

Rating Buy

Asia Hong Kong

Energy Chemicals

China BlueChemical

Reuters Bloomberg Exchange Ticker 3983.HK 3983 HK HSI 3983

1H17 results beat prelim. announcement; lifting TP to HK\$3.2

1H17 results beat on better methanol performance

CBC reported 1H17 net profit of RMB290m/EPS RMB0.06, a turnaround from a net loss of RMB124m in 1H16. Reported earnings were c.9% higher than minimum net profit preliminary guidance of RMB265m, and beat our expectations on better methanol performance. The 1H17 net profit tracks 63%/47% of DBe/consensus FY17E. The strong turnaround in performance was attributed to better ASPs in urea and methanol, and higher urea sales volume. However, the results were overshadowed by 1) a sluggish phosphate market and 2) a poor urea utilization rate in the Tianye urea plant. As of 1H17, the company held net cash of RMB4.6bn or RMB0.99/share. With strong 1H results, we lift our EPS by 67%/10%/6% in FY17E/18E/19E on higher methanol ASP and utilization rate. We reiterate our Buy rating with a new DCF-based target price of HK\$3.2.

Operating summary: methanol segment saves the day; phosphate still loss making

- The Urea segment recorded operating profit of RMB63m, a turnaround from a loss of RMB191m in 1H16, driven by 1) a urea ASP increase of 15% YoY to RMB1,455/ton, 2) overall utilization rate having reached 99.8% (vs. 90.9% in 1H16) driven by utilization pick-up in the Fudao I & II plants and 3) sales volume having increased by 21% YoY to 1.2mtons. However, it was partly offset by a drop in utilization rate of CNOOC Tianye, recorded at 59% (vs. 114% in 1H16); producing 152ktons of urea (-49% YoY), mainly due to production halts until March 2017.
- The Phosphate & NPK segment posted a loss of RMB36m, narrowed from a loss of RMB58m in 1H16, and driven by utilization rate improvement to 92.8% (vs. 90.4% in 1H16). However, it was offset by weak overall phosphate and NPK ASPs, the average ASP of which dropped to RMB2,155/ton (-2.5% YoY). Also, MAP production volume dropped to 15mtons (-43% YoY) due to a sluggish MAP market.
- The Methanol segment posted operating profit of RMB442m, a turnaround from a net loss of RMB33m in 1H16, driven by a strong methanol ASP increase of 47% YoY to RMB2,227/ton. The strong surge of ASP was driven by recovery of the energy market and strong demand from methanol-to-olefin (MTO) usage. Despite the Tianye plant utilization rate having picked up by 41%pts to 119%, overall production volume was

Date 30 August 2017

Forecast Change

Price at 29 Aug 2017 (HKD)	2.27
Price target - 12mth (HKD)	3.20
52-week range (HKD)	2.83 - 1.41
HANG SENG INDEX	27,863

Valuation & Risks

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Key changes			
TP	3.00 to 3.20	\uparrow	6.7%
Sales (FYE)	9,701 to 10,110	1	4.2%
Op prof margin (FYE)	4.8 to 7.4	1	54.4%
Net profit (FYE)	274.4 to 457.6	1	66.7%
Source: Deutsche Bank			

Price/price relative



Performance (%)	1m	3m	12m
Absolute	9.1	10.2	51.3
HANG SENG INDEX	3.3	8.4	22.1
Source: Deutsche Bank			

Key indicators (FY1)	
ROE (%)	3.4
Net debt/equity (%)	-36.2
Book value/share (CNY)	2.94
Price/book (x)	0.7
Net interest cover (x)	17.7
Operating profit margin (%)	7.4
Source: Deutsche Bank	



down by 2% YoY due to the utilization rate drop of the Hainan plants, with an overall utilization of 95.6%.

Recommending Buy on earnings recovery, while 2H17 looks a little challenging

We continue to rate CBC as Buy and expect earnings recovery in FY18-19E, with ROIC reaching 12.5% in FY19E, improving from 6.2% in FY17E as a result of lower gas feedstocks cost (new DF 13-2 gas supply contract to start in 2H18) and better utilization rate. Moreover, CBC's long-term growth potential through deploying net cash position in high value-added gas chemicals business could trigger rerating.

