

Friday May 18, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of May 17)

	Close	Chg	(%)
MSCI World	1,191	-13	-1.1
Dow	12,442	-156	-1.2
Nasdaq	2,814	-60	-2.1
S&P 500	1,305	-20	-1.5
Euro Stoxx	2,147	-28	-1.3
FTSE 100	5,338	-67	-1.2
DAX	6,309	-75	-1.2
CAC	3,012	-37	-1.2
ASX 200	4,157	-8	-0.2
Nikkei	8,877	+75	+0.9
Shanghai	2,379	+33	+1.4
Hang Seng	19,201	-59	-0.3
H Shares	9,701	-41	-0.4

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE ASEAN	543	+2	+0.4
Singapore	2,823	-9	-0.3
Thailand	1,174	+2	+0.2
Malaysia	1,544	+8	+0.5
Indonesia	3,980	-	-
Philippines	5,017	+153	+3.1
Vietnam	443	-7	-1.6
Lao PDR	1,032	0	0.0
Cambodia	774	0	0.0

Currencies Rap (as of May 17)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	81.38	+0.01	+0.01
USD/EUR	1.2694	-0.00	-0.13
JPY/USD	80.27	-0.14	-0.17
THB/USD	31.43	-0.06	-0.19
VND/USD	20,843	-7.00	-0.03
LAK/USD	8,017.00	-2.00	-0.02
KHR/USD	4,025.00	-7.50	-0.19
MMK/USD	829.67	-0.30	-0.04
VND/THB	663.41	+1.11	+0.17
LAK/THB	255.12	+0.42	+0.17
KHR/THB	128.00	-1.00	-0.78
MMK/THB	26.40	+0.04	+0.16

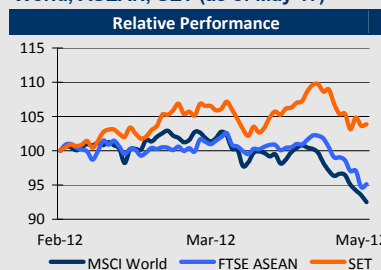
Commodities Rap (as of May 17)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,574.90	+38.30	+2.49
Silver	28.02	+0.82	+3.03
Copper	347.90	+0.10	+0.03
WTI	92.56	-0.25	-0.27
Brent	107.49	-4.22	-3.78
BDI	1,137	0	0.00

Source: Bloomberg

* Indonesia Composite Index as of May 16

World, ASEAN, SET (as of May 17)



Source: Bloomberg

INDOCHINA NEWS

- Myanmar - US Suspends Sanctions on Investment in Myanmar
- Lao PDR - PanAust Expects Years of Production Growth
- Vietnam - Sumitomo Gets Railway Contract in Vietnam
- Vietnam, Laos, Thailand - To Promote Co-Op Along East-West Economic Corridor
- Vietnam - Malaysia Firm Invests \$800 Mln in Vietnam Wind Power
- Vietnam - Moody's Downgrades Asia Commercial Bank
- Cambodia - Crown Holdings, Inc. To Build New Beverage Can Plant In Sihanoukville
- Malaysia - Malaysian Palm-Oil Refiners Urge Reform to Counter Indonesia

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INDOCHINA NEWS

Myanmar - US Suspends Sanctions on Investment in Myanmar

The United States on Thursday suspended sanctions barring U.S. investment in Myanmar in response to political reforms in the poor southeast Asian state, drawing praise from some U.S. lawmakers but criticism from human rights advocates. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Washington would issue a general license to permit U.S. investments across Myanmar's economy, and U.S. energy, mining and financial service companies were all now free to look for opportunities in the nation formerly known as Burma. Clinton said Derek Mitchell, the State Department's coordinator for Burma policy, would be nominated to return to the country as U.S. ambassador and Myanmar's Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin said his government had appointed its current permanent representative to the United Nations to fill its ambassadorial slot in Washington. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Lao PDR - PanAust Expects Years of Production Growth

Laos-focused miner PanAust expects production to rise in the coming years after an upgrade of its flagship copper mine. PanAust is upgrading its Phu Kham mine to increase recovery rates of copper and gold, and recent tests have confirmed recovery will increase from the second half of 2013, the company said on Friday. PanAust forecasts production of between 63,000-65,000 tonnes of copper in 2012, and now expects production in 2013 to be between 65,000-70,000 tonnes. In 2014, copper production is forecast to rise again to between 70,000-75,000 tonnes. [\[Sydney Morning Herald\]](#)

