

ASIA PACIFIC



ECONOMIC UPDATE

CIMB Analyst(s)

**LEE Heng Guie**

T (60) 3 20849667

E hengguie.lee@cimb.com

“ Effective communication and careful timing will be critical to avoid disruptions for both the United States and other countries.”

– IMF annual assessment of the US economy

US FOMC - No green light yet

As widely expected, the Fed did not signal its commitment to cut back QE3 in September after its 30-31 Jul meeting. The decision is in conformity with a more dovish statement from Bernanke lately, who continues to emphasise risks to the economy and flexibility in the Fed's response. A moderately-improved 2Q GDP growth raises the hurdle for the Fed to commence QE3 tapering in the near-term. In our view, even if the Fed scales back later in the year, monetary policy conditions could still remain accommodative for some time. We expect the first rate hike to start at around 2Q-3Q 2015.

No decision made on QE3 exit ►

There were no negative surprises from the FOMC's policy statement. 1) The Fed did not signal its commitment to wind down its stimulus plan in Sep, and 2) the Fed has appropriately indicated its intention to maintain a highly-accommodative monetary policy to support stronger economic recovery and also until the outlook for the labour market has improved substantially.

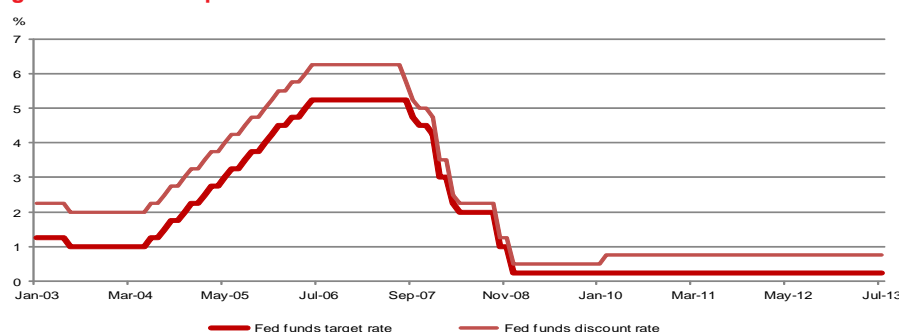
Recovery chugging along ►

The Fed's overall assessment of the economic outlook has turned slightly positive from the last meeting as it sees diminishing downside risks to the outlook for the economy and labour market. 1) Job gains have improved in recent months although the jobless rate remains elevated (7.6% in Jun), 2) there is continued household spending and reacceleration of capital spending, and 3) there are signs of a credible housing recovery amid rising mortgage rates and restraining fiscal policy.

The Bernanke guessing game continues ►

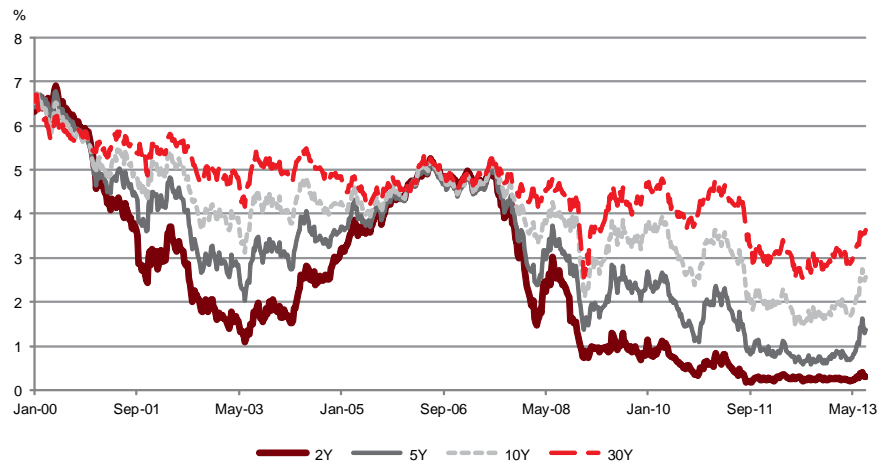
While giving little indication of the timeline for the tapering, the Fed left open the possibility that it could increase or reduce the pace of its purchases depending on conditions. We expect the Fed to adopt an effective communication of the exit strategy and a careful calibration of its timing will be critical for reducing the risk of adverse market reactions, which could lead to excessive interest rate and yield volatilities. In our view, even if the Fed scales back later in the year, monetary policy conditions could still remain accommodative for some time. We expect the first rate hike to start at around 2Q-3Q 2015.