Looking ahead in 2H17, the bright side could come from implementation of a 2% VAT cut to 11% from 13%, and we have anticipated earnings to turn around in 2017. On the other hand, we believe earnings recovery momentum may take a pause in 2H17, where products prices recovery softened since 2Q, and we anticipate a more flat recovery of energy prices. Conversely, the Fudao II urea plants have been suspended for 30 days since 23 August due to maintenance, and will result in production loss of 75ktons. With robust natural gas demand growth in China, the Tianye urea operating rate during the winter gas usage peak season could be at risk, despite CBC expressing PetroChina's intentions for non-stop gas feedstock supply.

Valuation and risks; maintaining Buy

CBC is trading at 0.7x/2.5x forward P/B and EV/EBITDA at a 65%/80% discount to global fertilizer peers. We derive our HK\$3.2 target price using DCF, assuming WACC of 9.0% and a terminal growth rate of 0%. Our target price implies 0.9x 2017E P/B, representing a 58% discount to the global peer average. We reiterate our Buy rating on CBC on unwinding valuation and earnings recovery ahead. Risks include: 1) potentially faster-than-expected depletion at gas fields in the South China Sea and 2) volatility in prices of main products.

2015A	2016A	2017E	2018E	2019E
10,671.8	8,503.8	10,110.0	10,705.0	11,315.6
2,194.0	757.0	1,703.5	2,344.7	2,632.4
830.2	-215.2	457.6	900.9	1,103.5
0.18	-0.05	0.10	0.20	0.24
0.18	-0.05	0.10	0.20	0.24
0.18	-0.05	0.06	0.18	0.23
0.0%	-0.0%	66.7%	9.9%	5.9%
_	-	-	96.9	22.5
0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.6
12.1	_	19.4	9.9	8.1
2.8	2.9	2.4	1.6	1.4
0.08	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.12
3.7	3.5	2.6	5.1	6.2
	10,671.8 2,194.0 830.2 0.18 0.18 0.18 0.0% - 0.6 12.1 2.8 0.08	10,671.8 8,503.8 2,194.0 757.0 830.2 -215.2 0.18 -0.05 0.18 -0.05 0.18 -0.05 0.0% -0.0% 0.6 0.6 12.1 - 2.8 2.9 0.08 0.05	10,671.8 8,503.8 10,110.0 2,194.0 757.0 1,703.5 830.2 -215.2 457.6 0.18 -0.05 0.10 0.18 -0.05 0.06 0.0% -0.0% 66.7% - - - 0.6 0.6 0.7 12.1 - 19.4 2.8 2.9 2.4 0.08 0.05 0.05	10,671.8 8,503.8 10,110.0 10,705.0 2,194.0 757.0 1,703.5 2,344.7 830.2 -215.2 457.6 900.9 0.18 -0.05 0.10 0.20 0.18 -0.05 0.10 0.20 0.18 -0.05 0.06 0.18 0.0% -0.0% 66.7% 9.9% - - - 96.9 0.6 0.6 0.7 0.6 12.1 - 19.4 9.9 2.8 2.9 2.4 1.6 0.08 0.05 0.05 0.10



