

### STOCK MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD LOOK TO U.S. PRESIDENT BUSH FOR SUCCOUR

The stock markets of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), South Korea and Taiwan were closed for national holidays, last Monday.

That left on Japan's 3 stock markets as the leaders in equity trading in the most populous area of the world.

And, on The Tokyo Stock Exchange, last Monday, The Nikkei-225 Stock Average put on a show of strength, probably in anticipation of the meeting of the US Federal Reserve Board, scheduled for last Tuesday, Washington time.

The Nikkei-225 gained 197.60 yen, rising to 9,972.28 yen, as investors, in spite of the fact that the US Government was preparing to wage war on Afghanistan with more than 40 warships in the Persian Gulf, ready to launch what appeared to be the largest airborne invasion since the end of World War II.

In the UK, Prime Minister Tony Blair confirmed the unofficial reports: The US would attack Afghanistan *ěsooní* in retribution for harbouring the mastermind behind the killing of thousands of Americans in New York and Washington D.C.: Osama bin Laden.

The British Government froze \$US90 million, thought to be Taliban assets in the UK.

Meanwhile, the President of Pakistan, General Musharraf, said that war against the Taliban Regime of Afghanistan was *ěinevitableí*.

But, more important to Japanese investors was The Bank of Japan's Tankan Report, a quarterly report of the Central Bank of Japan, which tries to plot corporate sentiment in The Land of The Rising Sun.

The drop in the Tankan Index to a minus 33 points was the largest fall since March 1998.

Another piece of dramatic news came from the Japan Automobile Dealers Association.

It reported that sales of new motor vehicle had fallen about 4.10 percent in September, year-on-year.

The 371,318 motor vehicles, sold in Japan in the month of September, included mini-vehicles, or those with engine capacities of not more than 660 cubic centimetres.

But the Tankan Report and the motor-vehicle report was not known in early trading on The Tokyo Stock Exchange so that investors were shooting, just about, in the dark.

The effects of these reports were expected to be more fully felt when the market opened on Tuesday.

Electronics appeared to be the big plays of the day, but they ended mixed, by and large:

#### The Winners

Alps Electric	Up 4.26 percent to 735 yen per share
Casio Computer	Up 2.72 percent to 677 yen per share

Matsushita Electric Works	Up 3.96 percent to 997 yen per share
Olympus Optical	Up 3.82 percent to 1,739 yen per share
Sanyo Electric	Up 7.52 percent to 472 yen per share
Sharp Corporation	Up 4.67 percent to 1,120 yen per share

#### The Losers

Fujitsu	Down 1.30 percent to 986 yen per share
Kyocera Corporation	Down 1.80 percent to 7,640 yen per share
Mitsubishi Electric	Down 2.62 percent to 409 yen per share
NEC Corporation	Down 2.88 percent to 945 yen per share
Rohm Company	Down 4.40 percent to 11,310 yen per share
Sony Corporation	Down 6.61 percent to 4,100 yen per share
Tokyo Electron	Down 2.63 percent to 4,070 yen per share
Toshiba Corporation	Down 3.95 percent to 438 yen per share

The major operators of mobile telephones in Japan, KDDI and NTT DoCoMo, both scored points with shareholders, last Monday, with KDDI's share price, gaining 8.89 percent, rising to 297,000 yen per share, while NTT DoCoMo's share price rose 6.83 percent to end the first day of the week at 1.72 million yen per share.

While the world waited to see what action the US would take in respect of Afghanistan/Osama bin Laden, etc, in certain parts of Asia ñ the PRC and the HKSAR, in particular ñ there were fireworks of delight as celebrations were in full force for the National Day of the PRC, which coincided with the Mid-Autumn Festival.

