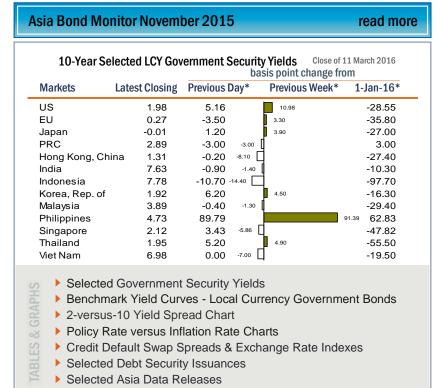




14 March 2016 asianbondsonline.adb.org

Key Developments in Asian Local Currency Markets

- n 10 March, the European Central Bank (ECB) reduced key policy rates and expanded its asset purchase program. The ECB reduced the main refinancing operation rate and the marginal lending facility rate by 5 basis points (bps) each to 0.0% and 0.25%, respectively. The ECB also reduced the deposit facility rate by 10 bps to –0.40% and expanded its monthly asset purchases from EUR60 billion to EUR80 billion.
- The Bank of Korea's Monetary Policy Board decided on 10 March to keep the base rate unchanged at 1.50%. On 9 March, the Monetary Policy Committee of Bank Negara Malaysia decided to maintain the overnight policy rate at 3.25%.
- → Japan's real gross domestic product contracted a revised 0.3% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) in 4Q15 from a preliminary estimate of 0.4% q-o-q. This was primarily due a smaller q-o-q decline in private demand of 0.5% compared with a preliminary estimate of 0.6%, driven by the higher q-o-q growth in private nonresidential investment. The decline in exports of goods and services also narrowed to 0.8% q-o-q from a preliminary estimate of 0.9% q-o-q. Industrial production growth in Malaysia rose to 3.2% year-on-year (y-o-y) in January from 2.7% y-o-y in December.
- ✓ Consumer price inflation in the People's Republic of China (PRC) rose to 2.3% y-o-y in February from 1.8% y-o-y in January. The acceleration in consumer price inflation was due to a seasonal rise in food prices due to the timing of this year's Lunar New Year.
- ₹ The PRC's exports fell 25.4% y-o-y in February to USD126.2 billion. Imports also fell 13.8% y-o-y in February to USD93.6 billion. As a result, the PRC reported a trade surplus of USD32.6 billion in February. The Philippines' merchandise exports contracted for the 10th consecutive month in January. Exports declined 3.9% y-o-y in January to US\$4.2 billion, following a 3.0% y-o-y decrease in December.
- 7 Thailand's Business Sentiment Index slipped to 48.2 in February from 48.5 in January—signalling worsening business sentiment in the country—amid concerns by



firms over weakening demand and rising production costs.

- ✓ Last week, the Indonesian government raised IDR31.5 trillion from the sale of 3-year retail *sukuk* (Islamic bonds), marking the biggest sale since retail bonds were first offered in 2009. The bonds carried a coupon rate of 8.3%. CH. Karnchang, a construction firm in Thailand, issued a THB1.5 billion 3-year bond carrying a 2.19% coupon and a THB4 billion 7-year debenture with a 3.36% coupon.
- Morea Eximbank priced a EUR750 million 3-year bond at a 0.375% coupon last week. Also, Hyundai Capital Services priced USD500 million worth of 5-year Green bonds on a 2.875% coupon to yield 2.915%.
- ♂ Government bond yields fell last week for all tenors in the PRC, Indonesia, and Singapore; and for most tenors in Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Viet Nam. Yields rose for all tenors in the Rep. of Korea, and for most tenors in Hong Kong, China. Yield spreads between the 2-year and 10-year tenors narrowed for the PRC; Hong Kong, China; Singapore; and Viet Nam. Yield spreads widened for Indonesia, the Rep. of Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.



