

Wednesday April 4, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Apr 3)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	13,200	-65	-0.5
Nasdaq	3,114	-6	-0.2
S&P 500	1,413	-6	-0.4
VIX	15.66	+0.02	+0.1
MSCI World	1,317	-7	-0.6

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,838	-37	-0.6
DAX	6,982	-74	-1.1
CAC	3,407	-56	-1.6
Euro Stoxx	2,392	-38	-1.6

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,337	+8	+0.2
Nikkei	10,050	-59	-0.6
Shanghai	2,263	+11	+0.5
HSI	20,791	+269	+1.3
H Shares	10,859	+201	+1.9

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	3,015	-1	-0.0
Malaysia	1,607	+3	+0.2
PSEi	5,056	-54	-1.1
SET	1,211	+12	+1.0
LSX	1,005	-13	-1.3
Vietnam	446	+5	+1.1
Indonesia	4,215	+49	+1.2
FTSE ASEAN	586	+3	+0.6

Currencies Rap (as of Apr 3)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	79.36	+0.54	+0.69
THB/USD	30.81	-0.02	-0.06
LAK/THB	259.12	-0.24	-0.09
LAK/USD	7,983.50	-7.00	-0.09
USD/EUR	1.3339	+0.00	+0.01
JPY/USD	82.01	-0.68	-0.82

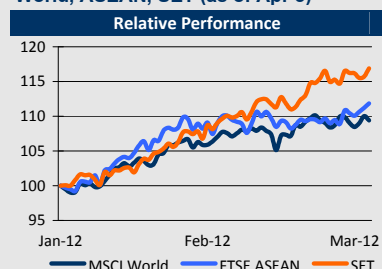
Commodities Rap (as of Apr 3)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,672.00	-7.70	-0.46
Silver	33.27	+0.17	+0.50
Copper	391.90	-0.20	-0.05
WTI	104.01	-1.22	-1.16
Brent	124.86	-0.57	-0.45
BDI	931	-3	-0.32

Source: Bloomberg

* Shanghai SE Composite Index as of Mar 30

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Apr 3)



Source: Bloomberg

INDOCHINA NEWS

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- Vietnam - Vietnam to Have More Int'l Bond Issuers in 2012
- Myanmar - Airlines Plot Out Expansion Plans to Tap Myanmar Rise
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- Malaysia - CIMB Confirms Purchase of RBS's Asia Equity Arm

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INDOCHINA NEWS

Lao PDR - China on Track to Become Largest Foreign Investor in Laos

China looks set to become the largest foreign investor in Laos in the near future as Chinese businesses make further inroads into the country, according to Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Secretary General Mr Khanthavong Dalavong. "Chinese investment in Laos has increased rapidly since the end of last year. If the rate of increase remains unchanged, China will become the largest foreign investor in the near future." At present, China is the second largest foreign investor in Laos after Vietnam. Mr Khanthavong said the rapid increase in Chinese investment was due to the Chinese government's policy to encourage companies to expand into overseas markets including Laos. At the same time, the Lao government has been strongly promoting foreign investment in order to boost economic growth. The Lao government is assisting Chinese firms to invest in northern Laos, especially in the areas of agribusiness, mining, hydropower and real estate development, [Vientiane Times]

Lao PDR - Manufacturers Mull Impact of Electricity Price Hike

Several major manufacturers have indicated they have no plans to put up the prices of their products, despite the rising cost of electricity. Electricite du Laos, which is the country's monopoly supplier, announced last month it would raise the price of electricity by 3% per month from March to December, and by 2% per month from next year until 2017. The extra income generated will be ploughed into hydropower development. When asked about their intentions in light of the increase in costs, a water supplier, a cement producer and a steel maker said this week they would wait and see to what extent they were affected by the increase before making any changes to the price of their products and services. [Vientiane Times]

