

Wednesday May 9, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of May 8)

	Close	Chg	(%)
MSCI World	1,251	-10	-0.8
Dow	12,932	-76	-0.6
Nasdaq	2,946	-11	-0.4
S&P 500	1,364	-6	-0.4
Euro Stoxx	2,236	-47	-2.1
FTSE 100	5,555	-101	-1.8
DAX	6,445	-125	-1.9
CAC	3,125	-89	-2.8
ASX 200	4,314	+13	+0.3
Nikkei	9,182	+63	+0.7
Shanghai	2,449	-3	-0.1
Hang Seng	20,485	-52	-0.3
H Shares	10,526	-49	-0.5

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE ASEAN	574	+1	+0.2
Singapore	2,932	+7	+0.2
Thailand	1,231	+4	+0.3
Malaysia	1,591	+6	+0.4
Indonesia	4,181	+22	+0.5
Philippines	5,242	+13	+0.2
Vietnam	488	+2	+0.4
Lao PDR	1,032	0	0.0
Cambodia	774	+32	+4.3

Currencies Rap (as of May 8)

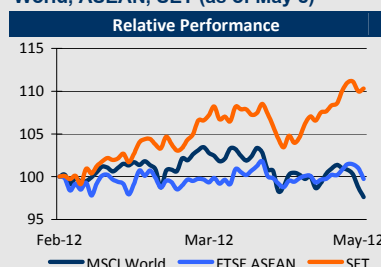
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	79.74	+0.14	+0.17
USD/EUR	1.3022	-0.00	-0.07
JPY/USD	79.72	-0.11	-0.14
THB/USD	30.99	0.00	0.00
VND/USD	20,860	+9.00	+0.04
LAK/USD	7,998.50	-5.00	-0.06
KHR/USD	4,025.00	0.00	0.00
MMK/USD	824.16	-0.86	-0.10
VND/THB	673.12	+0.32	+0.05
LAK/THB	258.10	-0.16	-0.06
KHR/THB	130.00	0.00	0.00
MMK/THB	26.59	-0.03	-0.11

Commodities Rap (as of May 8)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,604.50	-34.60	-2.11
Silver	29.46	-0.66	-2.20
Copper	367.75	-9.60	-2.54
WTI	97.01	-0.93	-0.95
Brent	112.73	-0.43	-0.38
BDI	1,165	+8	+0.69

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of May 8)



Source: Bloomberg

INDOCHINA NEWS

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INDOCHINA NEWS

Lao PDR - Growing Internet Use Puts Lao Trade Online

As the number of people in Laos with internet access has doubled in recent years, it has spurred business opportunities for online media and advertising. According to a recent report from the World Bank, 8% of Laos' population of 6.2 million people are now online. Laos ranks 7th in terms of internet usage in Southeast Asia, double the figure in 2008 thanks to the expansion of IT infrastructure into rural areas. Telecommunication networks have been established in 7,000 villages, or about 76% of all villages. The 3G network is accessible in 155 districts in all provinces nationwide, enabling people to use the internet and other telecom services, according to a report from the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications. [\[Vientiane Times\]](#)

Lao PDR - Russian Jet to Make Demonstration Flight in Vientiane

Lao Central Airlines Public Company (LCA) will team up with a major Russian aircraft maker, Sukhoi Civil Aircraft Company, on a demonstration flight of the new Sukhoi Superjet 100 in Vientiane on Friday. An airline official said the Superjet 100 has 93 seats. The airline's two existing Boeing 737-400 aircraft are 168-seat planes. LCA is planning to buy 3 jet aircraft from the Sukhoi Civil Aircraft Company. The two parties signed a memorandum of understanding for the purchase in May 2010, with LCA set to take delivery of the three aircraft this year. LCA will also buy a Boeing 737-800 to carry passengers on longer-haul international flights. It expects to take delivery of nine Russian Sukhoi Superjets by 2015. [\[Vientiane Times\]](#)

Cambodia - Cambodian Leader Puts New Land Deals on Hold

Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday temporarily suspended new land concessions to private companies in an effort to ease political pressure over an issue that has triggered social unrest and occasional violence. The timing of Hun Sen's action seemed to reflect his usual political astuteness, coming less than two weeks after the slaying of a prominent local environmentalist investigating illegal logging turned the spotlight on shady practices involving government land. The April 26 shooting death of Chut Wutty by a military policeman near where a Chinese company is building a hydropower project drew worldwide condemnation. Land concessions have been the focus of allegations of land-grabbing by big businessmen tied to corrupt officials and triggered violent clashes when residents were forcefully evicted. Such concessions typically involve clearing forest land for plantations to grow cash crops such as rubber, cassava, oil palm and sugar cane. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Vietnam - Vietnam's Bonds Rise on Speculation of More Interest-Rate Cuts

Vietnam's government bonds rose, pushing the benchmark five-year yield to the lowest level since September 2009, on speculation the central bank will cut borrowing costs to support the economy. The dong weakened. "The State Bank of Vietnam is likely to deliver more cuts in the coming quarters to support spending" as domestic demand may remain subdued, Trinh D. Nguyen, a Hong Kong-based economist at HSBC Holdings Plc, wrote in a commentary accompanying a manufacturing report. The HSBC Vietnam Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index showed output declined in April for the sixth time in seven months. Vietnam's central bank cut interest rates for the second time in less than a month in April. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Thailand - Italian-Thai Not Putting off Dawei Port Project

Italian-Thai has no plan to suspend the implementation of the Dawei deep-seaport project, according to Aung Naing Oo, director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. "Construction of the Dawei deep-seaport project is not meant for suspension," the director-general told a media meeting with the Industry Ministry, according to a report from Eleven Media Group. "At the end of the fiscal year, [Italian-Thai is] preparing financial statements. Our Myanmar departments are also doing the same. March 30 is the end of the budget year. The companies are also preparing financial statements at the finance closing period. It was wrongly interpreted on the Internet." [\[The Nation\]](#)

Thailand - Thai Group Enters Singapore's Retail Scene

Thailand's Central Group has made its maiden foray into Singapore's already bustling retail scene, setting up two Manchester United merchandise shops. This could be the start of more inroads into the local retail industry by the group, explained Central Group executive director Pichai Chirathivat. [\[Straits Times\]](#)

Myanmar - Myanmar on Track to Fix Forex System by End-2013: IMF

The IMF said that Myanmar has taken major steps to reform its currency system and could fully reform the distorted, multiple-rate system by the end of 2013. The Fund also said the government has moved away from simply printing money to fund its deficits, and could take a few easy steps to encourage government bond purchases that would help end the practice altogether. "We see certainly a strong reform momentum coming out of Myanmar," said Meral Karasulu, IMF mission chief for the country. Karasulu gave the government solid grades for moving at the beginning of April to establish a managed float for the kyat currency, with the aim of fully harmonizing diverse exchange rates by the time the country hosts the Southeast Asian Games at the end of 2013. [\[France 24\]](#)

Myanmar - Burma Moving Toward Unregulated Purchase of Vehicles: Minister

Burmese citizens with foreign exchange accounts can now import passenger cars in models of 2007 and above, according to domestic media. The accounts must be in the state-run Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank (MFTB) or the Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank (MICB), the Car Import Supervisory Committee told the New Light of Myanmar, a state-run newspaper. Minister of Commerce U Win Myint, who head's the project, said Burma is taking step-by-step measures to enable the public to buy cars freely from car showrooms or by importing vehicles. [\[Mizzima\]](#)