



KASIKORNTHAI

Shareholder Newsletter

14th ISSUE 3, 3rd Quarter of 2022

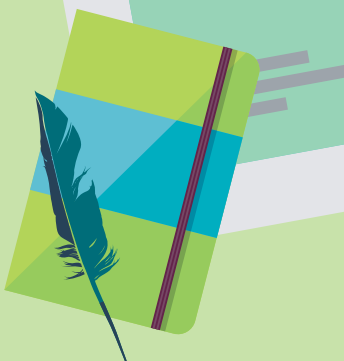
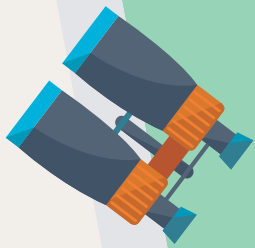
Thai economic performance in 2H2022 projected to improve over that in 1H2022.


China Comeback: Amid multiple challenges, is China still attractive?

KBank aim to become the regional digital bank of the new era in AEC+3.


Monkeypox



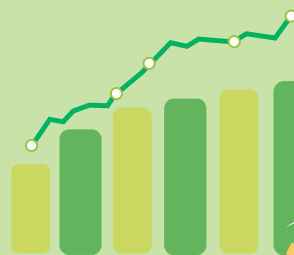




**Global economy set to
slow down in 2H2022.
Close attention must be
paid to geopolitical risks.**



**Thai economic performance
in 2H2022 projected to improve
over that in 1H2022,
supported chiefly
by tourism.**





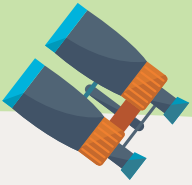
Soaring inflation has prompted central banks around the world to raise their policy rates



During 2Q2022, **the global economy was reeling from hovering inflation**. In the US, inflation kept rising during the quarter, with a 9.1 percent jump in June 2022. The figure was well above the 2 percent target set by the Federal Reserve (Fed), leading it to raise its policy rates higher than expected. The Fed raised its policy rate to 2.5 percent at the latest meeting in July 2022, against the 0.25 percent at the beginning of 2022. Other central banks, namely the European Central Bank, Bank of England and Reserve Bank of Australia followed suit as part of their efforts to stem runaway inflation. Steeper policy rate hikes than previously expected triggered concerns about a recession as economic activity began to exhibit growing signs of slowdown. The US economy experienced a “technical recession” in 2Q2022 as its GDP contracted for the second consecutive quarter at 0.9 percent QoQ. In spite of this, other economic indicators such as the labor market continued to post robust growth (as the unemployment rate remained low at 3.6 percent in June 2022). Looking ahead, it is expected that the Fed will continue its monetary tightening to curb soaring inflation. According to the CME Group, 69.5 percent of those polled on August 8, 2022 were of the view that the Fed Funds rate will stand at 3.00 - 3.25 percent at the end of 2022, up from the 31.4 percent of those polled on July 8, 2022, suggesting that **the Fed will press ahead with its rate hikes** during the remainder of 2022.



Concerns over inflation and recession will linger through 2H2022. **The global economy could be heading for a slowdown** amid a number of risks, including policy rate hikes undertaken by various central banks to combat rising inflation, and the fact that China is experiencing risks from its zero-COVID policy and the property sector. Additionally, product prices will continue to stay at elevated levels. Even though oil prices tend to decline from those seen in 2Q2022, but there is high uncertainty that prices will fall further because global oil supplies are projected to remain tight. The Russia-Ukraine war will not end in the near future. Geopolitical risks have recently emerged amid rising tensions between China and Taiwan. Beijing recently imposed a ban on key products imported from Taiwan such as largehead hairtail fish and citrus fruit from Taiwan. It also suspended sand exports to Taiwan. Meanwhile, Taiwan is one of the world's important manufacturing bases for computer chips, meaning prices of related products could increase and the global supply chain may be under increased pressure if such tensions escalate. Although the conflict between China and Taiwan has not substantially hurt global trade yet, the impact might be seen more clearly over the medium to long term.



Tourism is Thailand's key economic driver during the remainder of 2022, but there are several risks that must be closely monitored

After the Thai government eased several restrictions in a bid to open the country to foreign visitors, including the cancellation of the Thailand Pass system, there was a substantial increase in the number of international tourist arrivals in Thailand. In July 2022, that figure reached 1,210,000 (exceeding one million for the first time since the emergence of COVID-19), bringing the total to 3.3 million during 7M2022 (January - July). KResearch expects that the number of international tourist arrivals in Thailand will reach 7.2 million in 2022. We are of the view that tourism will be a key economic driver during the remainder of 2022. The export sector will also help bolster the Thai economy during 2022. In 1H2022, Thailand's outward trade grew 12.72 percent although it may slow down during 2H2022. Despite an anticipated increase in prices of various Thai exports, the gloomy global economic outlook may affect the export volume.

Additionally, despite persistently high commodity prices, particularly energy (although global energy prices have become more stable), the Thai government will likely reduce its energy subsidies due to the deficit seen in its Oil Fund.



Moreover, prices of other products such as pork, edible oils and consumer goods are set to increase further, thus prompting related operators to pass on their costs to consumers (the Consumer Price Index stood at 13.8 percent YoY in June 2022). As a result, spending and consumer purchasing power will be adversely affected.

Accelerating inflation and monetary policy tightening undertaken by the world's leading economies may prompt the Bank of Thailand to raise its policy rate 2 - 3 times during 2022. It is expected that Thailand's policy rate will stand at 1 - 1.25 percent at the end of 2022, against the current 0.5 percent. Higher policy rates will further hurt consumption and drive up financial costs of various businesses. However, while the Thai economy has yet to fully recover, financial institutions may introduce various assistance measures for their customers or gradually raise their interest rates to minimize the impact on the business and household sectors.

KResearch expects that the Thai economy will post higher growth than the prior estimate during the remainder of 2022. It may expand 3.7 percent in 3Q2022, supported by tourism and exports despite the key risk stemming from persistently high product prices.