Figure 1: Fed to keep rate at 0.0-0.25% for the foreseeable future



SOURCES: BLOOMBERG, CIMB RESEARCH

Figure 2: US Treasury yields rising



SOURCES: BLOOMBERG, CIMB RESEARCH

Figure 3: Fed responses to financial market events and recessions

Year(s)	Event	Fed funds target rate	Period	Quantum of rate cuts (bps)	Frequenc of rate cuts
1974-75	Recession - Oil crisis coupled with high government spending due to Vietnam war	13.00% to 5.25%	Jul-74 to Apr-75	775	12
1980	Recession - Oil crisis triggered by Iranian revolution	20.00% to 9.50%	Mar-80 to Jul-80	1,050	3
1981-82	Recession - Tight monetary policy to control high inflation	20.00% to 8.50%	May-81 to Dec-82	1,150	12
1987	Stock-market crash on 20 Oct 1987	No target rate from 19 Oct to 3 Nov 1987	-	-	-
1990-91	Recession - Collapse of savings and loans and restrictive monetary policy	8.25% to 3.00%	Jul-90 to Dec-92	525	18
1998	Long-Term Capital Management crisis	5.50% to 4.75%	Aug-98 to May-99	75	3
2001-03	Recession - Dot Com bubble burst, 11 Sep terrorist attacks, accounting scandals	6.50% to 1.00%	Dec-01 to Jun-03	550	13
2007	Subprime crisis fallout - housing recession	5.25% to 4.25%	Sep-07 to Dec-07	100	3
2008	Downside risks to growth, financial market stress	4.25% to 0.00% - 0.25%	Jan-08 to Oct-08	400-425	7
2009	Economy enters recovery, financial sector recovers but banking sector still weak and unemployment rate exceeds 10%	No change in rates; held at 0.00% - 0.25%	-	-	-
2010-13	Bumps in economic recovery, unemployment rate remains high, housing market still weak	No change in rates; rates to stay at 0.00% - 0.25% for the foreseeable future	-	-	-

SOURCES: FEDERAL RESERVE, CIMB RESEARCH

Figure 4: Historical Fed actions and FOMC scheduled meetings in 2011-2015

Year	Policy meeting dates	Rate change (bps)	Fed funds rate (%)
2015	27-28 Jan	-	-
2014	16-17 Dec	-	-
	28-29 Oct	-	-
	16-17 Sep	-	-
	29-30 Jul	-	-
	17-18 Jun	-	-
	29-30 Apr	-	-
	18-19 Mar	-	-
	28-29 Jan	-	-
2013	17-18 Dec	-	-
	29-30 Oct	-	-
	17-18 Sep	-	-
	30-31 Jul	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	18-19 Jun	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	30 Apr-1 May	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	19-20 Mar	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	29-30 Jan	No change	0.00 - 0.25
2012	11-12 Dec	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	23-24 Oct	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	12-13 Sep	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	31 Jul-1 Aug	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	19-20 Jun	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	24-25 Apr	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	13-Mar	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	24-25 Jan	No change	0.00 - 0.25
2011	13-Dec	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	1-2 Nov	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	20-21 Sep	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	9-Aug	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	21-22 Jun	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	26-27 Apr	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	15-Mar	No change	0.00 - 0.25
	25-26 Jan	No change	0.00 - 0.25

SOURCES: BLOOMBERG, FEDERAL RESERVE, CIMB RESEARCH

DISCLAIMER

This report is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation.

By accepting this report, the recipient hereof represents and warrants that he is entitled to receive such report in accordance with the restrictions set forth below and agrees to be bound by the limitations contained herein (including the "Restrictions on Distributions" set out below). Any failure to comply with these limitations may constitute a violation of law. This publication is being supplied to you strictly on the basis that it will remain confidential. No part of this report may be (i) copied, photocopied, duplicated, stored or reproduced in any form by any means or (ii) redistributed or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any other person in whole or in part, for any purpose without the prior written consent of CIMB.

