

BUY (Unchanged)

Change in Numbers

TP: Bt 4.40

Upside : 20.2%

(From: Bt 4.80)

6 DECEMBER 2022

Small Cap Research

SEAFCO Public Co Ltd (SEAFCO TB)

Earnings turnaround secured

SEAFCO's slower earnings recovery due to its labor shortage leads us to cut our earnings forecasts and TP to Bt4.4. But, the jump in its backlog value in 4Q22 now those problems are solved should secure its earnings turnaround next year. At 18/14x PE multiples in 2023/24F vs. its 19x pre-COVID average, we reaffirm our BUY call.



SAKSID PHADTHANANARAK

662 – 779 9112

saksid.pha@thanachartsec.co.th

Cutting our TP to Bt4.4; still a BUY

SEAFCO's earnings turnaround was slower than we had expected earlier as a labor shortage prevented it from increasing its backlog and boosting its utilization rate. This prompts us to lower our earnings to a Bt174m loss this year (from a Bt28m loss) and by 6/4% in 2023/24F. Our DCF-based 12-month TP (2023F base year) is therefore cut to Bt4.4/share from Bt4.8. However, we maintain our BUY call as **1)** the 24% fall in SEAFCO's share price from its peak this year looks to have already priced in the bad news, **2)** after bringing in 200 more foreign workers in 3Q-4Q22, its labor shortage problems have been resolved, **3)** a jump in its backlog value in 4Q22 should secure its earnings turnaround next year, and **4)** we also see more potential high-value work for SEAFCO as the infrastructure projects that were bid out this year are scheduled to start construction next year.

90% of our 2023F revenue forecast secured

After solving its labor shortage problems, SEAFCO won Bt1.5bn of new work (the Bt800m South Purple Line and Bt690m of commercial buildings), driving its backlog value up to Bt2.6bn in 4Q22F vs. Bt1.2bn at end-3Q22 and Bt1.1bn at end-2Q22. Even though we exclude Bt171m of revenue in 4Q22F and Bt700m from the Central Embassy project due to the long delay, we still estimate SEAFCO's backlog value at Bt1.7bn at end-2022F to be recognized as revenue next year. This implies that 90% of our 2023F revenue projection is already secured. With more potential high-value work such as the West Orange lines, U-tapao Airport's expansion, and Don Mueang Airport's phase 3, we estimate SEAFCO's new work value at Bt1.6bn-1.8bn in 2023-24F vs. Bt1.4bn in 2022F, Bt519m in 2021, and Bt3bn in 2019.

Margin trend

With Bt1.9-2bn of revenue in 2023-24F (vs. Bt728m in 2022F) and falling steel prices, we forecast SEAFCO's gross margin to recover from negative 14% this year to positive 15% next year and 18% in 2024F. We believe these margin estimates are conservative vs. 17-18% when its revenue stood at Bt1.8bn-1.9bn in 2015-17 and 21-23% when its revenue was at Bt2.8bn-3bn in 2018-19. This would drive its earnings to turn positive to Bt155m next year before growing a further 28% y-y in 2024F.

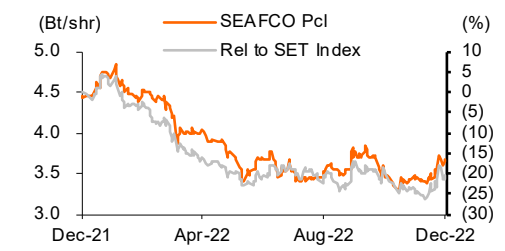
Valuation not too demanding in our view

After its share price fall of 24% from its peak this year, SEAFCO is now trading at 18x PE in 2023F, before falling to 14x in 2024F. We therefore don't see these PE multiples as overly demanding compared to its 19x average PE during the pre-COVID 2015-19 period.

