China / Hong Kong Industry Focus China Auto Sector

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

27 <u>Apr 2022</u>

Supportive measures to boost vehicle sales

- Pandemic lockdown and macro uncertainty are slowing vehicle sales; government stimulus action to stem further decline
- Anticipate local governments to rollout stimulus such as subsidies to support vehicle sales, especially NEVs
- Lowered our 2022 PV sales growth estimates to 6%, but expect NEV market to remain robust at 50% expansion
- BYD (1211 HK) is our top pick

Government actions to stem a slowing vehicle market. The slowing economy plus recent lockdown are expected to further drag the China PV market. The full impact of the lockdown has yet to be reflected in Mar-22 PV sales, which recorded a decline of only c.1% y-o-y. The current lockdown is affecting two major vehicle production hubs - Changchun and Shanghai (which houses the nation's largest auto OEMs like SAIC Motor and FAW Group) and the supply chain disruption is also affecting auto OEMs in other regions. Plus, the slowing down of the Chinese economy (1022 GDP growth of 4.8%) is also unfavourable on consumption. Estimates show that the lockdowns could potentially shave 20% off total vehicle production. To stem the negative impact, the central government has announced broad directives to boost the vehicle market, and we anticipate local governments to release more details largely covering sales subsidies and incentives to boost vehicle sales and support EV charging infrastructure development.

Lowering vehicle sales assumptions for 2022. The lockdown and challenging macro environment have led us to cut our 2022 PV sales growth assumption to 6%, down from 7.5% previously. Foreign brands' sales were down 15% y-o-y while the self-brand segment grew by 21% in Mar-22. High crude oil price continues to hurt the ICE vehicle market (sales contracted 6% in 1Q22), signalling greater challenges for the vehicle OEMs. Although auto manufacturers in the affected regions have resumed production, it could take some time to return to pre-lockdown levels. Hence, we estimate 2Q22 total PV sales to decline by 5-8% y-o-y.

NEV plays have better upside potential. BYD remains our favourite given its sterling 1Q22 NEV sales. The company is also the first auto OEM to exit from the ICE vehicle business to focus on NEVs, which should accelerate its valuation rerating potential. The company's financials is expected to remain healthy given the strong NEV sales outlook. BYD's share price has recovered c.30% from its trough YTD. The stock is currently trading at 73x PE (FY22F), which is slightly above its historical average mean.



HSI: 19,946

ANALYST

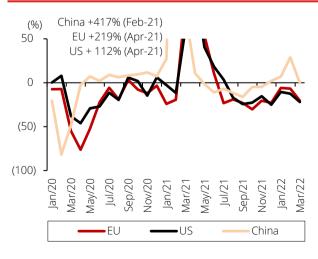
Rachel MIU +852 36684191 rachel_miu@dbs.com

Recommendation & valuation

Company	Price HK\$	Target Price HK\$	Recom	Mkt Cap US\$m	PE 22F x
BAIC Motor 'H' 1958 HK	2.32	2.90	HOLD	2,370	3.5
<u>BYD 'H'</u> 1211 HK	224.00	330.00	BUY	96,339	73.4
<u>Dongfeng Motor</u> 489 HK	5.30	6.40	HOLD	5,821	3.1
<u>Great Wall</u> <u>Motor</u> 2333 HK	10.48	24.00	BUY	25,309	8.0
<u>Geely</u> <u>Automobile</u> 175 HK	11.58	20.00	BUY	14,791	8.4
<u>Guangzhou</u> <u>Automobile</u> 2238 HK	6.24	9.00	BUY	14,741	4.7

Source: Thomson Reuters, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ("DBS HK")

Light vehicle monthly sales growth by markets



Source: CEIC



Pandemic impact and supply chain disruption; cut PV sales growth

Vehicle market showing signs of slowing down, lowering 2022 PV sales growth forecast. The Mar-22 total vehicle sales declined by 11.6% y-o-y (with the passenger vehicle (PV) volume sales eased slightly by c.1% y-o-y), but we believe it has yet to reflect the full impact of the pandemic lockdown.