Summary Text of News Articles

ECB Eases Monetary Policy Further

On 10 March, the European Central Bank (ECB) reduced key policy rates and expanded its asset purchase program. The ECB reduced the main refinancing operation rate and the marginal lending facility rate by 5 basis points (bps) each to 0.0% and 0.25%, respectively. The ECB also reduced the deposit facility rate by 10 bps to -0.40% and expanded its monthly asset purchases from EUR60 billion to EUR80 billion. The central bank expanded the list of allowable assets to be included in investment-grade, EUR-denominated bonds issued by nonbank corporations. The ECB cited the downward revision of its GDP growth forecast, resulting from weak economic growth in emerging markets and financial market volatility, and the forecast for negative inflation rates in the near-term as reasons for its monetary easing decision.

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Policy Rates Kept Unchanged in the Republic of Korea and Malaysia

The Bank of Korea's Monetary Policy Board decided on 10 March to keep the base rate unchanged at 1.50%. In its monetary policy decision, the board stated that it forecasts the global economy will maintain its moderate recovery and that the domestic economy would likewise continue to recover with consumer price inflation remaining low. The board declared that its monetary policy stance is geared toward price stability in the medium-term and that it aims to ensure financial stability.

Last week, the Monetary Policy Committee of Bank Negara Malaysia decided to maintain the overnight policy rate at 3.25%. The central bank stated that while the global economy was continuing to grow moderately, there were still downside risks to the global economic outlook, including concerns over volatility in financial markets and the continued decline in commodity prices. The committee expects Malaysia's economy to grow at a more modest pace compared with 2015. Inflation is expected to rise in 2016, but will be abated by low energy and commodity prices.

For inflation rate trends in the Republic of Korea, refer to this link:

https://asianbondsonline.adb.org/korea/data/marketwatch.php?code=policy_rate_and_inflation_trends

For inflation rate trends in Malaysia, refer to this link:

https://asianbondsonline.adb.org/malaysia/data/marketwatch.php?code=policy_rate_and_inflation_trends

Japan's Real GDP Contracts 0.3% q-o-q in 4Q15; Industrial Production in Malaysia Rises in January

The contraction in Japan's real gross domestic product (GDP) was revised to 0.3% quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) in 4Q15 from a preliminary estimate of 0.4% q-o-q. This was primarily due to a smaller q-o-q decline in private demand of 0.5% compared with a preliminary estimate of 0.6%, driven by higher q-o-q growth in private nonresidential investment of 1.5% from 1.4%. Meanwhile, the 0.1% q-o-q contraction in public demand was unchanged. The decline in exports of goods and services narrowed to 0.8% q-o-q from a preliminary estimate of 0.9% q-o-q, while the decline in imports was unchanged at 1.4% q-o-q.

Industrial production growth in Malaysia rose to 3.2% year-on-year (y-o-y) in January from 2.7% y-o-y in December. The accelerating growth was driven by a higher annual increase in the electricity index of 7.7% y-o-y in January from 5.6% y-o-y in December. The manufacturing index grew 3.9% y-o-y in January, down slightly from the 4.0% y-o-y increase posted in December. The mining index increased 0.7% y-o-y, a reversal from the 1.5% y-o-y contraction posted in December.

Consumer Price Inflation Rises in the PRC in February

Consumer price inflation in the PRC rose to 2.3% y-o-y in February from 1.8% y-o-y in January. The acceleration in consumer price inflation was due to a seasonal rise in food prices due to the timing of this year's Lunar New Year. Food prices rose 7.3% y-o-y in February, following an increase of 4.1% y-o-y in February. Non-food prices rose 1.0% y-o-y in February after increasing 1.2% y-o-y in January.



Summary Text of News Articles

Consumer Price Inflation Rises in the PRC in February (cont...)

