit before income tax	(3,840,323)	7,044,668
Income tax expense	180,920	849,980

¹ The audited financial statements in the audit report of RFP are the separate financial statements of RFP prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. RFP is exempted from preparation of consolidated financial statements as it is a wholly-owned subsidiary corporation of Raffles Financial Group Limited which produces consolidated financial statements available for public use.

(Loss) / Profit after income tax	(4,021,243)	6,194,688
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Other Comprehensive Income:

Items that will not be reclassified subsequently to profit or loss:

Financial assets, at FVOCI

- Fair value (loss) / gain – equity investments	(4,613,046)	265,208
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Total comprehensive (loss) / income	(8,634,289)	6,459,896
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The Company's major and only operating subsidiary RFP is the sole business operating unit and revenue contributor of the Group. In FY2022, RFP did not record any revenue (FY2021: 4,999,880) from the three major service segments, namely (i) Re-structuring and Corporate Finance Advisory service with service fee (FY2021: S\$2,000,000 rendered at a point in time); (ii) IPO and Global Fund-Raising Advisory service with service fee (FY2021: S\$2,000,000 rendered over time), and (iii) licensing service with licensing fee (FY2021: S\$999,880 rendered over time). It was attributable to the following factors:

- (i) The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and its variants outbreak caused China and Hong Kong, where were the major regions RFP operated, upheld strict travel restrictions, containment measures and lockdown. As a result, RFP was unable to source and serve its customers in its principal operating locations;
- (ii) The COVID-19 pandemic also severely hit the IPO climate resulting in the mood and confidence of clients to hold back its IPO and fundraising plans till such situation turnarounds;
- (iii) The public health, global economic conditions and geopolitical issues affected the overall Asia financial market including corporate finance, IPO and investment banking industry in the past two years. As arranging and financing deals drying up, the whole capital market and investment banking industry have been down severely evidenced by the circumstance that large investment banks like Morgain Stanley, Goldman Sachs and Credit Suisse were firming up plans to cut jobs and reduce team size in Asian region.

Amid the challenges, RFG has been maintaining the prospective client relationship and training regional representatives to get their mandates for advisory services when the market condition improves.

There was a significant decrease in expenses in FY2022 over FY2021 from S\$7,117,113 to S\$3,845,589 which was mainly due to the stringent cost control measure RFP put under the challenging business environment.

Among the expenses –

- (i) RFP recorded a loss allowance on other receivable (net) of S\$2,988,736 in FY2021. This was a one-off accounting provision made for aged receivables with slow repayment in accordance with the prudence principle under the accounting standards. The subject receivables were due from an unrelated third party in connection to sales of long-term investments in equity instruments made in FY2021. Whereas receivables were written off, RFP continues to take recovery action against the debtor. Where recoveries of receivables exceed the written-off amount, the excess will be recognised in profit or loss as an income in the relevant financial period;

- (ii) The realised loss on disposal of subsidiary of S\$151,714 in FY2022 was largely derived from a disposal of 100% equity interest in an inactive subsidiary in Switzerland. The disposal resulted in a loss of S\$151,658 in RFP's book. However, on the other hand, the disposal also resulted in a gain of S\$131,453 as the subsidiary had transferred its whole bank balance of S\$131,453 to RFG right before the disposal which was recognised as an other income. Therefore, the loss arising from the disposal at consolidation level was immaterial;
- (iii) There was a waiver of an intercompany loan receivables from a subsidiary of RFP amounted to S\$58,299. The waiver amount represented the advance made to the subsidiary for paying its business expenses, which was eventually borne by RFP upon the disposal of the subsidiary.

From an operation perspective, RFP recorded a net operating loss after tax of S\$4,021,243 in FY2022 compared with the net profit after tax of S\$6,194,688.

To conclude, RFP recorded a total comprehensive loss of S\$8,634,290 in FY2022 compared with the total comprehensive income of S\$6,459,896 in FY2021. The loss was mainly attributable to the net operating loss as described above and an unrealised fair value loss on equity investments of S\$4,613,046 (FY2021: an unrealised fair value gain of 265,208). The unrealised fair value loss was provided for on paper under prudence practice, considering the share prices of our listed equity instruments, like many other listed entities on major global stock exchanges, had fallen significantly amid the market turmoil in FY2022. Should the capital market recover, there shall be a revaluation of investments that will leads to the creation of fair value gains in that corresponding financial year accordingly.

