

WILL TELSTRA DANCE TO MR LI KA SHING'S JIG ?

The Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) was closed to celebrate the PRC's National Day Holiday, last Monday.

It was just as well because, otherwise, there was sure to have been another stock-market melt-down, following Wall Street's antics of the previous Friday.

On Friday, September 29, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the '*barometer*' of The New York Stock Exchange, fell 173.14 points to 10,650.92, equal to about 1.65 percent compared with the close of trading the previous day, Thursday, September 28.

The NASDAQ Composite Index followed the Dow down, falling 105.50 points, about 2.96 percent, dropping back to 3,672.82 points.

There were more reasons than fish in the sea on which one could put one's finger for the fall on Wall Street, at the tail end of the previous week, but personal computer maker, Apple Computer, with its announcement that third quarter results would disappoint investors, was the catalyst to start the slide, to be sure.

Then, last Monday, the price of crude oil leapt over the \$US30 per barrel mark on fears that inclement weather could, possibly, interrupt supplies from the Persian Gulf to the West (any port [excuse the pun] in a storm?).

With the HKSAR stock markets closed, eyes were focused on Japan, the Number One stock market of Asia (The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd is, generally, regarded as the Number Two).

The Nikkei-225 Index gained 155.25 yen, climbing back to 15,902.51 yen, a gain of just a tad short of one percent.

There had been an early retreat, but that was reversed when investors started to speculate about the results of the Tankan Report, a survey of business confidence in The Land of the Rising Sun, produced by The Bank of Japan.

This was released last Tuesday by The Bank of Japan, which keeps tabs on the economy and business confidence, in general.

Nippon Telegraph and Telephone (NTT) was one of the star performers and, definitely, helped to boost the Nikkei-225 as its share price leapt about 7.60 percent.

Its mobile unit, NTT DoCoMo, went along with the ride, adding another 3.20 percent to its share price.

The afternoon session saw some share prices pared, slightly, but, on the whole, it was a good session for the bulls of Japan.

But questions were being raised in a number of circles as to whether or not Japan could hold on to its gains of Monday.

On the currency markets, however, it was a bad day for the Japanese yen as the US dollar continued its march, with the greenback, being quoted at 108.27 yen against the US dollar.

There was little else happening on the business front in Asia, last Monday.

Asia, generally, was a mixed bag, as the following indicates:

Thailand	Minus 0.22 percent
Indonesia	Plus 2.59 percent
Malaysia	Minus 1.34 percent
The Philippines	Minus 0.65 percent
South Korea	Minus 3.91 percent
Singapore	Minus 1.21 percent
Taiwan	Minus 2.60 percent
Japan	Plus 0.99 percent

Tuesday

The Bank of Japan unleashed its Tankan Report -- and the Japanese loved it.

But it was to no avail because most parts of Asia were more concerned about the toing and froing on Wall Street, where investors were more than a little worried about profits (or the lack of them) of their favourite stocks.

The Bank of Japan's Tankan Report indicated that confidence in the strongest economy in Asia had gained in the 3 months to September 30, 2000.

The Tankan Report recorded the highest, positive quarter reading in more than 3 years, and the seventh quarter in a row of material improvements.

It seemed obvious that Japan's economic recovery was proceeding on schedule, all the Japanese Ministers agreed.

But Wall Street held the attention of Japanese investors, last Tuesday, as Wall Street fell out of bed, during Monday's trading session on the first day of last week in the US.

Fears of third quarter profits, not being up to expectations, pushed down the NASDAQ Composite Index by 103.92 points, equal to about 3 percent. It ended the day, down to 3,568.90.

Old world stocks, as they are now known and are plotted by the Dow Jones Industrial Average, gained a little ground as the Dow moved up 49.21 percent to 10,700.13 points, a gain over the previous Friday's level, equal to about 0.46 percent.

Share prices in New York had been falling for the past few months for a number of reasons, ranging from interest-rate fears, a record-breaking period of economic growth in the largest economy of the world, resulting in fears of an overheated economy, generally, and hi-tech and Internet-related companies, not turning in what investors expected by way of profits, those of today and those of *'tomorrow'*.