COMPANY VALUATION

Y/E Dec (Bt m)	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Sales	1,435	728	1,969	1,921
Net profit	(57)	(174)	155	197
Consensus NP	—	(86)	112	153
Diff frm cons (%)	—	na	38.0	29.0
Norm profit	(55)	(174)	155	197
Prev. Norm profit	—	(28)	164	205
Chg frm prev (%)	—	na	(6.0)	(3.8)
Norm EPS (Bt)	(0.1)	(0.2)	0.2	0.3
Norm EPS grw (%)	na	na	na	27.7
Norm PE (x)	na	na	17.5	13.7
EV/EBITDA (x)	24.4	na	7.7	6.1
P/BV (x)	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.6
Div yield (%)	0.0	0.0	2.9	4.4
ROE (%)	na	na	10.6	12.4
Net D/E (%)	13.8	1.9	(6.5)	(16.9)

PRICE PERFORMANCE



COMPANY INFORMATION

Price as of 6-Dec-22 (Bt)	3.66
Market Cap (US\$ m)	77.2
Listed Shares (m shares)	739.7
Free Float (%)	73.7
Avg Daily Turnover (US\$ m)	0.1
12M Price H/L (Bt)	4.84/3.28
Sector	Construction
Major Shareholder	Thasnanipan Family 26.2%

Sources: Bloomberg, Company data, Thanachart estimates

ESG Summary Report P6

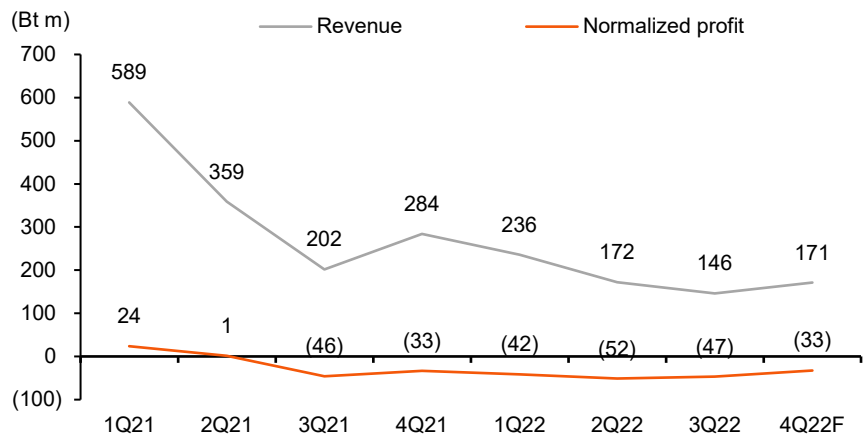


Ex 1: Key Assumption Changes

	2020	2021	2022F	2023F	2024F
New work value (Bt m)					
New	2,384	505	1,383	1,600	1,800
Old			1,400	2,000	2,060
Change (%)			(1.2)	(20.0)	(12.6)
Revenue (Bt m)					
New	2,560	1,435	728	1,969	1,921
Old			1,262	2,151	2,034
Change (%)			(42.3)	(8.5)	(5.6)
Gross margin (%)					
New	13.5	2.2	(13.5)	15.0	18.0
Old			5.0	15.0	18.0
Change (pp)			na	—	—

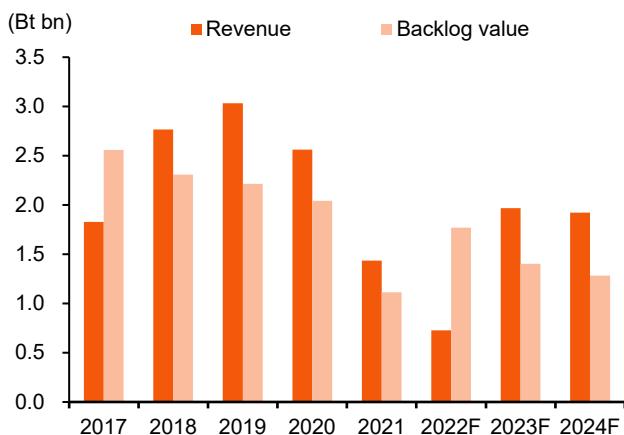
Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Ex 2: Low Utilization Rate To Keep SEAFCO's Earnings Under Pressure This Year