This is the way that things looked in other parts of Asia, last Monday night:

Japan	Plus 2.02 percent
Malaysia	Minus 0.22 percent
The Philippines	Minus 0.13 percent
Singapore	Plus 0.96 percent
South Korea	Closed
Taiwan	Closed
Thailand	Minus 1.42 percent

## Tuesday

The stock markets of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Korea remained closed, last Tuesday, so that the effects Wall Street's nervousness of last Monday had no effect on trading in Asia.

US investors were nervous, last Monday, about 2 main matters: The scope of the intended military action, about to be taken in the Persian Gulf against the Taliban Regime of Afghanistan and the mastermind of the terror attacks on the US, Osama bin Laden, following statements to the effect that the Taliban had placed the terrorist under its protection; and, the extremely poor state of the US economy.

The US Government had made it very clear that any country that harbours terrorists will be treated in a like manner to the terrorists, themselves.

There was, also, the matter of the US Federal Reserve Board's meeting, but it was widely expected that interest rates would be cut by another 50 basis points, at least.

After a rocky start to trading on The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed more than 100 points, but afternoon trading righted the market, which ended the day at 8,836.83 points, equal to a loss of about 10.73 points, or about 0.12 percent, compared with the previous Friday's close.

The NASDAQ was not quite as fortunate as The Dow, however, as investors marked down the tech-laden index by about 1.22 percent to 1,480.45 points.

There was no positive news from the largest stock market in the world: Investors waited to see what the new day would bring.

In Tokyo, The Tokyo Stock Exchange saw the fourth day of gains as the Nikkei-225 Stock Average gained 164.28 yen, about 1.45 percent, ending the day at 10,136.56 yen.

Investors seemed to brush aside The Bank of Japan's quarterly Tankan Survey (Please see Monday's report) and the report, emanating from Japan Automobile Dealers Association, which showed falling sales of motor vehicles in the country.

Komatsu Ltd, Japan's largest producer of construction equipment, announced that it would be sacking about 2,200 of its workers between now and March 2004.

The share price of this heavyweight rose about 4.71 percent to 445 yen per share.

Koyo Seiko Company announced that it would be shutting down its miniature-bearing factory in Kagawa Prefecture by the end of the year in order to save money.

The company said that it would transfer further requirements to its plant in the PRC.

The share price of this company hardly moved on the news, ending the session at 483 yen per share, up just one yen per share.

From OKI Electric Industry Company came news that it was forecasting a loss of about 8.50 billion yen for fiscal 2001, ended March 31, 2001, down from earlier forecasts of a profit of about 9 billion yen.

The company blamed the reversal of its fortunes on losses in equity markets.

OKI Electric's share price stayed firm at 318 yen per share, almost unchanged.

Pension funds were said to be looking for safe havens for their mountains of cash because equities appeared to be the only alternative to (real) negative interest rates from the country's banks (and many of them had proved to

be very suspect over the past few years, in any event).

However, a little speculation never hurt anybody, as the saying goes, so many institutions were said to be plonking down cash, buying up select banking counters. However, certain of the old favourites were pushed aside in favour of select, third-layer banks.

The ratio of gainers to losers was 3.35:One.

Telecommunications companies, still considered in the forefront of future profitsí growth, were in strong demand as the following illustrates:

Japan Telecom	Up 2.45 percent to 377,000 yen per share
KDDI	Up 1.68 percent to 302,000 yen per share
Nippon Telegraph and Telephone	Up 6.67 percent to 592,000 yen per share
NTT DoCoMo	Unchanged at 1.72 million yen per share

As for banks, the following are some of the big movers of the day:

Asahi Bank	Up 6.67 percent to 144 yen per share
Ashikaga Bank	Up 7.50 percent to 129 yen per share
Bank of Fukuoka	Up 2.31 percent to 531 yen per share
Bank of Kyoto	Up 4.47 percent to 584 yen per share
Chugoku Bank	Up 5.01 percent to 796 yen per share
Daiwa Bank	Up 4.38 percent to 143 yen per share
Gunma Bank	Up 4.63 percent to 610 yen per share
Hachijuni Bank	Up 8.78 percent to 644 yen per share
Hokuriku Bank	Up 6.06 percent to 210 yen per share
Joyo Bank	Up 5.57 percent to 379 yen per share
Sumitomo Trust and Bank	Up 5.80 percent to 657 yen per share
Yamaguchi Bank	Up 3.46 percent to 837 yen per share