Unless otherwise specified, this report is based upon sources which CIMB considers to be reasonable. Such sources will, unless otherwise specified, for market data, be market data and prices available from the main stock exchange or market where the relevant security is listed, or, where appropriate, any other market. Information on the accounts and business of company(ies) will generally be based on published statements of the company(ies), information disseminated by regulatory information services, other publicly available information and information resulting from our research.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that statements of facts made in this report are accurate, all estimates, projections, forecasts, expressions of opinion and other subjective judgments contained in this report are based on assumptions considered to be reasonable as of the date of the document in which they are contained and must not be construed as a representation that the matters referred to therein will occur. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The value of investments may go down as well as up and those investing may, depending on the investments in question, lose more than the initial investment. No report shall constitute an offer or an invitation by or on behalf of CIMB or its affiliates to any person to buy or sell any investments.

CIMB, its affiliates and related companies, their directors, associates, connected parties and/or employees may own or have positions in securities of the company(ies) covered in this research report or any securities related thereto and may from time to time add to or dispose of, or may be materially interested in, any such securities. Further, CIMB, its affiliates and its related companies do and seek to do business with the company(ies) covered in this research report and may from time to time act as market maker or have assumed an underwriting commitment in securities of such company(ies), may sell them to or buy them from customers on a principal basis and may also perform or seek to perform significant investment banking, advisory, underwriting or placement services for or relating to such company(ies) as well as solicit such investment, advisory or other services from any entity mentioned in this report.

CIMB or its affiliates may enter into an agreement with the company(ies) covered in this report relating to the production of research reports. CIMB may disclose the contents of this report to the company(ies) covered by it and may have amended the contents of this report following such disclosure.

The analyst responsible for the production of this report hereby certifies that the views expressed herein accurately and exclusively reflect his or her personal views and opinions about any and all of the issuers or securities analysed in this report and were prepared independently and autonomously. No part of the compensation of the analyst(s) was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the inclusion of specific recommendations(s) or view(s) in this report. CIMB prohibits the analyst(s) who prepared this research report from receiving any compensation, incentive or bonus based on specific investment banking transactions or for providing a specific recommendation for, or view of, a particular company. Information barriers and other arrangements may be established where necessary to prevent conflicts of interests arising. However, the analyst(s) may receive compensation that is based on his/her coverage of company(ies) in the performance of his/her duties or the performance of his/her recommendations and the research personnel involved in the preparation of this report may also participate in the solicitation of the businesses as described above. In reviewing this research report, an investor should be aware that any or all of the foregoing, among other things, may give rise to real or potential conflicts of interest. Additional information is, subject to the duties of confidentiality, available on request.

Reports relating to a specific geographical area are produced by the corresponding CIMB entity as listed in the table below. The term "CIMB" shall denote, where appropriate, the relevant entity distributing or disseminating the report in the particular jurisdiction referenced below, or, in every other case, CIMB Group Holdings Berhad ("CIMBGH") and its affiliates, subsidiaries and related companies.

Country	CIMB Entity	Regulated by
Australia	CIMB Securities (Australia) Limited	Australian Securities & Investments Commission
Hong Kong	CIMB Securities Limited	Securities and Futures Commission Hong Kong
Indonesia	PT CIMB Securities Indonesia	Financial Services Authority of Indonesia
India	CIMB Securities (India) Private Limited	Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
Malaysia	CIMB Investment Bank Berhad	Securities Commission Malaysia
Singapore	CIMB Research Pte. Ltd.	Monetary Authority of Singapore
South Korea	CIMB Securities Limited, Korea Branch	Financial Services Commission and Financial Supervisory Service
Taiwan	CIMB Securities Limited, Taiwan Branch	Financial Supervisory Commission
Thailand	CIMB Securities (Thailand) Co. Ltd.	Securities and Exchange Commission Thailand