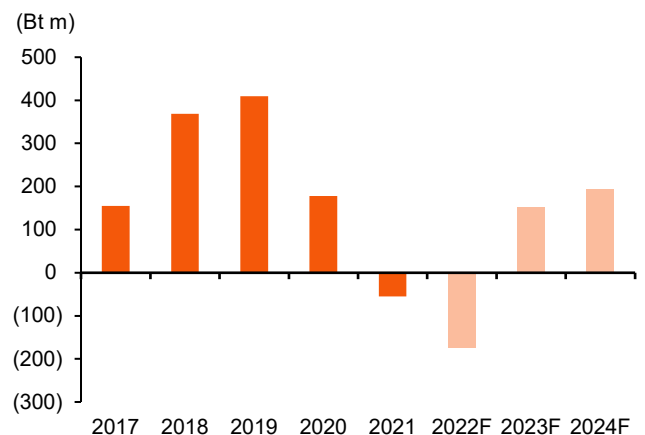
Source: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Ex 3: But High Backlog At End-2022F To Drive Sales...



Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Ex 4: ...And Turn Around Its Earnings Next Year



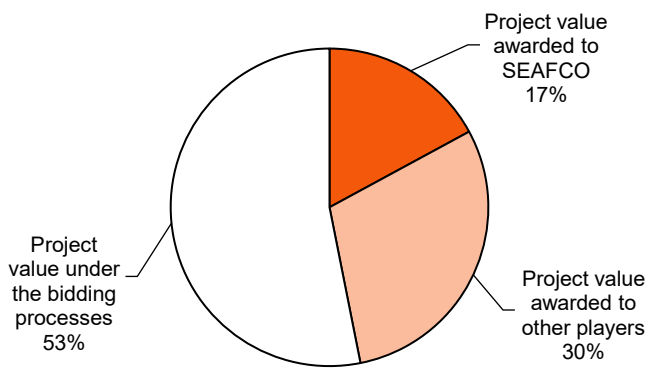
Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Ex 5: Major Projects In SEAFCO's Backlog

Project	Value (Bt m)
Backlog as of September 2022	1,153
Excluding Central Embassy project	(700)
Adding Tenth Avenue	190
Adding North Plot	500
Adding South Purple Line	800
Deducting 4Q22F revenue	(171)
Backlog at end 2022F	1,771

Sources: Company data, Ch. Karnchang, Thanachart estimates

Ex 7: Project Value Under Bidding Processes



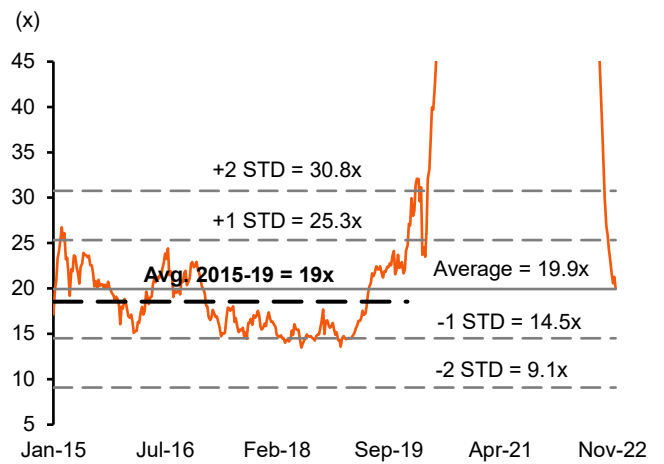
Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates
 Note: During 1 Jan 2022 - 15 Nov 2022

Ex 6: Potential High-value Work In 2023-24F

Type	Project	Project Value (Bt bn)
Mass transit	South Orange Line	109
Mass transit	Red Line Extensions	66
Double-track rail	Khonkaen – Nong Khai	29
Double-track rail	Chira Junction – Ubon.	36
Double-track rail	Pak Nam Pho – Den Chai	63
Airport	Don Mueang Airport's phase 3	37
Total		340

