

Monday May 14, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of May 11)

	Close	Chg	(%)
MSCI World	1,242	-3	-0.2
Dow	12,821	-34	-0.3
Nasdaq	2,934	+0	+0.0
S&P 500	1,353	-5	-0.3
Euro Stoxx	2,255	+7	+0.3
FTSE 100	5,576	+32	+0.6
DAX	6,580	+62	+1.0
CAC	3,130	-0	-0.0
ASX 200	4,285	-10	-0.2
Nikkei	8,953	-56	-0.6
Shanghai	2,395	-15	-0.6
Hang Seng	19,965	-263	-1.3
H Shares	10,143	-147	-1.4

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE ASEAN	563	-2	-0.4
Singapore	2,883	-20	-0.7
Thailand	1,191	+0	+0.0
Malaysia	1,584	-4	-0.2
Indonesia	4,114	-19	-0.5
Philippines	5,158	-34	-0.7
Vietnam	480	-6	-1.2
Lao PDR	1,035	0	0.0
Cambodia	774	-38	-4.6

Currencies Rap (as of May 11)

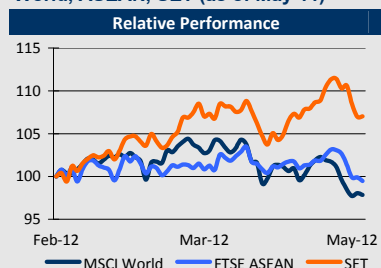
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	80.26	+0.15	+0.19
USD/EUR	1.2917	-0.00	-0.19
JPY/USD	79.94	+0.24	+0.30
THB/USD	31.20	+0.06	+0.19
VND/USD	20,845	+5.00	+0.02
LAK/USD	8,004.00	-2.00	-0.02
KHR/USD	4,025.00	0.00	0.00
MMK/USD	827.75	+1.57	+0.19
VND/THB	667.68	-1.88	-0.28
LAK/THB	256.62	-0.48	-0.19
KHR/THB	129.00	0.00	0.00
MMK/THB	26.54	+0.01	+0.03

Commodities Rap (as of May 11)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,584.00	-11.50	-0.72
Silver	28.89	-0.29	-0.99
Copper	364.80	-4.25	-1.15
WTI	96.13	-0.95	-0.98
Brent	112.26	-0.47	-0.42
BDI	1,138	-8	-0.70

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of May 11)



Source: Bloomberg

INDOCHINA NEWS

- Myanmar - Myanmar May Let in Foreign Banks by 2015 - bankers
- Myanmar - Foreign Airlines Plan Flight Resumption to Myanmar
- Lao PDR - Senior Economist Backs Mining Investment Freeze
- Vietnam - Vietnam Bonds Have Best Week Since 2009 on Interest-Rate Outlook
- Vietnam - Vietnam's Banks Enter International Debt Markets
- Thailand - Thailand's Charoen Prepares Bid for Birds Eye
- Thailand - BoT ups Forecast to 6% Growth in 2012

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INDOCHINA NEWS

Myanmar - Myanmar May Let in Foreign Banks by 2015 - bankers

Despite a year of wide-ranging political reforms, Myanmar's government has been slow to revise laws on the growing number of foreign banks clamouring to tap the country of 60 million people, whose natural gas, minerals and other resources make it one of Asia's most tantalising frontier markets. As the US and EU lift economic sanctions, foreign banks remain limited to representative offices that can do little more than conduct research. Some local media have reported they would be authorised to open full operational branches by 2014. But central bank officials said in interviews they doubted it would happen so soon. Officials at local private banks - only allowed since 1992 and primitive by international standards - were also sceptical. But that policy, the official said, may change when ASEAN forms an economic bloc in 2015 to lower barriers to the flow of people, products and, to some extent, capital across its borders. "In 2015, this policy may change if the leaders think it needs to be," the official said. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Myanmar - Foreign Airlines Plan Flight Resumption to Myanmar