Vietnam - Sumitomo Gets Railway Contract in Vietnam

Major trader Sumitomo Corp. has won a railway construction deal in Ho Chi Minh City together with Vietnamese state-run construction company CIENCO6. Under the 62.6 billion yen project, Sumitomo and CIENCO6, or Civil Engineering Construction Corporation No. 6, will build a 17.2-km elevated section of a planned 19.7-km train line and a 21-hectare rail yard. The project will be financed by yen loans from the Japanese government, while project planning will be assigned to a group of construction consulting firms led by Nippon Koei Co., Sumitomo said. [\[The Daily Yomiuri\]](#)

Vietnam, Laos, Thailand - To Promote Co-Op Along East-West Economic Corridor

The deputy foreign ministers of Vietnam, Laos and Thailand will meet on May 18 in Vietnam's central Quang Tri province, about 480 km south of Hanoi, to promote cooperation along the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), reported Vietnam News Agency on Thursday. The three countries' Senior Official Meeting (SOM) was held Thursday, chaired by the head of SOM Vietnam, Nguyen Quoc Dung, and with participation of the two heads of SOM Laos, Phane Savanphet, and SOM Thailand, Anuson Chinvanho, together with other representatives from the three countries. [\[Xinhua\]](#)

Vietnam - Malaysia Firm Invests \$800 Mln in Vietnam Wind Power

Malaysia wind energy corporation Timar signed an investment of around US\$800 million to develop wind power facilities in Vietnam south central coastal province of Ninh Thuan on Tuesday. Timar Wind Solar Energy has invented the world's first maglev wind turbine, which has a generation capacity 20% higher than traditional wind turbines, while saving more than 50% of operation costs. The turbines can be used for 500 years, the company said in a meeting with the province government at a conference Tuesday. It costs US\$52 million to install a 1,000 megawatt maglev turbine complex that can serve the electricity demand of 750,000 houses. The project is planned to start this year. [\[Thanh Nien News\]](#)

Vietnam - Moody's Downgrades Asia Commercial Bank

Moody's Investors Service has downgraded the standalone bank financial strength rating (BFSR) of Asia Commercial Joint Stock Bank (ACB) to E+ from D-, which now maps to a baseline credit assessment (BCA) of b1 on the long-term scale. At the same time, Moody's has also downgraded the bank's local currency long-term deposit and issuer ratings to B1 from Ba3. The outlook for these ratings is stable. Moody's review indicated that there are little, if any, reasons to believe that the bank would be insulated from a government debt crisis. More particularly, Moody's notes the bank's significant direct exposure to Vietnamese government securities, equivalent to 124% of tier 1 capital at the end of 2011. [\[Moody's\]](#)

Cambodia - Crown Holdings, Inc. To Build New Beverage Can Plant In Sihanoukville

Crown Holdings, Inc., a leading supplier of metal packaging products worldwide, announced that it will build a new beverage can plant in Sihanoukville, Cambodia to meet growing demand. Sihanoukville is on the Gulf of Thailand approximately 200 km from the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh. It is the country's primary commercial port and is also enjoying growing tourism. The new plant will be sized to accommodate multiple can lines and have an initial annual production capacity of 725 million two-piece 33cl aluminum cans. The facility is expected to be operational in the third quarter of 2013 and will be Crown's second beverage can plant in Cambodia including its two line operation in Phnom Penh. [\[MarketWatch\]](#)

Malaysia - Malaysian Palm-Oil Refiners Urge Reform to Counter Indonesia

Malaysia, the world's second-largest palm-oil producer, needs to reform the industry's tax structure to counter new rates in Indonesia that improved the competitiveness of refiners there, according to a trade group. Without changes to create a so-called level playing field, there will be "a slow death of the refining industry when the independent refiners move away," said Mohammad Jaaffar Ahmad, chief executive of the Palm Oil Refiners Association of Malaysia. The tax changes by Indonesia last year made local crude palm oil, or CPO, cheaper than in Malaysia, cutting costs for refiners. Palm oil, the world's most-consumed cooking oil, is used in everything from candy bars to biofuel. Malaysia and largest producer Indonesia account for about 89 percent of global shipments. Crude palm oil, which has more than doubled in the past decade, traded at 3,130 ringgit (\$1,007) a metric ton on the Malaysia Derivatives Exchange at the midday break. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)