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MONTHLY STRATEGY





MONTHLY STRATEGY

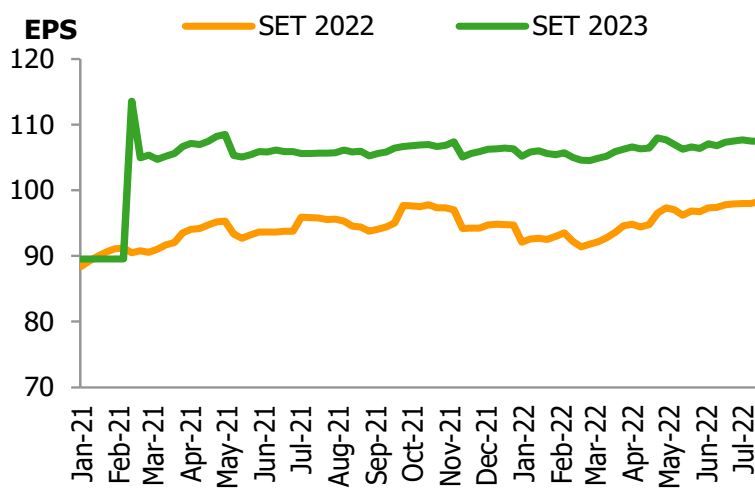
Eyeing the Market's
Turning Point



Stock Market Condition

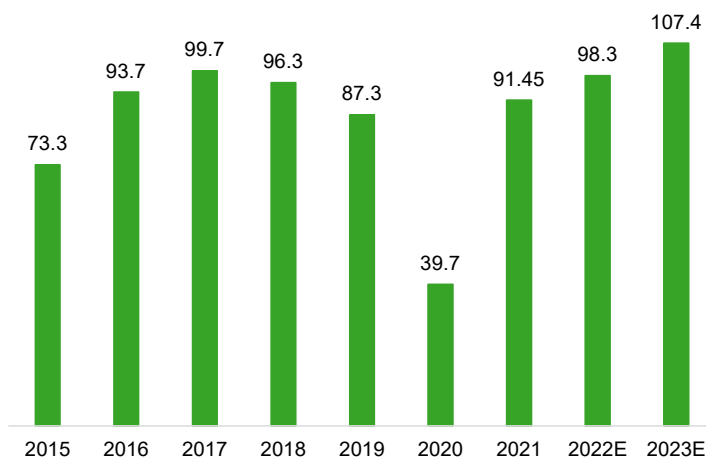
We are neutral on Thai equities as upside to our SET target of 1,650 is limited, pegged to 2023E EPS of Baht 107.40 and an earnings yield gap (EYG) of 3.47 percent (-0.875SD). Note that our 2023 EPS estimate was revised up by 0.3 percent MoM. Our house view now sees the Thai 10-year bond yield at 3.10 percent at end-2022. The SET Index fell by 4 percent YTD as its 12-month forward PER was derated to 15x vs. 18x at end-2021 due to recession fears resulting from the Fed's move to tighten monetary policy. However, SET 2022 - 2023E EPS was upgraded by 11 percent/20 percent YTD to 98.3/107.40, respectively, led by a better economic outlook.

Fig 1 SET EPS Revision Trend



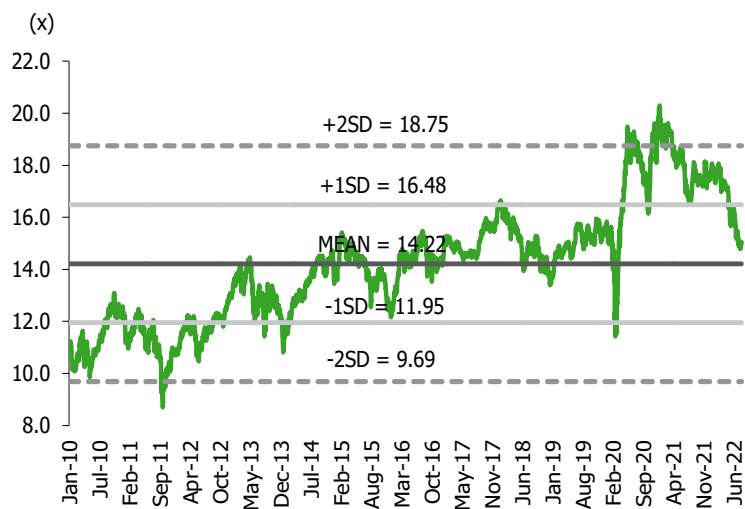
Source: Bloomberg, KS Research

Fig 2 Thai Market EPS Consensus Estimates



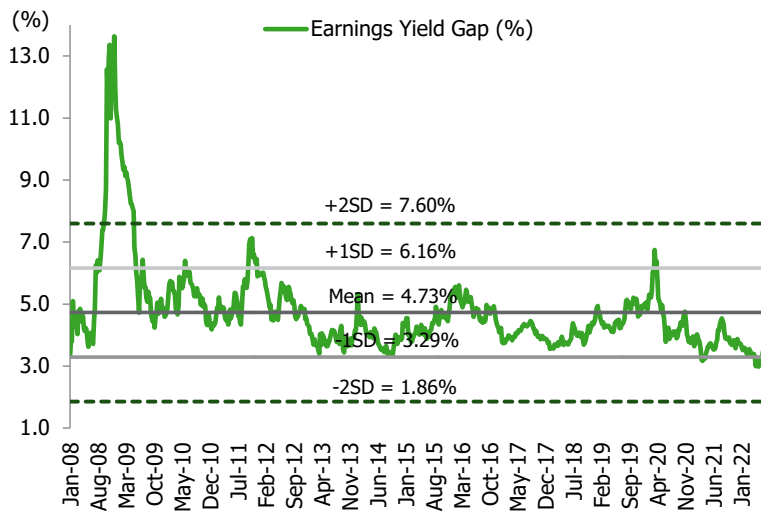
Source: Bloomberg, KS Research

Fig 3 PER



Source: Bloomberg, KS Research

Fig 4 Earnings Yield Gap



Source: Bloomberg, KS Research



Positive Factors

1) Higher tourist arrivals to boost Thai GDP growth in 2022 - 2023

Tourism recovery gains momentum as restrictions ease and confidence returns. According to the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, international tourism saw a 182 percent YoY increase in 1Q2022 to 117 million. However, international tourism remains 61 percent below 2019 levels of 1.5 billion p.a., but a gradual recovery is expected to continue throughout 2022 driven by easing travel restrictions and pent-up demand.

Europe and the Americas led the recovery with +280 percent YoY and +117 percent YoY gains, respectively, in 1Q2022. Asia and the Pacific recorded a 64 percent YoY increase in 1Q2022, but the number was 93 percent below that in 2019.

Pent-up demand and high saving rates should support a recovery of international tourist arrivals despite recession fears. The 2008 - 2009 global economic crisis caused a decline of 4 percent in international tourist arrivals and a decrease of international tourism revenue by 6 percent in 2009. This was much less than the impact from COVID-19 that caused international tourists to drop by 73 percent.

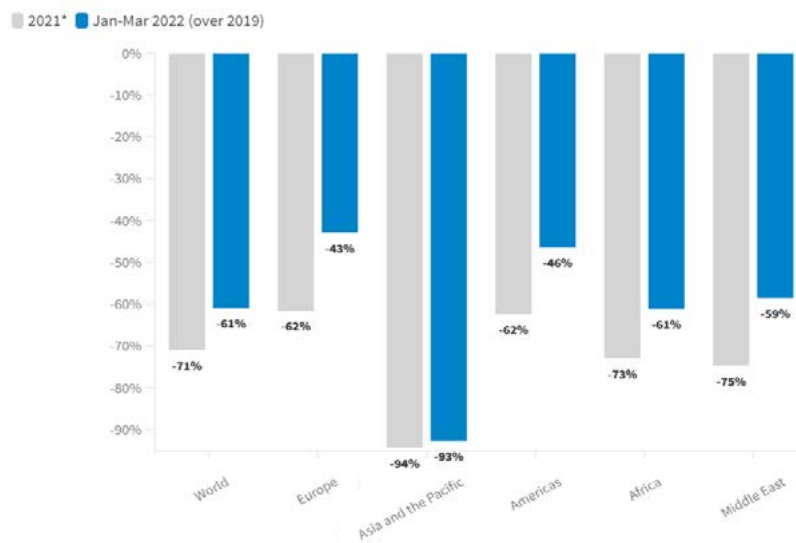
Easing restrictions on arrivals. Thailand welcomed 2.1 million tourist arrivals in 1H2022 as many pandemic entry restrictions were eased. Tourist arrivals increased to 767,497 in June 2022 vs. 521,410 in May 2022.

