

Wednesday February 15, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Feb 14)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,878	+4	+0.0
Nasdaq	2,932	+0	+0.0
S&P 500	1,351	-1	-0.1
VIX	19.54	+0.50	+2.6
MSCI World	1,274	-5	-0.4

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,900	-6	-0.1
DAX	6,728	-10	-0.2
CAC	3,376	-9	-0.3
Euro Stoxx	2,489	+2	+0.1

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,243	-42	-1.0
Nikkei	9,052	+53	+0.6
Shanghai	2,345	-7	-0.3
HSI	20,918	+30	+0.1
H Shares	11,413	-55	-0.5

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	2,987	+11	+0.4
Malaysia	1,566	+3	+0.2
PSEi	4,776	-26	-0.5
SET	1,106	-11	-1.0
LSX	916	+7	+0.7
Vietnam	400	+5	+1.2
Indonesia	3,953	-9	-0.2
FTSE ASEAN	567	-4	-0.7

Currencies Rap (as of Feb 14)

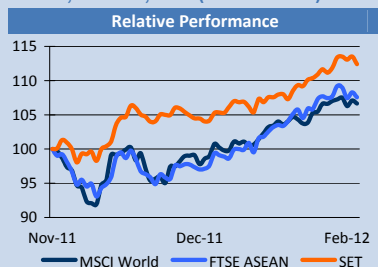
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	79.38	+0.44	+0.55
THB/USD	30.85	+0.11	+0.36
LAK/THB	259.47	-0.84	-0.32
LAK/USD	8,003.50	+2.00	+0.02
USD/EUR	1.3134	-0.01	-0.39
JPY/USD	78.44	+0.87	+1.12

Commodities Rap (as of Feb 14)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,717.70	-7.20	-0.42
Silver	33.35	-0.37	-1.11
Copper	382.30	-2.40	-0.62
WTI	100.74	-0.17	-0.17
Brent	118.16	+0.23	+0.20
BDI	734	+5	+0.69

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Feb 14)



Source: Bloomberg

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GLOBAL NEWS

EU Divisions Threaten Aid for Greece

Eurozone officials have called off an emergency meeting of finance ministers to approve a vital €130bn bail-out for Athens amid a growing fight among the country's European creditors about the merits of allowing Greece to go bankrupt. Jean-Claude Juncker, the Luxembourg prime minister who chairs the eurogroup, said the delay in Wednesday's scheduled meeting had been prompted by the continued failure of Greece's political leaders to commit to the bail-out's tough terms after April elections. But a group of eurozone governments, particularly those that retain triple-A credit ratings, has lost faith Greece will ever deliver its end of the bargain. Hardline officials in Germany, the Netherlands and Finland are increasingly urging a Greek default.

[Financial Times]

China to Let Smaller Groups List in Hong Kong

Yao Gang, vice-chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, pledged to "deepen" China's capital markets reforms and to make sure Hong Kong is one of the main beneficiaries of the changes. Mr Yao said the CSRC would lower the size threshold for Chinese companies listing in Hong Kong and "open the door wider for small and medium enterprises to list in Hong Kong". Until now, Chinese listings in Hong Kong – one of the main routes for foreigners to invest in China – have been dominated by large state-owned enterprises such as banks and energy companies. The decision is made as the Chinese government has come under pressure to do more for China's private companies, which provide the bulk of economic growth and jobs. Such companies have been more directly affected by the banks' tight credit policies than their competitors in the state sector. [Financial Times]

Retail Sales in U.S. Trail Forecasts on Car Purchases

Sales at U.S. retailers rose less than forecast in January, reflecting an unexpected drop in purchases of automobiles. The 0.4% gain reported by the Commerce Department Tuesday in Washington was half the 0.8% rise forecast of economists. Purchases excluding car dealers climbed 0.7%, more than projected and the biggest gain since March. The median forecast of economists projected sales excluding cars would rise 0.5%. Further gains in employment are needed to bolster wages and underpin confidence, ensuring that demand can be sustained. [Bloomberg]

BOJ Unexpectedly Adds Stimulus as It Sets 1% Target for Inflation

Japan's central bank unexpectedly added 10 trillion yen (\$128 billion) to an asset-purchase program and set an inflation goal after an economic slide fueled criticism it has been slower to act than counterparts. An asset fund increased to 30 trillion yen, with a credit lending program staying at 35 trillion yen, the Bank of Japan said in Tokyo Tuesday. The BOJ also said that it will target 1% inflation "for the time being." Stocks rose and the yen weakened against the dollar as the central bank expanded stimulus for the first time since October to revive an economy that shrank an annualized 2.3% last quarter. Lawmakers had urged extra efforts to counter deflation after the Federal Reserve adopted a 2% inflation target and the European Central Bank expanded its balance sheet. [Bloomberg]

INDOCHINA NEWS

Myanmar: Thai Ratchaburi Sets 2012 CAPEX, Sees Myanmar Expansion

Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Holding Pcl, Thailand's top private power producer, has set an investment budget of 8 billion baht (\$260 million) for 2012 and is looking for opportunities to invest in Myanmar in addition to the Dawei project, its top executive said on Tuesday. The company is still looking at fuel types after Myanmar's government halted construction of a 4,000 megawatt coal-fired power plant in the area on Jan. 10, citing environmental concerns, President Noppol Milinthatgoon told reporters. Noppol said Ratchaburi was looking for additional investment opportunities in other cities in Myanmar, including the capital, Naypyitaw, and Yangon, where electricity demand is rising. [Reuters]

Myanmar: Groups Back Expansion of Small-Scale Power Sources

SMALL-SCALE methods of electricity generation should be pursued in the short term to increase Myanmar's electrification rate, experts said at a recent energy workshop in Bangkok. Just 23% of the population, mostly in urban areas, has access to electricity, according to Mekong Energy and Ecology Network (MEENet), because of decades of underinvestment in electricity infrastructure. Large-scale energy generation has become a hot topic in Myanmar over the past 12 months, with grassroots activists, celebrities and the media campaigning successfully against the Myitsone Dam in Kachin state and a coal-fired power plant in Dawei. While there were environmental and dislocation concerns, in both cases a central issue was the fact that much of the electricity generated was to be exported. [Myanmar Times]

Indonesia Drops Plan to Lower Foreign Ownership in Banks

Malaysian banks with stakes in Indonesian financial institutions no longer need to sell down their holdings as Indonesia is reportedly not going ahead with a plan to limit ownership. Indonesia's state deposit agency (LPS) said the country will not implement a planned regulation to limit ownership in domestic banks because it does not want to scare away potential foreign investors from the sale of state-owned Bank Mutiara. [The Sun Daily]

Vietnam: State Bank Urged to Ease Limit on Lending to Securities Investors

The State Securities Commission has asked the State Bank of Viet Nam to consider adjusting its policies towards commercial bank loans to securities investors, with commission chairman Vu Bang claiming several times over the past months that lending against securities investments shouldn't be lumped in with other forms of "non-productive" credit. [Vietnam News]