# China / Hong Kong Company Update Henderson Land

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## DBS Group Research . Equity

## BUY

Last Traded Price (5 Feb 2024): HK\$20.40 (HSI : 15,510) Price Target 12-mth: HK\$24.70 (21% upside) (Prev HK\$26.70)

## Analyst

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#### What's New

- Decent disposal gains from divestment of Harbour East
- Three agricultural land plots in Fanling North to be resumed by the government
- Monetising its farmland reserve in Northern Metropolis
- Trading at inexpensive valuations, BUY despite lower TP of HK\$24.7



#### **Forecasts and Valuation**

FUIECasts and valuation				
FY Dec (HK\$ m) Turnover EBITDA Pre-tax Profit Underlving Profit Gth (%) EPS (HK\$) EPS Gth (%) PE (X) P/Cash Flow (X) EV/EBITDA (X) DPS (HK\$) Div Yield (%) Net Gearing (%) ROE (%) Est. NAV (HK\$): Disc. to NAV (%)	<b>2022A</b> 25,551 7,691 11,118 9,629 (29,3) 1,99 (29,3) 10,3 7,5 25,2 1,80 8,8 24 2,9	<b>2023F</b> 23,956 7,210 11,675 10,628 10,4 2,20 10,4 9,3 13,0 26,9 1,80 8,8 24 3,2	<b>2024F</b> 28,747 7.299 10,257 9,402 (11.5) 1.94 (11.5) 10.5 5.7 26.6 1.80 8.8 22 2.8 58.0 (65)	2025F 26.634 6.969 8.799 7.939 (15.6) 1.64 (15.6) 12.4 6.3 27.8 1.80 8.8 21 2.4 61.8 (67)
Earnings Rev (%): Consensus EPS (HK\$): Other Broker Recs:		(5) 2.26 B:8	(2) 2.38 S:3	New 2.57 H:5

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

## 6 Feb 2024

## Monetising farmland reserves

## **Investment Thesis**

Largest farmland owner in Hong Kong. Henderson Land boasts the largest agricultural land reserve in Hong Kong. The bulk is in Northern Metropolis which is attracting market attention after the government unveiled plans to develop the area in late 2021. By converting the agricultural land into residential or other usage, the company is able to obtain the land for development at favourable costs. Elsewhere, the government's resumption of land for public use in the Northern Metropolis also enables the company to monetise its farmland landbank.

Unlocking agricultural land value. Henderson Land sold Harbour East in North Point to Li Ning for HK\$2.21bn or HK\$15,333psf in Dec-23. We see this divestment as positive to the company as it not only gives a boost to its bottom-line earnings but also improves its financial strength. Elsewhere, the remaining three land lots in Fanling North NDAs will be resumed by the government with cash compensation. This also brings in decent profits to the company. The government is expediting land resumption in the Northern Metropolis, which should allow Henderson Land to unlock the hidden value of its land reserves there.

#### News flow on Northern Metropolis could improve stock sentiment.

Any positive news flow on ongoing Northern Metropolis development including land resumption and farmland conversion should offer upside on the stock given its strong property exposure there. Improving recurrent income base led by rental portfolio expansion should lead to better earnings quality, which should warrant higher stock valuation over the long term.

**BUY with HK\$24.7 TP** The stock is trading 65% below our appraised current NAV, against its 10-year average of 51%. Our TP is premised on a wider target discount of 60% to our Dec-24 NAV estimate.

## Key Risks to Our View:

Any deterioration in property demand could drag its earnings and share price performance.

Any prolonged interest rate upcycle would lead to higher interest expense and lower earnings.

#### At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	4,841
Mkt Cap (HKm/US\$m)	98,756 / 12,626
Major Shareholders (%)	
Lee (Shau Kee)	72.8
Free Float (%)	27.2
3m Avg. Daily Val. (US\$m)	8.3
GICS Industry: Real Estate / Real Estate Managemen	t & Development





#### WHAT'S NEW

#### Decent gains on divestment of Harbour East

Henderson Land agreed to sell Harbour East in North Point to Li Ning for HK\$2.21bn or HK\$15,333psf in Dec-23. Completed in 2019, Harbour East was redeveloped from Newton Hotel Hong Kong. With GFA of 144,000sf, this 22-storey office building is a three-minute walk from Fortress Hill MTR Station. In 2022, Harbour East generated total income of HK\$49.5m with average occupancy of c.60%. Based on the disposal price and assuming the property is fully leased, we estimate gross exit yield to be 3.7% which sounds attractive taking into account the prevailing high interest rate. Our analysis suggests this divestment would produce handsome gains of c.HK\$1.4bn to Henderson Land.