At least six foreign airlines have planned to resume flights to Myanmar since a year ago in wake of changes in the country but only two of them seem to be in readiness to start operation and the remainings are expected to follow the move after a time. The six foreign airlines are Sri Lankan Airline, Bangladesh's Biman Airline, Hong Kong Express Airline, Pakistan International Airline, Japan's All Nippon Airways and Qatar Airways. Of them, All Nippon Airways and Qatar Airways are making preparations for the move having the most possibility of resuming regular direct flights to Yangon respectively, prompted by Myanmar's economic reforms and changes. For the Japanese All Nippon Airline, it will resume flight between Tokyo and Yangon after stopping for 12 years and the date of the resumption is yet to be set. [\[China Daily\]](#)

Lao PDR - Senior Economist Backs Mining Investment Freeze

The economy will not see a downturn over the next few years if the government decides to stop granting permission for new mining investments, according to a senior economist. "There will be no impact on our economy in the short term if the government stops giving permission for new mining projects this year," Lao National Economic Research Institute Director General, Dr Liber Libouapao, said on Wednesday. He made the comment after the Ministry of Planning and Investment suggested to Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong on Tuesday that no more proposals for investment in the mining sector be accepted. Economic growth has stayed above 7.5% over the past five years, with mining as the main driving force. The proposal to rein in the industry has caused concerns that it could result in a slowdown. [\[Vientiane Times\]](#)

Vietnam - Vietnam Bonds Have Best Week Since 2009 on Interest-Rate Outlook

Vietnam's five-year bonds had the best week since January 2009 after the government asked the central bank to lower borrowing costs. The dong was little changed. The instruction posted on its website on May 9 cited slowing inflation as a reason to cut lending rates. Consumer prices climbed 10.54% in April from a year earlier, the least in 18 months, official data show. The central bank lowered the refinancing rate, the discount rate and the repurchase rate by 1% each, effective April 11, the second reduction in less than a month. The yield on five-year bonds fell 61 basis points, last week to 9.63%, the lowest level since August 2009, according to a daily fixing from banks compiled by Bloomberg. It dropped 4 basis points Friday. Vietnam's refinancing rate is currently 13%, while the discount and repurchase rates stand at 11% and 12%, respectively. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Vietnam - Vietnam's Banks Enter International Debt Markets

Vietnam Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Industry and Trade sold a US\$250 million five-year bond Friday, marking the first ever international bond by a Vietnamese financial institution. It's also a significant step for the country, as this is the first benchmark-sized deal from Vietnam since the government sold a \$1 billion dollar bond in January 2010. The deal was heavily oversubscribed, with \$700 million in investor orders from over 110 accounts. The bond was priced to yield 8.25%. Asian investors took 40% of the offering, Europeans 37% and U.S. 23%. Fund and asset managers absorbed 48%, while private banks took 28%, banks' own accounts 14%, public institutions 8% and corporates the remaining 2%. It's an encouraging sign for Vietnam, whose international reputation has taken a hit because of the scandal surrounding and subsequent loan default by state-owned shipbuilder Vietnam Shipbuilding Industry Group, or Vinashin. The company defaulted on a \$600 million syndicated loan in December 2010. [\[WSJ\]](#)

Thailand - Thailand's Charoen Prepares Bid for Birds Eye

Thai food manufacturer Charoen Pokphand Foods PCL is preparing a GBP2.5 billion bid for U.K.-based Birds Eye, the fish finger maker which is owned by private equity firm Permira, the Sunday Times reports. The report says Bangkok-based Charoen Pokphand has spent months stalking Birds Eye, which is based in Feltham, near London's Heathrow airport, and employs nearly 2,500. Last year, it sold 2.2 billion fish fingers and had GBP1.2 billion in sales. Permira is expected to fetch GBP2.5 billion for Birds Eye, the report says without citing sources. The report says first-round bids were lodged Friday, and Charoen Pokphand is vying with private-equity investors including Blackstone and BC Partners. [\[MarketWatch\]](#)

Thailand - BoT ups Forecast to 6% Growth in 2012

The Bank of Thailand (BoT) has raised its gross domestic growth forecast for 2012 to 6%, up from the previous projection of 5.7% made in March. The central bank announced on Friday it also expected the economy to grow by about 5.8% in 2013, on the back of faster than expected economic recovery, particularly in the production sector severely hit by the great flood late last year. The BoT was concerned about the impact of the financial crisis in Europe, and that could derail the country's recovery. Pressure from rising inflation, the government's minimum wage hike policy and the increase in energy prices could also hamper economic expansion, the bank said. [\[Bangkok Post\]](#)