Sources: Company data, Ch. Karnchang, Thanachart estimates

Ex 8: SEAFCO's PE Standard Deviation



Sources: Bloomberg, Thanachart estimates

Ex 9: 12-month DCF-based TP Calculation Using A Base Year Of 2023F

(Bt m)	2023F	2024F	2025F	2026F	2027F	2028F	2029F	2030F	2031F	2032F	2033F	Terminal Value
EBITDA	339	396	389	411	431	454	474	489	497	505	513	—
Free cash flow	99	226	234	245	262	282	299	315	326	333	341	4,419
PV of free cash flow	99	190	179	171	168	165	160	154	139	130	121	1,568
Risk-free rate (%)	2.5											
Market risk premium (%)	8.0											
Beta	0.9											
WACC (%)	8.9											
Terminal growth (%)	2.0											
Enterprise value - add investments	3,243											
Net debt (2022F)	26											
Minority interest	(1)											
Equity value	3,218											
# of shares (m)*	740											
Target price/share (Bt)	4.4											

Source: Thanachart estimates

Valuation Comparison**Ex 10: Peer Valuation Comparison**

Name	BBG code	Current	EPS growth		— PE —		— P/BV —		EV/EBITDA		— Div yield —	
		Price (Bt)	22F (%)	23F (%)	22F (x)	23F (x)	22F (x)	23F (x)	22F (x)	23F (x)	22F (%)	23F (%)
Italian-Thai Devel.	ITD TB	1.88	(758.7)	65.6	na	na	0.9	0.9	10.7	9.3	0.0	0.0
Sriracha Construction	SRICHA TB	9.60	na	na	na	6.8	1.7	1.6	28.6	4.1	0.0	11.8
CH Karnchang*	CK TB	24.50	897.1	25.6	41.7	33.2	1.6	1.5	na	113.1	1.0	1.2
Pylon Pcl*	PYLON TB	4.50	283.2	53.2	23.0	15.0	3.1	2.8	10.6	7.5	3.3	5.0
Seafco Pcl*	SEAFKO TB	3.66	na	na	na	17.5	2.0	1.8	na	7.7	0.0	2.9
Sino Thai Eng. & Cons*	STEC TB	12.20	5.1	21.1	25.5	21.1	1.1	1.0	7.1	6.1	1.2	1.7
Average			106.7	41.4	30.1	18.7	1.7	1.6	14.3	24.6	0.9	3.8

Source: Bloomberg

Note: * Thanachart estimates using normalized EPS growth

Based on 6-Dec-22 closing prices

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Seafo Public Company Limited (SEAFCO) is a construction and engineering company that uses bored piles, diaphragm walls and underground engineering technology to provide cost-effective solutions for foundation problems, basement construction and development of underground facilities and sub-structure work in Bangkok and other large cities. It operates and offers services as a main contractor, sub-contractor, and joint-venture partner to both government and private sector clients.

Source: Thanachart

COMPANY RATING



Rating Scale

Excellent	5
Good	4
Fair	3
Weak	2
Very Weak	1
None	0

Source: Thanachart; * CG Rating

THANACHART'S SWOT ANALYSIS

S — Strength

- Its 40 years of experience, knowledge and innovation allow the company to dominate the market.
- Cost competitiveness due to economies of scale.
- Strong financial position with very low gearing.

O — Opportunity

- Thailand is entering a new multi-year infrastructure investment cycle.
- Higher-rise building trend in Bangkok given rising land costs.
- Thick and very soft clay terrain in Bangkok requires more piling foundation work.

W — Weakness

- The business is capital intensive and requires high asset utilization.
- Bored piling work requires high reliability.
- Risk from the company relying on key management personnel who are quite elderly.

T — Threat

- Political instability causing delays to Thailand's new investment cycle and private construction projects.
- High volatility for steel and cement prices over short periods of time.