After Henderson Land failed to agree on the land premium for the three remaining plots in Fanling North NDA, the government decided to resume these plots of agricultural land with cash compensation. These three plots have combined site area 0.73msf, of which 0.61msf is attributable to Henderson Land. Moreover, the company has another 0.77msf of land in Fanling North/Kwu Tung North which is anticipated to be resumed by the government. Based on the latest ex-gratia compensation rate, Henderson Land should receive >HK\$1.7bn cash compensation from the government upon the resumption of this 1.38msf agricultural land with HK\$1.4bn pre-tax profit. The government is expediting land resumption in the Northern Metropolis. It plans to resume >700 ha of private land between FY23/24 and FY27/28, up from 140ha in the past five financial years. This should enable Henderson Land to unlock the hidden value of its sizeable agricultural land reserve. The company boasts 6.57msf in Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA. Assuming 50% is resumed by the government, Henderson Land should receive good cash flow with strong sales earnings expected to boost its bottom-line.

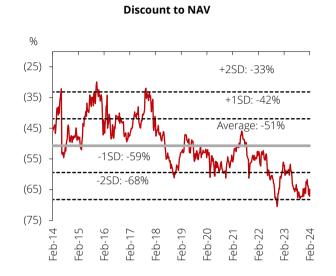
The stock is trading at 65% discount to our appraised current NAV. Valuation is inexpensive from the historical perspective. Non-core asset disposals and the government's resumption of farmland not only brings in solid cash flow to improve its financial strength but also gives a boost to its bottom-line earnings. Based on target discount of 60% to our Dec-24 NAV estimate, we derive our TP at HK\$24.7 and maintain our BUY call.

#### **Company Background**

Henderson Land Development (Henderson Land) is one of the leading property companies in Hong Kong. It excels in replenishing its land bank in urban areas by fully consolidating ownership of old building projects. Henderson Land has a development land bank of c.14.8msf in Hong Kong (as of Jun-23). The company is also the largest agricultural landowner in Hong Kong with land reserves in New Territories of c.45.2msf (site area) as of Jun-23. Its development land bank in China stands at 20.66msf. Henderson Land boasts a completed investment portfolio of 9.7msf in Hong Kong and 12.5msf in China. The company holds a 41.53% interest in The Hong Kong & China Gas Company, a 50.08% stake in Miramar Hotel and Investment, and a 33.41% stake in Hong Kong Ferry.

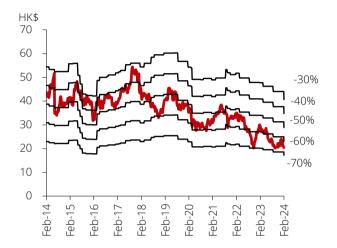


**Discount to NAV** 



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS HK

Discount to NAV band



## Key Assumptions (%)

	2024F	2025F
Residential Price - HK	(8)	0
Office rental - HK	(5)	(5)
Retail Rental (Shopping ienter) - HK	5	5

Source: DBS HK

## Segmental Breakdown (HK\$ m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Revenues (HK\$ m) Sales of property	12,630	14,635	11,879	15,924	12,859
Rental Income Department store	6,505	6,731	6,899	7,319	7,923
operation	1,791	1,805	1,679	1,830	1,994
Others	2,601	2,380	3,499	3,674	3,857
Total	23,527	25,551	23,956	28,747	26,634

Source: DBS HK

#### Income Statement (HK\$ m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Turnover	23,527	25,551	23,956	28,747	26,634
EBITDA	10,444	7,691	7,210	7,299	6,969
Depr / Amort	(505)	(540)	(556)	(573)	(590)
EBIT	9,939	7,151	6,653	6,726	6,379
Associates Inc	3,965	4,791	4,801	4,710	4,619
Interest (Exp)/Inc	(491)	(1,033)	(1,380)	(2,580)	(2,200)
Exceptionals	2,361	209	1,600	1,400	0
Pre-tax Profit	15,774	11,118	11,675	10,257	8,799
Тах	(1,952)	(1,210)	(896)	(705)	(710)
Minority Interest	(198)	(279)	(150)	(150)	(149)
Underlying Profit	13,624	9,629	10,628	9,402	7,939
Sales Gth (%)	(6)	9	(6)	20	(7)
Net Profit Gth (%)	(9)	(29)	10	(12)	(16)
EBITDA Margins (%)	44	30	30	25	26
EBIT Margin (%)	42	28	28	23	24
Tax Rate (%)	12	11	8	7	8