1H17 results at a glance

Figure 1: Income statement

RMB million	1H13	2H13	1H14	2H14	1H15	2H15	1H16	2H16	1H17	1H17 YoY %	1H17 HoH%
Revenue	5,222	5,502	5,264	5,533	4,745	5,926	3,878	4,626	5,137	32%	11%
cogs	(3,671)	(3,830)	(3,859)	(4,252)	(3,819)	(5,107)	(3,777)	(4,428)	(4,293)	NM	NM
Gross Profit	1,551	1,672	1,405	1,281	927	819	101	199	844	736%	325%
SG&A	(294)	(529)	(393)	(551)	(374)	(443)	(366)	(428)	(385)	NM	NM
Operating profit	1,257	1,143	1,012	730	552	376	(265)	(230)	459	NM	NM
Other Income/(loss)	64	9	95	23	170	193	177	152	118	-33%	-23%
EBIT	1,321	1,152	1,107	753	722	569	(88)	(77)	577	NM	NM
Interest expense	0	(3)	(0)	(9)	(15)	(77)	(72)	(90)	(61)	NM	NM
Share of results of joint venture	1	(1)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	NM	NM
Share results of associates	0	(9)	(380)	(97)	(2)	(66)	(1)	1	(33)	NM	NM
Change in Fair value	0	(123)	0	(1,260)	0	0	0	0	0	na	na
Pretax income	1,322	1,025	722	(609)	697	434	(161)	(168)	481	NM	NM
Tax expense	(285)	(269)	(195)	179	(156)	(132)	19	74	(154)	NM	NM
Net profit	1,037	756	528	(430)	541	302	(142)	(95)	328	NM	NM
NP attributable to shareholders	958	689	448	(342)	505	325	(124)	(91)	290	NM	NM
EPS (RMB/sh)	0.21	0.15	0.10	(80.0)	0.11	0.07	(0.03)	(0.02)	0.06	NM	NM
Exchange (losses)/gain	4	(12)	4	4	8	(30)	(11)	18	1	NM	NM
NP (excl FX gain/loss)	1,034	765	524	(433)	535	323	(132)	(105)	328	NM	NM
GPM%	30%	30%	27%	23%	20%	14%	3%	4%	16%	14% pts	12% pts
ОРМ%	24%	21%	19%	13%	12%	6%	-7%	-5%	9%	16% pts	14% pts
NIM%	20%	14%	10%	-8%	11%	5%	-4%	-2%	6%	10% pts	8% pts
SG&A as % of Revenue	6%	10%	7%	10%	8%	7%	9%	9%	7%	-2% pts	-2% pts
Effective tax rate	22%	26%	27%	29%	22%	30%	12%	44%	32%	20% pts	-12% pts

Source: Company data, Deutsche Bank

Operating data

Figure 2: Operating segments

Segment profit before tax (RMB '000	1H15	2H15	1H16	2H16	1H17	1H17 YoY%	1H17 HoH%
Urea	424,372	374,679	-191,494	-263,428	63,771	NM	NM
Phosphate & NPK	92,431	96,183	-58,458	-74,138	-36,221	NM	NM
Methanol	73,082	-24,611	-32,573	143,612	442,458	NM	208%
Others	10,623	68,799	67,895	27,905	49,287	-27%	77%
Total	600,508	515,050	-214,630	-166,049	519,295	NM	NM

Source: Company data, Deutsche Bank

Figure 3: Production and ASPs

		1H16		2H16			1H17			1117	YoY%	1H17 HoH%	
		IHID			2010			IH17		IHI7	10170	IH171	поп%
	ASP (RMB/t)	Production (tonne)	Utilisation rate	ASP (RMB/t)	Production (tonne)	Utilisation rate	ASP (RMB/t)	Production (tonne)	Utilisation rate	ASP (RMB/t)	Production (tonne)	ASP (RMB/t)	Production (tonne)
Chemical fertilisers													
Urea													
Fudao phase I		227,462	88%		281,049	108%		295,680	114%		30%		5%
Fudao phase II		230,734	58%		383,544	96%		421,436	105%		83%		10%
CNOOC Tianye		296,318	114%		39,228	15%		152,378	59%		-49%		288%
CNOOC Huahe		318,035	122%		288,514	93%		308,635	119%		-3%		7%
Group Total	1,262	1,072,549	91%	1,234	992,335	81%	1,455	1,178,129	100%	15%	10%	18%	19%
Phosphate fertilisers and Compound fertilisers													
DYK MAP		26,322	35%		29,390	39%		15,022	20%		-43%		-49%
DYK DAP Phase I		169,018	97%		168,979	97%		147,944	85%		-12%		-12%
DYK DAP Phase II		256,593	103%		301,892	121%		298,580	119%		16%		-1%
Group Total	2,211	451,933	90%	2,211	500,261	100%	2,155	461,546	92%	-3%	2%	-3%	-8%
Chemical products													
Methanol													
Hainan phase I		291,101	97%		284,885	95%		260,709	87%		-10%		-8%
Hainan phase II		405,893	102%		377,368	94%		384,637	96%		-5%		2%
CNOOC Tianye		84,552	85%		61,260	61%		119,136	119%		41%		94%
Group Total	1,494	781,546	98%	1,816	723,513	90%	2,227	764,482	96%	49%	-2%	23%	6%



