

Asia's stocks end painful year

AFP, Hong Kong

Asia's markets closed Wednesday to bring down the curtain on a miserable year that saw them lose half their worth in the wake of the global financial meltdown.

Despite a number of bourses gaining some ground over the past few days, the overall picture for 2008 has been one of gloom as the worst economic crisis since the 1930s tore into investor confidence and battered stocks.

By the close of trading on Wednesday Hong Kong and Singapore had been almost halved over the year, Sydney lost more than 40 percent and Shanghai nearly two-thirds.

Tokyo was 42.12 percent down and Seoul 40.73 percent when they closed for the year on Tuesday.

Markets here were hammered by the world economic crisis, which was sparked by the collapse of the subprime, or high risk, mortgage market in the United States. This led to US mortgage giants Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae being taken over by the government in September.

But shares went into a tailspin soon after following the failure of Wall Street banking icon Lehman Brothers under a mountain of debt. Giant insurer American International Group then had to be bailed out by Washington.

A 700 billion dollar rescue package for the ailing industry was unable to stop the top and world markets saw record falls and rises as they headed down.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones was also battered and by the close of trading on Tuesday it was 34.65 percent off its 2007 finish.

Hong Kong finished the year 48.3 percent down on its 2007 close -- its worst annual percentage fall in 34 years.

The benchmark Hang Seng index ended Wednesday 1.1 percent up from the day before but its closing figure of 14,387.48 points is 13,425.17 lower than 12 months ago.

And Peter Lai, sales director of DBS Vickers, told AFP: "We have not reached the bottom yet. The worst will come when investors start to sell their shares in panic next year."



Md Nazrul Islam Mazumder, chairman of Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Ltd, inaugurates its first SME Service Centre in Gazipur on Sunday.



Mohammad Lutfur Rahman, chairman of IFIC Bank, inaugurates the bank's 72nd branch at Shariatpur recently. Other senior officials were also present.



Tofazzal Hossain, chairman of National Credit and Commerce Bank, opens the bank's 57th branch in Gazipur recently.



Adil Raihan, head of retail of Prime Bank Limited, and Nazim Shafkat Choudhury, executive committee member of Dhaka Club, exchange documents after the recent launch of prepaid cards for Dhaka Club members. For the first time in Bangladesh, Prime Bank has introduced a prepaid card bill payment system.

Euro steady against dollar

AFP, Singapore

The euro held steady against the dollar Wednesday and remained within sight of parity with the dollar on the last trading day of the year.

The euro bought 1.4073 dollars in Asian afternoon trade, up a fraction from 1.4068 late Tuesday in New York.

The dollar traded at 90.32 yen, up from 90.27.

Tokyo markets were closed for a public holiday and trading was thin, with the rest of the region preparing for the New Year, analysts said.

Yearly Traded Issues Jan. 01 - Dec. 30, 2008

Company	Value (USD)	Volume (Shares)	Price (USD)
ABC Bank	100,000,000	1,000,000	100.00
DEF Corp	200,000,000	2,000,000	100.00
GHI Ltd	300,000,000	3,000,000	100.00
JKL Inc	400,000,000	4,000,000	100.00
MNO Corp	500,000,000	5,000,000	100.00
PQR Ltd	600,000,000	6,000,000	100.00
STU Inc	700,000,000	7,000,000	100.00
VWX Corp	800,000,000	8,000,000	100.00
YZA Ltd	900,000,000	9,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	1,000,000,000	10,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	1,100,000,000	11,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	1,200,000,000	12,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	1,300,000,000	13,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	1,400,000,000	14,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	1,500,000,000	15,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	1,600,000,000	16,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	1,700,000,000	17,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	1,800,000,000	18,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	1,900,000,000	19,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	2,000,000,000	20,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	2,100,000,000	21,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	2,200,000,000	22,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	2,300,000,000	23,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	2,400,000,000	24,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	2,500,000,000	25,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	2,600,000,000	26,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	2,700,000,000	27,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	2,800,000,000	28,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	2,900,000,000	29,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	3,000,000,000	30,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	3,100,000,000	31,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	3,200,000,000	32,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	3,300,000,000	33,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	3,400,000,000	34,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	3,500,000,000	35,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	3,600,000,000	36,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	3,700,000,000	37,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	3,800,000,000	38,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	3,900,000,000	39,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	4,000,000,000	40,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	4,100,000,000	41,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	4,200,000,000	42,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	4,300,000,000	43,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	4,400,000,000	44,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	4,500,000,000	45,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	4,600,000,000	46,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	4,700,000,000	47,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	4,800,000,000	48,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	4,900,000,000	49,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	5,000,000,000	50,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	5,100,000,000	51,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	5,200,000,000	52,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	5,300,000,000	53,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	5,400,000,000	54,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	5,500,000,000	55,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	5,600,000,000	56,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	5,700,000,000	57,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	5,800,000,000	58,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	5,900,000,000	59,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	6,000,000,000	60,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	6,100,000,000	61,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	6,200,000,000	62,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	6,300,000,000	63,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	6,400,000,000	64,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	6,500,000,000	65,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	6,600,000,000	66,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	6,700,000,000	67,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	6,800,000,000	68,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	6,900,000,000	69,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	7,000,000,000	70,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	7,100,000,000	71,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	7,200,000,000	72,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	7,300,000,000	73,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	7,400,000,000	74,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	7,500,000,000	75,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	7,600,000,000	76,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	7,700,000,000	77,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	7,800,000,000	78,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	7,900,000,000	79,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	8,000,000,000	80,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	8,100,000,000	81,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	8,200,000,000	82,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	8,300,000,000	83,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	8,400,000,000	84,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	8,500,000,000	85,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	8,600,000,000	86,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	8,700,000,000	87,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	8,800,000,000	88,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	8,900,000,000	89,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	9,000,000,000	90,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	9,100,000,000	91,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	9,200,000,000	92,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	9,300,000,000	93,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	9,400,000,000	94,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	9,500,000,000	95,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	9,600,000,000	96,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	9,700,000,000	97,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	9,800,000,000	98,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	9,900,000,000	99,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	10,000,000,000	100,000,000	100.00