Audit status of RFG for the financial year ended June 30, 2021 (“FY2021”)

Background and Recap

The previous auditor of RFG accepted the resignation of MNP LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants, on April 22, 2022 as auditors of the Company. This originated from the request of MNP LLP for extending the scope of additional appropriate audit actions which included but not limited to, an onsite audit on one outstanding audit matter related to the CNY102 million deposit (the “**Deposit**”) placed with a PRC local fintech enterprise HuDuoBao Network Technology Co., Ltd. (“**HDB**”). Under COVID-19 lockdown restrictions and various limitations, RFG was unable to reach an agreement with MNP LLP on audit plan, procedure, logistical practicality and additional unfixed audit fee quotation.

RFG filed a Notice of Change of Auditor dated April 26, 2022 (the “**Notice**”) on SEDAR, and MNP LLP in response notified RFG that they had reviewed the Notice and they were in agreement with the statements contained in the Notice pertaining to their firm. The Notice detailed the key outstanding audit matter as follows;

“The foregoing disclosure of the business transaction with HDB forms a material part of the financial disclosure of the Company and was the subject of review, audit and verification by the Former Auditor involving physical and virtual inspections at the offices of HDB in China and as announced by the Company in its news release of April 25, 2022 such process was effectively blocked by the absolute COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in regard of the surging Omicron variant cases. China’s authorities are still accelerating efforts in mass locking down several major cities to curb the recent outbreak. Because of such difficulties, the Company and

the Former Auditor could not devise a plan to complete within a reasonable period the scope of the additional appropriate audit actions required by the Former Auditor, the procedures and logistics of the action and the workaround solutions for such limitations under the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions within the Company's budget for the audit report process."

The latest

Since then, RFG has approached and discussed with 3 shortlisted Canadian auditing firms registered under Canadian Public Accountability Board (CPAB) on the possible appointment and feasible audit plan for the FY2021 audit. The prospective auditors all recognised the importance of performing an on-site audit procedure for the Deposit held in China, while none of them are available to travel to China or able to devise a workaround solution for the audit issue. So, none of them expressed their interest in engaging with us now in light of hurdles.

We expected the situation would last for some time. To the understanding of the management, Chinese authority concerned is still not open for non-essential travels to foreigners and particularly foreign auditors to enter China and conduct any on-site audits. There were news reports that auditors from PCAOB of the US are now allowed to inspect the auditing works of Chinese companies that are applicable for those with Hong Kong based offices whose audit can be conducted in Hong Kong. Such relief is not applicable to us as our key director and HDB relating to the unresolved audit matter are all based in China.

Moreover, China is now facing a surge in COVID-19 new variant cases while experts and projections have predicted that the situation could get severe in the coming winter months. It is reported by Reuters on December 17, 2022 that "New COVID model predicts over 1 million deaths in China through 2023" makes it even harder for any foreign auditor to go onsite to conduct the audit assuming Chinese authority approval is given.

A shortlisted Canadian auditing firm informed us they would reconsider accepting our appointment when the above limitations is fully removed and/or the Deposit at HDB is returned, utilised or settled such that the on-site audit at HDB office in China is no longer a necessary audit procedure or can be superseded by alternative audit procedure.

Cease Trade Order ("CTO") Status

In light of the current cease trade order caused by the outstanding audit matter, we are also exploring other options like corporate restructuring exercise and considering potential mergers or acquisition offers to work around the dilemma for the sake of regaining corporate and shareholders' value, in case the Company could not resume its trading in near term. As shareholders' interest is always our top priority, we are completely committed to doing everything we can to get over the obstacle, so as to enable our shareholders to trade their shares freely in any way and manner as soon as possible.

RFG reached out to BCSC trying to seek possible ways to lift the CTO no matter partially or temporarily, and the communication is still in process. Our justification is that it is almost impossible for a Canadian auditing firm to conduct the audit under the various authorities' controls and limitations in China as explained above.

