# ANALYTICAL STUDY OF DEVELOPOMENT OF FRANCHISE BUSINESS IN THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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#### **ABSTRACT**

At dawn of the ages consumers and marketing in the wake of high level economic development, price wars, commodity services, store image and overwhelming activities will directly tell consumers 'desire to buy. The conventional isolated fighting does no longer live up to economic effectiveness. Chained franchise has become the most stylish management mode. Through packaged purchase, multiple point marketing and collective advertising and sales promotion, business operators could bring down cost, erode risks and boost competitive edge. In chained franchises, the rights and obligations of franchisees and franchisers are issues falling within Fair Trade Law. Where the full disclosure policy was not yet enforced in full, very often franchisees become the poor victims. Unscrupulous franchisers try to charge additional franchise fees. All these represent the key issues those chain franchise firms must face up. The present study, therefore, would look into definition of chain franchise, development process, experiences and trends of franchise in foreign countries for verification to attain the following objectives: 1. Look into the origin and development process in managerial systems in the chained franchises in Taiwan through theories of chained franchise in foreign countries. 2. Conduct in-depth interview of franchise headquarters to compare the causes leading to different franchise types and the spread among them. 3. Probe into the similarities and differences of franchise systems of different lines. 4. Reorganize literature and conduct interview to offer one set of indigenous chained franchise to choose the franchise style and profit allocation. 5. Offer proposals to solve the defects and difficulties already confronting the existent franchises in Taiwan. 6. Analyze the future trends of chained franchise. The study adopts probing method by interviewing individually the eighteen franchise headquarters in six trade categories out of the top three franchise headquarters officially registered with "Taiwan Chain & Franchise Society" with open information. The study yielded the following findings including notably the following: I. Choice by the headquarters about the franchise styles: Choice of voluntary franchise: They choose voluntary franchise in an attempt to own autonomy, joining the franchise by their initiative. As the headquarters are less dominant, they very often fail to reach uniform quality and image. It is, therefore, more advisable to back such choice with concession franchise technology and, in turn, team up with development of the so-called concession voluntary franchise. Choice of concession franchise: Concession franchise is chosen because of lack in the headquarters in human resources, capitals and stores. The franchisees are, nevertheless, not dominating in sales revenues, procurement powers and selling prices. As a result, they pay and take full responsibility for performance but could not become a boss. Therefore, the right to procure for certain areas must be liberalized, or the franchisees must be backed and encouraged with incentives before they can break through the real bottleneck. II. Rationality of profit allocation in both sides: In the voluntary franchise, the profits are 100% given to the franchisees while the franchise headquarters charge only fixed amount or extremely low amount of service fees. This provides unattractive incentives to the headquarters in subsequent support and R&D., unable to encourage franchise headquarters to continually invest added resources and endeavor to ensure perpetuity of the chains. Franchisees are, therefore, supposed to show feedback by paying reasonable use fee to enable the headquarters to get added momentum to develop competitive edge. The concession franchise shall be in the payment at fixed amount as the sound incentives to both sides to effectively encourage both sides into adequate efforts. Currently in Taiwan, some convenience stores and laundries are advised to adjust royalty ratio in line with the mounting number of franchisees. Only such will become the best contractual design. III. Adversities currently challenging chain franchisees: (1) Unsound laws: Applicability of various environmental protection related laws, Labor Standards Law and Pension Law. (2) High headquarters turnover: This can be solved through career projecting in line with adequate bonus sharing awarding and promotion systems. IV. Trends of future development in chained franchises: With rapid transmission of information and consumption type, future franchises will be gradually transformed into competition among chain systems themselves. How shall stand out among competitors? This calls for efforts of the franchise headquarters: (1) "Innovation" and "uniqueness": Mentzet (1993) offered the concept of innovation as the very core of chained management. How to bring up added values by means of innovation is the very key to success. When the organization becomes unique, they would try to maximize performance, using the method not adopted by others to launch business which proves impossible from others. The organization will attain remarkable performance because it commits itself to consumers with different values. (2) Strategic alliance with same or varied trades: The compound management is mainly intended to seek different customers and to supply appropriate commodities and to enable the same customer levels to satisfy comprehensive demands. This is a means that chain stores must take toward higher efficiency and diversification. (3) Internationalization and Mainland China market development: The huge added chances in retail which is to be liberalized in Mainland China after WTO