For inflation rate trends in the PRC, refer to this link:

https://asianbondsonline.adb.org/china/data/marketwatch.php?code=policy_rate_and_inflation_trends

The PRC's Exports and Imports Fall in February; The Philippines' Merchandise Exports Contract in January;

The People's Republic of China's (PRC) exports fell 25.4% y-o-y in February to USD126.2 billion after falling 11.2% y-o-y in January. Imports fell 13.8% y-o-y in February to USD93.6 billion after declining 18.8% in January. The bigger drop in exports in February was driven by continued weak demand from major trading partners as well as seasonal factors related to the timing of the Lunar New Year. The PRC reported a trade surplus of USD32.6 billion in February.

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The Philippines' merchandise exports contracted for the 10th consecutive month in January. Exports declined 3.9% y-o-y in January to US\$4.2 billion, following a 3.0% y-o-y decrease in December. The decline was largely due to annual decreases in five major commodity groups: articles of apparel and clothing accessories (–46.2%), chemicals (–34.6%), machinery and transport equipment (–22.6%), metal components (–14.2%), and other manufactures (–5.5%).

Japan's Current Account Surplus Narrows in Japan in January

Japan's current account surplus narrowed to JPY521 billion in January from JPY961 billion in December, mainly due to the goods account deficit in January of JPY411 billion compared with a surplus of JPY189 billion a month earlier. The services account deficit widened to JPY227 billion from JPY171 billion in December. The secondary income account deficit also increased to JPY173 billion in January from JPY69 billion in December. Meanwhile, the primary income account surplus widened to JPY1.3 trillion from JPY1.0 trillion in the previous month.

Business Sentiment in Thailand Worsens in February

Thailand's Business Sentiment Index (BSI) slipped to 48.2 in February from 48.5 in January—signaling worsening business sentiment in the country—amid concerns by firms over weakening demand and rising production costs, according to the Bank of Thailand. However, the next 3 months indicate optimism from businesses in the country as the expected BSI climbed to 54.6 in February from 54.1 in January.

Indonesian Government Raises IDR31.5 Trillion from the Sale of Retail *Sukuk*; CH. Karnchang Raises THB5.5 Billion from Dual-Tranche Bond Sale

Last week, the Indonesian government raised IDR31.5 trillion from the sale of 3-year retail *sukuk* (Islamic bonds), marking the biggest sale since retail bonds were first offered in 2009. The retail *sukuk* SR-008 was offered to Indonesian residents between 19 February and 4 March. The bonds carried a coupon rate of 8.3%.

CH. Karnchang, a construction firm in Thailand, issued a THB1.5 billion 3-year bond carrying a 2.19% coupon and a THB4 billion 7-year debenture with a 3.36% coupon last week. The bonds were both rated A- by TRIS Rating, a Thai credit rating agency.

Korea Eximbank Prices EUR750 Million 3-Year Bond; Hyundai Capital Services Prices USD500 Million 5-Year Green Bond

Korea Eximbank priced a EUR750 million 3-year bond at a 0.375% coupon last week. The largest source of investors by country was the United Kingdom at 39%, while fund managers were the dominant investor group with 30%.

Hyundai Capital Services priced USD500 million worth of 5-year Green bonds on a 2.875% coupon to yield 2.915% last week. By investor origin, Asian investors took the biggest bulk at 47%, followed by the United States with 34% and Europe at 19%. By investor type, fund managers bought the largest chunk at 45%.

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Selected Government Security Yields

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

3-Month Selected LCY Government Security Yields

	Latest	basis point change from			
Markets	Latest Closing	Previous Day*	Previous Week*	1-Jan-16*	
US	0.32	0.51		5.09 15.27	
EU	-0.43	0.70	-0.10	2.20	
Japan	-0.09	0.20	1.10	-4.70	
PRC	2.10	2.00	2.00	-8.00	
Hong Kong, China	0.15	0.00	0.00	7.70	
India	8.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Korea, Rep. of	1.49	2.20	2.0	-6.30	
Malaysia	2.65	-0.90 -8.30		-21.30	
Philippines	1.77	-1.87	-1.50	-89.67	
Singapore	0.88	-0.90	-2.60	-0.90	
Thailand	1.39	-0.50	-1.21	-10.68	