The lockdowns in Changchun and Shanghai are causing production halts, (both estimated to account for around 20% in total production) and the full impact is expected to reflect in the 2Q22 sales numbers. The lockdowns are not only affecting auto OEMs production in those areas but could have a chain reaction on auto OEMs in other regions, due to supply shortages of auto parts and components from the affected factories. The key auto production hubs, as shown in the chart below, make up about 70% of total production. Therefore, any lockdown in one of these production hubs could have a chain reaction on the entire vehicle ecosystem. Based on preliminary projections, we estimate 1Q22 total PV sales to record 5-8% decline.



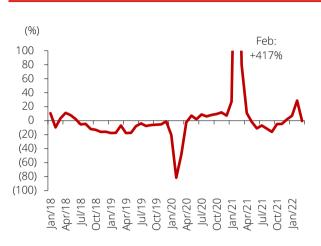
Vehicle production by region (2021)

Source: NBS

In view of the headwinds from supply chain disruption and pandemic lockdown which are dragging the growth in the Chinese economy and consumer market, we have revised down our 2022 PV sales growth forecast from 7.5% to 6% and premium car sales to 9% (prev: 12%). The commercial vehicle (CV) market is expected to remain weak, and projected to contract by 6% in 2022.



Total PV monthly sales growth



Source: CEIC

Impact of pandemic lockdown on foreign auto brands is more substantial. The drop in production on the foreign auto brands is greater. Foreign brand PV sales fell by 15% yo-y in Mar-22, dragging 1Q22 sales growth to only 1%.

Foreign and self-brand PV sales growth



Source: CEIC

The production slowdown of the foreign brands also has a negative implication on the high-end and premium segment. Premium auto brand retail volume posted weaker sales numbers in 1Q22 (down 8% y-o-y), which we believe is largely due to the lockdown, affecting footfall to distributors' stores in Shanghai and other markets as well as reduction in supply of premium cars to the dealerships. We believe the impact on the auto dealerships will be reflected in Apr-22 sales.

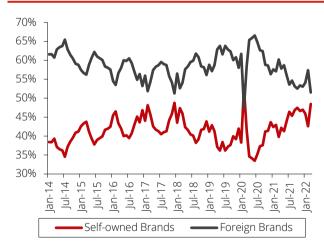
China Auto Sector



Source: CPCA

Self-brand PV segment taking market share. On the other hand, self-brand PV volume sales has increased by 21% in Mar-22. This is largely attributable to the strong sales in the NEV market, which expanded by about 140% each in Mar-22 and 1Q22. Hence, the self-brand segment has been winning market share and we anticipate the Chinese OEMs to increase their share to about 50% in the foreseeable future, based on the current growth momentum.

Market share split between self and foreign auto brands



Source: CEIC

ICE vehicle market share has further shrunk. The weak Mar-22 PV sales was largely attributable to a sharp decline in ICE vehicle sales (down c.17%). The average gasoline price in China has jumped by c.40% YTD given the high crude oil price. As a result, in terms of sales, the market share of ICE



vehicles to total PV market has fallen from c.93% in 2020 to 77% in 1Q22. We anticipate the downward pressure on the ICE vehicle market to continue.

ICE vehicle sales growth



Source: CEIC

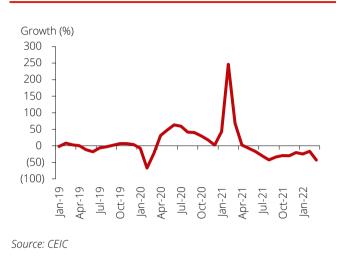
Macro environment is challenging, affecting consumption.

China's 1Q22 GDP grew by 4.8% and the lockdown could have an adverse impact on the economic outlook, affecting consumer sentiment and car sales eventually, as the nation's consumption power falls. Our bank has revised down China's 2022 GDP growth to 4.8% from 5.3%.

The Chinese government is trying to support the economy and while the fiscal policy is a potential driver for commercial vehicles sales, the outlook is expected to remain challenging. We believe sales will continue to be weak as the 1Q22 CV sales have plunged by almost 30% y-oy.

Live more, Bank less

China Auto Sector



Commercial vehicle market looks challenging

Government policy to support auto market

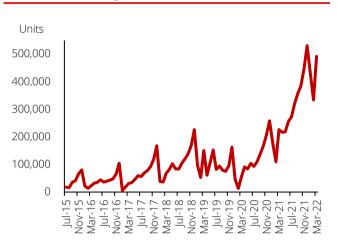
Stimulus measures to support auto market sales. The Central government has recently reiterated its stance to support the auto market (particularly NEVs), hoping to stem the deceleration of the Chinese economy. The major areas of support are: 1) to boost automobile sales with replacement options; 2) NEV subsidies; 3) incentive to support building of EV charging infrastructure points; and 4) removal of sales restrictions and to relax sales quota and vehicle usage. We anticipate more local governments to follow the central government's initiatives with details on the stimulus measures in the coming months.

