

Thursday March 29, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Mar 28)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	13,126	-72	-0.5
Nasdaq	3,105	-15	-0.5
S&P 500	1,406	-7	-0.5
VIX	15.47	-0.12	-0.8
MSCI World	1,312	-10	-0.7

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,809	-61	-1.0
DAX	6,999	-80	-1.1
CAC	3,430	-39	-1.1
Euro Stoxx	2,430	-27	-1.1

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,344	+42	+1.0
Nikkei	10,183	-73	-0.7
Shanghai	2,285	-62	-2.7
HSI	20,885	-161	-0.8
H Shares	10,701	-110	-1.0

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	3,016	-3	-0.1
Malaysia	1,584	-4	-0.3
PSEi	5,068	-10	-0.2
SET	1,204	-3	-0.3
LSX	985	+8	+0.9
Vietnam	446	+0	+0.1
Indonesia	4,091	+11	+0.3
FTSE ASEAN	578	-2	-0.4

Currencies Rap (as of Mar 28)

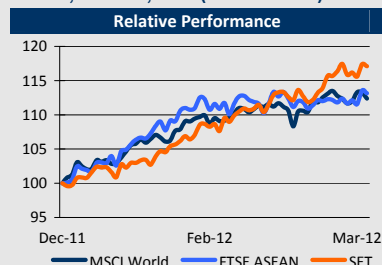
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	79.17	+0.12	+0.15
THB/USD	30.81	+0.09	+0.29
LAK/THB	259.31	-0.67	-0.26
LAK/USD	7,988.00	+4.00	+0.05
USD/EUR	1.3306	-0.00	-0.24
JPY/USD	82.83	-0.31	-0.37

Commodities Rap (as of Mar 28)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,660.50	-27.20	-1.61
Silver	31.83	-0.79	-2.41
Copper	379.25	-8.75	-2.26
WTI	105.41	-1.92	-1.79
Brent	124.16	-1.38	-1.10
BDI	922	+5	+0.55

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Mar 28)



Source: Bloomberg

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INDOCHINA NEWS

Myanmar - Myanmar's Central Bank Says Currency to Float From April

Myanmar will begin a managed float of its currency from April 1, the central bank said on Wednesday, its first public statement on moves to reform a multi-layered exchange rate regime seen as one of the biggest barriers to developing the economy. The central bank statement said the external value of the kyat would henceforth be determined by supply and demand conditions in the exchange market. The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) said it would publish a reference exchange rate each day, setting the new system in the context of the government's efforts to modernise the economy. "We are now using 800 kyat per U.S. dollar for the time being. Starting from April, there will be more exchange rate modifications to come," Htin Aung, director general of the Ministry of Energy's Energy Planning Department, told an energy conference in Yangon. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Myanmar - West's Energy Firms Await More Reforms in Myanmar

Western companies want more concrete political and economic reforms before they invest in Myanmar's oil and gas sector, giving Asian and Pacific rivals an edge in competing to access its untapped resources, company officials said on Wednesday. "We are not in any hurry. We are watching closely and making the necessary contacts but we will go in when we are comfortable. There is more than enough gas to be explored," said a senior official with a major Western oil company. Unlike their Western counterparts, Asian oil companies from China and Japan to Malaysia and Thailand were eager to expand their operations in Myanmar, after years of investment. The last oil and gas tender was dominated by Asian oil firms, such as Thailand's PTT Exploration and Production and Malaysia's Petronas. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Vietnam - Korea to Build Nuclear Plant for Vietnam

Korea's Ministry of Knowledge Economy said Wednesday that it had signed an agreement with its Vietnamese counterpart on checking the viability of building a nuclear power plant. They will initiate studies next month, which are expected to take around a year to conclude. "Korea has practically clinched the status as preferred bidder to construct a nuclear power plant in Vietnam by agreeing to start feasibility checks for the project," Deputy Knowledge Economy Minister Moon Jae-do said. [\[Korea Times\]](#)

Vietnam - Techcombank Wins "Best Emerging Market Bank 2012 in Asia" Award

Global Finance Magazine has presented the "Best Emerging Market Banks 2012 in Asia" Award to the Vietnam Technological and Commercial Joint Stock Bank (Techcombank). Last year, the bank made a pre-tax profit of VND4.203 billion, up 53.18% compared to the previous year. Its total assets rose 20.35% to VND180,874 billion. Techcombank has provided comprehensive financial solutions for businesses operating in the field of production and export. In addition, Techcombank plans to invest in renewing technologies and providing customers with high quality products such as F@st Easy, F@st Invest and other convenient products. [\[Voice of Vietnam\]](#)

Lao PDR - Lao Airlines Inaugurates Da Nang Flight

Lao Airlines will launch a new flight to Da Nang this week, aiming to establish a new transport link between southern/central Laos and Vietnam. The airline will inaugurate the service today by flying a group of Lao tour operators, hoteliers and journalists from Vientiane to Da Nang. This will see the start of flights between Pakxe district in Champassak province and Kaysone Phomvihane district in Savannakhet province to Da Nang in central Vietnam. Today's trip aims to promote tourism cooperation between Laos and Vietnam, especially boosting tourism in the central regions of the neighbouring nations. According to Lao Airlines, a 65-seat ATR-72 will leave Pakxe at 9.30am and touch down at Savannakhet at 10.10am before arriving in Da Nang at 11.40am every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The return flight will leave Da Nang for Savannakhet at 2.10pm on these days. [\[Vientiane Times\]](#)

Cambodia - Hyatt to Rebrand Renowned Cambodia Hotel to Park Hyatt Siem Reap

Park Hyatt Siem Reap will be the first Hyatt-branded property in fast-growing destination, and 14th Hyatt-branded property in Southeast Asia. Hyatt Hotels Corporation announced that an affiliate has signed a management agreement with Hotel De La Paix, Co., Ltd. for the first Hyatt-branded hotel in Cambodia. Hotel De La Paix Siem Reap, one of the country's top-rated hotels, will be rebranded as Park Hyatt Siem Reap. The hotel will close on June 30, 2012 for a complete renovation and is expected to open as Park Hyatt Siem Reap in the first quarter of 2013. [\[MarketWatch\]](#)

Cambodia - Hu's Visit to Strengthen Sino-Cambodian Ties

The Chinese President Hu Jintao's state visit to Cambodia this week will build up stronger Sino-Cambodian ties in politics, trade and investment, Pan Guangxue, Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia, said Tuesday. It will be the first visit of the Chinese Head of State to Cambodia in the last 12 years. "The visit will deepen the bilateral relations in all fields, especially in politics, economics, trade, and culture," he said. According to the statistics from the Council for the Development of Cambodia, till the end of 2011, 317 projects under construction in Cambodia were assisted by China with the total contract value of \$8.9 billion, bringing China as the largest investor in this Southeast Asian nation. [\[China Daily\]](#)

Thailand - BBL Opens Branch in Surabaya, Indonesia

Bangkok Bank will open its 26th foreign branch in Surabaya, Indonesia, tomorrow as it tries to help international business clients find greater opportunities in line with the Asean Economic Community planned for 2015. This is BBL's second branch in Indonesia following its headquarters in Jakarta, established in 1968. Surabaya is Indonesia's second-largest city, and a branch there should facilitate growth of the bank's foreign business and help local customers expand to that region. [\[Bangkok Post\]](#)