Close of 11 March 2016

10-Year Selected LCY Government Bond Yields

	Latant	basis point change from			
Markets	Latest Closing	Previous Day*	Previous Week*	1-Jan-16*	
US	1.98	5.16	10.98	-28.55	
EU	0.27	-3.50	3.30	-35.80	
Japan	-0.01	1.20	3.90	-27.00	
PRC	2.89	-3.00 -3.	00 [3.00	
Hong Kong, China	1.31	-0.20 -8.10	∘ [-27.40	
India	7.63	-0.90 -1.	.40	-10.30	
Indonesia	7.78	-10.7014.40		-97.70	
Korea, Rep. of	1.92	6.20	4.50	-16.30	
Malaysia	3.89	-0.40	.30	-29.40	
Philippines	4.73	89.79		91.39 62.83	
Singapore	2.12	3.43 -5.8	36 🗓	-47.82	
Thailand	1.95	5.20	4.90	-55.50	
Viet Nam	6.98	0.00 -7.0	00 [-19.50	

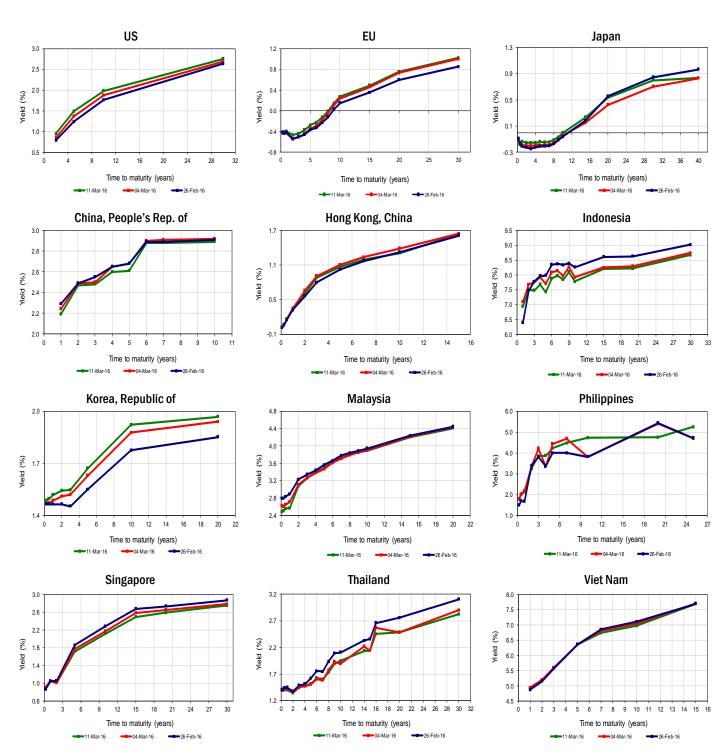
Close of 11 March 2016

EU = European Union, LCY =local currency, PRC = People's Republic of China, US = United States. Source: Based on data from Bloomberg, LP.



Benchmark Yield Curves - LCY Government Bonds

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

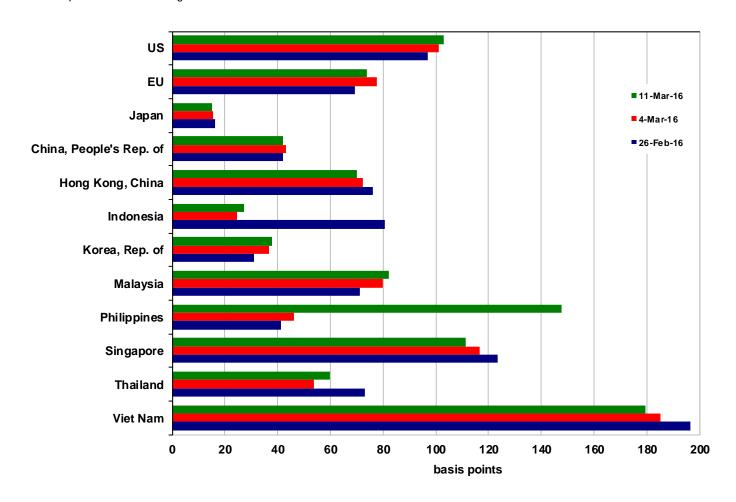


EU = European Union, LCY = local currency US = United States. Source: Based on data from Bloomberg.



