

Friday March 16, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Mar 15)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	13,253	+59	+0.4
Nasdaq	3,056	+16	+0.5
S&P 500	1,403	+8	+0.6
VIX	15.42	+0.11	+0.7
MSCI World	1,314	+9	+0.7

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,941	-5	-0.1
DAX	7,144	+65	+0.9
CAC	3,580	+16	+0.4
Euro Stoxx	2,594	+17	+0.7

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,278	-9	-0.2
Nikkei	10,123	+73	+0.7
Shanghai	2,374	-17	-0.7
HSI	21,354	+46	+0.2
H Shares	11,241	-60	-0.5

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	3,026	-1	-0.0
Malaysia	1,579	+4	+0.2
PSEi	5,032	-19	-0.4
SET	1,171	+7	+0.6
LSX	942	+7	+0.7
Vietnam	442	+8	+1.8
Indonesia	4,040	-14	-0.4
FTSE ASEAN	572	-1	-0.2

Currencies Rap (as of Mar 15)

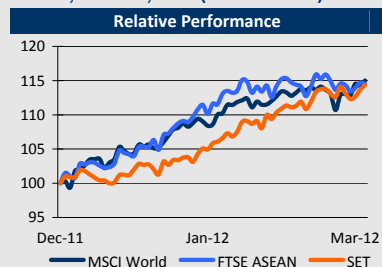
	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	80.25	-0.32	-0.39
THB/USD	30.79	+0.03	+0.10
LAK/THB	259.95	-0.10	-0.04
LAK/USD	8,004.00	+6.00	+0.08
USD/EUR	1.3043	-0.00	-0.23
JPY/USD	83.55	+0.10	+0.12

Commodities Rap (as of Mar 15)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,659.50	+16.60	+1.01
Silver	32.73	+0.55	+1.69
Copper	389.75	+4.95	+1.29
WTI	105.11	-0.32	-0.30
Brent	123.55	-1.42	-1.14
BDI	866	+11	+1.29

Source: Bloomberg

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Mar 15)



Source: Bloomberg

INDOCHINA NEWS

- Lao PDR - Thai Power Company Ramps up Job Creation in Laos
- Lao PDR - EDL-Gen to Pay 278 Billion Kip Dividend
- Cambodia - Tech Businesses Among Cambodia's Fastest-Growing Sectors
- Myanmar - South Korea Wants More Investments in Burma
- Myanmar - Myanmar Ministries Accused of Corruption
- Indonesia - Indonesia Govt Delays Power Price Hike
- Philippines - Unemployment in PHL Highest in Asean-Diokno

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Lao PDR - Thai Power Company Ramps up Job Creation in Laos

Ratch-Lao Service Company Limited, a Thai power company operating in Laos, is training Lao staff to work in many skilled positions at its power plants, according to a company executive. Managing Director Mr Jatuporn Soparaksa said on Monday the company sincerely intends to develop the skills of the Lao labour force, training technicians and management staff to work in various locations, especially the Hongsa power plant now under construction. The Hongsa plant is the first ever lignite-fired power plant in Laos and many skilled personnel will be required to build and maintain the facility. "This year, we have sent 30 Lao technicians to Thailand for training in job skill development and next year we will train 50 staff there," Mr Jatuporn said. He said the company is pleased to be able to help upgrade labour skills in Laos and to employ many people at the Hongsa plant when they have finished their training. [Vientiane Times]

Lao PDR - EDL-Gen to Pay 278 Billion Kip Dividend

EDL-Gen, one of two public companies listed on the Lao Securities Exchange, expects to pay a dividend of about 278 billion kip for the second half of 2011. According to a report from the company to the Lao Securities and Exchange Commission Office in Vientiane this week, the electricity generating firm plans to pay a before-tax dividend of 277,951 million kip, or 320 kip per share, for the last six months of 2011. EDL-Gen said shareholders of the public company will receive the dividend payment in early April. A share in EDL-Gen was worth 4,550 kip at the Lao Securities Exchange yesterday, up from 4,500 kip the previous day. However, only 100 shares were traded. [Vientiane Times]

Cambodia - Tech Businesses Among Cambodia's Fastest-Growing Sectors

More than one-sixth of Cambodian businesses in 2011 were part of the Kingdom's information and communications sector, a government census showed. Of the 182,439 new enterprises that sprang up in the country between June 2009 and March 2011, some 95,590 serviced the sector, according to the 2011 Economic Census of Cambodia. The census was issued this week by the National Institute of Statistics, the Ministry of Planning and the Japan International Cooperation Agency. A large majority of Cambodian businesses were small, with one- or two-person operations accounting for about 80% of the country's near 505,000 enterprises, the census showed. Industry insiders confirmed that recent developments in Cambodia's ICT sector had been made by small businesses. [Phnom Penh Post]

Myanmar - South Korea Wants More Investments in Burma

Representatives from 85 South Korean private companies will meet with Burmese counterparts during an economic cooperation forum in April to enhance trade between the two countries. The Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency said participants would have one-to-one trade and investment business meetings and construction and infrastructure meetings on economic development plans and strategies. Large conglomerates will include Samsung, Daewoo and Posco Steel. [Mizzima]

Myanmar - Myanmar Ministries Accused of Corruption

Myanmar's ministry of mining has rejected allegations of corruption raised in a government audit report that highlighted tensions within the government over efforts to tackle graft. Myanmar shared second place with Afghanistan last year in Transparency International's rankings of the most corrupt countries in the world. But there have been some signs of a crackdown under the leadership of Thein Sein, who took office as president last year. The report, compiled by the auditor-general's office and handed in confidence to parliament's public accounts committee, alleged that six ministries were involved in the "misuse" of billions of kyat of government funds – the current market rate is about Kt800 to \$1 – and a variety of other illegal transactions. Alongside mining, the ministries of information, agriculture and the two industry ministries were also accused of fraud and misappropriation of funds. [The Financial Times]

Indonesia - Indonesia Govt Delays Power Price Hike

Indonesia's government will delay a 10% hike in power prices planned for this year, in a move to allay fears of rising costs as it aims to hike fuel prices next month, the energy minister said on Thursday. Protests over the plan to lift subsidised fuel prices by a third have broken out across Southeast Asia's largest economy in recent weeks, though there is no sign the government will also postpone lifting fuel prices. Economists say the government needs to lift the prices of both motor fuel and electricity to wean consumers off subsidies and save the \$18 billion it spent on fuel subsidies last year, but the price hikes have led to forecasts for inflation at above 7% this year. [Reuters]

Philippines - Unemployment in PHL Highest in Asean-Diokno

Although the National Statistics Office (NSO) reported that the country's jobless rate eased to 7.2% in the January Labor Force Survey (LFS), experts remained unconvinced. The NSO also said the country's employment rate improved to 92.8%, while underemployment rate slowed to 18.8% in the January 2012 LFS. But former Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the employment numbers, particularly the unemployment rate, worsened compared to the October 2011 LFS when the unemployment rate was only at 6.4%. "The January 2012 employment numbers are nothing to crow about," Diokno said. "[Last October], many analysts were saying the Philippines may be out of the woods. They spoke too soon. The unemployment rate deteriorated from the October numbers and remains the highest in the Asean region." [Business Mirror]