As a reference, the Shenzhen government has rolled out an auto replacement programme in Mar-22 to encourage vehicles sales, with subsidies of Rmb5,000 per NEV and Rmb3,000-5,000 per gasoline car (depending on value of vehicle).

The Guangdong government has also pushed out an EV charging infrastructure programme in Mar-22, aimed at accelerating the rollout of EV charging points from 2022-2023. The Guangdong government has allocated some Rmb240m as incentives to EV charging operators and service providers in 2021. The new programme is expected to further enhance the EV charging infrastructure coverage in Guangdong province.

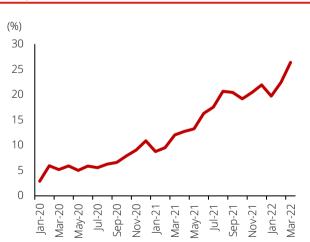
A promising NEV market outlook. Although there could be some slight fluctuations in monthly NEV sales due to the lockdown, the NEV market outlook remains robust this year. In fact, we are maintaining our full year sales estimate of 5.3m units, or growth of 50% y-o-y. In 1Q22, total NEV sales reached about 1.2m units, 144% y-o-y higher. More importantly, NEV penetration is rising steadily, and strong sales momentum is expected to stay despite the current market challenges.

China NEV monthly sales



Source: CEIC

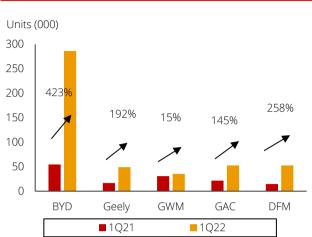
NEV penetration rate



Source: CEIC; DBS HK

Among the Chinese OEMs, BYD has reported the best sales growth for 1Q22.

China Auto Sector



Chinese OEMs 1Q22 NEV sales

Accumulate NEV names

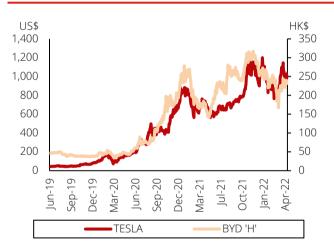
NEV players have better fundamentals. The NEV players are expected have better earnings fundamentals as they are riding on the EV market uptrend. As such, many Chinese NEV proxies are accelerating their vehicle electrification transition as shown in the above chart.

BYD remains our top pick. Its share price has recovered from the trough this year, and is currently trading at 73x FY22F PE, which is slightly above its historical average mean. BYD's financial position is expected to stay healthy given the strong NEV sales outlook (1Q22: NEV sales +400%; net earnings expected to increase by 174%-300% based on positive profit alert). The strong financial performance is remarkable, as the company is rolling out more NEV models



especially under its Marine series to boost future sales. We are maintaining our NEV sales CAGR at 60% (FY21-23F) to support earnings growth of c.90% over the same period. The company is the first traditional auto OEM to exit the ICE vehicle market (since Mar-22) to focus on expanding the NEV operations. This should further strengthen its market position. Lately, BYD has proposed a Rmb1.85bn A-share repurchase programme to support its employee share ownership scheme. In the longer-term, we believe the employee share ownership programme is crucial to incentivise staff engagement and propel the company to the next level of development, especially in the highly competitive NEV market. Maintain BUY with HK\$330 TP (based on SOTP methodology).