2- versus 10- Year Yield Spread Chart

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool



EU = European Union, US = United States. Source: Based on data from Bloomberg LP.



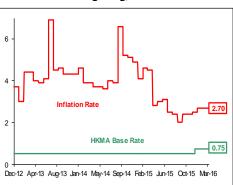
Policy Rate versus Inflation Rate

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

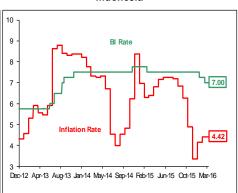
China, People's Rep. of



Hong Kong, China



Indonesia



The PRC uses the 1-year lending rate as one of its policy

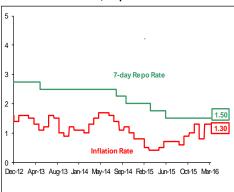
Source: Bloomberg LP.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority maintains a Discount Window Base Rate.

Source: Bloomberg LP.

Bank Indonesia uses its reference interest rate (BI rate) as its policy rate. Source: Bloomberg LP.

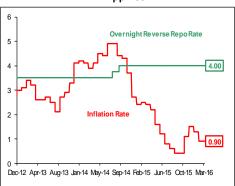
Korea, Republic of



Malaysia



Philippines



The Bank of Korea shifted its policy rate from the overnight repurchase (repo) rate to the 7-day repo rate in March 2008. Source: Bloomberg LP.

Bank Negara Malaysia uses the overnight policy rate (OPR) as its policy rate. Source: Bloomberg LP.

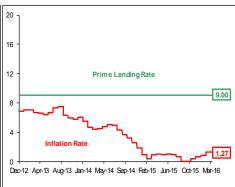
Bangko Sentral uses the Philippine overnight reverse repurchase agreement rate as one of its policy instruments. Source: Bloomberg LP.

Thailand



The Bank of Thailand replaced the 14-day repurchase rate with the 1-day repurchase rate in January 2007 as its policy rate. Source: Bloomberg LP.

Viet Nam



The State Bank of Viet Nam uses a benchmark prime lending rate as its policy rate.

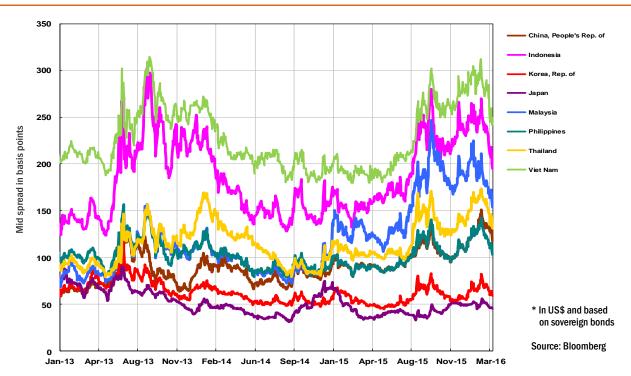
Source: Bloomberg LP.