Also, one of the main reasons for the present volatility in Wall Street stocks, especially in the hi-tech sector of the market, is that they were *'talked up'* to such an extent, a year or so ago, that to see them shaved down by as much as 50 percent, today, might appear, on the surface, to be huge, but in the context of their true values, in terms of traditional price-earnings ratios, etc, it is, perhaps, to be expected -- and is correct and proper.

The hi-tech and Internet-related issues are coming back: Down to earth.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd saw its Growth Enterprise Index, the *'barometer'* of The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM), fall another 1.02 percent, dropping back to 392.25 points.

The Total Turnover on this market fell to \$HK79.33 million, one of the lowest volumes of activity, seen for at least the previous 6 months.

On the Main Board, the Hang Seng Index gained just short of one half of one percent, rising 76.98 points to 15,725.96 points.

The Total Turnover on this market, also, fell, down to \$HK7.51 billion.

The situation appeared ominous and menacing to many investors.

The most-active counter was HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5) as more than 7.89 million shares changed hands with the price, fluctuating between a high of \$HK112 per share and a low of \$HK108.50 per share.

It closed the day at \$HK112 per share, the highest level, and represented, in dollar terms, about \$HK876.77 million, or about 11.68 percent of the Total Turnover of the day.

The reason for the interest in this banking stock was due to reports that it was having talks with Merrill Lynch and Company, the US-based, international stockbroking house.

This is an old story and many people pooh-poohed the suggestion.

The 2.75-percent gain in the share price of HSBC Holdings went a long way to bolster the Hang Seng Index.

Clearly, without this bank's share-price rise, the Hang Seng Index would have fallen.

In line with the general feeling in the HKSAR, when one sector of the market moves, other banking issues follow the cue.

Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11), a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings, saw its share price rise 2.68 percent to \$HK86.25, while The Bank of East Asia Ltd (Code: 23) gained 0.57 percent to \$HK17.60. Dao Heng Bank Group Ltd (Code: 223) was an exception to the rule of the day as its share price dropped 2.85 percent to close the day at \$HK37.50 per share.

The Li Ka Shing Camp, however, did not benefit from the run-up of banking sector, as Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8), the fourth, most-active counter, lost another 2.84 percent of its market value, falling to \$HK8.55 per share, after gyrating between a low of \$HK8.40 per share and high of \$HK8.75 per share.

Since the beginning of this year to October 3, Pacific Century CyberWorks -- which hit its lowest point of the year, last Tuesday -- had lost about 70 percent of its value.

Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13), the fifth, most-active counter, gained 0.97 percent, rising to \$HK104.50 per share, after hitting a low of \$HK102.50 per share.

Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1), the flagship of Mr Li Ka Shing, lost 1.59 percent, falling to \$HK92.75 per share, after being held in a \$HK2 channel all day.

In spite of the Hang Seng Index rising, fractionally, losers outpaced gainers by the ratio of about 1.60:One.

The following is a list of the double-digit gainers and losers for the day:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
401.com Ltd	401	22.22		0.022
China Investments Holdings Ltd	132		11.76	0.15

Climax International Company Ltd	439	10.36		0.245
COSCO Pacific Ltd	1199	11.86		6.60
Hung Fung Group Holdings Ltd	1141	10.00		0.044
KG NextVision Company Ltd	516		10.57	1.10
LifeTec Group Ltd	1180	30.00		0.26
Ocean Grand Holdings Ltd	1220	17.65		0.16
Quality HealthCare Asia Ltd	593		12.09	2.00
SunCorp Technologies Ltd	1063	11.39		0.088
Whimsy Entertainment Company Ltd	1188		20.00	0.68
Wiltec Holdings Ltd	1169		32.39	0.48

There was little happening on The GEM as investors felt more than a little bored at the dearth of positive news about issues, listed on this speculative end of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd.

Losers were ahead of gainers by the ratio of about 2.36:One.

Many of the share-price movements on this market were of a fractional nature although a number of counters did hit new lows for the year.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, it appeared that investors were a little concerned about Wall Street and the falls in the NASDAQ Composite Index.

Tokyo Electron, which manufactures equipment for the production of semiconductors, saw its share price felled by about 5 percent even though it was reported in California that worldwide sales of semiconductors had risen about 53 percent in August, to a record level.

Sales of semiconductors rose from the August 1999 figure of about \$US11.90 billion (about \$HK92.58 billion) to the August 2000 figure of about \$US18.20 billion (about \$HK141.60 billion).

