

ORIENTAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC

Form S-8

January 24, 2003

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 24, 2003

Registration No. 333- _____

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ORIENTAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
(State or other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation)

66-0538893
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

Professional Office Park
1000 San Roberto Street
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00927
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

ORIENTAL GROUP
CODA PROFIT SHARING PLAN
(Full Title of the Plan)

José Enrique Fernández
Chairman of the Board of Directors,
President and Chief Executive Officer
Oriental Financial Group Inc.
Professional Office Park
1000 San Roberto Street
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00927
(787) 771-6767

(Name, Address and Telephone
Number, including Area Code,
of Agent for Service)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered ¹	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share	1,000,000 shares	\$ 21.15 ²	\$ 21,150,000 ²	\$1,945.80

- This registration statement also covers an indeterminate number of shares of common stock that may be issued by the Company from time to time by virtue of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions in accordance with Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933,

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as amended (the Securities Act). In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act, this registration statement also covers an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to the employee benefit plan described herein.

2. Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rules 457(c) and 457(h)(1) under the Securities Act. Based on the average of the high and low prices of the Company's common stock reported on the New York Stock Exchange on January 21, 2003.
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I

PART II

SIGNATURES

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

Profit Sharing Plan

Adoption Agreement

Opinion and Consent of McConnell Valdes

Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP

Table of Contents

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS

Pursuant to the Note to Part I of Form S-8, the documents containing the information specified by Part I of Form S-8 will be sent or given to employees as specified by Rule 428(b)(1)(i) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act). Such documents are not required to be and are not filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) either as part of this registration statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act. These documents and the documents incorporated by reference in this registration statement pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of Form S-8, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS

ITEM 3. INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE.

The Company hereby incorporates by reference the following documents filed with the Commission:

1. The Company s annual report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002 and the Plan s annual report on Form 11-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001.
2. All other reports filed by the Company pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), since the end of the fiscal year covered by the annual report referred to above.
3. The description of the Company s common stock contained in its registration statement on Form 8-B filed on January 10, 1997.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this registration statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this registration statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this registration statement.

ITEM 4. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES.

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

-3-

ITEM 5. INTERESTS OF NAMED EXPERTS AND COUNSEL.

Not applicable.

ITEM 6. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

Section 1.02(B)(6) of the Puerto Rico General Corporation Law of 1995, as amended (the PR-GCL), provides that a corporation may include in its certificate of incorporation a provision eliminating or limiting the personal liability of members of its board of directors or governing body for breach of a director's fiduciary duties. However, no such provision may eliminate or limit the liability of a director for breaching his duty of loyalty, failing to act in good faith, engaging in intentional misconduct or knowingly violating a law, paying an unlawful dividend or approving an unlawful stock repurchase, or obtaining an improper personal benefit.

Article NINTH of the Company's certificate of incorporation, as amended, provides that the personal liability of the directors and officers of the Company for monetary damages shall be eliminated to the fullest extent permitted by the PR-GCL.

Section 4.08 of the PR-GCL authorizes a Puerto Rico corporation to indemnify its directors, officers, employees and agents (if they acted in good faith and in a manner they reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the corporation, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe their conduct was unlawful), and to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of such persons against liabilities arising out of pending or threatened actions, suits or proceedings to which such persons are or may be made parties by reason of being directors, officers, employees or agents of the corporation. Such rights of indemnification are not exclusive of any other rights to which such persons may be entitled under any by-law, agreement, vote of shareholders or otherwise.

Section 1 of Article VII of the Company's by-laws provides that any director, officer, employee or agent of the Company shall be indemnified to the fullest extent authorized by the PR-GCL against expenses and certain other liabilities arising out of legal action brought or threatened against him or her for his or her conduct on behalf of the Company, provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner that he or she reasonably believed was in, or not opposed to, the Company's best interests. Indemnification by the Company is available in a criminal action only if such person had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Section 4 of Article VII of the Company's by-laws provides that the Company may maintain insurance covering certain liabilities of directors, officers, employees and agents of the Company, whether or not the Company would have the power or would be required to indemnify them against such liabilities.

ITEM 7. EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION CLAIMED.

Not applicable.

Table of Contents

-4-

ITEM 8. EXHIBITS.

Exhibit No.	Description
4.1	Oriental Group CODA Profit Sharing Plan: Deed No. 2 entitled Deed of Trust, dated May 21, 1993, executed before Notary Public Carlos Rodriguez-Cintron.
4.2	Adoption Agreement
5 and 23.1	Opinion of McConnell Valdes regarding compliance with ERISA, such opinion also containing the consent of McConnell Valdes.
23.2	Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
24	Power of attorney (included in page 5 hereof).

ITEM 9. UNDERTAKINGS.

The Company hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act.

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement.

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

Provided, however, that paragraphs (i) and (ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the Company pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities, at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

The Company hereby undertakes that for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the Company's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the

Table of Contents

-5-

Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Company pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Company has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Company of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Company in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Company will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by the Company is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

Table of Contents

-7-

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
<u>/s/ José Enrique Fernández</u> José Enrique Fernández	Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer	<u>January 21, 2003</u>
<u>/s/ Rafael Valladares</u> Rafael Valladares	Senior Vice President and Principal Financial Officer	<u>January 21, 2003</u>
<u>/s/ Pablo I. Altieri</u> Pablo I. Altieri	Director	<u>January 21, 2003</u>
<u>/s/ Efraín Archilla</u> Efraín Archilla	Director	<u>January 21, 2003</u>
<u>/s/ Julian S. Inclán</u> Julian S. Inclán	Director	<u>January 21, 2003</u>
<u>/s/ Diego Perdomo-Alvarez</u> Diego Perdomo-Alvarez	Director	<u>January 21, 2003</u>
<u>/s/ Alberto Richa-Angelini</u> Alberto Richa-Angelini	Director	<u>January 21, 2003</u>
<u>/s/ Emilio Rodríguez, Jr.</u> Emilio Rodríguez, Jr.	Director	<u>January 21, 2003</u>

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/s/ Miguel Vázquez-Deynes

Director

January 21, 2003

Miguel Vázquez-Deynes

/s/ Francisco Arriví

Director

January 21, 2003

Francisco Arriví

Table of Contents

-8-

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Trustee has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the Municipality of San Juan, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, on this 21st day of January, 2003.

**ORIENTAL GROUP CODA
PROFIT SHARING PLAN**

By: _____ /s/ Juan José Santiago

Juan José Santiago
Senior Vice President
and Trust Officer

Table of Contents

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

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