

Monday March 12, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Mar 9)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,922	+14	+0.1
Nasdaq	2,988	+18	+0.6
S&P 500	1,371	+5	+0.4
VIX	17.11	-0.84	-4.7
MSCI World	1,292	+1	+0.1

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,887	+28	+0.5
DAX	6,880	+46	+0.7
CAC	3,487	+9	+0.3
Euro Stoxx	2,519	+5	+0.2

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,212	+41	+1.0
Nikkei	9,930	+161	+1.6
Shanghai	2,439	+19	+0.8
HSI	21,086	+185	+0.9
H Shares	11,256	+88	+0.8

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	2,963	-7	-0.2
Malaysia	1,579	+1	+0.0
PSEi	4,981	+25	+0.5
SET	1,159	-10	-0.8
LSX	927	-9	-0.9
Vietnam	432	+0	+0.1
Indonesia	3,992	+24	+0.6
FTSE ASEAN	572	-1	-0.2

Currencies Rap (as of Mar 9)

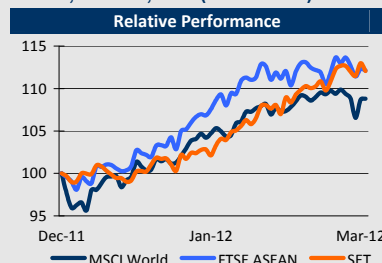
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	80.04	+0.90	+1.14
THB/USD	30.55	+0.02	+0.07
LAK/THB	261.37	-0.72	-0.27
LAK/USD	7,994.00	-4.00	-0.05
USD/EUR	1.3123	-0.01	-0.68
JPY/USD	82.46	+0.98	+1.20

Commodities Rap (as of Mar 9)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,711.50	+12.80	+0.75
Silver	34.21	+0.38	+1.13
Copper	385.85	+6.70	+1.77
WTI	107.40	+0.82	+0.77
Brent	125.98	+0.54	+0.43
BDI	824	+12	+1.48

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Mar 9)



Source: Bloomberg

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INDOCHINA NEWS

ASEAN - Southeast Asia Trade Link Hits Snag

Just months before stock exchanges in Southeast Asia plan to link up their trading, key players remain divided, with one top bourse official saying the region may be going through a "reality check" on the many hurdles facing further economic integration. The plan for cross-border trading among the exchanges in the region is part of a grander scheme for some form of economic community within the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations by 2015. But the initiative has already faced some setbacks, with several exchanges' decisions to participate in the trading link pending. The head of the Indonesia Stock Exchange said the country is technologically prepared to join the link by 2013, but he cautioned that it would not participate until three conditions are met: the harmonization of capital-market rules, mutual recognition of market professionals such as brokers and lawyers, and the establishment of a dispute-resolution mechanism. [\[WSJ\]](#)

Malaysia - Malaysian Minister Resigns Amid Corruption Claims

Malaysia's Women, Family and Community Development Minister Shahrizat Abdul Jalil announced her resignation Sunday amid an alleged corruption scandal that has put pressure on Prime Minister Najib Razak's government ahead of looming elections. Women's affairs minister Shahrizat Jalil has come under fire over the "cows-for-condos" scandal, with accusations that her family used government money meant for a cattle-rearing project to invest in luxury apartments. Perceived corruption and economic mismanagement were among voters' key grouses in the last general election, when the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition suffered its worst results ever. [\[Bangkok Post\]](#)

Indonesia - Indonesia's Inflation to Ease Within 3 to 4 Months: C. bank

The Indonesian central bank (BI) said on Friday that inflation generated by the government's planned fuel-price hike would ease within three to four months, so it would retain the benchmark rate at 5.75%. "The impact of the inflation would bite at the beginning. After three to four months the inflation would ease down. It would be just one shock," BI Governor Darmin Nasution said here. Even though brief inflation caused by implementation of fuel price hike policy would affect year-on-year inflation, he said that it is not necessary to reduce the benchmark rate. [\[Xinhua\]](#)

Cambodia - Investment in Mining Operations Falls Sharply

Guangxi Nonferrous Metal Group invested \$21.95 million in the construction of a steel processing plant, the data shows. The Chinese company planned to invest as much as \$500 million in Preah Vihear province, China's state-owned Xinhua news agency reported in November. New mining investment in Cambodia fell more than 71% year over year in 2011. A \$75 million investment in copper mining from Nim Meng Group, a Taiwanese-Cambodian joint venture, buoyed the 2010 figures. Richard Stanger, president of the Cambodian Association for Mining and Exploration Companies, confirmed that international companies had reduced exploration in Cambodia as they developed other projects. "There was a drop-off in exploration activity last year. Some companies were focusing on exploration in other countries," Stanger said. He expected signs of a turnaround this year. [\[Phnom Penh Post\]](#)

Vietnam - PetroVietnam in Talks on Stake Sale

State-run PetroVietnam is in talks to sell a 49% stake in its Dung Quat oil refinery to three foreign companies. "We are trying to sell the stake as soon as possible, so that we will have funds for expanding the refinery," Nguyen Hoai Giang said. One of the three companies is state-owned Petr leos de Venezuela SA, the other two are from Japan and South Korea, and that it's likely all three will buy the stake jointly. PetroVietnam has said it will use the money raised from selling the stake to expand the refinery's annual capacity to 10 million metric tons, or 200,000 barrels a day, from 6.5 million tons. Dung Quat, the only refinery operating in Vietnam, it meets around one-third of the country's demand for oil products. [\[WSJ\]](#)

Vietnam - SBV Issues Regulations on Foreign Currency Lending for Resident Borrowers

The State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) issued Circular No. 03/2012/TT-NHNN on March 8 on foreign currency lending by domestic credit institutions and foreign bank branches for resident borrowers. Accordingly, domestic credit institutions and foreign bank branches (hereafter called as credit institutions) with forex service license should decide to extend short, medium and long-term foreign currency loans for overseas payment of goods and service importation to those resident borrowers who are able to make repayment by their foreign exchange revenue. [\[The State Bank of Vietnam\]](#)

Lao PDR - Phonesack Group to Study Feasibility of Nam Theun 1 Dam Construction

The government has given the green light for a Lao company to study the possible development of the Nam Theun 1 hydropower plant in central Laos after a Malaysian firm failed to see the project through. Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Mr Bounthavy Sisouphanthong signed a memorandum of understanding with Phonesack Group Chairman Mr Phonesack Vilaysack, which allows the company to spend 18 months conducting a feasibility study of Nam Theun 1 dam construction in Borikhamxay and Khammuan provinces. Laos plans to build at least 10 hydropower plants from 2011 to 2015 in the hope of securing GDP growth of at least 8%. [\[Vientiane Times\]](#)

Myanmar - Chinese Officials Call on Myanmar to Restart Suspended \$3.6 Billion Power Dam Project

Chinese officials have urged Myanmar's government to restart a Chinese-backed multibillion-dollar power dam project that was suspended apparently without notice last year. China was caught off guard by September's suspension of the \$3.6 billion China-funded Myitsone dam, which was being built by a Chinese company in Myanmar. The project had drawn protests from ethnic and environmental groups, and the suspension marked a significant about-face in Myanmar's domestic politics. [\[The Washington Post\]](#)