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**HK GAAP RESULTS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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INTERNATIONAL**

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**STAR CRUISES GROUP ANNOUNCES FIRST HALF RESULTS FOR 2009**

The below commentary is prepared based on the comparison of the results for first half 2009 and 2008 of Star Cruises Group (excluding NCL Corporation Ltd. ("NCLC") Group).

Key points for 1H 2009 in comparison with 1H 2008:

- EBITDA for the period improved 506% to US\$21.0 million, compared with US\$3.5 million for the same period 2008
- Capacity days decreased by 36.8% from 1.3 million to 0.8 million capacity days
- Occupancy percentage increased 7.3% from 78.8% to 86.1% in 2009
- Net revenue decreased by 22.3% with 36.8% decrease in capacity days. Net yield increased by 23.0%
- Ship operating expenses per capacity day for operating ships decreased by 18.2%, achieved through lower fuel costs and various cost control initiatives
- Selling, general and administrative expenses decreased by 20.0% in 2009

## **Star Cruises Group (excluding NCLC Group)**

The Group's EBITDA for 1H 2009 was \$21.0 million, an increase of 506% from US\$3.5 million for 1H 2008. Capacity days reduced by 36.8% as a result of departure of m.v. SuperStar Gemini from our fleet and laying off of non-performing vessels. Total revenue for 1H 2009 only decreased 17.9% from US\$204.1 million to US\$167.6 million. Net yield increased 23.0% during 1H 2009 mainly due to better performance from our gaming operation onboard the ships, partially offset by lower cabin revenue yield as a result of more gaming centric cruises compared with 1H 2008. Occupancy percentage increased 7.3% from 78.8% in 1H 2008 to 86.1% in 1H 2009.

Operating expenses decreased US\$44.5 million (29.1%) to US\$108.5 million in 1H 2009 from US\$153.0 million in 1H 2008, primarily due to 37.0% decrease in ship operating expenses. Ship operating expenses per capacity day for operating ships decreased 18.2% in 1H 2009 compared with 1H 2008, achieved from lower fuel costs and various cost control initiatives. Selling, general and administrative ("SG&A") expenses decreased by US\$9.6 million (20.0%) to US\$38.1 million in 1H 2009 from US\$47.7 million in 1H 2008. SG&A expenses would further be lowered to US\$31.1 million if excluding the related costs incurred in 1H 2009 for right-sizing of the organisation. Finance costs decreased 28.1% during 1H 2009 primarily due to lower average interest rates.

## **NCLC Group**

The commentary below is prepared based on NCLC Group's US GAAP financial statements.

Net revenue for 1H 2009 decreased 12.4% from 1H 2008 primarily due to a 7.7% decrease in net yield and a 5.1% decrease in capacity days. The decrease in net yield was primarily the result of a decrease in passenger ticket pricing due to current adverse global economic conditions. This decrease was partially offset by a slight increase in net yield pertaining to onboard and other revenue primarily due to increased revenue from our gaming operations and shore excursions. The decrease in capacity days was the result of the departure of m.v. Marco Polo and m.v. Norwegian Dream which left the fleet upon expiration of their charter agreements in March 2008 and November 2008, respectively, partially offset with the re-flagging of m.v. Pride of Aloha which was withdrawn from the fleet in May 2008 and launched as m.v. Norwegian Sky in July 2008.

Ship operating expenses and SG&A expenses decreased 21.8% in 1H 2009 compared to 1H 2008, primarily due to a 17.6% decrease in ship operating expenses and SG&A expenses per capacity day. Ship operating expenses and SG&A expenses per capacity day decreased primarily due to lower fuel expense, lower payroll and related expense and cost control

initiatives. Average fuel costs, including the impact of fuel swaps in 2008, decreased 40.7% to US\$326 per metric ton in 2009 from US\$550 per metric ton for the same period in 2008. Lower payroll and related expense, per capacity day, resulted from the impact of the re-flagging and redeployment of m.v. Pride of Hawai'i and m.v. Pride of Aloha from our Hawaii market to our international fleet in 2008.

Depreciation and amortization expense decreased 5.0% in 1H 2009 compared to 1H 2008 primarily due to the transfer of m.v. Norwegian Sky to Star Cruises in January 2009.

Finance costs decreased to US\$52.0 million in 2009 from US\$82.1 million in 1H 2008, primarily due to lower average interest rates partially offset by an increase in outstanding borrowings.