The information contained in this research report is prepared from data believed to be correct and reliable at the time of issue of this report. CIMB may or may not issue regular reports on the subject matter of this report at any frequency and may cease to do so or change the periodicity of reports at any time. CIMB is under no obligation to update this report in the event of a material change to the information contained in this report. This report does not purport to contain all the information that a prospective investor may require. CIMB or any of its affiliates does not make any guarantee, representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the adequacy, accuracy, completeness, reliability or fairness of any such information and opinion contained in this report. Neither CIMB nor any of its affiliates nor its related persons shall be liable in any manner whatsoever for any consequences (including but not limited to any direct, indirect or consequential losses, loss of profits and damages) of any reliance thereon or usage thereof.

This report is general in nature and has been prepared for information purposes only. It is intended for circulation amongst CIMB and its affiliates' clients generally and does not have regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of any specific person who may receive this report. The information and opinions in this report are not and should not be construed or considered as an offer, recommendation or solicitation to buy or sell the subject securities, related investments or other financial instruments thereof. Investors are advised to make their own independent evaluation of the information contained in this research report, consider their own individual investment objectives, financial situation and particular needs and consult their own professional and financial advisers as to the legal, business, financial, tax and other aspects before participating in any transaction in respect of the securities of company(ies) covered in this research report. The securities of such company(ies) may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to all categories of investors.

Australia: Despite anything in this report to the contrary, this research is provided in Australia by CIMB Securities (Australia) Limited ("CSAL") (ABN 84 002 768 701, AFS Licence number 240 530). CSAL is a Market Participant of ASX Ltd, a Clearing Participant of ASX Clear Pty Ltd, a Settlement Participant of ASX Settlement Pty Ltd, and, a participant of Chi X Australia Pty Ltd. This research is only available in Australia to persons who are "wholesale clients" (within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)) and is supplied solely for the use of such wholesale clients and shall not be distributed or passed on to any other person. This research has been prepared without taking into account the objectives, financial situation or needs of the individual recipient.

France: Only qualified investors within the meaning of French law shall have access to this report. This report shall not be considered as an offer to subscribe to, or used in connection with, any offer for subscription or sale or marketing or direct or indirect distribution of financial instruments and it is not intended as a solicitation for the purchase of any financial instrument.

Hong Kong: This report is issued and distributed in Hong Kong by CIMB Securities Limited ("CHK") which is licensed in Hong Kong by the Securities and Futures Commission for Type 1 (dealing in securities), Type 4 (advising on securities) and Type 6 (advising on corporate finance) activities. Any investors wishing to purchase or otherwise deal in the securities covered in this report should contact the Head of Sales at CIMB Securities Limited. The views and opinions in this research report are our own as of the date hereof and are subject to change. If the Financial Services and Markets Act of the United Kingdom or the rules of the Financial Services Authority apply to a recipient, our obligations owed to such recipient therein are unaffected. CHK has no obligation to update its opinion or the information in this research report.

This publication is strictly confidential and is for private circulation only to clients of CHK. This publication is being supplied to you strictly on the basis that it will remain confidential. No part of this material may be (i) copied, photocopied, duplicated, stored or reproduced in any form by any means or (ii) redistributed or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any other person in whole or in part, for any purpose without the prior written consent of CHK. Unless permitted to do so by the securities laws of Hong Kong, no person may issue or have in its

possession for the purposes of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to the securities covered in this report, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong).

India: This report is issued and distributed in India by CIMB Securities (India) Private Limited ("CIMB India") which is registered with SEBI as a stock-broker under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Stock Brokers and Sub-Brokers) Regulations, 1992 and in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 4 (g) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Investment Advisers) Regulations, 2013, CIMB India is not required to seek registration with SEBI as an Investment Adviser.

The research analysts, strategists or economists principally responsible for the preparation of this research report are segregated from the other activities of CIMB India and they have received compensation based upon various factors, including quality, accuracy and value of research, firm profitability or revenues, client feedback and competitive factors. Research analysts', strategists' or economists' compensation is not linked to investment banking or capital markets transactions performed or proposed to be performed by CIMB India or its affiliates.