BYD vs Tesla share price performance



Source: Thomson Reuters

Source: Company

BYD - PE band chart

China Auto Sector



Х 250 200 +2SD: 147.1x 150 100 +1SD: 105.8x Avg: 64.5x 50 1SD: 23.1x 0 -2SD: -18.2x -50 May-13 Jul-12 May-18 Mar-19 Mar-14 Jan-15 Nov-15 Sep-16 Jul-17 Jan-20 Nov-20 Sep-21 Jul-22



Source: Thomson Reuters, DBS Vickers

Source: Thomson Reuters, DBS Vickers

Peers' comparison table (Auto Parts)

				Mkt		PE	PE	Yield	Yield	P/Bk	P/Bk	EV/EB	ITDA	ROE	ROE
			Price		Fiscal	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F
Company Name	Code C	Currency	Local\$	US\$m	Yr	х	х	%	%	х	х	х	х	%	%
Hong Kong															
Fuyao Glass Industry Gp. Co.'H'	3606 HK	HKD	31.20	12,937	Dec	16.5	13.5	3.9	4.6	2.5	2.3	8.3	7.2	15.6	17.8
Minth Group*	425 HK	HKD	17.72	2,597	Dec	8.9	6.8	4.6	5.8	1.0	0.9	6.4	5.2	11.4	13.7
Nexteer*	1316 HK	HKD	4.13	1,321	Dec	5.8	4.4	3.5	4.6	0.6	0.5	1.8	1.1	11.1	13.2
Weichai Power 'H'	2338 HK	HKD	10.40	13,822	Dec	7.6	6.6	4.1	4.7	1.0	0.9	3.1	2.8	12.8	13.1
Xinyi Glass Holdings	868 HK	HKD	16.90	8,677	Dec	6.8	6.5	7.1	7.8	1.7	1.4	5.7	5.6	26.1	24.2
Average						9.1	7.6	4.6	5.5	1.3	1.2	5.1	4.4	15.4	16.4
China															
Fangda Special Stl.Tech. 'A'	600507 CH	CNY	8.16	2,683	Dec	6.2	6.0	13.8	13.5	1.6	1.5	n.a.	n.a.	26.3	24.6
Fuyao Glss.Ind.Group 'A'	600660 CH	CNY	34.45	12,937	Dec	21.4	17.5	3.0	3.5	3.3	3.0	13.2	11.4	15.5	17.8
Huayu Automotive Sys.'A'	600741 CH	CNY	18.06	8,684	Dec	7.8	6.9	5.7	6.3	0.9	0.9	3.7	3.3	12.3	12.4
Jiangsu Pac.Precn.Frgg. 'A'	300258 CH	CNY	8.00	588	Dec	12.7	10.5	2.6	n.a.	1.1	1.0	11.5	10.8	9.2	9.8
Lingyun Industrial 'A'	600480 CH	CNY	7.28	1,018	Dec	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Ningbo Huaxiang Elt.'A'	002048 CH	CNY	13.53	1,680	Dec	7.1	6.1	4.3	4.8	0.9	0.8	5.4	4.7	13.1	13.3
Weifu High Tech.Gp.'B'	200581 CH	HKD	15.91	2,046	Dec	4.9	4.5	10.8	11.7	0.7	0.6	6.1	5.5	13.3	13.5
Zhejiang Wanliyang Tnsm. 'A'	002434 CH	CNY	6.38	1,277	Dec	8.8	7.3	10.0	n.a.	1.2	1.1	10.9	9.4	12.6	13.6
Weifu High Tech.Gp.'A'	000581 CH	CNY	20.09	3,091	Dec	8.4	7.8	6.5	6.7	1.0	0.9	6.4	5.9	12.2	12.2
Zhejiang Yinlun Mch.'A'	002126 CH	CNY	7.89	953	Dec	15.6	11.8	1.2	1.6	1.3	1.2	11.1	8.9	8.7	10.6
Changzhou Xingyu Autv. Ltg.'A'	601799 CH	CNY	110.70	4,823	Dec	22.9	17.6	1.3	1.6	3.6	3.0	18.5	14.3	16.1	18.0
Average						14.5	11.7	5.4	5.6	1.7	1.5	9.6	8.2	13.3	14.0