#### Terminology

- *Net revenue represents total revenue less commissions, transportation and other expenses and onboard and other expenses.*
- *Net yield represents net revenue per capacity day. The Group utilises net yield to manage its business on a day-to-day basis and believes that it is the most relevant measure of the pricing performance and is commonly used in the cruise industry to measure pricing performance.*
- *Ship operating expenses represent operating expenses excluding commissions, transportation and other expenses and onboard and other expenses. NCLC Group, reporting under US GAAP, accounts for dry-docking costs under the direct expense method and these costs are classified as ship operating expenses. Under HKFRS, the dry-docking costs are included as a separate component of the ship costs to be amortised to the subsequent dry-docking generally every 2 to 3 years in the depreciation and amortisation.*
- *EBITDA represents earnings before interest and other income (expense) including taxes, and depreciation and amortization. The Group uses EBITDA to measure operating performance of the business.*
- *Capacity days represent double occupancy per cabin multiplied by the number of cruise days for the period.*
- *Passenger cruise days represent the number of passengers carried for the period, multiplied by the number of days in their respective cruises.*
- *Occupancy percentage, in accordance with cruise industry practice, represents the ratio of passenger cruise days to capacity days. A percentage in excess of 100% indicates that three or more passengers occupied some cabins.*

#### **ABOUT STAR CRUISES GROUP**

Star Cruises Limited (Stock Code: 678), the leading cruise liner in Asia-Pacific and together with its jointly controlled entities, NCLC, is the third largest cruise operator in the world, currently having a combined fleet operating 16 ships offering close to 30,000 lower berths. NCLC is presently building Norwegian Epic, a new third generation Freestyle Cruising ship, for delivery in 2010. The fleet cruises to over 200 destinations and islands in Asia-Pacific, North and South America, Hawaii, Caribbean, Alaska, Europe, Mediterranean and Bermuda under Star Cruises and Norwegian Cruise Line.

Headquartered in Hong Kong, Star Cruises is represented in more than 20 locations worldwide with offices and representatives in Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Taiwan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

For investor relations and editorial, please contact:

**Blondel So King Tak**

*Chief Financial Officer*

Hong Kong SAR

Tel : (852) 2378 2000

Fax : (852) 2314 3809

Email : [blondelso@starcruises.com](mailto:blondelso@starcruises.com)

**Joyce Tan Wei Sze**

*Senior Vice President – Corporate Finance*

Hong Kong SAR

Tel : (852) 2378 2000

Fax : (852) 2314 3809

Email : [joyce.tan@starcruises.com](mailto:joyce.tan@starcruises.com)

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**Forward-looking statements**

*This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but rather are based on the current beliefs, assumptions, expectations, estimates and projections of the Company about the industry and markets in which the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group") will operate in the future. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, some of which are beyond the control of the Group, are difficult to predict and could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or forecasted in the forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those reflected in the forward-looking statements include general economic, political and business conditions, changes in cruise industry competition, weather, force majeure events and/or other factors. Reliance should not be placed on these forward-looking statements, which merely reflect the view of the Company as of the date of this press release only. The Company is under no obligation to revise or update publicly these forward-looking statements or any part thereof to reflect events or circumstances resulting from any new information, future events or otherwise on which any such statement was based.*

**CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT  
FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 JUNE 2009  
PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH HONG KONG FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS**

	Six months ended 30 June	
	2009 US\$'000 unaudited	2008 US\$'000 unaudited
Turnover	167,623	204,105
Operating expenses (excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment loss)	(108,506)	(152,985)
Selling, general and administrative expenses (excluding depreciation)	(38,144)	(47,659)
Depreciation and amortisation	(36,978)	(32,806)
(Impairment loss) / Reversal of previously recognised impairment loss	(23,338)	1,250
	<u>(206,966)</u>	<u>(232,200)</u>
	(39,343)	(28,095)
Share of profit / (loss) of jointly controlled entities	5,188	(85,542)
Share of profit of associates	102	-
Other income, net	4,112	80,260
Finance income	176	416
Finance costs	(11,225)	(15,609)
	<u>(1,647)</u>	<u>(20,475)</u>
Loss before taxation	(40,990)	(48,570)
Taxation	(713)	(1,117)
Loss for the period	<u>(41,703)</u>	<u>(49,687)</u>
Loss attributable to:		
Equity holders of the Company	(40,936)	(49,436)
Minority interest	(767)	(251)
	<u>(41,703)</u>	<u>(49,687)</u>
Basic and diluted loss per share attributable to equity holders of the Company (US cents)	(0.55)	(0.67)*
<u>Operating data</u>		
Passenger Cruise Days	691,483	1,000,612
Capacity Days	802,741	1,270,517
Occupancy as a percentage of total capacity days	86.1%	78.8%

\* Diluted loss per share for the six months ended 30 June 2008 is not applicable as the diluted loss per share is less than the basic loss per share.