Figure 3: Production and ASPs

Source: Company data, Deutsche Bank

Valuation Charts



Source: Company data, Bloomberg Finance LP, Deutsche Bank estimates



Source: Company data, Bloomberg Finance LP, Deutsche Bank estimates

Figure 6: 12-month forward EV/EBITDA Band



Source: Company data, Bloomberg Finance LP, Deutsche Bank estimates

Figure 7: CBC 12-month forward EV/EBITDA



Source: Company data, Bloomberg Finance LP, Deutsche Bank estimates



Comps

Figure 8: Global fertilizer comps

	Reuters	DB	Trading	28-Aug	Mkt Cap	P/E	(x)	P/E	3 (x)	ROE	(%)	Dvd	yield	EV/E	SITDA	ROIC	C (%)
Name	Ticker	Rating	Ccy	Price	(USD mn)	FY17E	FY18E										
China - H Listed																	
China BlueChem	3983.HK	Buy	HKD	2.28	1,338	19.4	9.9	0.7	0.6	3.4	6.5	2.6	5.1	2.4	1.6	6.1	11.0
Sinofert	0297.HK	Hold	HKD	1.05	934	228.6	21.1	0.7	0.7	0.3	3.4	0.0	1.2	5.5	3.0	-2.2	2.9
Weighted average						94.7	13.5	0.7	0.7	1.9	4.7	2.0	3.7	4.7	3.4	2.4	6.8
China - A Listed																	
QSLI	000792.SZ	Hold	CNY	11.25	4,041	70.2	36.9	1.3	1.2	1.8	3.4	0.2	0.3	16.1	12.8	1.1	1.4
Shandong Kingenta	002470.SZ	NR	CNY	8.17	3,873	19.0	16.1	2.5	2.3	14.1	15.4	1.6	1.9	14.1	11.3	NA	NA
Yunnan Yuntianhua	600096.SS	NR	CNY	8.02	1,595	NA	100.3	2.8	2.7	-2.7	3.0	NA	NA	12.9	12.8	NA	NA
Hualu-Hengsheng	600426.SS	NR	CNY	11.00	2,683	15.7	12.0	1.8	1.6	12.0	13.8	1.0	1.3	8.9	7.9	NA	NA
Shenzhen Batian	002170.SZ	NR	CNY	7.02	940	21.9	15.3	NA									
Hubei Xingfa	600141.SS	NR	CNY	16.34	1,231	34.5	28.6	1.3	1.3	4.9	5.8	0.8	0.9	10.1	9.5	NA	NA
Weighted average						26.3	25.6	1.5	1.4	6.4	8.0	1.3	1.7	10.5	8.9	1.1	1.4
Global (ex-HK/China)																	
Industries Qatar	IQCD.QA	Buy	QAR	92.10	14,955	14.2	12.9	1.5	1.3	10.9	10.8	4.4	4.4	27.4	21.3	2.7	3.1
Potash Corp	POT.N	Hold	USD	17.28	14,517	28.2	25.4	1.7	1.7	5.9	6.7	NA	NA	13.3	11.7	NA	NA
Agrium	AGU.CN	NR	CAD	121.04	13,408	19.9	16.4	2.1	2.0	10.8	12.3	3.6	3.7	10.5	9.2	NA	NA
Ma'aden	1211.SE	Sell	SAR	50.00	15,734	82.3	44.5	2.3	2.2	2.8	5.0	0.0	0.0	23.0	17.2	2.5	3.4
Yara	YAR.OL	Hold	NOK	315.00	11,066	19.4	15.5	1.1	1.1	5.9	7.1	2.9	3.2	9.0	7.9	5.5	6.3
PTT GC	PTTGC.BK	Buy	THB	76.00	10,617	12.2	12.1	1.4	1.3	11.4	10.9	4.1	4.1	7.2	6.5	11.7	12.4
Uralkali	URKAq.L	Sell	USD	NA	5,875	8.7	NA	4.0	NA	60.3	NA	0.0	NA	8.3	NA	13.1	NA
PHOSAGRO	PHORq.L	Hold	USD	NA	5,575	9.6	9.1	3.1	2.6	35.9	31.1	5.2	5.5	7.1	6.6	19.4	18.7
K+S	SDFGn.DE	Sell	EUR	20.43	4,644	20.6	14.7	8.0	8.0	4.1	5.6	2.2	3.4	11.4	9.1	3.4	4.3
Coromandel Int'l	CORF.BO	Buy	INR	444.60	1,168	16.4	20.6	3.2	3.8	18.0	19.7	1.9	1.4	10.1	12.5	12.5	14.0
AKron	AKRN.MM	NR	RUB	3525	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Weighted average						26.1	17.8	2.1	1.5	13.6	9.3	2.7	2.4	14.1	10.6	9.8	7.1

