China / Hong Kong Company Update Zhongan Online P&C Insurance

Bloomberg: 6060 HK Equity | Reuters: 6060.HK

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DBS Group Research . Equity

25 Jan 2024

BUY

Last Traded Price (24 Jan 2024): HK\$13.54 (HSI: 15,900) Price Target 12-mth: HK\$27.00 (99% upside) (Prev HK\$32.00)

Analyst

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What's New

- Moderate premium growth expected in FY24; health and digital lifestyle ecosystems remain the key driver
- Combined ratio (under IFRS 17) expected to further improve to 96.3%/96.1% in FY24/25F, despite possibility for ZA Bank and ZA Tech to breakeven later-than-expected
- Positive asset-liability duration gap position stands favourable amid a continuously declining rate environment with FX loss impact from US denominated bonds to further alleviate
- Roll over valuation base to FY24F with new IFRS 17 forecast and lower TP to HK\$27. Maintain BUY.



Forecasts and Valuation

| 2022A | 2023F | 2024F | 2025F |
|---------|--|--|--|
| N/A | 1,090 | 1,311 | 1,573 |
| N/A | 928 | 939 | 997 |
| (1,356) | 251 | 294 | 481 |
| (0.92) | 0.17 | 0.20 | 0.33 |
| (1.01) | 0.19 | 0.22 | 0.36 |
| N/A | N/A | 17.1 | 63.4 |
| nm | 72.5 | 61.9 | 37.9 |
| 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 13.09 | 13.22 | 13.39 | 13.81 |
| 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| (15.7) | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.9 |
| | (72) | (80) | New |
| | 1.08 | 0.91 | 1.19 |
| | B:27 | S:0 | H:3 |
| | 2022A N/A N/A (1,356) (0.92) (1.01) <i>N/A</i> nm 0.00 0.0 13.09 1.0 | 2022A 2023F N/A 1,090 N/A 928 (1,356) 251 (0.92) 0.17 (1.01) 0.19 N/A N/A nm 72.5 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 13.09 13.22 1.0 1.0 (15.7) 1.6 (72) 1.08 | 2022A 2023F 2024F N/A 1,090 1,311 N/A 928 939 (1,356) 251 294 (0.92) 0,17 0.20 (1.01) 0.19 0.22 N/A N/A 17.1 nm 72.5 61.9 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 13.09 13.22 13.39 1.0 1.0 1.0 (15.7) 1.6 1.8 (72) (80) 1.08 0.91 |

Source of all data on this page: Company, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ("DBS HK"), Thomson Reuters

A better year ahead

Investment Thesis

Underwriting quality to further improve in FY24. Zhong An's premium growth (likely to reach +26% y-o-y) in FY23F continued to outpace the market, with combined ratio (COR) further improved thanks to the normalization of health insurance ecosystem claims post-COVID. Looking ahead, with the continuous growth in premium scale (expect +14%/+15% y-o-y premium growth in FY24/25F) and channel mix, we expect its COR to reach 96.3%/96.1% (under FIRS 17) in FY24/25F, down from 96.6% in FY23F.

Health and digital lifestyle ecosystem to drive growth. We believe demand in health and digital lifestyle ecosystem will continue to drive growth, driven mainly by continuous health product upgrades, robust demand for "million-dollar" medical insurance, pent-up demand for the need of travel insurance post-COVID, and growth in innovative products (i.e. pet insurance). With the expectation of slower HK/China GDP growth outlook, we believe management's previous breakeven target on ZA Bank and ZA Tech by FY24F may delay till FY25F.

Favourable asset-liability duration gap position. With China's interest rate to further decline in FY24F, we believe this stands positive to P&C insurers' duration gap compared to lifers. The US dollar may also start to weaken amid US rate cut expectations and this will help alleviate its FX conversion losses derived from its US dollar denominated bond (at US\$950m as of 1H23).

Lower TP to HK\$27. Maintain BUY. We roll over our valuation base to FY24F and introduce our IFRS 17 forecast. By also lowering multiple to 2.2x FY24F P/BV (previously 2.5x) to mainly reflect A/H-share market risk, we lower TP to HK\$27.

Key Risks

Substantial slowdown in GWP growth, rising competition from internet giants and traditional insurers, slower China GDP growth, policy risk, and worsening equity market performance.

At A Glance

| Act Clarice | |
|--|----------------|
| Issued Capital (m shrs) | 1,470 |
| Mkt Cap (HKm/US\$m) | 19,345 / 2,475 |
| Major Shareholders (%) | |
| Ant Group Co., Ltd. | 10.7 |
| Ping An Insurance Group Co of China Ltd | 10.6 |
| Ou (Yafei) | 9.4 |
| Shenzhen Tencent Computer Systems Company Ltd. | 8.1 |
| Unifront Holdings Ltd. | 6.3 |
| Free Float (%) | 54.9 |
| 3m Avg. Daily Val. (US\$m) | 3.80 |
| GICS Industry: Financials / Insurance | |

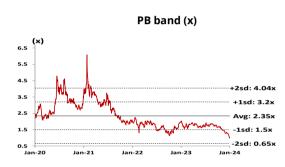




Company Background

ZhongAn Online P&C Insurance Co. Ltd. (Zhong An) was incorporated in 2003 as a joint stock limited company and launched its first product in November 2013. Zhong An is an online-only insurtech company in China. Its products include accident, bond, health, liability, credit, cargo, and household property insurance. The company leverages on technologies to develop ecosystem-oriented insurance products.