Credit Default Swap Spreads and Exchange Rate Indexes

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

Credit Default Swap Spreads — Senior 5-Year*



Exchange Rate Indexes (vis-à-vis US\$, 2 January 2007=100)





Selected Debt Security Issuances (7 – 11 March 2016)

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

Markets	Auction Date	Type of Security	Average Yield (%)	Coupon (%)	Amount Offered (LCY billion)	Amount Issued (LCY billion)
CN	9-Mar	5-year Treasury Bonds	2.57	2.53	20.00	20.00
HK	8-Mar	91-day Exchange Fund Bills	0.08	2.53	32.55	32.55
1 111	Oliviai	182-day Exchange Fund Bills	0.08		9.00	9.00
ID	8-Mar	6-month Islamic Treasury Bills	5.79		9.00	1,000.00
	oa.	2-year Project-Based Sukuk	7.82	7.75		1,960.00
		4-year Project-Based Sukuk	8.03	8.25	4,000.00	1,665.00
		7-year Project-Based Sukuk	8.33	8.75	1,000.00	1,040.00
		15-year Project-Based Sukuk	8.57	8.88		1,285.00
JP	8-Mar	6-month Treasury Discount Bills	-0.13	0.00	3,500.00	3,499.97
		30-year Japanese Government Bonds	0.77	0.80	800.00	918.20
		3-month Treasury Discount Bills	-0.09	0.00	4,500.00	4,103.33
		5-year Japanese Governent Bonds	-0.14	0.10	2,500.00	2,676.90
KR	7-Mar	91-day Monetary Stabilization Bonds	1.51	0.10	900.00	900.00
		182-day Monetary Stabilization Bonds	1.52		600.00	600.00
	8-Mar	30-year Korea Treasury Bonds	1.94	2.00	1,150.00	1,150.00
MY	10-Mar	30-year Malaysia Government Securities	4.74	4.74	2.50	2.50
SG	8-Mar	28-day MAS Bills	0.39		0.50	0.50
		84-day MAS Bills	0.53		3.80	3.80
	10-Mar	168-day MAS Bills	0.75		1.80	1.80
TH	7-Mar	29-day Treasury Bills	1.38		5.00	5.00
		364-day Treasury Bills	1.40		15.73	15.73
	8-Mar	91-day Bank of Thailand Bonds	1.38		40.00	40.00
		182-day Bank of Thailand Bonds	1.39		40.00	40.00
	9-Mar	50.3-year Government Bonds	3.25	4.00	10.00	8.00
VN	9-Mar	3-year Treasury Bonds	6.35		2,000.00	1,250.00
		5-year Treasury Bonds	6.35		6,000.00	3,210.00
		20-year Treasury Bonds	7.75		1,000.00	110.00
	10-Mar	30-year Treasury Bonds	8.00		1,500.00	1,400.00

LCY = local currency, MAS = Monetary Authority of Singapore.

Sources: Local market sources and Bloomberg, LP.



Selected Asia Data Releases (15 - 21 March 2016)

Tip: Zoom-in on the table using the Acrobat zoom tool

Economy and Variable	Release Date	Historical Data	Recent Trends
Indonesia Trade Balance USD million FEB	03/15	01/15: 632.3 02/15: 662.7 12/15: -161.2 01/16: 50.6	Indonesia reported a trade surplus amounting to USD50.6 million in January after recording a USD161.2 million trade deficit in December.
Philippines BOP balance USD million FEB	03/15	01/15: 136 02/15: 985 12/15: 481 01/16: -813	The Philippines posted a balance of payments deficit of USD813 million in January, a reversal from the USD481 million surplus posted in December.
Hong Kong, China Unemployment Rate % FEB	03/17	01/15: 3.3% 02/15: 3.3% 12/15: 3.3% 01/16: 3.3%	The unemployment rate in Hong Kong, China stood at 3.3% in January, the same rate as in December.
Indonesia BI Rate % 17-Mar	03/17	02/15: 7.50% 03/15: 7.50% 01/16: 7.25% 02/16: 7.00%	In a meeting held on 18 February, Bank Indonesia's Board of Governors decided to low er its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points to 7.00%.
Japan Trade Balance JPY billion FEB	03/17	01/15: -1,173.8 02/15: -428.5 12/15: 140.3 01/16: -648.8	Japan posted a trade deficit of JPY649 billion in January, a reversal from the JPY140 billion trade surplus in December.
Singapore NODX y-0-y, % FEB	03/17	01/15: 4.3% 02/15: -9.7% 12/15: -7.2% 01/16: -9.9%	Non-oil domestic exports in Singapore contracted 9.9% year-on-year (y-o-y) in January after falling 7.2% y-o-y in December.
Korea, Rep. of PPI y-0-y, % FEB	03/18	01/15: -3.6% 02/15: -3.6% 12/15: -4.0% 01/16: -3.3%	The Republic of Korea's Producer Price Index (PPI) fell 3.3% y-o-y in January due to annual price declines in manufacturing products and utilities.
Korea, Rep. of Unemployment Rate % FEB	03/18	01/15: 3.4% 02/15: 3.9% 12/15: 3.4% 01/16: 3.5%	The unemployment rate in the Republic of Korea inched up to 3.5% in January from 3.4% in December.
Hong Kong, China CPI y-o-y, % FEB	03/21	01/15: 4.1% 02/15: 4.6% 12/15: 2.5% 01/16: 2.7%	Consumer price inflation in Hong Kong, China inched up to 2.7% y-o-y in January from 2.5% y-o-y in December.