Indonesia: This report is issued and distributed by PT CIMB Securities Indonesia ("CIMBI"). The views and opinions in this research report are our own as of the date hereof and are subject to change. If the Financial Services and Markets Act of the United Kingdom or the rules of the Financial Services Authority apply to a recipient, our obligations owed to such recipient therein are unaffected. CIMBI has no obligation to update its opinion or the information in this research report.

This publication is strictly confidential and is for private circulation only to clients of CIMBI. This publication is being supplied to you strictly on the basis that it will remain confidential. No part of this material may be (i) copied, photocopied, duplicated, stored or reproduced in any form by any means or (ii) redistributed or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any other person in whole or in part, for any purpose without the prior written consent of CIMBI. Neither this report nor any copy hereof may be distributed in Indonesia or to any Indonesian citizens wherever they are domiciled or to Indonesia residents except in compliance with applicable Indonesian capital market laws and regulations.

Malaysia: This report is issued and distributed by CIMB Investment Bank Berhad ("CIMB"). The views and opinions in this research report are our own as of the date hereof and are subject to change. If the Financial Services and Markets Act of the United Kingdom or the rules of the Financial Services Authority apply to a recipient, our obligations owed to such recipient therein are unaffected. CIMB has no obligation to update its opinion or the information in this research report.

This publication is strictly confidential and is for private circulation only to clients of CIMB. This publication is being supplied to you strictly on the basis that it will remain confidential. No part of this material may be (i) copied, photocopied, duplicated, stored or reproduced in any form by any means or (ii) redistributed or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any other person in whole or in part, for any purpose without the prior written consent of CIMB.

New Zealand: In New Zealand, this report is for distribution only to persons whose principal business is the investment of money or who, in the course of, and for the purposes of their business, habitually invest money pursuant to Section 3(2)(a)(ii) of the Securities Act 1978.

Singapore: This report is issued and distributed by CIMB Research Pte Ltd ("CIMBR"). Recipients of this report are to contact CIMBR in Singapore in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this report. The views and opinions in this research report are our own as of the date hereof and are subject to change. If the Financial Services and Markets Act of the United Kingdom or the rules of the Financial Services Authority apply to a recipient, our obligations owed to such recipient therein are unaffected. CIMBR has no obligation to update its opinion or the information in this research report.

This publication is strictly confidential and is for private circulation only. If the recipient of this research report is not an accredited investor, expert investor or institutional investor, CIMBR accepts legal responsibility for the contents of the report without any disclaimer limiting or otherwise curtailing such legal responsibility. This publication is being supplied to you strictly on the basis that it will remain confidential. No part of this material may be (i) copied, photocopied, duplicated, stored or reproduced in any form by any means or (ii) redistributed or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any other person in whole or in part, for any purpose without the prior written consent of CIMBR.

South Korea: This report is issued and distributed in South Korea by CIMB Securities Limited, Korea Branch ("CIMB Korea") which is licensed as a cash equity broker, and regulated by the Financial Services Commission and Financial Supervisory Service of Korea.

The views and opinions in this research report are our own as of the date hereof and are subject to change, and this report shall not be considered as an offer to subscribe to, or used in connection with, any offer for subscription or sale or marketing or direct or indirect distribution of financial investment instruments and it is not intended as a solicitation for the purchase of any financial investment instrument.

This publication is strictly confidential and is for private circulation only, and no part of this material may be (i) copied, photocopied, duplicated, stored or reproduced in any form by any means or (ii) redistributed or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any other person in whole or in part, for any purpose without the prior written consent of CIMB Korea.

Sweden: This report contains only marketing information and has not been approved by the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority. The distribution of this report is not an offer to sell to any person in Sweden or a solicitation to any person in Sweden to buy any instruments described herein and may not be forwarded to the public in Sweden.

Taiwan: This research report is not an offer or marketing of foreign securities in Taiwan. The securities as referred to in this research report have not been and will not be registered with the Financial Supervisory Commission of the Republic of China pursuant to relevant securities laws and regulations and may not be offered or sold within the Republic of China through a public offering or in circumstances which constitutes an offer or a placement within the meaning of the Securities and Exchange Law of the Republic of China that requires a registration or approval of the Financial Supervisory Commission of the Republic of China.