CONSENSUS COMPARISON

	Consensus	Thanachart	Diff
Target price (Bt)	4.13	4.40	6%
Net profit 22F (Bt m)	(86)	(174)	na
Net profit 23F (Bt m)	112	155	38%
Consensus REC	BUY: 4	HOLD: 3	SELL: 0

HOW ARE WE DIFFERENT FROM THE STREET?

- Our earnings estimate for 2023F is 38% above the Bloomberg consensus forecast, which we believe is due us having a more aggressive view on a revenue and gross margin recovery after SEAFCO secured a higher backlog value in 4Q22.
- Our DCF-based TP is also higher than the Street's on the back of our higher earnings forecast.

Sources: Bloomberg consensus, Thanachart estimates

RISKS TO OUR INVESTMENT CASE

- Delays to the government's infrastructure projects and private construction projects could impact our new work value assumptions.
- Delays could also hurt SEAFCO's gross margins given its high operating leverage.
- Fluctuations in building material prices over short periods of time also present a major risk to our earnings projections.

Source: Thanachart

INCOME STATEMENT

FY ending Dec (Bt m)	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Sales	2,560	1,435	728	1,969	1,921
Cost of sales	2,214	1,404	826	1,673	1,575
Gross profit	345	31	(98)	295	346
% gross margin	13.5%	2.2%	-13.5%	15.0%	18.0%
Selling & administration expenses	126	120	116	134	134
Operating profit	219	(89)	(215)	161	211
% operating margin	8.6%	-6.2%	-29.5%	8.2%	11.0%
Depreciation & amortization	213	209	170	177	185
EBITDA	432	120	(45)	339	396
% EBITDA margin	16.9%	8.3%	-6.1%	17.2%	20.6%
Non-operating income	25	41	35	35	35
Non-operating expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Interest expense	(24)	(21)	(15)	(8)	(4)
Pre-tax profit	220	(68)	(195)	188	242
Income tax	48	(11)	(19)	38	48
After-tax profit	172	(58)	(175)	151	194
% net margin	6.7%	-4.0%	-24.1%	7.7%	10.1%
Shares in affiliates' Earnings	0	0	0	0	0
Minority interests	5	3	1	4	4
Extraordinary items	(23)	(2)	0	0	0
NET PROFIT	154	(57)	(174)	155	197
Normalized profit	178	(55)	(174)	155	197
EPS (Bt)	0.2	(0.1)	(0.2)	0.2	0.3
Normalized EPS (Bt)	0.2	(0.1)	(0.2)	0.2	0.3

We expect the COVID hit to cause SEAFCO to make another loss in 2022F...

...before an earnings turnaround in 2023F when infrastructure projects start to be built

BALANCE SHEET

FY ending Dec (Bt m)	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
ASSETS:					
Current assets:	975	886	624	896	1,027
Cash & cash equivalent	111	231	200	200	350
Account receivables	459	372	140	378	368
Inventories	82	65	34	69	65
Others	323	217	250	250	244
Investments & loans	60	57	57	57	57
Net fixed assets	1,286	1,177	1,107	1,050	985
Other assets	757	593	479	489	493
Total assets	3,078	2,713	2,267	2,493	2,562
LIABILITIES:					
Current liabilities:	1,003	842	521	628	587
Account payables	593	355	181	367	345
Bank overdraft & ST loans	41	166	84	38	27
Current LT debt	158	145	74	33	23
Others current liabilities	210	176	183	190	191
Total LT debt	197	135	68	31	22
Others LT liabilities	266	182	299	306	308
Total liabilities	1,466	1,160	889	964	917
Minority interest	7	1	(1)	(5)	(9)
Preferreds shares	0	0	0	0	0
Paid-up capital	370	370	370	370	370
Share premium	164	164	164	164	164
Warrants	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus	(5)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)
Retained earnings	1,076	1,027	853	1,008	1,128
Shareholders' equity	1,605	1,553	1,379	1,533	1,654
Liabilities & equity	3,078	2,713	2,267	2,493	2,562