In other parts of Asia, this was how the those markets ended, last Tuesday night:

Indonesia	Minus 2.94 percent
Japan	Plus 1.45 percent
Malaysia	Plus 0.45 percent
The Philippines	Minus 1.78 percent
Singapore	Plus 1.35 percent
South Korea	Closed
Taiwan	Minus 3.98 percent
Thailand	Plus 1.24 percent

### **Wednesday**

As expected, the US Federal Reserve Board slashed short-term interest rates in the US by another 50 basis points, to 2.50 percent.

It was the lowest level since May 1962 and represented the ninth, interest-rate cut of the year.

However, having low interest rates is one thing, getting people/companies to borrow money is yet another.

The Fed made it clear that it was reacting to the September 11 attacks on the US by Osama bin Laden's international terror faction.

On The New York Stock Exchange, share prices see-sawed back and forth, most of the day, because the announcement by the Fed underlined the difficulties that the US economy was facing, today, and will be facing tomorrow.

The economy was sick, even without the raids on New York and Washington, but the terrorist attacks had accelerated the economy's deterioration.

The question was not so much whether or not the US was in a recession – that was a given – but whether or not the recession would move into an economic depression, which is much longer and deeper than a recession.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 113.76 points, about 1.29 percent, ending the day at 8,950.59 points, while the NASDAQ's Composite Index put on about 0.80 percent to end the session at 1,492.32 points.

The largest stock market in the world was rattled by more and more reports, all indicating the extremely poor state of the economy.

In the aftermath of the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington D.C., motor car sales in the US have dropped off, sharply, since the attack with DaimlerChrysler, the hardest hit, with a fall of about 28 percent, followed by Ford with a drop of about 10 percent.

General Motors, the biggest motor-car producer in the US, reported a 3-percent fall in the number of vehicles that it sold since the fateful day.

Profits of the Big 3 will, definitely, be hit in the current year.

Nortel Networks announced that it would be sacking 15,000 more of its workers and took the opportunity to announce a \$US3.60-billion loss for its third quarter.

From Europe, however, came the biggest shock of all: Swissair, the national carrier of Switzerland, was insolvent and all of its aircraft had been grounded with insufficient money, even to pay for fuel.

The fate of 10,000 Swissair employees hung in the balance.

And Belgium's national carrier, Sabena, looked almost certain to follow in the footsteps of Swissair since Swissair had promised Sabena with bailout funds.

Sabena had grounded more than 25 percent of its fleet since October 1.

Another 12,000 jobs hung in the balance at Sabena.

In Asia, all major stock markets went into reverse gear, last Wednesday.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board registered a loss of about 0.54 percent on the Hang Seng Index, which ended the day at 9,897.14 points.

But the final figure of the Hang Seng Index was in direct contrast to the close of the morning session, which saw the Hang Seng Index at 10,040.12, about 89 points higher than the close of Friday, September 29.

The Total Turnover of the day was about \$HK7.10 billion as losers outran gainers by the ratio of about 1.11:One.

The main market of The Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) seemed to brush aside the interest-rate cut in the US: It had been widely expected, in any event.

The 5, most-traded counters of the day were:

China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.60 percent to \$HK24.95 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 2.45 percent to \$HK79.75 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 0.43 percent to \$HK57.75 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 0.82 percent to \$HK61.25 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 2.62 percent to \$HK51 per share

Publicly listed Elec and Eltek International Holdings Ltd (Code: 33) announced that it had sacked 140 of its workers.

Its share price gave up 1.43 percent on the news, falling back to 69 cents per share.

Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8), a Li Ka Shing company, operated by the Great Man's half-educated son, Richard, announced that it would be sacking about 100 of the staff of AdSociety, its 79-percent-owned subsidiary.

AdSociety closed its doors, last Wednesday, after a run of just 14 months.

The share price of Pacific Century CyberWorks fell 3.13 percent to \$HK1.86 per share.

Finally, banks in the HKSAR lowered their rates to their lowest levels in more than a decade as The Monetary Authority of Hongkong cut the Base Rate to 4 percent, down from 4.50 percent.

The interest-rate cut was in line with that which the US Federal Reserve Board had done on Tuesday in the US.

Whether or not this rate cut would give a fillip to the stock markets on Thursday remained to be seen.

There were a total of 29, double-digit movers of the day:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (SHK)
Asia Resources Transportation Holdings Ltd	899	16.00		0.029
Can Do Holdings Ltd	172		29.10	0.095
CASIL Telecommunications Holdings Ltd	1185	10.00		0.33
Century Legend (Holdings) Ltd	79		25.71	0.026
Dah Hwa International (Holdings) Ltd	600	12.20		0.092
Digital China Holdings Ltd	861	10.87		2.55
Dransfield Holdings Ltd	632	26.67		0.019
ehealthcareasia Ltd	835	37.50		0.022
Esprit Holdings Ltd	330	12.16		8.30
Everest International Investments Ltd	204	11.71		0.124
Fulbond Holdings Ltd	1041	15.79		0.044
Hongkong Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd	182	10.20		1.08
I-Wood International Holdings Ltd	162	10.26		0.43
Interform Ceramics Technologies Ltd	1060		10.53	0.017
iRegent Group Ltd	575	10.00		0.132
Luen Cheong Tai International Holdings Ltd	1190		13.33	0.065
netalone.com Ltd	336	25.00		0.06
Nority International Group Ltd	660	10.17		0.65
Northern International Holdings Ltd	736		13.04	0.02
Peace Mark (Holdings) Ltd	304	12.12		0.037
Pricerite Group Ltd	996	10.00		0.385
renren Media Ltd	59		10.00	0.018
RoadShow Holdings Ltd	888	15.49		1.64
SCMP (Holdings) Ltd	583	21.33		4.55
Shun Cheong Holdings Ltd	650	11.11		0.30
SiS International Holdings Ltd	529		10.00	0.36
Telecom Plus Holdings Ltd	1013	13.04		0.39
Wo Kee Hong (Holdings) Ltd	720		16.00	0.042
Yanion International Holdings Ltd	82	18.52		1.60

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Total Turnover was about \$HK32.96 million, indicating, once again, that investors were not too interested in the affairs of this speculative market.

The Growth Enterprise Index gained about 0.76 percent, rising to 169.03 points, with the ratio of gainers to losers, being about 1.32:One.

All of the double-digit movers were in negative territory:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (SHK)
36.com Holdings Ltd	8036	19.05		0.025
Asian Information Resources Holdings Ltd	8025	12.50		0.045
BM Intelligence International Ltd	8158	14.29		0.28
China Agrotech Holdings Ltd	8011	22.55		1.25
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081	10.77		0.72
Essex Bio-Technology Ltd	8151	11.67		0.335
Pine Technology Holdings Ltd	8013	10.00		0.33
Vodatel Network Holdings Ltd	8033	12.90		0.70

It was noteworthy that nearly 52 percent of all the counters, listed on The GEM, did not trade, last Wednesday.

Say what one may about The GEM, but its Index has fallen, tragically, and it looked set for a bit of a rally Ö before the next lower plateau was reached.

In Japan, The Tokyo Stock Exchange snapped its 4-day streak of wins as the Nikkei-225 Stock Average lost about 212.33 yen, falling to 9,924.23 yen.

Profit-taking, clearly, was one of the reasons for some of the losses, but there were other reasons, also.

Fujitsu Ltd, the largest manufacturer of personal computers in Japan, announced that it would suspend production of semiconductors at 3 of its factories for a week or so.