In terms of the Asia-Pacific Region, only, growth in the sales of semiconductors was about 60.20 percent in August, year-on-year.

As with the HKSAR, banking stocks were in demand in The Land of the Rising Sun, following on from the general feelings of investors on Wall Street.

Sanwa Bank and Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi both managed to see their respective share prices rise about 4.50 percent from Monday's closing levels.

The value of a yen, vis-a-vis the US dollar, continued to fall as speculators put the value at about 108.88 yen: \$US1.

Last Tuesday, by and large, it was not a good day for Asia as the following table of Asian stock markets illustrates:

Thailand	Minus 1.92 percent
Indonesia	Minus 1.05 percent

Malaysia	Plus 0.65 percent
The Philippines	Minus 2.08 percent
South Korea	Closed
Singapore	Plus 0.26 percent
Taiwan	Plus 1.98 percent
Japan	Plus 0.06 percent

Wednesday

As New York witnessed continued selling of hi-tech and Internet-related issues on Wall Street, Asia caught the hi-tech flu; and, share prices of anything closely related to the technology field fell in short order.

The Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd had another very quiet day as the Hang Seng Index put on about 0.97 percent, rising to 15,878.89 on a Total Turnover of about \$HK8.38 billion.

But, on The GEM -- The Growth Enterprise Market -- it was a different story as The Growth Enterprise Index continued to lose ground, falling to 387.80, a loss of about 1.13 percent compared with Tuesday's close.

Many share prices hit year lows as investors started to be more than a little concerned about the clearly ominous situation, which took a foothold on The New York Stock Exchange, earlier in the year.

On Wall Street, last Tuesday, the New York Stock Exchange gurus watched as the NASDAQ Composite Index had its worst day for the past 3 months: It shed another 3.20 percent, falling to 3,455.83.

In the previous 9 sessions, the NASDAQ had lost substantially for 8 sessions.

The New York sell-off of hi-tech and Internet-related issues came after the Federal Reserve determined not to touch interest rates for the time being (not that anybody had thought differently).

Prior to the Fed's announcement, the NASDAQ was up about 1.40 percent so that the rout perplexed a number of people for its seeming lack of logic.

While the NASDAQ was getting a '*haircut*', old world stocks, quoted on The New York Stock Exchange, did not suffer very badly as the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 19.61 points, about 0.18 percent, rising to 10,719.74.

From London, it was reported that Vodafone Group plc had agreed to invest about \$US2.50 billion (about \$HK19.45 billion) in China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941) in order to obtain a 2.60-percent stake in the telecommunications giant.

The money, raised in this manner, will go a long way to allaying the fears of many who had been of the opinion that the largest mobile communications company in the People's Republic of China (PRC) would have to return to the '*money well*' in order to pay for 7 cellular networks that it wants to buy from its parent company, the State-run, China Mobile Communication Corporation, the aggregate cost of these networks, being about \$US34 billion (about \$HK264.52 billion).

The share price of China Mobile traded up about 7.35 percent to \$HK54.75, just off the top price of the day of \$HK55.

It was the most-active counter and accounted for about 19.81 percent of the Total Turnover.

While China Mobile was the day's '*darling*', Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8) was the day's dog.

The share price of this Li Ka Shing entity lost about 3.51 percent of its market capitalisation, falling to a low of \$HK8.10, but ending the session at \$HK8.25.

A total of 95.93 million Pacific Century CyberWorks shares changed hands, during the day, representing about 9.54 percent of the entire volume of activity for the day.

The trouble with Pacific Century CyberWorks was the same old story: How is it going to service its huge debt burden?

Again, banks were hot with the share price of The Bank of East Asia Ltd (Code: 23), rising 3.41 percent to hit \$HK18.20 while Dao Heng Bank Group Ltd (Code: 223) managed to reverse Tuesday's direction, gaining 2.67 percent to rise to \$HK38.50.

The ratio of losers to gainers on the Main Board was about 1.56:One.