Source: Thomson Reuters, *DBS HK

BYD - PB band chart



	Cur	ropor	Price	Mkt	Fiscal	РЕ 22F	РЕ 23F	Yield 22F	Yield 23F	P/Bk 22F	P/Bk 23F	EV/E 22F	BITDA 23F	ROE 22F	ROE 23F
Company Name	Code	rency	Local\$	US\$m	Yr	22F X	23F X	_ %	23F %	22F X	25F X	22F X	23F X	- ۲۲ %	23r %
Hong Kong															
Guangzhou Automobile 'H'*	2238 HK	HKD	6.24	14,741	Dec	5.6	4.7	5.3	6.4	0.6	0.5	3.4	3.1	10.1	11.3
Sinotruk (Hong Kong)	3808 HK	HKD	8.5	2,991	Dec	4.4	4.0	7.7	8.1	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.7	10.9	11.0
Dongfeng Motor Gp.'H'*	489 HK	HKD	5.3	5,821	Dec	3.1	2.9	9.6	10.5	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.7	8.1	8.3
Great Wall Motor 'H'*	2333 HK	HKD	10.48	25,309	Dec	8.0	5.9	6.3	8.5	1.2	1.0	4.5	3.6	15.4	18.7
BYD 'H'*	1211 HK	HKD	224	96,339	Dec	73.4	46.9	0.1	0.2	5.3	4.8	18.4	14.6	7.5	10.8
Geely Automobile Hdg.*	175 HK	HKD	11.58	14,791	Dec	10.9	8.4	1.9	2.4	1.3	1.2	4.8	4.0	12.7	14.7
BAIC Motor 'H'*	1958 HK	HKD	2.32	2,370	Dec	3.9	3.5	7.7	8.6	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4	7.4	7.8
Average^						5.7	4.7	6.1	6.8	0.7	0.6	(1.6)	(4.0)	12.1	13.0
China															
Saic Motor 'A'	600104 CH	CNY	15.14	26,979	Dec	6.3	5.5	5.5	7.6	0.6	0.6	5.0	4.5	9.8	10.0
Faw Jiefang Group 'A'	000800 CH	CNY	7.69	5,459	Dec	9.0	8.3	5.8	6.4	1.3	1.1	3.1	2.8	14.2	14.2
CQ Changan Auto 'A'*	000625 CH	CNY	9.16	10,663	Dec	n.a.	n.a.	0.0	0.0	n.a.	n.a.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CQ Changan Auto 'B'	200625 CH	HKD	3.26	3,171	Dec	4.0	3.1	7.9	10.1	0.3	0.3	6.0	4.9	8.9	10.4
Anhui Jianghuai Auto 'A'	600418 CH	CNY	7.62	2,538	Dec	45.6	25.8	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	12.3	10.1	2.3	4.0
Yutong Bus 'A'	600066 CH	CNY	7.36	2,540	Dec	16.2	11.6	3.5	5.1	1.1	1.1	7.9	5.8	6.7	9.3
Great Wall Motor 'A'	601633 CH	CNY	22.82	25,309	Dec	21.0	15.4	2.4	3.2	3.1	2.7	12.5	9.6	15.4	18.7
Guangzhou Auto 'A'*	601238 CH	CNY	10.95	14,741	Dec	11.9	9.8	2.5	3.1	1.2	1.1	7.0	6.2	10.1	11.3
BYD 'A'*	002594 CH	CNY	235.01	96,339	Dec	92.1	58.9	0.1	0.2	6.7	6.1	22.7	17.9	7.5	10.8
Average						25.7	17.3	3.2	4.1	1.9	1.7	8.5	6.9	8.3	9.9

Source: Thomson Reuters, *DBS HK

Peers' comparison table (Auto Dealers)

Company Name	Code Cu	irrency	Price Local\$	Mkt Cap US\$m	Fiscal Yr	PE 22F x	PE 23F x	Yield 22F %	Yield 23F %	P/Bk 22F x	P/Bk 23F x	EV/EBI 22F x	TDA 23F x	ROE 22F %	ROE 23F %
Zhongsheng*	881 HK	НКD	50.7	15,607	Dec	10.3	8.3	1.9	2.4	2.1	1.7	5.8	4.5	22.3	22.9
China Zhengtong	1728 HK	HKD	0.54	189	Dec	2.1	3.5	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.1	13.8	12.4	42.2	36.4
Grand Baoxin Auto	1293 HK	HKD	0.51	184	Dec	1.7	1.6	n.a.	n.a.	0.1	0.1	1.7	1.5	7.2	7.6
China Yongda Auto*	3669 HK	HKD	6.52	1,635	Dec	3.6	3.2	10.5	12.0	0.7	0.6	2.6	2.2	20.1	20.1
China Meidong Auto	1268 HK	HKD	24.90	4,032	Dec	15.3	11.9	4.0	5.4	5.3	4.8	11.2	8.5	37.5	38.9
China Harmony	3836 HK	HKD	3.45	687	Dec	5.5	4.9	6.1	6.9	0.5	0.5	4.2	3.8	9.8	10.9
Average						6.4	5.6	4.5	5.3	1.7	1.5	6.5	5.5	23.2	22.8
Tan Chong Motor Holdings	TCM MK	MYR	1.12	173	Dec	28.0	17.5	2.1	2.3	0.3	0.3	n.a.	n.a.	1.1	1.6
Wuchan Zhongda 'A'	600704 CH	CNY	4.8	3,804	Dec	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Offcn Education Tech 'A'	002607 CH	CNY	4.45	4,186	Dec	20.1	12.5	4.1	5.0	6.3	4.2	22.4	15.4	35.2	37.5
Chd.Autv.Ssgp.'A'	600297 CH	CNY	2.1	2,598	Dec	6.2	5.3	3.0	2.9	0.4	0.3	6.4	5.7	6.5	7.0
Wuxi Coml.Mansion 'A'	600327 CH	CNY	4.77	644	Dec	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Average						18.1	11.7	3.1	3.4	2.3	1.6	14.4	10.6	14.3	15.4