The move is aimed at unloading/moving some of its inventories, the company said.

NEC Corporation had, already, taken similar steps at 3 of its semiconductor plants.

The share price of Fujitsu fell about 3.91 percent to 910 yen per share, while the share price of NEC stayed firm at 930 yen.

Some of the largest losers in this section of the market included:

Advantest	Down 3.03 percent to 4,800 yen per share
Hitachi	Down 1.84 percent to 800 yen per share
Kyocera Corporation	Down 4.60 percent to 1,250 yen per share
Matsushita Electric Works	Down 3.57 percent to 972 yen per share
Tokyo Electron	Down 5.68 percent to 3,820 yen per share

The question of Japanís banksí bad loan portfolios still dogged investors on the largest Asian stock market.

Banks had a spotty day, by and large.

In other parts of Asia, all equity markets suffered losses:

Indonesia	Minus 1.52 percent
Japan	Minus 2.09 percent
Malaysia	Unchanged
The Philippines	Minus 1.42 percent
Singapore	Minus 1.12 percent
South Korea	Closed
Taiwan	Minus 1.31 percent
Thailand	Minus 0.14 percent

**Thursday**



Buoyed by the statements of US President George W. Bush on his Administration's plans to kick-start the US economy, stock markets round the world took heart and indices ran up.

And they ran up very quickly, too.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index put on about 3.93 percent, rising to 10,286.39 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK7.39 billion.

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gained about 2.63 percent, running back to 173.47 points. The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK63.18 million.

The only Asian bourse, which did not benefit from the run-up on stock prices, was in Malaysia.

On Wall Street, last Wednesday, investors appeared to be bubbling over with excitement following the news that the US Government would come to the aid of the limping economy.

As the US Government tightened and honed its plans for an invasion of Afghanistan in order to exterminate Osama bin Laden and his nest of terrorists, share prices on both The New York Stock Exchange and the NASDAQ took off, reminiscent of the *old* days of the stock-market rush.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 173.19 points, equal to about 1.93 percent, ending the day at 9,123.78 points.

But, on the NASDAQ, things were even bubblier: The Composite Index rose about 5.93 percent, to 1,580.81 points.

The stock markets of the US were on the move, following President Bush, stating that the country's coffers would be used to (a) spend more (b) cut more taxes and (c) cut rates.

The President said that he would request Congress to approve an economic stimulus package, valued at between \$US60 billion and \$US75 billion.

That was in addition to the \$US40 billion, already agreed as emergency spending, and the \$US15 billion, already paid out to the struggling US airline industry.

But the blood-thirst of Americans for the Muslim terrorists, who killed and maimed more than 10,000 people in Washington D.C. and New York, was not on the wane as the most powerful country in the world prepared itself for a devastating attack on the enemies of civilization.

Asia could not close its eyes to what was taking place in the US and in Europe, where share prices were recovering in a great hurry.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), investors could not help but feel elated at the sudden turn of events because the HKSAR is dependent to the extent of more than 60 percent of its trade, direct and indirect, on the US marketplace.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, there were about 3.31 gainers for every loser.

The 5, most-active counters, in order of turnovers, in dollar terms, were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 6.58 percent to \$HK85 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 3.01 percent to \$HK25.70 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 3.07 percent to \$HK\$HK59 per share

Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16) Up 1.47 percent to \$HK51.75 per share

Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1) Up 1.63 percent to \$HK62.25 per share

The aggregate value of the trades of the above-mentioned counters accounted for about 34.10 percent of the Total Turnover.

There were a total of 49, double-digit movers, of which number, 43, double-digit movers rose while 6, double-digit movers lost ground.

The biggest gainer of the day was Kantone Holdings Ltd (Code: 1059), the share price of which rose 24.59 percent to hit 15.20 cents by the close.

The biggest loser of the day was Everbest Century Holdings Ltd (Code: 578) as its share price sank 14.81 percent to 2.30 cents.

