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2 LCD Global directors' intentions questioned

A SHAREHOLDER of LCD Global has asked two incoming directors of the firm to "clarify their intentions" towards the firm, asking if they want to turn LCD into a financial services company.

Pyrrho Management, which owns a 3 per cent stake in hotel and property firm LCD, noted in a statement yesterday that JTrust Asia acquired a 29.5 per cent stake in LCD from the controlling Lum family on Thursday.

JTrust Asia is a wholly owned unit of JTrust Co, a Japanese financial services business focused on Japan and Korea. As part of the deal, JTrust president Nobuyoshi Fujisawa and the general manager of its corporate strategy department, Mr Shigeyoshi Asano, have been appointed as executive directors of LCD.

"Neither appears to have any experience in property or hospitality and Mr Fujisawa seems to already have a full-time job running the Japanese business," Pyrrho director Paul Cummins said in the statement. No details of directors' remuneration or contracts have been published, he added.

"We note that JTrust set up a Singapore subsidiary in October last year and has since purchased a stake in one Indonesian bank and had an offer on another Indonesian bank accepted," he wrote.

"Is it JTrust's intention to change the business of LCD Global to financial services? If so, what will they do with the assets currently owned by LCD Global?"

Mr Cummins also said LCD's name is to be changed to JTrust International, which he said is strange as JTrust is only a minority shareholder, albeit the largest one, and is associated with financial services, not property and hospitality. "Shareholders are clearly concerned with these changes and the uncertainty that has arisen as a result of not knowing the future direction of LCD Global," he said.

"We call on the board of LCD Global to make clear (its) future strategy and intentions for the company so shareholders can understand (its) intentions and will be in a better position to make an informed decision as regards their investment in LCD Global."

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