Vietnam - Vietnam's Income Per Capita Far Lagging Behind Regional Countries

The average income per capita of Vietnamese people is still far lagging behind the income per capita in ASEAN countries and China, though the income has been increasing considerably in the last years as a result of the doi moi (renovation) period. Considering the PPP (purchase parity power), the GDP per capita in Vietnam was \$706 in 1991 and then increased to \$2,948 in 2010. During the same time, the figures in China rose from \$888 to \$6,786. As such, the income per capita in Vietnam was equal to 80% of Chinese in 1991, dropped to 43% in 2010. Vietnam's GDP per capita in PPP was less than a half of that of the Philippines or Indonesia, 1/5 of Thailand, 1/10 of Malaysia in 1991. The figures then exceeded the thresholds of ¼, 1/3 and 1/5 of the above said countries after nearly 20 years. The 2009 Vietnam Development Report of the World Bank showed that Vietnam's income per capita was behind by 51 years in comparison with Indonesia, 95 years with Thailand and 158 years with Singapore. [VietNamNet Bridge]

Vietnam - Vietnam to Have More Int'l Bond Issuers in 2012

Vietnamese listed firms and financial institutions are expecting to collect some \$2.35 billion from international bond issues in 2012. Big banks, including the state-run Vietnam Bank for Industry and Trade (Vietinbank) and the Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam (Vietcombank), and Asia Commercial Bank (ACB), have plans to issue international bonds in 2012. The plan to issue a \$500 million international bond of Vietinbank began in 2011. On March 19, the bank held road shows in Singapore, Hong Kong, London, Boston, New York, Los Angeles, and San Francisco to sell bonds. The board of Vietcombank was scheduled to submit a plan to issue \$1 billion in international bonds in 2012 at the coming shareholders' meeting. Also, ACB general director Ly Xuan Hai said the bank plans to issue \$100 million in international bonds in the ACB shareholders' meeting on March 30. [Tuoi Tre News]

Myanmar - Airlines Plot Out Expansion Plans to Tap Myanmar Rise

As Myanmar is opening up for investment, airlines are mapping out strategic plans to cash in on the surging traffic flows for business and leisure travel. International carriers including Thailand's Bangkok Airways and Thai AirAsia are looking at raising capacity to Yangon and operating flights directly to other major cities like Mandalay, Bagan and even the new capital Naypyitaw. Several international airlines, including Cathay Pacific, are pondering using Bangkok as a possible gateway to enter Myanmar, as it has been for years. All five Myanmar carriers and 16 international airlines operate out of Yangon International Airport, through which about half of foreign visitors arrive and depart the country. [Bangkok Post]

Indonesia - Indonesia Eyes 25% Mining Export Tax in 2012

Indonesia plans to impose a 25% export tax on coal and base metals this year, jumping to 50% in 2013, an industry ministry official said on Tuesday, as the major producer of raw materials looks to boost domestic investment and take a bigger slice of mining profits. It is hoped that introducing an export tax will prevent a deluge of mineral and metal ore shipments, as producers ramp up ahead of a planned 2014 ban, Industry Ministry Secretary General Anshari Bukhari told Reuters. "We should actually impose the export tax early this year, so that the current export rush can be avoided," he said. "In 2013 we plan to increase the export tax to 50%." Bukhari was unable to give an exact date for when the export tax would be introduced, but added that it would be imposed on miners' export sales. [CNBC]

Malaysia - CIMB Confirms Purchase of RBS's Asia Equity Arm

CIMB Group Holdings Bhd, Malaysia's second largest bank by assets, said Monday it has acquired most of Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC's cash equities and associated investment banking businesses in Asia Pacific for £173.9 million (US\$279 million). The acquisition will give CIMB Group new presence in Taiwan and Australia as well as enlarged operations in Hong Kong, India and China, CIMB Group said in a statement. "This is an excellent opportunity to complete the build-up of our capabilities in Asia Pacific markets and to do it quicker and less expensive than if we grew organically," said CIMB Group Chief Executive Nazir Razak. [WSJ]