The following is a list of the main losers and gainers of the day:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asia Orient Holdings Ltd	214		12.00	0.11
Climax International Company Ltd	439	18.37		0.29
COSCO International Holdings Ltd	517		10.08	1.16
DVB (Holdings) Ltd	500		12.38	2.30
E-LIFE International Ltd	370		14.89	0.12
Hua Lien International (Holding) Company Ltd	969		19.23	0.42
Hung Fung Group Holdings Ltd	1141		13.64	0.038
Luen Cheong Tai International Holdings Ltd	1190		11.86	0.26
Northern International Holdings Ltd	736		11.11	0.032
Plotio Holdings Ltd	499		12.09	0.40
Quality Food International Ltd	735	12.35		0.91
Shenzhen International Holdings Ltd	152	15.87		0.365
Star Cyberpower Holdings Ltd	1051		10.71	0.025
Sun Man Tai Holdings Company Ltd	433		10.00	1.08
Swank International Manufacturing Company Ltd	663		11.11	0.08
Winfoong International Ltd	63	11.76		0.285

The GEM saw many counters hit new lows, but, with the volume of activity at the low level of just \$HK112.35 million, most counters were not too badly affected by the continued sell-off of hi-tech and Internet-related issues.

Losers were ahead of gainers by the ratio of 2.30:One.

The abject failure of this market is now legend and many managements of many companies, those that, at one time, were thinking of seeking listings, have now withdrawn, completely.

There is little advantage to paying the relatively high costs of maintaining a publicly listed entity when the shares of such an entity are rarely traded and where it is virtually impossible to raise additional capital through the auspices of such a venue as The GEM.

There was only one double-digit loser: 36.com Holdings Ltd (Code: 8036). It ended the day, down 11.69 percent to 0.068.

Mr Li Ka Shing's GEM *'wild card'*, tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001), saw its share price hit a new low of \$HK3.60 per share before a slight recovery, ending the day at \$HK3.675.

Since the beginning of the year, tom.com Ltd, up to last Wednesday, had lost about 76 percent of its market value.

In Japan, The Tokyo Stock Exchange bucked the odds as the Nikkei-225 gained nearly 1.50 percent to rise to 16,149.08 yen.

The California news about sales of semiconductors (please see Tuesday's report) did its job as Japanese investors began to realise that all was not bleak, after all.

Tokyo Electron, whose share price had been shaved by about 5 percent on Tuesday, re-obtained investor confidence as its share price rose 6.50 percent.

Advantest, another chipmaker, put on a sterling performance as its share price gained 6.20 percent.

Tokyo was not paying too much attention to Wall Street's losses on the NASDAQ, at least, not last Wednesday.

Gains were right across the board with most sectors of the market benefiting from The Bank of Japan's Tankan Report (please see Tuesday's report for information on this matter) and the California report about semiconductor sales.

The following is how other Asian markets fared, last Wednesday:

Thailand	Plus 0.17 percent
Indonesia	Minus 2.08 percent
Malaysia	Minus 0.09 percent
The Philippines	Minus 1.64 percent
South Korea	Plus 1.56 percent
Singapore	Minus 0.07 percent
Taiwan	Minus 2.37 percent
Japan	Plus 1.49 percent

Thursday

Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8) broke its silence, last Thursday, and, in a terse statement to The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Pacific Century CyberWorks's Company Secretary told the world that the company would inform everybody about its on-again, off-again talks with the Australian giant, Telstra Corporation Ltd, when it is good and ready -- and not before.

This is the statement as it appeared:

Pacific Century CyberWorks Limited

ANNOUNCEMENT

Pacific Century CyberWorks Limited and Telstra Corporation Limited wish to clarify that discussions regarding their intended strategic alliance are continuing.

Pacific Century CyberWorks Limited (the "Company") and Telstra Corporation Limited would like to clarify that they are actively engaged in continuing discussions regarding their intended strategic alliance.

Formal announcements are not expected to be made this week. Further announcements will be made when appropriate.

SHAREHOLDERS AND INVESTORS SHOULD EXERCISE CAUTION WHEN DEALING IN THE SECURITIES OF THE COMPANY.

*By Order of the Board
Donald J Hess
Company Secretary*

Pacific Century CyberWorks Limited

Hong Kong, 4 October 2000

(Editor's Note: Note the absence of an official Pacific Century CyberWorks's letterhead and the fact that it is merely a computer-generated printout without consideration of the normal announcement layout, etc)

For the past month, since it became known that the deal between Telstra and Pacific Century CyberWorks was not cast in bronze, after all, investors had been awaiting definitive news because it had been reported, earlier this year, that Telstra was going to inject about \$HK23 billion into Pacific Century CyberWorks.