We expect tourist arrivals of 6.3 million and 24.8 million in 2022 - 2023. Based on 500K/month in 3Q2022 and 1 million/month in 4Q2022, our estimate of 6.3 million foreign visitors in 2022 should be achievable.

Weaker THB against major currencies. The stronger USD/THB (+22 percent vs. end-2019), EUR/THB (+12 percent vs. end-2019), AUD/THB (+22 percent vs. end-2019), CNY/THB (+28 percent vs. end-2019) and pent-up demand should support tourist arrivals after travel rules were eased.

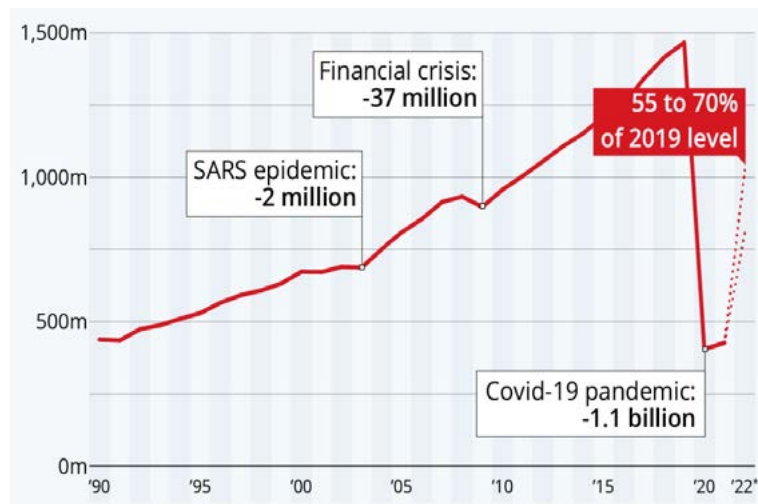
We found inbound tourist spending per head of Baht 60,000 per person in 2021 and Baht 56,456 per person in 2022, 21 percent and 14 percent above average spending in 2017 - 2019 in the pre-COVID era. This implies a high quality of inbound tourist arrivals in Thailand in 1H2022.

Fig 5 International Tourists Arrivals (% Relative to 2019)



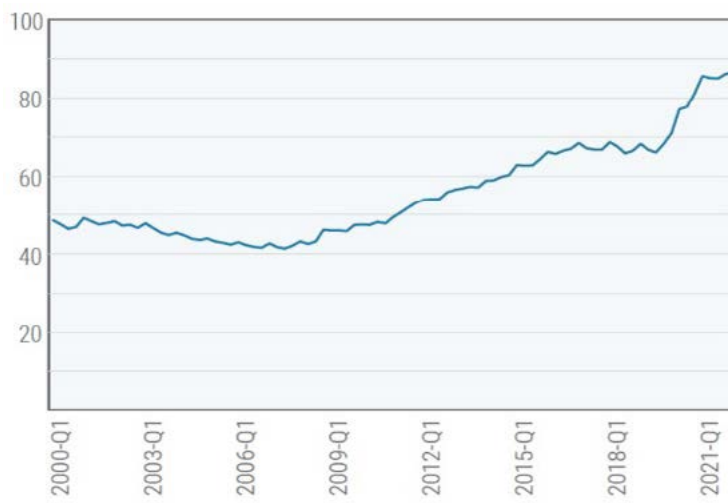
Source: UNWTO, Eurostat, and UN (as of July 2022)

Fig 6 International Tourist Arrivals



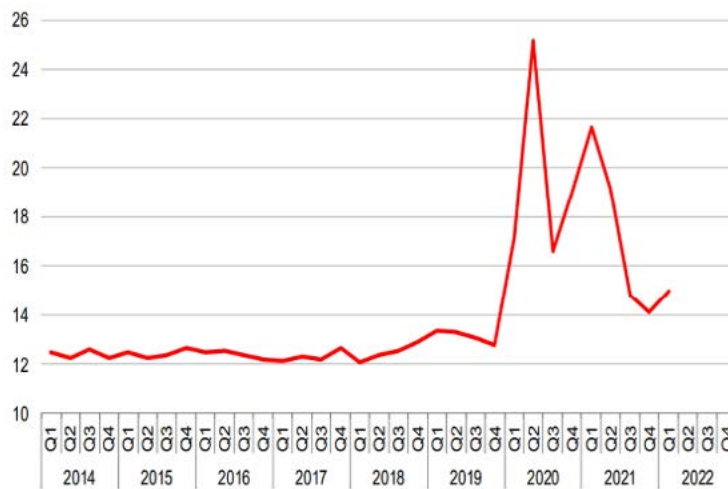
Source: UNWTO, Eurostat, and UN (as of July 2022)

Fig 7 Deposit-to-Liability of US Households



Source: UNWTO, Eurostat, and UN (as of July 2022)

Fig 8 Household Saving Rate in the Euro Area



Source: UNWTO, Eurostat, and UN (as of July 2022)



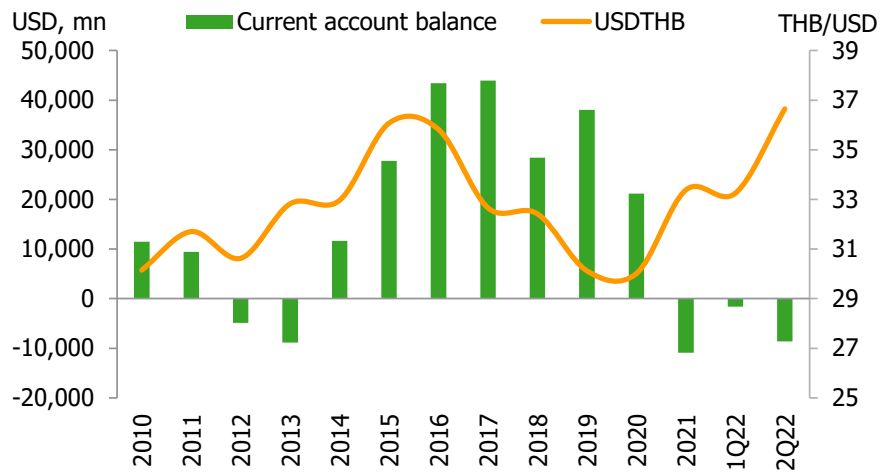
2) Low interest rates and a weak Baht

We expect the Bank of Thailand will go slow with rate hikes to support the economy with low funding costs and a weak Baht.

We expect Thailand's current account to turn to positive territory in 4Q2022 on rising tourist arrivals and lower oil prices. Note that every 1 million tourist arrivals will contribute about USD 1,250 million to service receipts in the current account. In addition, every USD 10 per barrel decrease in crude oil price will result in a lower import value by USD 400 million per month as Thailand imports 471 million barrels of oil per annum.