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FY ending Dec (Bt m)	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Earnings before tax	220	(68)	(195)	188	242
Tax paid	(55)	8	17	(33)	(49)
Depreciation & amortization	213	209	170	177	185
Chg In working capital	81	(135)	90	(87)	(8)
Chg In other CA & CL / minorities	139	76	(24)	4	7
Cash flow from operations	598	89	58	249	377
Capex	115	(100)	(100)	(120)	(120)
Right of use	(375)	96	50	(10)	(10)
ST loans & investments	0	0	0	0	0
LT loans & investments	(34)	3	0	0	0
Adj for asset revaluation	0	0	0	0	0
Chg In other assets & liabilities	30	(21)	181	7	9
Cash flow from investments	(265)	(22)	131	(124)	(121)
Debt financing	(246)	50	(220)	(125)	(29)
Capital increase	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	(155)	0	0	0	(77)
Warrants & other surplus	(17)	4	0	0	0
Cash flow from financing	(418)	54	(220)	(125)	(106)
Free cash flow	712	(11)	(42)	129	257

VALUATION

FY ending Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Normalized PE (x)	15.2	na	na	17.5	13.7
Normalized PE - at target price (x)	18.3	na	na	21.1	16.5
PE (x)	17.5	na	na	17.5	13.7
PE - at target price (x)	21.1	na	na	21.1	16.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.9	24.4	na	7.7	6.1
EV/EBITDA - at target price (x)	8.2	29.0	na	9.3	7.5
P/BV (x)	1.7	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.6
P/BV - at target price (x)	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.0
P/CFO (x)	4.5	30.3	46.4	10.9	7.2
Price/sales (x)	1.1	1.9	3.7	1.4	1.4
Dividend yield (%)	2.7	0.0	0.0	2.9	4.4
FCF Yield (%)	26.3	(0.4)	(1.5)	4.7	9.5
(Bt)					
Normalized EPS	0.2	(0.1)	(0.2)	0.2	0.3
EPS	0.2	(0.1)	(0.2)	0.2	0.3
DPS	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
BV/share	2.2	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.2
CFO/share	0.8	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.5
FCF/share	1.0	(0.0)	(0.1)	0.2	0.3

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

Bad news already looks to be baked into the share price

Strong 2023-24F earnings turnaround makes PE look undemanding at 18/14x vs. 19x pre-COVID

FINANCIAL RATIOS

FY ending Dec	2020A	2021A	2022F	2023F	2024F
Growth Rate					
Sales (%)	(15.6)	(43.9)	(49.3)	170.5	(2.4)
Net profit (%)	(62.3)	na	na	na	27.7
EPS (%)	(62.3)	na	na	na	27.7
Normalized profit (%)	(56.6)	na	na	na	27.7
Normalized EPS (%)	(56.6)	na	na	na	27.7
Dividend payout ratio (%)	47.9	0.0	0.0	50.0	60.0
Operating performance					
Gross margin (%)	13.5	2.2	(13.5)	15.0	18.0
Operating margin (%)	8.6	(6.2)	(29.5)	8.2	11.0
EBITDA margin (%)	16.9	8.3	(6.1)	17.2	20.6
Net margin (%)	6.7	(4.0)	(24.1)	7.7	10.1
D/E (incl. minor) (x)	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0
Net D/E (incl. minor) (x)	0.2	0.1	0.0	(0.1)	(0.2)
Interest coverage - EBIT (x)	9.1	na	na	19.8	48.9
Interest coverage - EBITDA (x)	18.0	5.8	na	41.4	91.6
ROA - using norm profit (%)	5.7	na	na	6.5	7.8
ROE - using norm profit (%)	11.0	na	na	10.6	12.4
DuPont					
ROE - using after tax profit (%)	10.7	na	na	10.3	12.1
- asset turnover (x)	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.8	0.8
- operating margin (%)	9.6	na	na	10.0	12.8
- leverage (x)	1.9	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.6
- interest burden (%)	90.2	143.7	108.4	95.8	98.2
- tax burden (%)	78.1	na	na	80.0	80.0
WACC (%)	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
ROIC (%)	8.3	(4.7)	(10.9)	9.2	11.8
NOPAT (Bt m)	171	(89)	(193)	129	169
invested capital (Bt m)	1,892	1,768	1,405	1,434	1,376

Sources: Company data, Thanachart estimates

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As a result, SET has created the SETTHSI for the purpose of indicating the price of these sustainable companies that pass the market capital size and liquidity criteria.