Source: Thomson Reuters, *DBS HK

DBS

Live more, Bank less



			Mkt	PE	PE	P/S	P/S	P/Bk	P/Bk	EV/EBI	TDA	ROE ROE
		Price	Cap	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F	23F	22F 23F
Company Name	Code	Local\$	US\$m	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	х	%%
BYD 'H'*	1211 HK	224	96,339	73.4	46.9	2.0	1.6	5.3	4.8	18.4	14.6	7.5 10.8
Nio Adr 1:1	NIO US	16.36	29,785	n.a.	n.a.	3.1	1.9	6.6	6.9	(33.9)	60.3	(20.1) (4.6)
Tesla	TSLA US	876.42	907,980	72.7	56.4	10.5	7.9	21.4	16.5	39.7	29.5	32.9 31.4
Xpeng Adr 1:2	XPEV US	22.71	21,723	n.a.	n.a.	3.3	2.0	3.4	3.9	(20.1)	(47.8)	(17.3) (10.1)
Li Auto Adr 2 1:2	LI US	21.15	21,554	n.a.	66.8	2.7	1.6	3.7	3.4	(1673.4)	37.0	0.9 5.1
Average				73.0	51.7	4.3	3.0	8.1	7.1	(333.9)	18.7	0.8 6.5

Source: Thomson Reuters, *DBS HK



China Auto Sector



DBS HK recommendations are based on an Absolute Total Return* Rating system, defined as follows: STRONG BUY (>20% total return over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame) BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps) HOLD (-10% to +15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, -10% to +10% for large caps) FULLY VALUED (negative total return, i.e., > -10% over the next 12 months) SELL (negative total return of > -20% over the next 3 months, with identifiable share price catalysts within this time frame)

*Share price appreciation + dividends

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Sources for all charts and tables are DBS HK unless otherwise specified.

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DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited

13th Floor One Island East, 18 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong Tel: (852) 3668-4181, Fax: (852) 2521-1812



DBS Regional Research Offices

HONG KONG

DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Ltd Contact: Carol Wu 13th Floor One Island East, 18 Westlands Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong Tel: 852 3668 4181 Fax: 852 2521 1812 e-mail: dbsvhk@dbs.com

SINGAPORE DBS Bank Ltd

Contact: Janice Chua 12 Marina Boulevard, Marina Bay Financial Centre Tower 3 Singapore 018982 Tel: 65 6878 8888 e-mail: groupresearch@dbs.com Company Regn. No. 196800306E

INDONESIA

PT DBS Vickers Sekuritas (Indonesia) Contact: Maynard Priajaya Arif DBS Bank Tower

Ciputra World 1, 32/F Jl. Prof. Dr. Satrio Kav. 3-5 Jakarta 12940, Indonesia Tel: 62 21 3003 4900 Fax: 6221 3003 4943 e-mail: indonesiaresearch@dbs.com

THAILAND

DBS Vickers Securities (Thailand) Co Ltd Contact: Chanpen Sirithanarattanakul

989 Siam Piwat Tower Building, 9th, 14th-15th Floor Rama 1 Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok Thailand 10330 Tel. 66 2 857 7831 Fax: 66 2 658 1269 e-mail: research@th.dbs.com Company Regn. No 0105539127012 Securities and Exchange Commission, Thailand