admission has held the limelight of the world markets. Sharing the same culture and language as remarkable advantages, we get firmer footholds. Besides, all those Chinese communities throughout Asia will be the optimal markets those chain franchise firms can develop. V. Enactment of Chain Franchise Law will help improve long-term development of the local franchise headquarters: Currently there are only two franchise headquarters listed or OTC, i.e., 7-11 and Family, both being international chains transplanted into Taiwan, enjoying significant and sound growth because of sound constitution and secure financial standing. In the United States, the Federal Trade Code (FTC) was enforced in 1979, requiring that all chain franchise headquarters issue nationwide prospectuses. FTC has successfully regulated chains from going astray, unsound development and, most significantly, safeguarded lawful chains. It is, therefore, necessary that such law be enacted to help local franchise headquarters strengthen their constitution to go international and greater in scale.

Keywords: China franchise; innovation; strategic alliance; profit co-sharing systems; property rights

#### Table of Contents

第一章、緒論 1.1研究動機--P1 1.2研究目的--P4 1.3研究流程--P4 1.4研究範圍--P6 1.5研究問題--P7 第二章、文獻探討 2.1連鎖加盟的定義--P.8 2.1.1連鎖加盟體系的定義--P8 2.1.2美國對連鎖加盟之定義--P13 2.1.3日本對連鎖加盟之定義--P13 2.1.4我國對連鎖加盟之定義--P13 2.2連鎖體系的類型--P14 2.2.1美國式連鎖體系之分類--P16 2.2.2日本式連鎖體系之分類--P17 2.2.3 我國連鎖體系之分類--P20 2.3連鎖體系的類型--P14 2.2.1美國式連鎖體系型態選擇理論--P22 2.5連鎖加盟的經營管理機制--P35 2.6連鎖加盟經營績效指標--P37 2.7連鎖加盟經營獲利來源策略--P38 2.8連鎖加盟經營對產業、社會及經濟之影響--P39 第三章、國內外連鎖加盟產業的發展概況 3.1連鎖加盟店之發展歷史--P44 3.2美國連鎖加盟發展沿革與現況--P46 3.3日本連鎖加盟發展沿革與現況--P48 3.4大陸連鎖加盟發展沿革與現況--P50 3.5台灣連鎖加盟發展沿革與現況--P52 3.6台灣與各國連鎖業發展之比較--P54 第四章、研究設計 4.1研究架構--P57 4.2研究對象--P58 4.3研究方法--P58 第五章、個案描述、綜合分析與命題驗證 5.1便利商店業:7-ELEVEN、全家、萊爾富--P63 5.2西式早餐業:美而美、麥味登、弘爺--P73 5.3洗衣業:快爾潔、泰利、隴西--P77 5.4房屋仲介業:住商、中信、21世紀--P82 5.5兒童幼教業:吉的堡、喬登、三之三--P87 5.6書店業:金石堂、新學友、金玉堂--P90 5.7個案資料整理綜合分析--P96 5.8命題驗證--P98 第六章、結論與建議 6.1研究結論--P106 6.2研究建議--P112 6.3研究限制--P116 6.4後續研究建議--P116 參考文獻 一、中文部份--P117 二、英文部份--P120 附錄 附錄四: 美國連鎖總部之公開說明書--P124 附錄二:日本連鎖總部之公告事項--P127 附錄三:我國連鎖總部之公告事項--P128 附錄四: 訪談大綱--P129

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