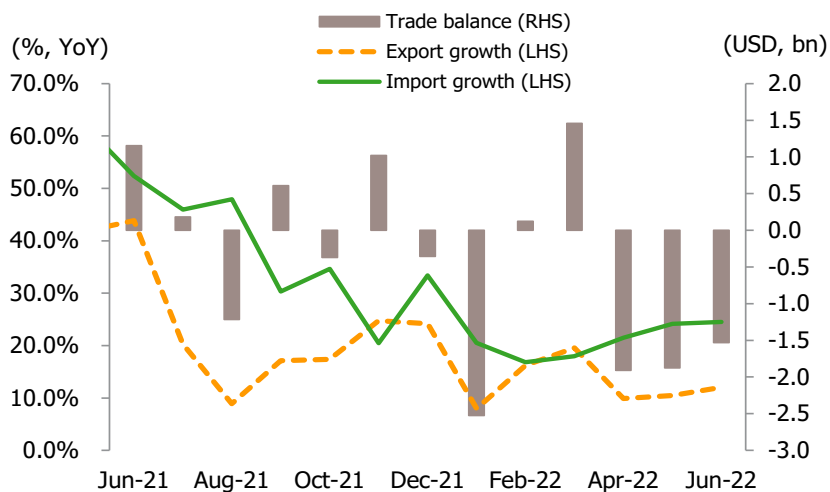
The Thai baht has depreciated by 9.2 percent YTD, the second-weakest tradable currency in Asia.

Fig 9 Thailand's Current Account vs. USD/THB



Source: Bank of Thailand and Bloomberg (as of July 27, 2022)

Fig 10 Thailand's Trade Balance

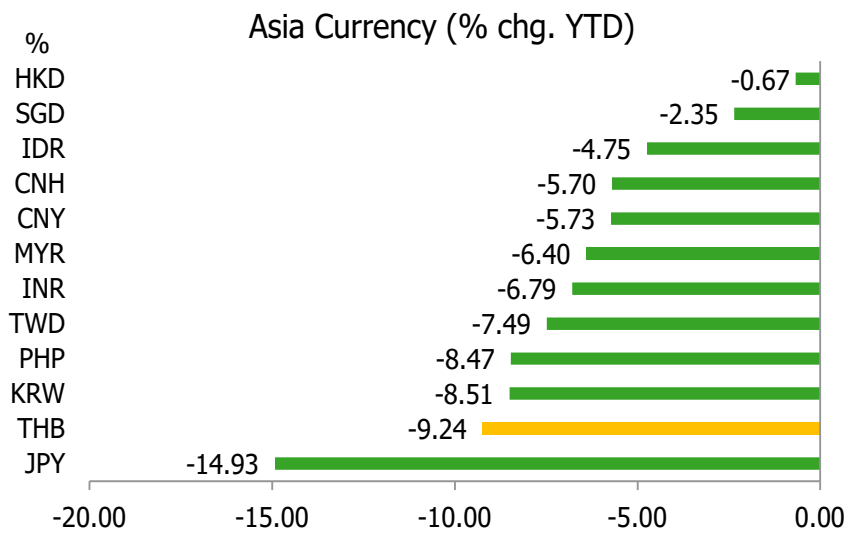


Source: Bank of Thailand and Bloomberg (as of July 27, 2022)



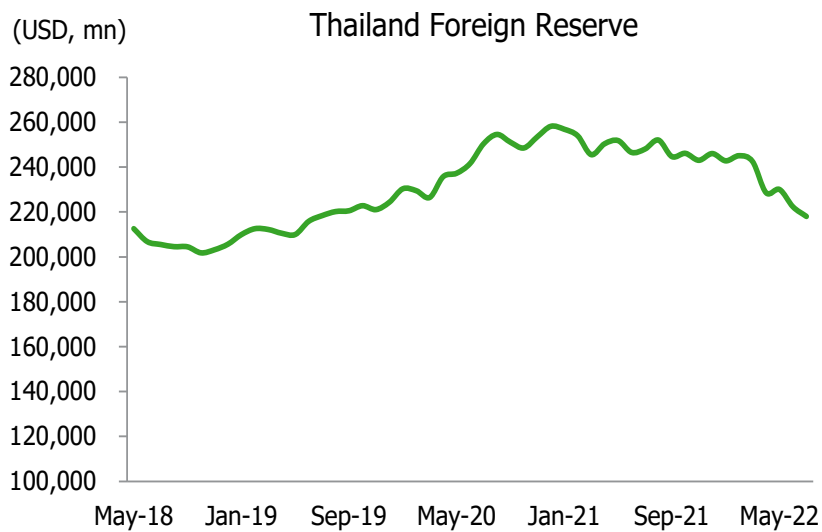


Fig 11 YTD Asia Currency



Source: Bank of Thailand and Bloomberg (as of July 27, 2022)

Fig 12 Thailand's Foreign Reserves



Source: Bank of Thailand and Bloomberg (as of July 27, 2022)

3) Inflation and US10Y bond yield could peak in 3Q2022

Bloomberg consensus expects US CPI to peak in 3Q2022. The key drivers of US CPI are food and energy prices owing to the Russia-Ukraine war. However, core CPI already peaked in 1Q2022.

Inflation peaking. We have seen lower demand-pull and cost-push inflation pressure. Higher interest rates and rising prices for homes are destroying housing demand. The NAHB housing market index in US fell 18 percent MoM to 55, the lowest level since 2020. Around 13 percent of builders in the HMI survey reported reducing home prices in the past month to bolster sales and/or limit cancellations. Key supply-side factors driving global inflation have already turned around as well on a loosening supply chain, i.e., commodities prices (-27 percent on average from their 52-week highs), inSpectrum Tech PC DRAM contract prices (-32 percent YoY), and the SCFI container (-5 percent YoY and -21 percent YTD).

Factors that will drive inflation down. We expect commodity prices to soften further on weaker demand and rising supply. Easing of supply chain disruptions, decelerating home price growth, lower US tariffs on Chinese goods, and higher crude supply from OPEC and non-OPEC producers will also help tame inflation.