Source: DBS HK

## Balance Sheet (HK\$ m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
Fixed Assets	265,453	265,581	266,825	265,642	269,165
Long-term Investments	9,103	7,312	7,312	7,312	7,312
Other LT Assets	769	1,215	1,215	1,215	1,215
Intangibles Assets	262	262	262	262	262
Deferred Tax Asset	698	730	730	730	730
Associates/JVs	134,842	129,924	130,662	131,310	131,866
Bank Balance/Cash & Liquid	12,535	13,492	13,080	13,765	16,228
ST Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Inventory	109,981	97,659	102,738	98,011	94,341
Debtors	16,038	12,661	12,861	13,061	13,261
Other Non Cash Current	623	954	954	954	954
Total Assets	550,304	529,790	536,639	532,261	535,333
ST Debt	31,784	30,653	23,568	20,000	20,001
Creditors	8,594	8,581	8,636	8,691	8,746
Other Current Liab	22,869	21,240	21,240	21,240	21,240
LT Debt	67,955	56,874	63,959	62,527	62,526
Deferred Tax Liabilities	9,172	9,127	9,127	9,127	9,127
Other LT Liabilities	57,751	58,163	63,163	63,163	63,163
Minority Interests	17,159	17,204	17,084	16,964	17,234
Shareholder's Equity	335,020	327,948	329,862	330,549	333,296
Total Cap. & Liab.	550,304	529,790	536,639	532,261	535,333
Share Capital (m)	4,841	4,841	4,841	4,841	4,841
Net Cash/(Debt)	(91,968)	(79,086)	(79,498)	(73,813)	(71,350)
Working Capital	75,930	64,292	76,189	75,859	74,797
Net Gearing (%)	27	24	24	22	21

Source: DBS HK

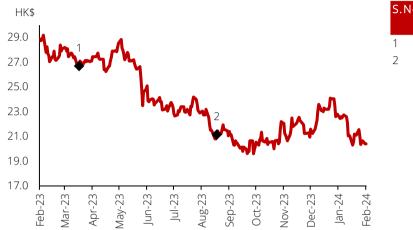
## Cash Flow Statement (HK\$ m)

FY Dec	2021A	2022A	2023F	2024F	2025F
EBIT	9,939	7,151	6,653	6,726	6,379
Tax Paid	(2,263)	(2,570)	(896)	(705)	(710)
Depr/Amort	505	540	556	573	590
Profit or loss on disposal of FAs/subsidiaries/investment	(162)	(56)	0	0	0
Chg in Wkg.Cap	(6,323)	6,494	(224)	9,382	8,025
Other Non-Cash	(1,011)	(428)	620	620	600
Operating CF	685	11,131	6,709	16,596	14,884
Net Capex	(54,169)	(2,741)	(200)	(200)	(199)
Investments	(2)	(39)	0	2,210	0
Associates & JVs	(3,297)	5,212	0	0	0
Associates' Dividends	3,829	4,063	4,063	4,063	4,063
Others	3,595	5,651	0	0	0
Investing CF	(50,044)	12,146	3,863	6,073	3,864
Net Chg in Debt	62,272	(8,509)	5,000	(5,000)	0
New Capital	0	0	0	0	0
Dividend	(8,954)	(8,931)	(8,984)	(8,984)	(8,984)
Other Financing CF	(1,267)	(3,865)	(7,000)	(8,000)	(7,300)
Financing CF	52,051	(21,305)	(10,984)	(21,984)	(16,284)
Chg in Cash	2,692	1,972	(412)	685	2,463

Source: DBS HK



## Target Price & Ratings 12-mth History



S.No.	Date	Closing Price	Target Price	Rating
1	22-Mar-23	HK\$26.60	HK\$32.10	BUY
2	23-Aug-23	HK\$20.80	HK\$26.70	BUY

Source: DBS HK

Analyst: Jeff Yau, CFA Percy Leung Cherie Wong



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BUY (>15% total return over the next 12 months for small caps, >10% for large caps)

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\*Share price appreciation + dividends

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