

Asia Pacific CEOs upbeat on revenue growth

AFP, Singapore

Nine out of 10 corporate chiefs in the Asia Pacific are optimistic about revenue growth in the next three years, but worry about the availability of skilled labour and the threat of terrorism, a survey released Tuesday said.

Access to new markets, geographic expansion, greater market penetration for existing products, new product development and mergers and acquisitions are the key business drivers in the next 12 months, the PricewaterhouseCoopers survey said.

It said 91 percent of chief executives in the Asia Pacific are upbeat about revenue growth in the next 12 months. The optimism is sustained over the next three years, with 90 percent saying they remain confident.

On the global level, nearly twice as many global chief executives are confident about revenue growth in the next 12 months compared with five years ago, the survey said.

Gautam Banerjee, chairman of PricewaterhouseCooper's regional network of firms in Asia, said results of the survey "gives an extra boost to Asia's position on the world stage."

Apart from India and China, the other Asian countries seen as having significant growth opportunities include Indonesia, Vietnam, South Korea and Thailand.

However, the chief executives also identified the availability of key skills, over-regulation, low-cost competition and protection of intellectual property rights as among their business-related concerns.

Among the non-business risks, close to two-thirds of the regional

Japan mulls joining US WTO action on China

AFP, Tokyo

Japan is considering joining the United States in filing a WTO complaint against China over its industrial subsidies, the trade minister said Tuesday.

The US government last week filed a complaint at the World Trade Organisation against China, ratcheting up tensions against the rapidly growing economic power after earlier preferring negotiations on trade disputes.

"When I visited the United States in January, US Trade Representative (Susan) Schwab told me about things of that nature," said Japan's Minister of Economy, Industry and Trade Akira Amari.

executives said they are worried about pandemics, while 75 percent said they are concerned about the scarcity of natural resources.

Sixty-three percent said they worry about terrorism and 58 percent about global warming.

"For CEOs in the Asia Pacific to make the most of global opportunities for the long term, they must fully understand the realities and risks fuelling their growth, working in diverse cultures, managing dispersed resources and competing with a growing set of global players," Banerjee said.

To boost business growth, 45 percent of Asia Pacific chief executives say they have completed or are planning a cross-border acquisition in the next 12 months, with Asia being the choice destination.



PHOTO: NANDAN

The month-long promotional campaign of Nandan Mega Shop marking its 4th anniversary recently kicked off in Dhaka. Under the campaign, various prizes, including TV, refrigerator and air tickets, will be given away to customers shopping at any Nandan outlet.

CURRENCY

Following is Tuesday's (February 6, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Major currency exchange rates			Exchange rate of some currencies	
	BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per Currency
US Dollar	69.40	68.15		
Euro	91.11	86.58	Indian Rupee	43.95 1.56
Pound	137.65	132.00	PAK Rupee	60.71 1.13
Australian Dollar	55.21	51.46	Lankan Rupee	108.63 0.63
Japanese Yen	0.59	0.56	Thai Baht	35.81 1.92
Swiss Franc	56.50	53.53	Malaysian Ringit	3.50 19.67
Swedish Kroner	10.27	9.27		
Canadian Dollar	59.68	57.07	USD forward rate against BDT	
Hong Kong Dollar	8.91	8.71		
Singapore Dollar	46.32	44.32	Buy	Sell
UAE Dirham	19.05	18.41	1 M	68.25 69.52
Saudi Riyal	18.65	18.03	2 M	68.37 69.72
Danish Kroner	12.58	11.33	3 M	68.51 69.95
Kuwaiti Dinar	236.60	234.05	6 M	68.95 70.66
* All currencies are quoted against BDT			* The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated	
* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction			Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50-7.00 per cent.	
			Local Market	
			FX: Local inter-bank FX market was active on Tuesday. The demand for USD remained stable, and the volume of cross transactions was stable. The USD remained unchanged against the Bangladeshi taka.	
			Money Market	
			Money market was active on Tuesday.	
			International Market	
			The yen hit three-week highs against the dollar and the euro on Tuesday, with investors worried that the Japanese currency's broad weakness may be scrutinised at a weekend meeting of the Group of Seven.	



PHOTO: RUPALI INSURANCE

Mostafa Golam Quddus, chairman of Rupali Insurance Company Ltd, and other senior officials are seen at the Annual Conference-2007 of the company's branch in-charges held recently in the capital.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 6/2/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Marine Queen	Gl(Copra)	Sing	Mutual	20/1	9/2	37
J/2	Zenovia	Wheat(p)	Novo	Mutual	19/1	9/2	64
J/4	Shwe Thara Phu	Gl(Y.Ma)	Yang	TCL	27/1	7/2	5
J/5	Hoang Son	Gl	Yang	Gla	30/1	9/2	423
J/6	Golden Star	Gl(St. C)	Busa	Oil	5/2	13/2	276
J/7	Banga Borti	Cont	P.kel	Baridhi	31/1	6/2	--
J/8	Glaring Pescadores	Gl(St. C)	Yang	H&SL	3/2	6/2	1681
J/9	Yong Jiang	Gl	Tian	Cosco	29/1	9/2	1197
J/10	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	2/2	9/2	176
J/11	Pacific Express	Cont	Sing	Pj(Bd)	28/1	6/2	15
J/12	OEL Enterprise	Cont	Col	PSSL	1/2	7/2	172

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Jon Jin-2	6/2	Viza	Saraf	G.slag	--
Ariella	6/2	Odessa	Pol	Wheat(p)	8000 W/lt
Danaumas	6/2	Batta	Pacific	Scaping	--
Maritime Songkhla	6/2	Tarj	BSL	C. Clink	--
Zhe Hai-315	6/2	P.kel	PML	Cont	P.kel
Kota Petani	6/2	Sing	Pj(Bd)	Cont	Mong
Phu Tan	6/2	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Mir Damad	9/2	Kol	BSCA	Cont	L/viza
Banga Biraj	7/2	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Gao Cheng	7/2	Sing	PML	Cont	Sing
Banglar Shikha	7/2	P. Kel	BSC	Cont	Sing
Mare Hibernum	8/2	P.kel	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Shwezay Yar Aung	8/2	Yang	TCL	Gl(Y. Ma)	--
Qing Jiang(liner)	8/2	--	Cosco	Gi	--
Csav California	7/2	Col	PSSL	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Perka	7/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD	--
Al Kuwaitiah	10/2	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/SKO	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	lbsa	R/A (4/1)
Sea Drill-6	Pro. Equip	--	lbsa	8/1
Gulf Drill-9	Pro. Equip	--	lbsa	3/1
Pacific Champion	--	Vanc	lbsa	R/A(4/2)
Hawaiian Star	Crude Oil	Rast	DSL	5/2

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival
OEL Freedom	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	3/1
Precious River	Cont	Sing	Vega	1/2
Cape Bonavista	Cont	P.kel	Bdship	2/2
Josco View	Cont	P.kel	RSL	3/2
Ja Vesla	Cont	Sing	Vega	3/2
Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	4/2

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.

STOCK