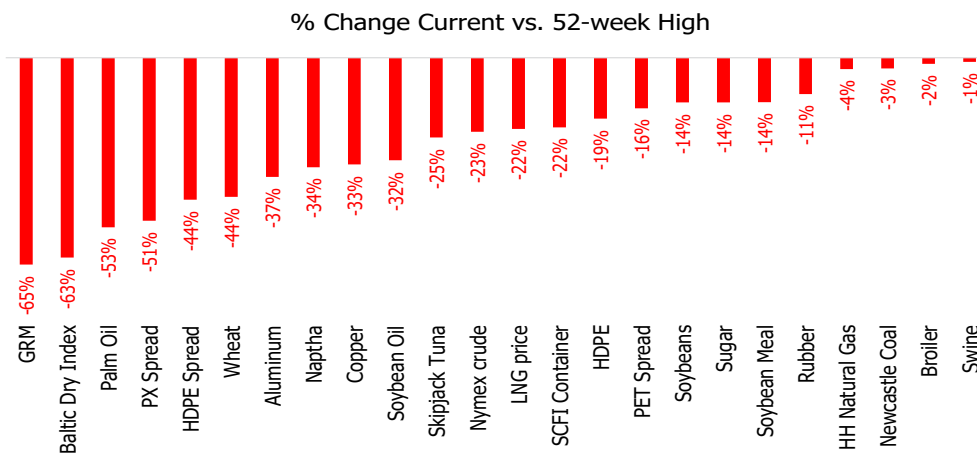


Fig 13 Bloomberg Economic Forecast

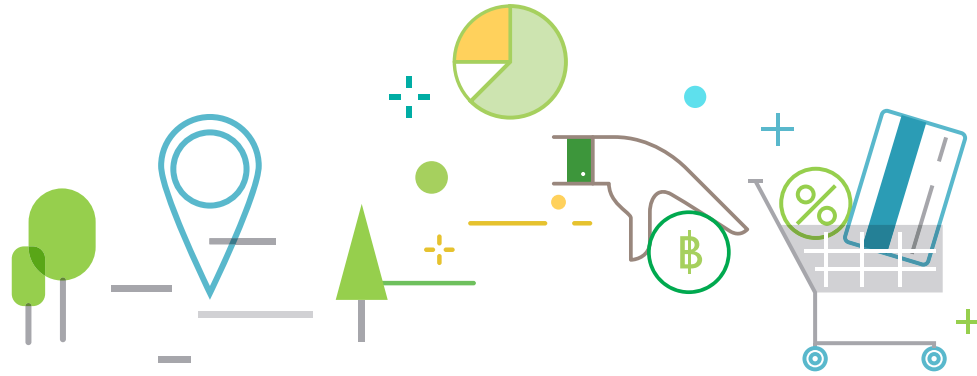
| | 3Q21 | 4Q21 | 1Q22 | 2Q22 | 3Q22E | 4Q22E | 2021 | 2022E | 2023E | 2024E |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| GDP | 4.9 | 5.5 | 3.5 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 0.7 | 5.7 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 1.8 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.1 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 5.4 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| CPI (% YoY) | 5.4 | 6.7 | 8.0 | 8.7 | 8.3 | 7.3 | 4.7 | 8.0 | 3.6 | 2.5 |
| Core CPI (% YoY) | 3.6 | 4.6 | 5.2 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.3 | 3.3 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 2.3 |
| Fed Funds Rate | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.50 | 1.75 | 3.00 | 3.55 | 0.25 | 3.55 | 3.25 | 2.80 |

Source: Bloomberg (as of July 27, 2022)

Fig 14 Changes in Commodity Prices (Current vs. 52-week Highs)



Source: Bloomberg (as of July 27, 2022)



4) Progress in the Russia-Ukraine situation

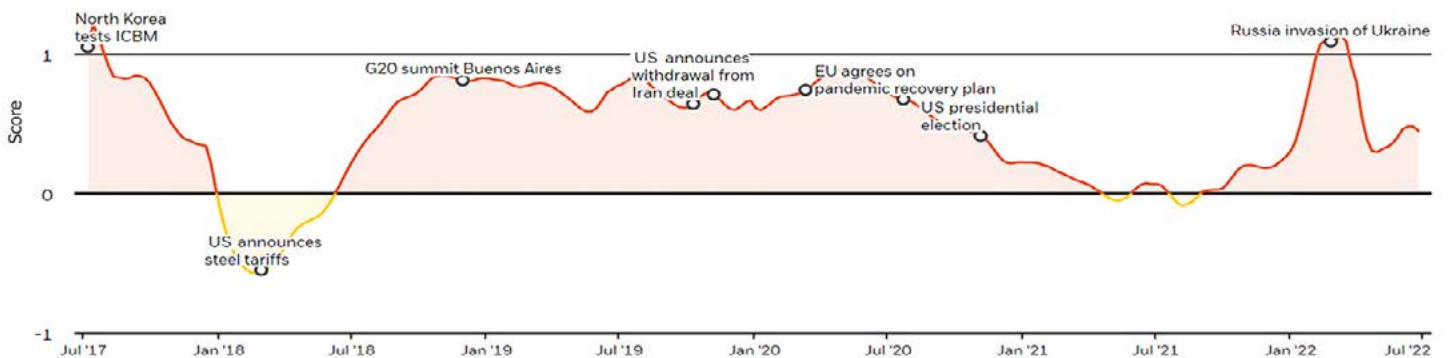
Europe may increase efforts to negotiate a cease-fire deal in Ukraine to avoid an energy crisis this winter. The EU has unfrozen some funds of top Russian banks in food products and fertilizer trade, and dropped sanctions on an Airbus titanium supplier in Russia in July.

Russia and Ukraine signed a UN-backed deal to resume grain exports via the Black Sea, the first major agreement between the two sides.

The global BlackRock Geopolitical Risk Indicator (BGRI), a simple average of our top-10 individual risks, aims to capture overall market attention regarding geopolitical risk. Its level has declined from its March peak as inflation and monetary policy have become the main focus of markets.

Key political events to be monitored this year are: US midterm elections (November 8), G20 summit (November 15 - 16), APEC summit (November 18 - 19), and China's Party Congress (November 2022).

Fig 15 Blackrock Geopolitical Risk Indicator



Source: Blackrock



Sectors and Top Picks

We remove KTB, CPF, ASIAN, GULF, CKP, CBG, BEM, and SCGP from our top picks and replace them with GPSC, CPALL, BE8, BBIK, SINGER, PTG, and JWD. We now have five investment themes:

- **Dividend yield plays (KKP, DTAC).** We expect dividend stocks to outperform during a market correction.
- **Defensive plays (BGRIM, GPSC, BH, CPALL).** Defensive plays are a hedge against economic recessions because they are counter-cyclical.
- **Growth plays (BE8, BBIK, RBF, SINGER).** We expect BE8, BBIK, RBF, and SINGER to deliver earnings growth of 40 - 70 percent on average in 2022 - 2023.
- **Reopening plays (MTC, PTG, ANAN, CENTEL).** Economic reopening, back to school and office, higher farm incomes and wages should boost loan demand for MTC, PTG's oil volume, ANAN's presales, and CENTEL's occupancy and room rates.
- **Positive developments in China (PSL, JWD).** China's reopening and stimulus measures would boost PSL's freight rates and JWD's volume.