Source: AsianBondsOnline, Bloomberg LP, and Reuters.



News Articles: Sources for Further Reading

Tip: Click on link to open a new browser (Acrobat Reader 8); for older versions right-click to open a new browser)

ECB Eases Monetary Policy Further; Policy Rates Kept Unchanged in the Republic of Korea and Malaysia

Introductory statement to the press conference (with Q&A)
 European Central Bank (11 March 2016)

Policy Rates Kept Unchanged in the Republic of Korea and Malaysia

- Monetary Policy Decision (March 10, 2016)
 The Bank of Korea (10 March 2016)
- Monetary Policy Statement
 Bank Negara Malaysia (9 March 2016)

Japan's Real GDP Contracts 0.3% q-o-q in 4Q15; Industrial Production in Malaysia Rises in January

- Quarterly Estimates of GDP:Oct. ~ Dec. 2015 (The 2nd Preliminary Estimates)
 Cabinet Office, Government of Japan (8 March 2016)
- Index Of Industrial Production, Malaysia January 2016
 Department of Statistics Malaysia (11 March 2016)

Consumer Price Inflation Rises in the PRC in February

Consumer Prices for February 2016
 National Bureau of Statistics (10 March 2016)

The PRC's Exports and Imports Fall in February; The Philippines' Merchandise Exports Contract in January

- China's Export Slump Shows Growth Push Hinges on Local Demand Bloomberg (8 March 2016)
- Merchandise Export Performance: January 2016
 Philippine Statistics Authority (10 March 2016)

Japan's Current Account Surplus Narrows in January

Balance of Payments Statistics, January 2016 (Preliminary)
 Ministry of Finance Japan (8 March 2016)

Business Sentiment in Thailand Worsens in February

- Report on Business Sentiment Index: February 2016 Bank of Thailand (7 March 2016)
- Business Sentiment Index by Components Bank of Thailand (7 March 2016)

Indonesian Government Raises IDR31.5 Trillion from the Sale of Retail *Sukuk*; CH. Karnchang Raises THB5.5 Billion from Dual-Tranche Bond Sale

- Govt Breaks Sukuk Retail Sales Record Jakarta Globe (7 March 2016)
- CK193B and CK233A are registered with ThaiBMA on March 7, 2016
 ThaiBMA (7 March 2016)

Korea Eximbank Prices EUR750 Million 3-Year Bond; Hyundai Capital Services Prices USD500 Million 5-Year Green Bonda

- BONDS: High-quality investors chase Kexim's euro 2019s IFRAsia (9 March 2016)
- BONDS: Hyundai taps Green bonds to fuel hybrid ambitions IFRAsia (8 March 2016)
- China and Korea rev up green bond market FinanceAsia (7 March 2016)

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