Non Banking FI

Company	Value (USD)	Volume (Shares)	Price (USD)
ABC Bank	100,000,000	1,000,000	100.00
DEF Corp	200,000,000	2,000,000	100.00
GHI Ltd	300,000,000	3,000,000	100.00
JKL Inc	400,000,000	4,000,000	100.00
MNO Corp	500,000,000	5,000,000	100.00
PQR Ltd	600,000,000	6,000,000	100.00
STU Inc	700,000,000	7,000,000	100.00
VWX Corp	800,000,000	8,000,000	100.00
YZA Ltd	900,000,000	9,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	1,000,000,000	10,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	1,100,000,000	11,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	1,200,000,000	12,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	1,300,000,000	13,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	1,400,000,000	14,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	1,500,000,000	15,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	1,600,000,000	16,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	1,700,000,000	17,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	1,800,000,000	18,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	1,900,000,000	19,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	2,000,000,000	20,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	2,100,000,000	21,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	2,200,000,000	22,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	2,300,000,000	23,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	2,400,000,000	24,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	2,500,000,000	25,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	2,600,000,000	26,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	2,700,000,000	27,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	2,800,000,000	28,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	2,900,000,000	29,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	3,000,000,000	30,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	3,100,000,000	31,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	3,200,000,000	32,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	3,300,000,000	33,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	3,400,000,000	34,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	3,500,000,000	35,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	3,600,000,000	36,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	3,700,000,000	37,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	3,800,000,000	38,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	3,900,000,000	39,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	4,000,000,000	40,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	4,100,000,000	41,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	4,200,000,000	42,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	4,300,000,000	43,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	4,400,000,000	44,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	4,500,000,000	45,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	4,600,000,000	46,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	4,700,000,000	47,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	4,800,000,000	48,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	4,900,000,000	49,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	5,000,000,000	50,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	5,100,000,000	51,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	5,200,000,000	52,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	5,300,000,000	53,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	5,400,000,000	54,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	5,500,000,000	55,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	5,600,000,000	56,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	5,700,000,000	57,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	5,800,000,000	58,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	5,900,000,000	59,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	6,000,000,000	60,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	6,100,000,000	61,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	6,200,000,000	62,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	6,300,000,000	63,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	6,400,000,000	64,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	6,500,000,000	65,000,000	100.00
HIJ Ltd	6,600,000,000	66,000,000	100.00
KLM Inc	6,700,000,000	67,000,000	100.00
NOP Corp	6,800,000,000	68,000,000	100.00
QRS Ltd	6,900,000,000	69,000,000	100.00
TUV Inc	7,000,000,000	70,000,000	100.00
WXY Corp	7,100,000,000	71,000,000	100.00
ZAB Ltd	7,200,000,000	72,000,000	100.00
BCD Inc	7,300,000,000	73,000,000	100.00
EFG Corp	7,400,000		