

Thursday May 10, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of May 9)

	Close	Chg	(%)
MSCI World	1,241	-10	-0.8
Dow	12,835	-97	-0.8
Nasdaq	2,935	-12	-0.4
S&P 500	1,355	-9	-0.7
Euro Stoxx	2,226	-10	-0.5
FTSE 100	5,530	-25	-0.4
DAX	6,475	+31	+0.5
CAC	3,119	-6	-0.2
ASX 200	4,275	-39	-0.9
Nikkei	9,045	-137	-1.5
Shanghai	2,409	-40	-1.6
Hang Seng	20,331	-154	-0.8
H Shares	10,357	-169	-1.6

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE ASEAN	565	-8	-1.5
Singapore	2,901	-31	-1.1
Thailand	1,207	-24	-1.9
Malaysia	1,585	-6	-0.4
Indonesia	4,129	-52	-1.2
Philippines	5,215	-27	-0.5
Vietnam	488	-0	-0.1
Lao PDR	1,032	0	0.0
Cambodia	774	-	-

Currencies Rap (as of May 9)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	80.08	+0.34	+0.43
USD/EUR	1.2975	-0.00	-0.36
JPY/USD	79.64	-0.08	-0.10
THB/USD	31.10	+0.11	+0.35
VND/USD	20,860	0.00	0.00
LAK/USD	8,001.00	+2.50	+0.03
KHR/USD	4,025.00	+0.00	+0.00
MMK/USD	824.85	+0.69	+0.08
VND/THB	670.74	-2.38	-0.35
LAK/THB	257.27	-0.83	-0.32
KHR/THB	130.00	0.00	0.00
MMK/THB	26.52	-0.07	-0.27

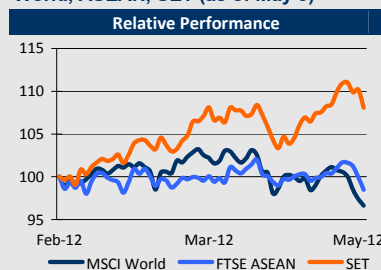
Commodities Rap (as of May 9)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,594.20	-10.30	-0.64
Silver	29.24	-0.22	-0.74
Copper	365.95	-1.80	-0.49
WTI	96.81	-0.20	-0.21
Brent	113.20	+0.47	+0.42
BDI	1,156	-9	-0.77

Source: Bloomberg

* Cambodia Stock Index as of May 8

World, ASEAN, SET (as of May 9)



INDOCHINA NEWS

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INDOCHINA NEWS

Lao PDR - Lao Prime Minister to Visit Philippines

Lao Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong is to visit the Philippines from May 10 to May 12 upon the invitation of President Benigno Aquino III, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) announced Tuesday. It will be Thongsing's first visit to the Philippines as Lao Prime Minister. Aquino and Thongsing will discuss bilateral cooperation and partnerships in promoting people-to-people and institutional exchanges. They will also exchange views on regional issues such as ASEAN and ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting), among others. [\[Philippine Star\]](#)

Lao PDR - Tax and Investment Laws Inconsistent

Business operators are encountering difficulties as the government cannot enforce the Law on Investment Promotion, according to a senior official from the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Chamber Secretary General Mr Khanthavong Dalavong said this week that many manufacturers in Laos continue to pay tax on imported raw materials despite the fact that the Law on Investment Promotion offers businesses tax exemptions as an incentive to establish manufacturing operations in Laos. "Tax officials impose the 10% Value Added Tax (VAT) charge for importers of raw materials despite the fact that the Investment Promotion Law offers manufacturers a tax exemption," [\[Vientiane Times\]](#)

Vietnam - Vietnam's Telecom Market Not Attractive as Previously Thought

VimpelCom has withdrawn from Vietnam. EVN Telecom has been taken over by Viettel after many years of taking loss. S-Fone still has not found the way out after many years of stagnation. The Vietnamese telecom market seems to take a step back after 10 years of witnessing rapid development. To some extent, the withdrawal of VimpelCom shows that the Vietnamese telecom market is not attractive as people thought. State owned mobile networks now hold up to 95% of the domestic telecom market. This explains why telcos have been triggering the competitions in which they do not care for profits. The competitions have led to the ARPU decreasing continuously. [\[VietNamNet\]](#)

Vietnam - MOF Says More Businesses Die Young

65% of the 10,350 businesses which got dissolved and bankrupted in the first quarter of the year were fledgling businesses which were established just one or two years ago. Statistics showed that 23.1% of the bankrupted businesses were the ones established one year ago, and 41.9% were set up two years ago. This shows that young businesses find it hard to survive the current difficulties. Also according to the ministry, most of the businesses, which have halted operation for definite time and stopped production, are the ones in the fields of real estate and construction. [\[VietNamNet\]](#)

Cambodia - Follow-Up IPOs Still on Track

Sihanoukville Autonomous Port, one of two state-owned companies slated to list on the Cambodia Securities Exchange this year, called the price decline in the country's first publicly traded company worrisome. The 8-day slide in price that neared Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority's initial public offering value before climbing more than 4% Tuesday, however, would not affect the port's plans to list, Director General Lou Kim Chhun said. The company still planned to float shares worth 15% of total assets sometime in July. Telecom Cambodia (TC) director general Lao Saroeun said PPWSA's initial decline had caused no concern at the company, which also plans to list this year. Foreign Trade Bank, which expressed interest in listing late last month, declined to comment on PPWSA's performance, and whether it had affected the bank's decision to list. [\[Phnom Penh Post\]](#)

Thailand - India to Dethrone Thailand, Vietnam as Top Rice Exporter

India, the largest rice grower after China, is poised to rival Vietnam as the world's biggest shipper, ending Thailand's 30-year reign, after favorable weather and higher government prices boosted the harvest to a record. Exports may climb to 7 million metric tons in the year ending Aug. 31, said Samarendu Mohanty, a senior economist at the International Rice Research Institute. That's more than double the 2.8 million tons shipped in 2010-2011, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Vietnam will export 7 million tons and Thailand 6.5 million tons, USDA data show. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Thailand - Fitch Affirms BBB, Warns About Fiscal Transparency

Fitch Ratings has affirmed Thailand's long-term foreign and local currency issuer default ratings at BBB and A-, respectively, with stable outlooks. At the same time, the agency affirmed its short-term foreign currency at F3 and its country ceiling at BBB+. "Thailand's ratings and outlooks reflect its strong external financial position and signs of political stabilisation following the peaceful election in 2011," [\[Bangkok Post\]](#)

Myanmar - Vietnamese Firms Eye Emerging Myanmar Market

Representatives of businesses in HCM City gathered at a seminar on May 8 to learn about the Myanmar market, which is emerging as one of top investment destinations in the region. Dam Trung Bac, Honorary Consul General of Myanmar in HCM City said Vietnamese businesses could invest in potential fields such as building industrial parks, aquaculture, and growing forests and rubber plantations in Myanmar. He added that Myanmar also has a great demand for developing electricity, telecommunications, automobile repair and consumer products. [\[TuoitreNews\]](#)

Myanmar - Govt Seeks Answers to Power Shortages as Industry Sweats

FACTORY owners in Yangon's industrial zones said last week they hoped the city's electricity supply board would be able to provide them with more power in the near future. Factories would be provided with a maximum of six hours of electricity a day and be expected to make the rest themselves by running diesel-fuelled generators. [\[Myanmar Times\]](#)