On The GEM, there were 9, double-digit movers, with just 2 of their number, making substantial losses:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
DigiTel Group Ltd	8030		18.92	0.214
Grandmass Enterprise Solution Ltd	8108	14.58		0.11
iAsia Technology Ltd	8101	13.24		0.77
Intcera High Tech Group Ltd	8041	25.00		0.28
Jiangsu Nandasoft Company Ltd	8045	12.31		0.73
L.P. Lammas International Ltd	8029		18.92	0.12
Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026	16.67		0.35
Timeless Software Ltd	8028	19.10		0.53
Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd	8138	29.55		0.32

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 3.06:One.

In Japan, it was a similar story to that, being told in the HKSAR, as investors on The Tokyo Stock Exchange went on a buying spree.

The blue-chip index of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, gained 281.25 yen, recovering to 10,205.48 yen, a one-day improvement of about 2.83 percent.

The number of gaining counters outnumbered the number of losing ones by the ratio of about 3.26:One.

Technology plays took the limelight, following on from what had transpired on Wall Street, the previous night.

Consumer electronics giant, Sony Corporation, amazed investors with a jump in its share price of about 6.78 percent as investors pushed up this company's share price to 4,250 yen.

About 30 percent of Sony's sales are made in the US.

Other large gainers in this section of the market included:

Advantest Up 10.42 percent to 5,300 yen per share

Alps Electric Up 4.37 percent to 765 yen per share

Fujitsu Up 3.41 percent to 941 yen per share

Furukawa Electric	Up 5.01 percent to 712 yen per share
Hitachi	Up 6.25 percent to 850 yen per share
Kyocera Corporation	Up 2.48 percent to 7,430 yen per share
Matsushita Communications	Up 7.37 percent to 3,350 yen per share
Matsushita Electrical Industries	Up 6.74 percent to 1,521 yen per share
Mitsubishi Electrical	Up 4.17 percent to 425 yen per share
NEC Corporation	Up 10.11 percent to 1,024 yen per share
Nikon Corporation	Up 5.31 percent to 912 yen per share
OKI Electric	Up 13.46 percent to 371 yen per share
Pioneer	Up 8.86 percent to 2,580 yen per share
Rohm Company	Up 7.82 percent to 11,860 yen per share
Tokyo Electron	Up 12.83 percent to 4,310 yen per share
Toshiba Corporation	Up 7.96 percent to 431 yen per share

In motors, the main gainers included:

Honda Motor	Up 2.43 percent to 4,200 yen per share
Mabuchi Motor	Up 2.84 percent to 10,400 yen per share
Mitsubishi Motor	Up 8.60 percent to 240 yen per share
Nissan Motor Company	Up 5.37 percent to 530 yen per share
Toyoto Motor Company	Up 4.66 percent to 3,370 yen per share
Yamaha Motor	Up 2.57 percent to 838 yen per share

These 2 sections of the largest stock market in Asia made the most impressive gains as Japanese investors were, clearly, taking heart.

However, questions were being asked as to whether or not the rally would continue.

This was how other Asia markets fared, last Thursday:

Indonesia	Plus 2.63 percent
Japan	Plus 2.83 percent
Malaysia	Minus 0.92 percent

The Philippines	Plus 0.52 percent
Singapore	Plus 3.18 percent
South Korea	Plus 0.15 percent
Taiwan	Plus 1.38 percent
Thailand	Plus 2.51 percent

## **Friday**

Following on from Wall Street's performance, last Thursday, New York time, all but one bourse in Asia marked time as investors started to ponder whether or not all the hype of Wednesday had, really, been justified.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the prospects of the Chief Executive, Mr Tung Chee Hwa, delivering a negative report about the economy dampened investor ardour.

That report was due to be broadcast the following week.

That suggestion was reinforced when a report was released from The University of Hongkong's APEC Study Centre, a report that stated, definitively, that the HKSAR economy was in for a difficult time.