Source: Company data, Bloomberg Finance LP, Deutsche Bank estimates; Note: Bloomberg consensus estimates for NR (Non-rated) companies



0

1,104

2018E

Model	upo	dated:	29	August 2017	
_					

Running the numbers Asia	
Hong Kong	
Chemicals	

Fiscal year end 31-Dec

Net profit

DB adjustments (including dilution)

China BlueChemical

Reuters: 3983.HK Bloomberg: 3983 HK

Buy

HKD 2.27
HKD 3.20
HKD 1.41 - 2.83
HKDm 10,465 USDm 1,337.6

Company Profile

China BlueChemical Limited, a subsidiary of CNOOC Group, is principally engaged in the development, production, sales, and export of urea and phosphate fertilizers and chemical products.

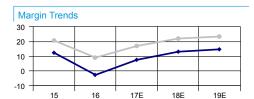


Jul '16

- China BlueChemical

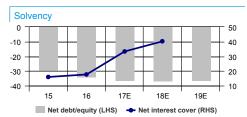
Jan '17 - HANG SENG INDEX (Rebased)

→ EBIT Margin



- EBITDA Margin





Vitus Leung

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FCF Yield (%)	8.1	13.6	8.0	6.3	7.8
Valuation Metrics P/E (DB) (x) P/E (Reported) (x) P/BV (x)	12.1	nm	19.4	9.9	8.1
	12.1	nm	19.4	9.9	8.1
	0.57	0.64	0.66	0.62	0.60
Weighted average shares (m)	4,610	4,610	4,610	4,610	4,610
Average market cap (CNYm)	10,015	6,643	8,883	8,883	8,883
Enterprise value (CNYm)	6,226	2,196	4,037	3,825	3,710
DB EPS (CNY)	0.18	-0.05	0.10	0.20	0.24
Reported EPS (CNY)	0.18	-0.05	0.10	0.20	0.24
DPS (CNY)	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.10	0.12
BVPS (CNY)	3.0	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2
Financial Summary					

2015

2016

2017E

moonio otatomoni (ortim)					
Sales revenue	10,672	8,504	10,110	10,705	11,316
Gross profit	2,636	1,300	2,485	3,114	3,467
EBITDA	2,194	757	1,703	2,345	2,632
Depreciation	867	975	936	941	965
Amortisation	23	26	19	19	19
EBIT	1,304	-244	749	1,385	1,648
Net interest income(expense)	-82	-154	-42	-42	-41
Associates/affiliates	-68	0	0	0	0
Exceptionals/extraordinaries	0	60	0	0	0
Other pre-tax income/(expense)	-22	9	-8	0	-22
Profit before tax	1,132	-329	699	1,343	1,586
Income tax expense	288	-93	165	322	381
Minorities	13	-21	77	119	102
Other post-tax income/(expense)	0	0	0	0	0
	000	045	450	004	4 404

830

0

-215

458

901

0

DB Net profit	830	-215	458	901	1,104
Cash Flow (CNYm)					
Cash flow from operations	1,358	1,115	1,015	1,461	1,589
Net Capex	-550	-213	-300	-900	-900
Free cash flow	808	902	715	561	689
Equity raised/(bought back)	0	0	0	0	0
Dividends paid	-553	-231	-231	-229	-450
Net inc/(dec) in borrowings	-1,754	-810	0	0	0
Other investing/financing cash flows	1,288	523	-8	0	-22
Net cash flow	-212	385	476	332	217
Change in working capital	-249	549	-481	-520	-622