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AA - AAA	LEADER: A company leading its industry in managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities

The Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI)

The Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) are a family of best-in-class benchmarks for investors who have recognized that sustainable business practices are critical to generating long-term shareholder value and who wish to reflect their sustainability convictions in their investment portfolios. The family was launched in 1999 as the first global sustainability benchmark and tracks the stock performance of the world's leading companies in terms of economic, environmental and social criteria. Created jointly by S&P Dow Jones Indices and SAM, the DJSI combine the experience of an established index provider with the expertise of a specialist in Sustainable Investing to select the most sustainable companies from across 61 industries. The indices serve as benchmarks for investors who integrate sustainability considerations into their portfolios, and provide an effective engagement platform for investors who wish to encourage companies to improve their corporate sustainability practices.

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ESG risk combines the concepts of management and exposure to arrive at an absolute assessment of ESG risk. We identify five categories of ESG risk severity that could impact a company's enterprise value

Moody's ESG Solutions

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90-100	▲▲▲▲▲	Excellent
80-89	▲▲▲▲	Very Good
70-79	▲▲▲	Good
60-69	▲▲	Satisfactory
50-59	▲	Pass
Below		N/A

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Thanachart Securities Pcl.

Research Team

18 Floor, MBK Tower

444 Phayathai Road, Pathumwan Road, Bangkok 10330

Tel: 662 - 779-9119

Email: thanachart.res@thanachartsec.co.th

Pimpaka Nichgaroon, CFA

Head of Research

Tel: 662-779-9199

pimpaka.nic@thanachartsec.co.th

Pattarawan Wangmingmat

Senior Technical Analyst

Tel: 662-779-9105

pattarawan.wan@thanachartsec.co.th

Phannarai Tiyapittayarut

Property, Retail

Tel: 662-779-9109

phannarai.von@thanachartsec.co.th

Sarachada Sornsong

Bank, Finance

Tel: 662-779-9106

sarachada.sor@thanachartsec.co.th

Witchanan Tambamroong

Technical Analyst

Tel: 662-779-9123

witchanan.tam@thanachartsec.co.th

Adisak Phupiphathirungul, CFA

Retail Market Strategy

Tel: 662-779-9120

adisak.phu@thanachartsec.co.th

Nuttapop Prasitsuksant

Telecom, Utilities

Tel: 662-483-8296

nuttapop.pra@thanachartsec.co.th

Rata Limsuthiwanpoom

Auto, Industrial Estate, Media, Prop. Fund

Tel: 662-483-8297

rata.lim@thanachartsec.co.th

Siriporn Arunothai

Small Cap, Healthcare, Hotel

Tel: 662-779-9113

siriporn.aru@thanachartsec.co.th

Sittichet Rungrassameephat

Analyst, Quantitative

Tel: 662-483-8303

sittichet.run@thanachartsec.co.th

Chak Reungsinpinya

Strategy, Insurance, Paper

Tel: 662-779-9104

chak.reu@thanachartsec.co.th

Pattadol Bunnak

Electronics, Food & Beverage, Shipping

Tel: 662-483-8298

pattadol.bun@thanachartsec.co.th

Saksid Phadthanarak

Construction, Transportation

Tel: 662-779-9112

saksid.pha@thanachartsec.co.th

Yupapan Polpornprasert

Energy, Petrochemical

Tel: 662-779-9110

yupapan.pol@thanachartsec.co.th

Thaloengsak Kucharoenpaisan

Analyst, Retail Market

Tel: 662-483-8304

thaloengsak.kuc@thanachartsec.co.th