Thailand: This report is issued and distributed by CIMB Securities (Thailand) Company Limited (CIMBS). The views and opinions in this research report are our own as of the date hereof and are subject to change. If the Financial Services and Markets Act of the United Kingdom or the rules of the Financial Services Authority apply to a recipient, our obligations owed to such recipient therein are unaffected. CIMBS has no obligation to update its opinion or the information in this research report.

This publication is strictly confidential and is for private circulation only to clients of CIMBS. This publication is being supplied to you strictly on the basis that it will remain confidential. No part of this material may be (i) copied, photocopied, duplicated, stored or reproduced in any form by any means or (ii) redistributed or passed on, directly or indirectly, to any other person in whole or in part, for any purpose without the prior written consent of CIMBS.

United Arab Emirates: The distributor of this report has not been approved or licensed by the UAE Central Bank or any other relevant licensing authorities or governmental agencies in the United Arab Emirates. This report is strictly private and confidential and has not been reviewed by, deposited or registered with UAE Central Bank or any other licensing authority or governmental agencies in the United Arab Emirates. This report is being issued outside the United Arab Emirates to a limited number of institutional investors and must not be provided to any person other than the original recipient and may not be reproduced or used for any other purpose. Further, the information contained in this report is not intended to lead to the sale of investments under any subscription agreement or the conclusion of any other contract of whatsoever nature within the territory of the United Arab Emirates.

United Kingdom and Europe: In the United Kingdom and European Economic Area, this report is being disseminated by CIMB Securities (UK) Limited ("CIMB UK"). CIMB UK is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and its registered office is at 27 Knightsbridge, London, SW1X 7YB. This report is for distribution only to, and is solely directed at, selected persons on the basis that those persons: (a) are persons that are eligible counterparties and professional clients of CIMB UK; (b) have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (as amended, the "Order"); (c) are persons falling within Article 49 (2) (a) to (d) ("high net worth companies, unincorporated associations etc") of the Order; (d) are outside the United Kingdom; or (e) are persons to whom an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000) in connection with any investments to which this report relates may otherwise lawfully be communicated or caused to be communicated (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). This report is directed only at relevant persons and must not be acted on or relied on by persons who are not relevant persons. Any investment or investment activity to which this report relates is available only to relevant persons and will be engaged in only with relevant persons.

Only where this report is labelled as non-independent, it does not provide an impartial or objective assessment of the subject matter and does not constitute independent "investment research" under the applicable rules of the Financial Services Authority in the UK. Consequently, any such non-independent report will not have been prepared in accordance with legal requirements designed to promote the independence of investment research and will not be subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of investment research.

United States: This research report is distributed in the United States of America by CIMB Securities (USA) Inc, a U.S.-registered broker-dealer and a related company of CIMB Research Pte Ltd, CIMB Investment Bank Berhad, PT CIMB Securities Indonesia, CIMB Securities (Thailand) Co. Ltd, CIMB Securities Limited, CIMB Securities (Australia) Limited, CIMB Securities (India) Private Limited, and is distributed solely to persons who qualify as "U.S. Institutional Investors" as defined in Rule 15a-6 under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934. This communication is only for Institutional Investors whose ordinary business activities involve investing in shares, bonds and associated securities and/or derivative securities and who have professional experience in such investments. Any person who is not a U.S. Institutional Investor or Major Institutional Investor must not rely on this communication. The delivery of this research report to any person in the United States of America is not a recommendation to effect any transactions in the securities discussed herein, or an endorsement of any opinion expressed herein. CIMB Securities (USA) Inc, is a FINRA/SIPC member and takes responsibility for the content of this report. For further information or to place an order in any of the above-mentioned securities please contact a registered representative of CIMB Securities (USA) Inc.

Other jurisdictions: In any other jurisdictions, except if otherwise restricted by laws or regulations, this report is only for distribution to professional, institutional or sophisticated investors as defined in the laws and regulations of such jurisdictions.

CIMB Research Pte Ltd (Co. Reg. No. 198701620M)