Balance Sheet (CNYm)					
Cash and other liquid assets	5,314	5,698	6,174	6,506	6,723
Tangible fixed assets	9,783	9,014	8,378	8,337	8,271
Goodwill/intangible assets	1,123	1,102	1,054	1,035	1,016
Associates/investments	469	625	625	625	625
Other assets	3,522	3,228	3,789	4,132	4,530
Total assets	20,212	19,667	20,019	20,634	21,166
Interest bearing debt	967	879	879	879	879
Other liabilities	4,363	4,474	4,523	4,346	4,123
Total liabilities	5,330	5,353	5,402	5,225	5,002
Shareholders' equity	13,855	13,317	13,544	14,216	14,869
Minorities	1,026	997	1,074	1,193	1,295
Total shareholders' equity	14,882	14,314	14,617	15,409	16,164
Net debt	-4,347	-4,820	-5,295	-5,627	-5,844

Key Company Metrics					
Sales growth (%)	nm	-20.3	18.9	5.9	5.7
DB EPS growth (%)	na	na	na	96.9	22.5
EBITDA Margin (%)	20.6	8.9	16.8	21.9	23.3
EBIT Margin (%)	12.2	-2.9	7.4	12.9	14.6
Payout ratio (%)	44.4	nm	50.0	50.0	50.0
ROE (%)	6.0	-1.6	3.4	6.5	7.6
Capex/sales (%)	5.2	2.5	3.0	8.4	8.0
Capex/depreciation (x)	0.6	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.9
Net debt/equity (%)	-29.2	-33.7	-36.2	-36.5	-36.2
Net interest cover (x)	16.0	nm	17.7	33.3	40.3

Source: Company data, Deutsche Securities estimates



Appendix 1

Important Disclosures

*Other information available upon request

Disclosure checklist			
Company	Ticker	Recent price*	Disclosure
China BlueChemical	3983.HK	2.27 (HKD) 29 Aug 2017	13, 14, 15

^{*}Prices are current as of the end of the previous trading session unless otherwise indicated and are sourced from local exchanges via Reuters, Bloomberg, and other vendors. Other information is sourced from Deutsche Bank, subject companies, and other sources. For disclosures pertaining to recommendations or estimates made on securities other than the primary subject of this research, please see the most recently published company report or visit our global disclosure look-up page on our website at https://gm.db.com/ger/disclosure/bisclosure/ger/disclosure/. Aside from within this report, important conflict disclosures can also be found at https://gm/db.com/equities under the "Disclosures Lookup" and "Legal" tabs. Investors are strongly encouraged to review this information before investing.

Important Disclosures Required by U.S. Regulators

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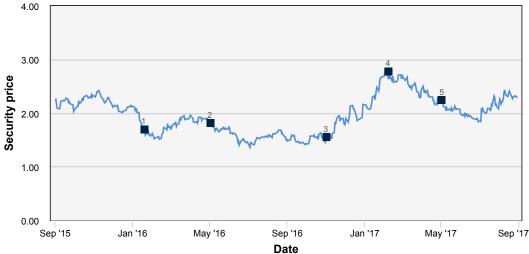
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Historical recommendations and target price. China BlueChemical (3983.HK)

(as of 08/29/2017)



Current Recommendations

Buy Hold Sell Not Rated Suspended Rating

** Analyst is no longer at Deutsche Bank

1. 01/20/2016

11/02/2016

- Buy, Target Price Change HKD 2,60 Vitus Leung
- 2. 05/03/2016
- Buy, Target Price Change HKD 2,10 Vitus Leung Buy, Target Price Change HKD 1,91 Vitus Leung
- rget Price Change HKD 2 10 Vitus Leung
- 4. 02/08/2017
- Buy, Target Price Change HKD 3,20 Vitus Leung
- 5. 05/03/2017
- Buy, Target Price Change HKD 3,00 Johnson Wan

Equity Rating Key

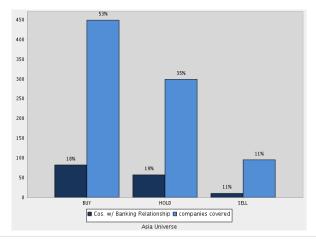
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Sell: Based on a current 12-month view of total share-holder return, we recommend that investors sell the stock.

Hold: We take a neutral view on the stock 12-months out and, based on this time horizon, do not recommend either a Buy or Sell.

Newly issued research recommendations and target prices supersede previously published research.

Equity rating dispersion and banking relationships



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