Fig 16 Sectors and Top Picks

| Stock | Rating | Price (Bt) 01-Aug-22 | Target Price (Bt) | Upside (%) | P/E (x) | | P/BV (x) | | EV/EBITDA (x)* | | Net Profit grth (%) | | Div. Yield (%) | | ROE (%) | |
|--------|--------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------|-------|----------|-------|----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|----------------|-------|---------|-------|
| | | | | | 2022E | 2023E | 2022E | 2023E | 2022E | 2023E | 2022E | 2023E | 2022E | 2023E | 2022E | 2023E |
| KKP | OP | 65.25 | 90.00 | 37.9 | 7.1 | 6.5 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 22.4 | 9.8 | 7.0 | 7.7 | 14.4 | 14.6 |
| DTAC | OP | 45.75 | 58.43 | 27.7 | 31.0 | 19.0 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.2 | 5.5 | 6.5 | 63.2 | 3.2 | 5.3 | 18.4 | 32.3 |
| BGRIM | OP | 39.25 | 61.50 | 56.7 | 57.9 | 25.1 | 3.4 | 3.2 | 15.9 | 10.9 | -22.4 | 130.7 | 0.7 | 1.6 | 6.0 | 13.1 |
| GPSC | OP | 69.25 | 83.50 | 20.6 | 35.8 | 19.8 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 20.7 | 14.2 | -25.4 | 80.9 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 8.8 |
| BH | N | 184.50 | 181.00 | -1.9 | 40.6 | 29.0 | 8.0 | 7.0 | 19.3 | 18.9 | 196.8 | 40.0 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 19.7 | 24.3 |
| CPALL | OP | 59.75 | 73.60 | 23.2 | 38.1 | 27.0 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 3.6 | 15.3 | 38.5 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 12.9 | 15.8 |
| BE8 | OP | 52.00 | 48.56 | -6.6 | 75.9 | 52.7 | 15.6 | 14.1 | 4.6 | 3.6 | 66.6 | 44.0 | 0.9 | 1.3 | 21.3 | 28.1 |
| BBIK | OP | 69.00 | 73.82 | 7.0 | 69.4 | 45.7 | 11.9 | 10.9 | 68.3 | 44.8 | 49.6 | 51.6 | 1.0 | 1.5 | 17.7 | 24.9 |
| RBF | OP | 12.80 | 20.95 | 63.7 | 32.8 | 23.1 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 3.6 | 86.0 | 41.6 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 17.1 | 21.5 |
| SINGER | OP | 44.25 | 50.00 | 13.0 | 33.3 | 19.8 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 55.2 | 69.6 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 7.1 | 11.2 |
| MTC | OP | 49.00 | 55.00 | 12.2 | 18.0 | 14.5 | 3.5 | 2.9 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 16.7 | 23.9 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 21.0 | 21.6 |
| PTG | OP | 14.90 | 17.00 | 14.1 | 22.0 | 14.6 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 12.4 | 50.6 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 12.8 | 17.0 |
| ANAN | OP | 1.36 | 1.48 | 8.8 | 51.3 | 8.7 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 30.5 | 17.3 | n.m. | 492.1 | 0.6 | 3.5 | 0.7 | 4.3 |
| CENTEL | OP | 42.00 | 46.59 | 10.9 | -364.2 | 40.1 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 14.8 | 12.6 | n.m. | n.m. | 0.0 | 1.4 | -0.9 | 7.5 |
| PSL | OP | 17.90 | 25.50 | 42.5 | 4.8 | 6.1 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 3.8 | 4.7 | 29.8 | -21.4 | 10.1 | 10.1 | 36.6 | 25.0 |
| JWD | OP | 15.10 | 18.00 | 19.2 | 25.1 | 19.9 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 20.9 | 13.3 | 7.4 | 26.2 | 1.9 | 2.5 | 15.8 | 18.1 |

Source: Bloomberg, KS Research

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Neutral: Expected total return between -10 percent and 10 percent within a 12-month period.

Underperform: Expected total return of -10 percent or worse within a 12-month period.

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The survey result is as of the data appearing in the Corporate Governance Report of Thai Listed Companies. As a result, the survey result may be changed after that date. KS does not confirm nor certify the accuracy of such survey result.

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KS may be the issuer of structured notes on these securities.

KS acts as market maker and issuer of Derivative Warrants ("DWs") on the underlying stocks listed below. Investors should carefully read the details of the DWs in the prospectus before making any investment decisions.

DWs Underlying Stocks: ADVANC, AOT, BAM, BANPU, BBL, BCH, BDMS, BEM, BGRIM, BH, CBG, CHG, CKP, COM7, CPALL, CPF, CPN, CRC, DOHOME, DTAC, EA, EGCO, GLOBAL, GPSC, GULF, GUNKUL, HMPRO, INTUCH, IRPC, IVL, JMART, JMT, KTC, MINT, MTC, OSP, PTG, PTT, PTTEP, PTTGC, RBF, SAWAD, SCB, SCC, SCGP, SET50, SPRC, STA, STEC, STGT, TIDLOR, TISCO, TOP, TRUE, TTB, TU, VGI, and WHA.



19 Investment Channels

Product Strategy Department
KASIKORN ASSET MANAGEMENT COMPANY LIMITED





CHINA COMEBACK:

Amid multiple
challenges,
is China still
attractive?



- ▷ Unlike elsewhere, no signs of a recession or inflationary pressure have emerged in China.
- ▷ Keep an eye on international political conflicts in the wake of the US House Speaker's visit to Taiwan.
- ▷ Real estate woes persist after desperate homebuyers halt mortgage payments for unfinished homes.
- ▷ China maintains its zero-COVID policy, but its control measures have become less stringent.
- ▷ As China's stock markets may have bottomed out, it's now high time to gradually accumulate Chinese shares.



Amid signs of a recession in the global economy – mostly in the US and Europe – several countries are opting for interest rate hikes to tame runaway inflation.

However, there are not yet signs of a recession in China, where inflation remains subdued. In contrast to other central banks, the People's Bank of China remains comfortable in adopting an accommodative stance. What's more, Chinese stocks have become more attractive in the eyes of global investors thanks to their prices, which are looking cheap now, and 2022 earnings projections of approx. 10 - 14 percent, compared to the US bourse.

Amid a general lack of confidence, investors are reluctant to invest in Chinese stock markets. KASSET's views towards various issues can be summarized as follows:

1. Geopolitical issues following US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan

The visit to Taiwan by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has angered China. The Chinese responses to this move included condemnation of the US and military drills in designated areas surrounding Taiwan. However, no measures that may have direct impacts on trade and investment have yet been implemented, as previously seen during President Trump's tenure. Therefore, impacts on the global economy and investor confidence remain limited. Despite the rift, there is a possibility that China and the US may end up at the negotiating table. All eyes are now on whether US-China tensions will intensify further.

2. China's real estate crisis

The persistent Chinese real estate troubles are a cause for concern. In recent news reports, homebuyers refused to pay mortgages on unfinished homes of more than 100 stalled property projects across 50 cities amid anxiety about real estate firms' liquidity crunch. Even though the number of homebuyers boycotting repayment is small (representing only 0.01 percent of the total, based on J.P. Morgan data as of July 21, 2022), the number may continue to rise if homebuyers' confidence sags further. However, KAsset believes that the Chinese government will be able to prevent any further escalation of the property crisis.

3. Zero-COVID policy

China still adheres to its zero-COVID policy, but restrictions have been eased and made more flexible, such as lockdowns only in some cities and for shorter periods, with rapid and comprehensive COVID-19 testing. Additionally, China has shortened the suspension time for inbound international flights on routes found to have COVID-19 cases, to boost international arrivals. This reflects the Chinese government's increased efforts to adopt flexible policies and reduce economic impacts.

4. China's business control measures

In the past year, Chinese tech companies and property developers were under pressure from the authorities. However, the worst seems to be over. Officials have mostly dealt with the cases occurring since last year, and have not implemented any new regulations that would significantly affect business operations. As normal practice, the Chinese government will relax its regulations amid economic slowdowns and tighten them amid high economic growth. Therefore, KAsset projects that China will not impose rigorous business control measures in the current economic conditions.

5. GDP growth not likely to reach 5.5 percent target in 2022

China's second-quarter GDP growth was lower than market forecasts due to its lockdowns in April - May 2022. However, the manufacturing and service sectors saw improvements in June 2022. Amid multiple challenges, the Chinese government must increasingly involve itself in boosting the economy so as to reach its GDP growth target of 5.5 percent this year, while also easing restrictions. Despite major economic stimulus packages not yet being issued, the government has gradually released additional relief measures. This will influence a revision of key economic figures, which will be seen after the third quarter onwards.

Although the aforementioned issues have caused the Chinese stock market to remain volatile, KAsset views that the market has already passed its trough and is on the path towards recovery. It is expected that in the second half of this year, the Chinese stock market will see improvements thanks to several supporting factors. This presents a great opportunity to gradually invest over the long term.