The Report stated that the second half of the year, to March 31, 2002, would see negative growth; and, that the economy would slide into recession.

That means that the growth in the economy for the entire year, taking into account the first half's minimal growth, would be in the order of 0.10 percent ñ which is next to meaningless.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board's Hang Seng Index recorded a loss of about 0.09 percent, ending the week at 10,277.38 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK7.51 billion, with trading in the shares of HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5), representing about 15.58 percent of that figure.

Needless to say, HSBC Holdings, with its turnover of about 13.87 million shares, was the most active counter of the day.

The 6, most-active counters were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.59 percent to \$HK84.50 per share
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8)	Up 8.07 percent to \$HK2.075 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 3.81 percent to \$HK61.25 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 2.53 percent to \$HK25.05 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 2.42 percent to \$HK50.50 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 2.01 percent to \$HK63.50 per share

The above counters represented about 42 percent of the entire volume of trading for the day.

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 1.19: One, with about 71 percent of the market's counters, holding onto previous levels.

There were a total of 31, double-digit movers, with 11 of their number, losing substantial ground.

The biggest loser of the day was New Rank City Development Ltd (Code: 456), the share price of which shed 18.49 percent of its value, falling to 97 cents per share.

The biggest gainer of the day was Victory Group Ltd (Code: 1139) as its share price ran up to 18 cents, a one-day improvement of 28.57 percent.

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Growth Enterprise Index gave up 0.72 percent of its value, falling back to 172.22 points.

The Total Turnover on this speculative market was just a tad below \$HK56 million, with declining issues, outpacing advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.25:One.

Mr Li Ka Shing's tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001) was the most active counter of the day as investors traded about \$HK11.19-million worth of the stock ñ for no apparent reason, it appeared.

The share price of tom.com ended the week at \$HK1.85 for a one-day improvement of about 1.65 percent.

There were 6, double-digit movers of the day:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asian Information Resources Holdings Ltd	8025	10.42		0.053
ePro Ltd	8086		14.29	0.12
Essex Bio-Technology Ltd	8151	10.29		0.275
FlexSystem Holdings Ltd	8050	10.34		0.32
iSteelAsia.com Ltd	8080		12.00	0.198
Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026	12.86		0.295

The Ten Most Actives accounted for about 77.37 percent of the Total Turnover of the day.

On Wall Street, last Thursday, more bad news was announced.

The US Labour Department announced that another 200,000 jobs had been lost in the month of September.

But those statistics did not include the number of jobs that had been lost since the attacks on the US by Muslim extremists on September 11 because US statistics are, always, a month or so behind.

Armed with this news, investors on the world's largest stock market were nonplused as to what action, if any, to take.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 62.90 points, or about 0.69 percent, falling to 9,060.88 points.

On the tech-laden NASDAQ, its Composite Index gained 16.50 points, or about 1.04 percent, rising to 1,597.31 points.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, easily the largest stock market in Asia, the Nikkei-225 Stock Average hardly moved for the entire day.

By the close of trading, the Nikkei-225 stood at 10,205.87 yen, a gain of just 0.39 percent.

The number of losing counters outnumbered the number of gaining ones by the ratio of 2.05:One.

The following Monday (that is, today) was to be a holiday for Japanese workers so that interest in trading in stocks and shares was very limited ñ as was evident by the low level of trading on the 3 stock markets of The Land of The Rising Sun.

There were few stock-price movements of any note: The world was more interested in watching and waiting for the next move by the US Government in respect of its war against the forces of evil in the world.

This was how the situation looked in other parts of Asia, last Friday night:

Indonesia	Plus 0.09 percent
Japan	Unchanged
Malaysia	Minus 0.34 percent
The Philippines	Minus 0.59 percent
Singapore	Plus 0.56 percent
South Korea	Plus 0.26 percent
Taiwan	Plus 2.63 percent
Thailand	Minus 0.59 percent

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