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**Title** : Qian Hu's Q4 net profit up 3.6% due to better sales  
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SINGAPORE: Mainboard-listed Qian Hu posted a 3.6 per cent rise in fourth quarter net profit to S\$1.7 million on the back of higher sales of its ornamental fishes.

Group revenue in the quarter ended December 31 rose 4.4 per cent to S\$23.9 million from S\$22.9 million in the same period last year.

The company said that this was mainly due to higher sales of Dragon Fish which has continued to grow in tandem with other ornamental fishes.

The boost in the company's fourth quarter performance has also lifted its full year net profit higher to S\$6.5 million, up 8.3 per cent from a year ago.

Group revenue for the year also edged-up 1.7 per cent to S\$94.6 million compared to the previous year.

Executive Chairman and Managing Director Kenny Yap said despite the recession, Qian Hu managed to set up an accessories manufacturing subsidiary in India and expand its Singapore farm as well.

Moving ahead, he said the firm is looking out for investment opportunities in new markets such as Indonesia and Vietnam, and hopes to set up subsidiaries there within the next four years.

Qian Hu also signed a licensing agreement on Monday with Singapore-based company Clean World Environment and Renewable.

Clean World jointly developed the revolutionary Hydro-Pure technology that is capable of enhancing the natural filtration processes in aquariums by as much as 50 per cent compared to conventional systems.

The agreement is part of Qian Hu's push into the aquarium accessories market.

Based on the Group's latest full-year results, its earnings per share grew from 1.36 cents to 1.48 cents on-year.

At the same time, its net assets backing per share rose from 15.11 cents in December 2008 to 16.40 cents as at end of last year.

The directors also declared a first and final dividend of 0.5 cents a share.

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