Historical PB band



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P. DBS HK



Key Assumptions (%)

| FY Dec | 2021A | 2022A | 2023F | 2024F | 2025F |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | | | | |
| Gross written premium growth | 22.6 | 16.0 | 23.5 | 14.1 | 14.9 |
| Expense ratio | 42.0 | 0.0 | 54.5 | 54.3 | 54.1 |
| Loss ratio | 57.9 | 0.0 | 39.0 | 38.9 | 38.7 |
| Combined ratio | 99.9 | 0.0 | 93.5 | 93.2 | 92.8 |
| Net investment return | 6.6 | 1.8 | 0.9 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Total investment return | 6.6 | 0.9 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 |
| Solvency ratio | 472.4 | 285.2 | 233.7 | 208.2 | 188.5 |

Source: Company, DBS HK

| FY Dec | 2021A | 2022A | 2023F | 2024F | 2025 |
|---|-------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| Insurance revenue | N/A | N/A | 26,281 | 29,973 | 34,428 |
| Insurance service expenses | N/A | N/A | (25,185) | (28,656) | (32,850) |
| Net expenses from reins. contract held | N/A | N/A | (6) | (6) | (6) |
| Insurance service result | N/A | N/A | 1,090 | 1,311 | 1,573 |
| Investment return | N/A | N/A | 1,075 | 1,147 | 1,226 |
| Net finance expenses | N/A | N/A | (100) | (152) | (163) |
| Other movements | N/A | N/A | (47) | (56) | (66) |
| Net investment result | N/A | N/A | 928 | 939 | 997 |
| Other revenues | N/A | N/A | 1,261 | 1,468 | 1,714 |
| Other expenses | N/A | N/A | (3,225) | (3,617) | (3,898) |
| Share of profit of associated and JVs | (38) | (16) | (17) | (17) | (16) |
| Profit before tax | 829 | (2,016) | 37 | 85 | 371 |
| Income tax expense | (72) | 383 | (69) | (99) | (120) |
| Minority interest | 407 | 277 | (283) | (308) | (230) |
| Net income attributable to shareholders | 1,165 | (1,356) | 251 | 294 | 481 |

Source: Company, DBS HK



Balance Sheet(RMB m)

| FY Dec | 2021A | 2022A | 2023F | 2024F | 2025F |
|---------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | | | | |
| Total Investment | 39,982 | 40,026 | 43,794 | 46,257 | 49,009 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 62 | 60 | 72 | 72 | 72 |
| Other assets | 11,729 | 7,563 | 8,052 | 9,329 | 10,921 |
| Total assets | 51,772 | 47,649 | 51,919 | 55,658 | 60,002 |
| | | | | | |
| Net life reserves - traditional | 9,304 | 4,029 | 4,651 | 5,305 | 6,094 |
| Other Liabilities | 23,338 | 26,005 | 29,284 | 31,683 | 34,228 |
| Total liabilities | 32,642 | 30,034 | 33,935 | 36,988 | 40,322 |
| Shareholder's equity | 1,470 | 15,766 | 16,051 | 16,385 | 17,045 |
| Minority interest | 17,660 | 1,849 | 1,736 | 1,630 | 1,544 |
| Total equity | 19,130 | 17,615 | 17,787 | 18,015 | 18,589 |

Source: Company, DBS HK

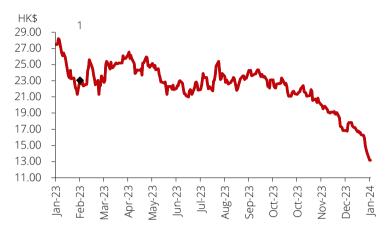
Key Financials & Ratios

| 2021A | 2022A | 2023F | 2024F | 2025F |
|-------|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| N/A | N/A | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.4 |
| N/A | N/A | 50.6 | 53.9 | 57.4 |
| 2.7 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.2 |
| 7.2 | (15.7) | 1.6 | 1.8 | 2.9 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | 0.33 |
| 11.39 | 11.98 | 12.10 | 12.26 | 12.65 |
| 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 472.4 | 285.2 | 233.7 | 208.2 | 188.5 |
| | N/A N/A 2.7 7.2 0.79 11.39 0.00 | N/A N/A N/A N/A 2.7 2.7 7.2 (15.7) 0.79 (0.92) 11.39 11.98 0.00 0.00 3 3 | N/A N/A 1.0 N/A N/A 50.6 2.7 2.7 2.9 7.2 (15.7) 1.6 0.79 (0.92) 0.17 11.39 11.98 12.10 0.00 0.00 0.00 3 3 3 | N/A N/A 1.0 1.0 N/A N/A 50.6 53.9 2.7 2.7 2.9 3.1 7.2 (15.7) 1.6 1.8 0.79 (0.92) 0.17 0.20 11.39 11.98 12.10 12.26 0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00 3 3 3 3 3 |

Source: Company, DBS HK



Target Price & Ratings 12-mth History



| S.N | o. Date | Closing Price | 12-mth Target Price | Rating |
|-----|-----------|------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| 1: | 20-Feb-23 | HK\$21.30 | HK\$32.00 | Buy |

Source: DBS HK

Analyst: Ken Shih Iris GAO

Live more, Bank less

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

Completed Date: 25 Jan 2024 08:29:38 (HKT) Dissemination Date: 25 Jan 2024 11:52:55 (HKT)

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