Since December 2021 when the Board was aware of the fact that our ex-China Director had represented RFG to make the Deposit payment to HDB, RFG has been in close communication with HDB in exploring the way to utilise the Deposit through a 3-Year "Solution As A Service" (the "SaaS") Cloud-based System Right-to-Use Agreement. As the related Fintech business in

relation to the SaaS Agreement cannot be commenced in China due to the prolonged lockdown in major cities in China, RFG is now negotiating with HDB to refund RFG the Deposit outside of China which requires Chinese State Administration of Foreign Exchange and State Taxation Administration approvals. HDB informed us they are still checking with their local legal, finance and tax experts. Up to date, HDB acknowledged to us that the balance of the Deposit remains in full.

As announced on 4 November 2022, RFP entered into share purchase agreements with Mr. Huang Chuan and Mr. Xu Zhiyang for RFP to acquire all of the outstanding share capital of Asia Oaktree Financial Pte Ltd and Raffles Financial Technology (China) Limited respectively from both parties to achieve a business collaboration. Subsequent, Mr. Huang Chuan is appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of RFG. Mr. Huang Chuan, being a China-based businessman, will attempt to work with HDB to settle the unresolved audit issue to get rid of the current CTO. Mr Xu Zhiyang is also committed to leverage his network and resource in China to facilitate the collection of the Deposit from HDB or seek a potential party or entity potential who could do a swap of the Deposit in China by overseas money.

Proposed Reorganisation

As announced earlier on October 19, 2022, considering the current cease trade order caused by the outstanding audit matter, RFG is working with our legal team on a possible reorganisation to help RFG shareholders regain value from the ceased trade shares. The assessment in legal and financial requirement on US SEC for the proposed reorganisation is still ongoing, in particular, the business structure in the US newly set up corporation and the filing requirements for issuing free shares to public shareholders under Regulation A equity crowdfunding rules.

Proposed assignment of SaaS agreement

As announced earlier on October 19, 2022, RFG is also in a discussion with a potential assignee for a proposal of assigning all the contractual rights and obligations of RFG's SaaS Agreement as well as the right to the utilisation of the CAD20 million performance deposit placed with HDB, to his nominated financial institution, in exchange for offshore cash, assets, or any financial instrument ("**Offshore Assets**") that is acceptable to RFG outside of China with a total valuation of not less than CAD 20 million, and that will be further assigned to us by an irrecoverable arrangement (the "**Assignment**").

Shall the Offshore Assets be not in cash, the Swap Assignment shall include the condition precedents are as follows;

- (i) the financial instrument to be transferred to us shall be accessible to us for due diligence, capitalization appraisal and evaluation to be performed by RFG or third-party professionals commissioned by RFG;
- (ii) the financial instruments shall be fully paid up and are free and clear of all security interests, pledges, mortgages, liens, charges, encumbrances, adverse claims or restrictions of any kind, including, without limitation, any restrictions on the voting or transfer thereof (collectively, "Encumbrances").
- (iii) A written consent is obtained from HDB for the Assignment.

RFG also intends to distribute the Offshore Assets collected by dividend in species to RFG shareholders. RFG believes the distribution will be in the best interest of the existing shareholders of RFG. The discussion is still ongoing up to date.

Proposed Offset against the Deposit

RFG is also proposing to its major Chinese shareholders in China to sell their shares back to us which can be settled by the Deposit within the China boundary. So, the Deposit can be utilised and freely transferred among entities or individuals within the China boundary. This would lead to a share buy-back by settlement against the Deposit and cancellation of shares. Whereby this offset can possibly address RFG audit outstanding matter in the FY2021 audit which was frustrated by China's Corvid-19 safety management measures resulting in the auditors' being unable to be on-site in China to complete the audit procedure on the Deposit.

If the major Chinese shareholders are welcomed to this proposal, we will further negotiate the terms and condition of the transaction and will seek approval from the Board of Directors, shareholders and/or Commission under the Company By-laws, all applicable rules and regulations.

We believe all of our approaches as stated above is the best course of action to relieve the Company and shareholders of the impact and suffering this event has caused all of us.

We thank all stakeholders for your care and patience during this difficult time and we do whatever we can to seek relief that this event has caused us. We will keep all stakeholders duly updated.

About Raffles Financial Group Limited (CSE: RICH) (GR: 4VO) (OTC:RAFFF) Raffles Financial Group is listed on the Canadian Securities Exchange Purchasable under the stock symbol (RICH:CN), the Frankfurt Stock Exchange Purchasable under the stock symbol (4VO:GR) and the OTC Markets under the stock symbol (RAFFF:OTCQX).

On behalf of the RFG Board of Directors

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