Disclaimer:

Investors should study products' features, conditions and associated risks before making an investment decision.



KBank

aims to become the Regional Digital Bank of the new era, making inroads into

Vietnamese market

with targets of lending worth Baht 20 billion and 1.2 million customers within next year

KASIKORNBANK (KBank) is pressing ahead to become the Regional Digital Bank of the new era in AEC+3. Guided by the strategy of leveraging its key strengths – customer relations, partnerships and technologies – the Bank is determined to deliver services accessible to local users through deployment of “challenger bank” technology. Aiming to invest more than Baht 2.7 billion to fortify its service network within the region, KBank has announced its commitment to broadening its presence in the Vietnamese market in order to serve customers across all segments with digital services. The Bank has set targets of loans amounting to Baht 20 billion and a retail customer base of 1.2 million by 2023.





Riding the wave of post-COVID economic recovery, KBank is gearing up to become the Regional Digital Bank of the new era

Ms. Kattiya Indaravijaya, KBank Chief Executive Officer, noted that bright prospects lie ahead for the ASEAN economy in the post-COVID era. Aside from a recovering economy, ASEAN is known for its large marketplace with a growing share of young people – the main driver for its economic expansion. Moreover, the bloc’s economy is set to see exponential growth as more consumers lead a digital life. Against this backdrop, KBank has set its sights on expanding our services within the region in a bid to provide greater opportunity for Thai businesses while delivering a positive customer experience to local retail and business clients, ensuring that they will gain improved access to transactional banking and loan services for broader service coverage.

- Investment of Baht 2.7 billion to fortify the status of the Regional Digital Bank of the new era with the disruptive DNA of a “challenger bank”

Ms. Kattiya said that, guided by our regional bank business plan, KBank will focus on development of technologies and manpower, investment in startups and business acquisition in key strategic areas during the next three years. Within a budget of Baht 2.7 billion, KBank will work towards building business networks embedded with the DNA of a “challenger bank” to deliver services on digital platforms to local users with high agility, while aiming to become the Regional Digital Bank of the new era.

- Synergy of three strengths: customer relations-partnerships-technologies

KBank has employed the Asset-Light Digital Banking Strategy to expand its businesses in the AEC+3 market, emphasizing the business partnership format. Through investment in and cooperation with local technology companies and startup businesses, KBank has achieved satisfactory progress in terms of networks and service technologies that are more responsive to users’ requirements. Key strategies that have led KBank’s operations consist of: (1) “Aggressive Play” in lending to corporate customers, including investors and local business operators; (2) “Mass Acquisition Play” in expanding the customer base via cooperation with business partners with focus on provision of transactional banking services via digital channels and achievement of transaction linkage at the regional level as a regional payment platform; and (3) “Disruptive Play” in developing new patterns of financial services, especially digital lending, with the use of alternative data to reach out to the underbanked group, which constitutes a large customer base in the AEC+3 bloc, and stepping forward to become a Banking-as-a-Service (BaaS) business.



KBank making greater inroads into Vietnam – ASEAN’s most-promising market

Mr. Pipit Aneaknithi, KBank President, said that the Vietnamese economy is poised to record the fastest growth in ASEAN, thanks to its huge potential in attracting investment from around the world. Additionally, Vietnam has emerged unscathed from the COVID-19 crisis, and its public debt is below 60 percent of GDP. Vietnam also exhibits a promising outlook and is set to become a newly industrialized country (NIC) – with high upper middle-income status – by 2030, and a developed country by 2045.

The Vietnamese government has the policy of promoting the country to become a new technology hub for Asia. The country has more than 100 million people, and they are relatively young, with a working-age majority. Its middle-class population has grown significantly in recent years. Domestic consumption is projected to grow at 7 percent over the next three years. Additionally, spending via digital channels is prevalent in Vietnam, as evidenced by the fact that more than 50 percent of its consumers shop online.

- **Tapping all segments via digital product solutions**

Mr. Pipit said further that KBank aims to be the first foreign bank in Vietnam to offer full-fledged “digital product solutions” to all customer segments, including local and international investors, particularly those operating trading, services, basic infrastructure and industrial businesses, as well as retail and small business customers via deposit products, personal loans and payment acceptance systems. As a leader in digital and mobile banking services in Thailand, KBank will use its

technological capabilities to improve related services for customers in Vietnam. This will include the use of K PLUS Vietnam as a base for creating a digital lifestyle ecosystem for retail customers nationwide, and the offering of digital lending with the launch of KBank Biz Loan to small merchants. We have focused on a direct approach to customers through our partners and local platforms via the investment of KASIKORN VISION, an investment arm of KBank, as well as the establishment of KBTG Vietnam to support technological development for service provision both in Vietnam and region-wide.

- **Business model in Vietnam – reinforcing the “Regional Digital Bank of the new era” strategy**

Mr. Pipit added that KBank has entered the Vietnamese market with the aim of offering digital services connected to customers through banking channels and partner platforms. The move reinforces the Bank’s strategy of becoming the Regional Digital Bank of the new era. As a “challenger bank” focusing on greater flexibility and using technologies to reach out to consumers, KBank is confident that it will be able to connect banking services to local customers in Vietnam in a broad, convenient, fast and responsive manner. By 2023, the Bank has set a target of 1.2 million Vietnamese retail customers, providing loans of Baht 20,000 billion, and to continuously expand new products and services.

Presently, KBank has an overseas service network covering the AEC+3 countries and beyond, for 16 countries in all. The newest overseas branch is in Ho Chi Minh City. Aside from more than 84 financial partners worldwide, the Bank has more than 20 startups in which it has invested and partnerships within the region, as well as a regional customer base of more than 1.85 million people.





KBank works with six leading partners in unveiling “KLOUD by KBank”

KASIKORNBANK (KBank) has teamed with PTT Global Chemical Public Company Limited (GC), Chulalongkorn University (CU), Advanced Info Services Public Company Limited (AIS), Cement-Building Materials Business (SCG), and Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (Public Organization) (TGO) in the launch of the “Innovative Iconic Green Building” under the name “KLOUD by KBank” to enliven all ideas and represent the prototype of a “Green Area” in the heart of Siam Square. The building comes with functions that connect lives with creativity while applying innovative technologies that can spark inspiration under the “create YOURNiVERSE” concept. KLOUD by KBank aims to attract the new generation to use this area for knowledge sharing, learning as well as participating in fun-filled activities to spark creativity, and join in creating value for other people, thus contributing to sustainable growth for the society.



Ministry of Public Health upgrades “Moh Prompt” application to be Thailand’s digital health platform

The Ministry of Public Health, The Thai Red Cross Society (TRCS), KASIKORNBANK (KBank), Internet Thailand Public Company Limited (INET), and SCG Logistics Management Co., Ltd. (SCG) held a joint press conference on their cooperation in elevating the status of the “Moh Prompt” application, which presently focuses on COVID-19-related services, to be Thailand’s digital health platform through development of 12 main features. The event was held at the Ministry of Public Health.



