

Tuesday February 28, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Feb 27)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,982	-1	-0.0
Nasdaq	2,966	+2	+0.1
S&P 500	1,368	+2	+0.1
VIX	18.19	+0.88	+5.1
MSCI World	1,298	-2	-0.2

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,916	-20	-0.3
DAX	6,850	-15	-0.2
CAC	3,441	-26	-0.7
Euro Stoxx	2,517	-8	-0.3

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,267	-39	-0.9
Nikkei	9,634	-13	-0.1
Shanghai	2,447	+7	+0.3
HSI	21,218	-189	-0.9
H Shares	11,540	-150	-1.3

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	2,947	-31	-1.1
Malaysia	1,559	+0	+0.0
PSEi	4,799	-94	-1.9
SET	1,135	-11	-1.0
LSX	922	+2	+0.2
Vietnam	428	+5	+1.2
Indonesia	3,861	-34	-0.9
FTSE ASEAN	563	-7	-1.2

Currencies Rap (as of Feb 27)

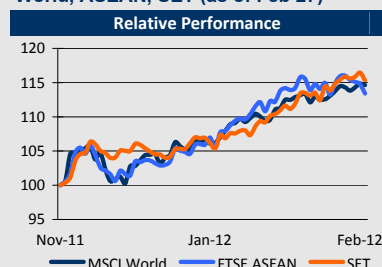
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	78.53	+0.18	+0.23
THB/USD	30.47	+0.14	+0.46
LAK/THB	262.00	-0.90	-0.34
LAK/USD	7,983.00	-2.50	-0.03
USD/EUR	1.3403	-0.00	-0.33
JPY/USD	80.67	-0.53	-0.65

Commodities Rap (as of Feb 27)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,774.90	-1.50	-0.08
Silver	35.60	+0.18	+0.52
Copper	388.90	+1.90	+0.49
WTI	108.56	-1.21	-1.10
Brent	124.17	-1.30	-1.04
BDI	730	+12	+1.67

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Feb 27)



Source: Bloomberg

INDOCHINA NEWS

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- Lao PDR - New Dam Powers Up Theun-Hinboun Energy Generation
- Vietnam - Vietnam's February Trade Balance Swings to Deficit From Surplus
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INDOCHINA NEWS

Philippines - Philippines' December Imports Down 6.5% on yr

Philippine imports in December fell 6.5% from a year earlier, the statistics office said on Tuesday. The country's largest import item are inputs used by the semiconductor and electronics industry, the biggest export sector and a major contributor to the economy. Imports of electronic parts fell 25.9% in December from a year earlier after the previous month's revised 15.0% drop. Philippine exports fell 6.86% in 2011, against a government estimate of 5% growth and worse than the central bank's forecast of a 1% drop, due largely to slowing demand for the country's key electronics and semiconductor products. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Myanmar - Official Moots Two New International Airports

MYANMAR would welcome foreign investment in its plan to develop two new international airports, a government official said last week. U Win Swe Tun, deputy director general of the Department of Civil Aviation, under the Ministry of Transport, said last week that Myanmar was planning to build international airports at Hantharwaddy in Yangon Region and Dawei, Tanintharyi Region. Hantharwaddy is about 42 miles (67 kilometres) to Yangon's north and would be built to handle the expected increase in international travellers landing in Yangon, while the Dawei airport will be developed to support the area's planned special economic zone. However, he could not say when work would begin. [\[Myanmar Times\]](#)

Lao PDR - New Dam Powers Up Theun-Hinboun Energy Generation

The Theun-Hinboun hydropower plant in Borikhamxay province can now generate energy at its full capacity of 220 megawatts (MW) after construction of a new dam that provides additional water to the plant. "Energy generation had dropped by about 15 to 20% in previous years," Electricite du Laos (EDL) Managing Director Mr Sisavath Thiravong said recently. "The Theun-Hinboun plant's energy generation dropped after the Nam Theun 2 (NT2) dam was built further upstream in Khammuan province in 2008. When the NT2 released water for electricity generation in 2010, the water flowed into another river, the Xebangfai." The amount of power generated from the plant dropped because no water flowed into the existing reservoir from the Nam Theun River. [\[Vientiane Times\]](#)

Vietnam - Vietnam's February Trade Balance Swings to Deficit From Surplus

Vietnam's trade balance swung to a deficit in February, reviving pressure on the currency to weaken after recent gains. The shortfall this month was \$800 million, compared with a revised \$172 million surplus in January, according to preliminary figures released by the General Statistics Office. For the first two months of the year, the deficit totaled \$628 million. The agency hasn't reported a monthly trade gap exceeding the \$1 billion mark since Sept. Vietnam devalued the dong by about 7% a year ago as a persistent trade deficit and soaring prices hurt confidence in the nation's economy. The currency has strengthened by about 1% this year after the government took steps to slow credit growth and Asia's fastest inflation. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Thailand - Thailand Manufacturing Output Decline Eases as Factories Resume Production

Thailand's industrial output fell the least in four months in January as companies resumed operations and supply-chain disruptions eased after the nation's worst floods in almost 70 years. The industrial production index dropped for a fifth straight month, slipping 15.15% from a year earlier, after a 25% contraction in December, the Office of Industrial Economics said. The median of five estimates was for a 14% decline. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Thailand - Robinson's Asean Expansion Strategy to Take Time

Robinson Department Store will next year disclose its strategic expansion plan to open stores in Asean markets, said company president Preecha Ekkunagul. However, it will take another couple years for actual expansion, which should be in full swing by 2015 when the Asean Economic Community (AEC) is fully implemented. The five-year expansion strategy is set up to cash in on the AEC, which will allow free flow of goods and services throughout the region. Preecha said the AEC would benefit the opening and rapid development of the Thai economy, especially in border provinces. [\[The Nation\]](#)

Thailand - PTT Exploration Says Competition for Cove Energy is 'Quite High'

PTT Exploration & Production faces stiff competition in its bid to acquire African explorer Cove Energy, Chief Executive Officer Anon Sirisaengtaksin said today. Thailand's only listed oil and gas explorer on Feb. 24 offered 1.1 billion pounds for U.K.-listed Cove Energy, trumping an earlier bid by Royal Dutch Shell Plc. Bangkok-based PTT Exploration offered 220 pence for each Cove share, 13% more than Shell's proposal. "The competition is quite high and we are doing our best," Anon said in a telephone interview. "Our offer is based on plenty of studies, including surface evaluation and due diligence, which showed that Cove's assets are world class and have high potential for discovering a large amount of gas." [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Indonesia - Indonesia to Commence Power Trade by 2014

Indonesian power utility, PLN, plans to start trading electricity with neighboring countries by 2014 at initial capacity of 50 to 100 MegaWatt (MW), PLN President Director Nur Pamuji said. "We can start it within two years," Nur Pamuji said, adding that talks on the facilities to support that aim is underway at the moment. Nur said that selling the electricity to neighboring countries would only be conducted after the domestic need on electricity is totally fulfilled. Meanwhile PLN Planning and Risk Management Director Murtaqi Syamsuddin said that the tender to build power grid connecting Indonesia's territory of West Kalimantan to Malaysia's Sarawak would be conducted this year so as to make the project commenced in 2013. [\[China Post\]](#)