There had been a number of official announcements, during the time that Pacific Century CyberWorks was engaged in taking over Cable and Wireless HKT Ltd from its London-based parent, Cable and Wireless plc, to the effect that Telstra would take a 40-percent stake in Cable and Wireless HKT and, also, take \$HK11.67-billion worth of Pacific Century CyberWorks's Convertible Debt Notes.

And this, the world had been led to believe (erroneously, it, now, appears), had all been signed, sealed and delivered.

The lack of definitive news from Pacific Century CyberWorks with regard to this proposed, material contract had put its share price under a great deal of pressure, pushing down its market capitalisation by more than 70 percent within a period of about 7 months.

Pacific Century CyberWorks was the third, most-active counter on The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, last Thursday, with about 128.32 million shares, changing hands.

Its share price continued to lose ground, hitting a low of \$HK8.10 before settling at \$HK8.45 by the end of the day, a gain of about 2.42 percent, compared with Wednesday's closing level.

In dollar terms, trading in this one issue accounted for about 8.67 percent of the Total Turnover of about \$HK12.69 billion.

And, in a separate announcement, Mr Rupert Murdoch's Asian television group, Star TV, announced that it had signed an agreement with the Taiwan group, GigaMedia, whereby the 2 giants would invest about \$HK780 million to build a broadband, interactive television service in Taiwan.

This will be the 50-50 joint venture that was supposed to have been agreed between Pacific Century CyberWorks and GigaMedia: It appears that Mr Murdoch was a preferable bed-partner to Mr Li Ka Shing in the eyes GigaMedia's top management.

Mr Murdoch, also, has control of Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings Ltd (Code: 8002 -- The Growth Enterprise Market of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd) and this company is bound to gain by this tie-up.

These 2 official announcements helped to confuse issues as the Hang Seng Index, the benchmark of trading on The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, struggled to hold on to early gains.

By the end of the day, the Hang Seng Index was registering a gain of about 1.93 percent, at 16,184.68.

The 305.79-point gain was assisted, also, by \$HK3.07-billion worth of trading in the Issued Share Capital of MTR Corporation Ltd (Code: 66).

The volume of activity on this one counter -- it was the first day of trading for MTR -- accounted for about 24.19 percent of the Total Turnover of about \$HK12.69 billion,

MTR, the operator of the only underground railway in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), offered 200,000 shares to HKSAR at \$HK9.38 per share.

On the first day of trading, the share price of MTR rose in spectacular fashion to hit \$HK13 at the height of its glory, but ended the day at \$HK11.60.

But MTR was one of the very few issues to make any kind of a material gain of this nature.

Most counters, that made decent headway, were up single-digits, only.

China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941) was another counter that saw a great deal of action: It was the second, most-active issue of the day.

On a volume of activity, equal to about \$HK1.83 billion, the share price of China Mobile rose 7.76 percent to end the day at \$HK59 after hitting a high of \$HK59.50.

China Mobile, of course, was on a roll, following its tie-up with Vodafone of London (please see Wednesday's report on this matter).

Again, although the market was in positive territory, losing issues outnumbered advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.07:One.

Last Thursday was the last day of trading, last week, Friday, being Chung Yeung Festival.

Here is a list of the double-digit movers for last Thursday:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
B-Tech (Holdings) Ltd	412	11.76		0.019
China Elegance International Fashion Ltd	476	10.00		0.011
Coastal Realty Group Ltd	1124		13.56	0.255
Fourseas.com Ltd	755		10.53	1.017
Goldwiz Holdings Ltd	586	11.25		0.445
Hongkong Fortune Ltd	121		11.81	0.112
Hung Fung Group Holdings Ltd	1141		56.26	0.017

Lamex Holdings Ltd	312	14.81		0.093
Northern International Holdings Ltd	736	12.50		0.036
Pam and Frank International Holdings Ltd	431		11.43	0.248
Solartech International Holdings Ltd	1166	10.53		0.021
Wah Tak Fung Holdings Ltd	297	36.62		0.105

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, it was another day of losses as The Growth Enterprise Index shed a further 0.21 percent, falling to 386.98 points.