KBank teams with TD to invest more than Baht 15 billion to develop Tookdee shops

In collaboration with Carabao Group Public Company Limited (Carabao Group), KASIKORNBANK (KBank) is going to invest more than Baht 15 billion to develop Tookdee shops as a hub for advancing the community economy throughout Thailand. The initiative aims to create an opportunity for people in rural communities who seek to own a shop while also providing them access to one-stop financial services including loans. KBank’s investment will involve debt instruments together with warrants of TD Tawandang Co., Ltd. (TD). It also plans to sign a joint investment agreement to establish a joint venture offering comprehensive loan services. The Bank aims to see Tookdee shops at the forefront of local community convenience stores which also offer comprehensive transactional banking and loan services, with around 30,000 stores to be operational by 2024.



KBank wins “Bank of the Year 2022”, “Best Securities Company of the Year 2022” and “Best Mutual Fund of the Year 2022” Awards

KASIKORNBANK (KBank) received two distinguished awards, namely “Bank of the Year 2022” for the second consecutive year, in recognition of KBank’s most impressive operating results in 2021, and “Best Design Excellence Award” for its large exhibition booth. Additionally, KASIKORN SECURITIES (KSecurities) received the “Best Securities Company of the Year 2022” award, and KASIKORN ASSET (KAsset) received the “Best Mutual Fund of the Year 2022” award for the K Mid Small Cap Equity RMF, reflecting KBank’s efficient business operations that are well-recognized by all customer segments. These awards were presented by Money and Banking Magazine.

KBTG sets its sights on becoming a top tech organization in Southeast Asia within three years

KASIKORN BUSINESS-TECHNOLOGY GROUP (KBTG) held a press conference to unveil KBTG VISION 2025 as part of its drive towards creating the era of “Human First, Universe of Technology”. To this end, KBTG has prioritized personnel and technological development while also bolstering its innovative capacities through KBTG Labs. KBTG also aims to enhance its system capabilities to accommodate the anticipated increase in banking transaction volume within the AEC+3 region and brace for global financial trends to achieve the status of Southeast Asia’s top tech organization by 2025.



KBank PRIVATE BANKING คว้า 2 รางวัลผู้ให้บริการไพรเวทแบงก์ยอดเยี่ยม ในประเทศไทยจาก 2 เวทีระดับโลก



KBank Private Banking wins two distinguished awards

KASIKORNBANK (KBank) received two distinguished awards in private banking service, namely “Winner: Best Private Bank Thailand”, from the Global Private Banking Innovation Awards 2022, and “Best for Mass Affluence/HNW in Thailand”, from the Asiamoney Private Banking Awards 2022. This reflects the status of KBank Private Banking as an outstanding provider of comprehensive wealth management services, reinforcing its position as Thailand’s leading provider of world-class private banking service.

M N K E



Monkeypox is a disease which spreads from animals to humans (Zoonotic Diseases). Monkeypox virus is in the Poxviridae family, in the genus Orthopoxvirus. Monkeypox virus can be carried by many types of animals, especially apes and rodents such as squirrels and rats. The disease has been reported frequently in central and west African countries.





YPOX

Spreading of Monkeypox:

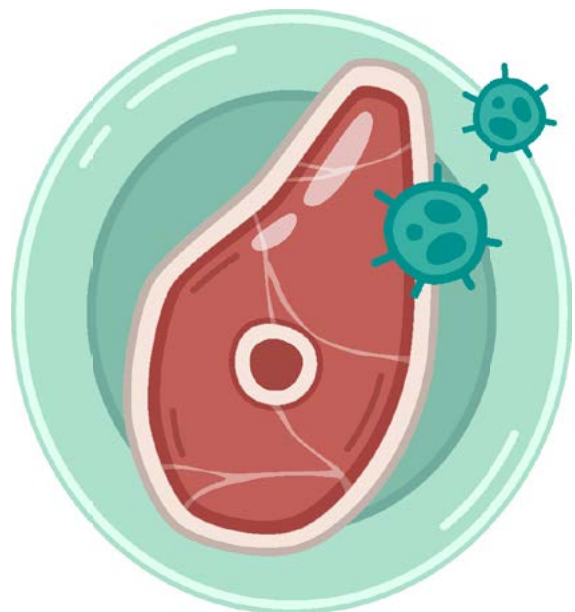
- From animal to human by touching bodily fluid, touching the wounds of sick animals, and consuming undercooked animal meat.
- From human to human by exposure to droplet respiratory particles of patients or touching objects contaminated with patients' bodily fluid, such as clothes.

In addition, there is a hypothesis that Monkeypox can be transmitted through intercourse as well. However, there is not enough supporting evidence.



Two distinct genetic clades of Monkeypox virus are:

- West African type, which results in mild symptoms with low fatality rate of 1 percent.
- Central African type, which results in more severity with 10 percent fatality rate.



Symptoms of Monkeypox:

Monkeypox needs 5 - 21 days of incubation in the host. In general, this disease does not possess serious symptoms, and its symptoms can be seen in two stages:

- **Starting stage (Day 0 - 5)** fever, headache, swollen lymph nodes, backache, muscle ache, weakness. Patients can start to spread the disease since the first day of symptoms. However, in following stages, patients can spread the disease more easily.
- **Rash stage (within 1 - 3 days after fever)** a rash starts to spread from the face to other parts of the body (Centrifugal pattern). In general, 95 percent of patients show the rash in their faces. 75 percent of patients show the rash on the palm of their hands and on their feet. 70 percent of patients show rashes in other areas such as inside the mouth cavity, and 30 percent show rashes in their genitalia area. Rash types often progress from Maculopapular (reddish areas), to Vesicles (clear bubbles), to Pustules (yellowish bubbles), and Crust. After the rashes turn to a dry crust, the spread of the disease stops.



Patients with Monkeypox can often recover by themselves. However, some patients may develop severe symptoms such as:

- Children with other health problems such as autoimmune disease.
- Patients with severe side effects, such as additional infection, lung infection, meningitis, bloodstream infection, keratitis or corneal infection, which may lead to loss of vision.

Diagnosis:

- Diagnosis of Monkeypox can be done through Real-time PCR of fluid from skin lesions, Nasopharyngeal exam, Tonsillar exam, or from blood sample submitted to the lab at the National Institute of Health of Thailand, Department of Medical Sciences.



Treatment:

- At present, there is no specific treatment for Monkeypox. However, the spread of this disease can be controlled by the smallpox vaccine, which has an effective prevention rate of 85 percent.



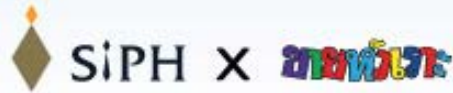
Preventive measures:

- Avoid touching sick animals, especially potential disease carriers such as monkeys or rodents.
- Wash your hands with soap or alcohol frequently, especially after touching animals or public objects.
- Avoid touching secretions, wounds, blood, or lymph fluid of animals.
- Wear face masks in areas of Monkeypox spread.
- Avoid touching bodily fluids, wounds, or lesions of Monkeypox patients or persons with high risk of Monkeypox. In the case that there is potential disease contamination but still within the past 14 days, one should get a vaccine. (However, the Monkeypox vaccine is not yet available in Thailand as of June 6, 2022).

Reference: Disease Prevention and Control Unit, Quality Improvement Section, Siriraj Piyamaharajkarun Hospital.

For more information: please contact emergency clinic, 1st floor, Zone A

Source: <https://www.siphospital.com/th/news/article/share/monkeypox>



สุข(ภาพ)กำลังดี

คู่มือสุขภาพดีประจำบ้านฉบับอารมณ์ดีพิเศษ

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