The Total Turnover on this market continued to be low at about \$HK113.13 million.

The GEM did not appear to be responding well to Wall Street where, on Wednesday, New York time, the NASDAQ Composite Index had gained about 1.95 percent, rising to 3,523.10.

The problem was that the NASDAQ appears to have a mind of its own and, during last Wednesday's session on The New York Stock Exchange, it was up, in the early morning, then down, nearer to lunch time, then up again in the afternoon session.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average, on the other hand, put on another 0.60 percent to rise to 10,784.48 points.

The ratio of gainers to losers on The GEM was exact even at one: One.

There were no double-digit gainers or losers, last Thursday, with the biggest gainer, being FlexSystem Holdings Ltd (Code: 8050), the share price of which rose 4.76 percent to \$HK1.10.

The share price that took the biggest '*hit*' was Sino Biopharmaceutical Ltd (Code: 8027), which saw an erosion of 5.49 percent in its value, falling to 86 cents

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, the Nikkei-225 lost 49.82 yen, falling to 16,099.26 yen in a very quiet market where more people were watching the yen lose ground against the US dollar than the price of their favourite stock.

The US dollar was quoted, last Thursday, as having a price against the yen of 109.23 yen, down from Wednesday's level of 108.74 yen.

Banking issues continued to be used as a hedge by many investors, especially those who had lost faith in hi-tech and Internet-related issues, at least for the time being.

Some of the banks to make decent headway, last Thursday, included Sanwa Bank, up 8.80 percent, and Toyo Trust and Banking Company Ltd, up 5.50 percent.

This is the way that other Asian stock markets responded to events of the day, last Thursday:

Thailand	Minus 0.86 percent
Indonesia	Plus 1.21 percent
Malaysia	Minus 0.53 percent
The Philippines	Plus 1.20 percent
South Korea	Plus 1.40 percent
Singapore	Plus 0.93 percent

Taiwan	Plus 0.53 percent
Japan	Minus 0.31 percent

Friday

The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd was closed, last Friday, in order for Chinese residents to sweep the graves of their ancestors in a festival, known as Chung Yeung.

But in many other parts of Asia, in spite of last Friday, not being an official holiday in most other territories, it was clear that the Chinese communities were not turning up at work.

As a result, bourses throughout Asia experienced very quiet trading.

The lone exception was Taiwan where the Taiwan Weighted Index, as it is known, gained 324.02 points, rising to 6,353.67 points, due mainly to Government intervention in the marketplace.

The Taiwanese Government felt that it had to stabilise the situation in the territory, following a Government cabinet reshuffle, which saw the Prime Minister step down.

In Japan, it was another, boring and quiet day on The Tokyo Stock Exchange as the Nikkei-225 fell back to 15,994.24 yen, representing a loss for the day of about 0.65 percent.

Japan, for a change, was following New York where Wall Street was, clearly, in a bearish phase as the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell back about 0.55 percent to 10,724.92 points, while the hi-tech sector of the market, plotted by the NASDAQ Composite Index, lost about 1.46 percent, dropping back to 3,471.66.

It was evident that there would be more shakeouts on Wall Street -- and this was eating into Asian confidence, generally, Japan, being no exception.

Japan's largest computer maker, Fujitsu, lost about 3.10 percent of its market capitalisation while NEC, one of the largest chipmakers in the world, shed about 3.80 percent of its value.

Taisho Pharmaceutical, a major manufacturer of pharmaceuticals, gave up nearly 10 percent of its market capitalisation, following a report that its Interim Profit, to September 30, did not meet expectations.

The week had been a difficult one for Asia, generally, due in the main to what had taken place in the US, not on the economic front, but with regard to the gyrations of Wall Street and the *'haircut'* that hi-techs and Internet-related issues were forced to suffer, during the entire week.

Uncertainty is always a reason to sell.

This was how Asia ended trading for the week, ended October 6, 2000:

Thailand	Minus 0.68 percent
Indonesia	Minus 0.45 percent
Malaysia	Plus 0.77 percent
The Philippines	Minus 0.01 percent
South Korea	Plus 0.34 percent
Singapore	Minus 1.61 percent
Taiwan	Plus 5.37 percent
Japan	Minus 0.65 percent

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