

**INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS DOG EQUITY MARKETS, WORLDWIDE:
JAPAN'S STOCK MARKETS COLLAPSE MORE THAN 4 PERCENT**

Share prices fell throughout Asia, last Monday, for a number of very valid and unrelated reasons:

1. Japan's economy was seen not to be improving, as had, hitherto, been thought;
2. Wall Street's fall of Friday, November 7, was seen as a possible harbinger of more falls to come; and,
3. Al Qaeda's attacks in Saudi Arabia, over the weekend of November 8-9, were seen as destabilising of Middle-Eastern affairs.

In Europe, every bourse, without exception, lost material amounts; billions of euros were wiped off the market capitalisations of equities.

On Friday, November 7, in spite of bullish reports about the US economy, share prices continued to slip, with Wall Street gurus, claiming that most prices had reflected the situation of today, in any event.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed about 0.48 percent, falling back to 9,809.79 points, while the tech-laden NASDAQ's Composite Index surrendered about 0.28 percent, ending the week at 1,970.74 points.

For **TARGET**'s report on the US economy, please see
[TARGET Intelligence Report, Volume V, Number 217, published last Wednesday.](#)

On European bourses, a weak opening on New York equity markets, which took place just hours before Europe closed up shop for the day, caused investors to head for the high ground in order to take cover.

Every index on equity markets in the eurozone shed substantial amounts, with the Amsterdam market, suffering the worst.

This was how major European bourses ended their respective sessions, last Monday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 1.11 percent*
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.80 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.96 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Minus 0.81 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 1.08 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 0.21 percent

* This was the biggest loser in Europe, last Monday

In Asia, the focus was on Japan where, on Sunday, there was a General Election, which saw Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi returned to power.

But there were grave concerns that his reforms were not biting, as had been hoped.

Also, while the Prime Minister held on to his grip of the country, it was by a smaller majority in the Diet, which would mean, in the fullness of time, that it would be a little more tricky in passing legislation.

Further, it was revealed that The Bank of Japan, the country's Central Bank, had spent about 7.55 trillion yen between July and September in buying up US dollars on international foreign-exchange markets in its efforts to bolster the exchange rate of the Japanese yen, vis-à-vis the American dollar.

But, it was clear that it was all to no avail, after all.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, last Monday, the sake did not flow, freely.

The key index of Asia's largest equity market, the Nikkei-225 Stock Average, gave up 124.53 yen, or about 1.17 percent of its value, falling to 10,504.54 yen.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was 1.73:One.

News wise:

- **Olympus Corporation** posted a record Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders for the first half of its Financial Year, ended September 30, 2003, of about 15.49 billion yen, up 15.60 percent, Year-on-Year;
- **Yamaha Corporation** announced that its Group Net Profits Attributable to Shareholders were about 26.26 billion yen for its first half, to September 30, 2003. That result represented a gain of about 160.60 percent, compared with the like period in 2002; and,
- **Softbank Corporation** said that it had lost about 77.34 billion yen, during the April-September period. That result compared with a Loss Attributable to Shareholders for the like 2002 period of about 55.80 billion yen.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), it was losers, all round.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index gave up about 0.48 percent of its value, ending the day at 12,156.68 points.

The Total Turnover fell back to about \$HK11.29 billion, with the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones, being about 2.88:One.

The market had been down by as much as a percentage point in the morning session, but it recovered about half of its earlier losses, as the afternoon session saw short-covering take place.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.43 percent to \$HK117.50 per share
PICC Property and Casualty Company Ltd (Code: 2328)	Down 3.77 percent to \$HK2.55 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 1.79 percent to \$HK21.90 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 0.84 percent to \$HK59.25 per share
China Merchants Holdings (International) Company Ltd (Code: 144)	Down 4.19 percent to \$HK10.30 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Down 1.10 percent to \$HK13.50 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 0.89 percent to \$HK2.80 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 1.60 percent to \$HK61.50 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 1.90 percent to \$HK64.50 per share

As for the double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Applied (China) Ltd	472	29.29		0.128
Applied International Holdings Ltd	519	11.29		0.138
Bestway International Holdings Ltd	718	11.11		0.03
Chi Cheung Investment Company Ltd	112		32.35	1.15
Chinney Alliance Group Ltd	385		11.11	0.016
CITIC Resources Holdings Ltd	1205	12.70		1.42
Crocodile Garments Ltd	122		14.29	0.30
Earnest Investments Holdings Ltd	339		16.67	0.025
Jackley Holdings Ltd	353		11.90	0.148
Kantone Holdings Ltd	1059	10.53		0.21
Kin Don Holdings Ltd	208	13.89		0.041
Mei Ah Entertainment Group Ltd	391		11.54	0.23
Ming Fung Jewellery Group Ltd	860		12.66	0.20
Radford Capital Investment Ltd	901		10.45	0.18

S.A.S. Dragon Holdings Ltd	1184		10.14	0.62
Star East Holdings Ltd	198	16.13		0.072
Victory Group Ltd	1139		22.22	0.028
Wonson International Holdings Ltd	651	26.32		0.024

Over on The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the lone index, The Growth Enterprise Index, fell by about 1.40 percent in the morning session, but recovered 1.03 percent of the earlier losses by the time that tea was served in Asia.

By the close of trading at 4 p.m., The Growth Enterprise Index was 1,222.47 points, off by about 0.37 percent, compared with the previous Friday's closing level.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK174.18 million.

The ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 1.37:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Wah Sang Gas Holding Ltd (Code: 8035)	Up 4 percent to \$HK1.10 per share
tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001)	Down 2 percent to \$HK2.35 per share
Tungda Innovative Lighting Holdings Ltd (Code: 8229)	Up 9 percent to 52 cents per share
Panva Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8132)	Up 4 percent to \$HK3.85 per share
Yantai North Andre Juice Company Ltd (Code: 8259)	Up 7 percent to \$HK5.80 per share

The biggest movers on this speculative market included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Fast Systems Technology (Holdings) Ltd	8150		13.79	0.05
Glory Future Group Ltd	8071	12.50		0.09
IIN International Ltd	8128	10.00		0.077
Info Communication Holdings Ltd	8082		12.50	0.035
Jilin Province Huinan Changlong Bio-pharmacy Company Ltd	8049		12.12	0.29
Panorama International Holdings Ltd	8173		17.65	0.07
Satellite Devices Corporation	8172		12.50	0.028
SYSCAN Technology Holdings Ltd	8083		11.54	0.345
T S Telecom Technologies Ltd	8003		12.62	0.09
Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd	8138		10.42	0.129
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd	8228	18.46		0.385

And this was how other Asian markets fared, last Monday:

HKSAR	Minus 0.48 percent to 12,156.68
Indonesia	Minus 1.06 percent to 620.07
Japan	Minus 1.17 percent to 10,504.54
Malaysia	Minus 0.72 percent to 800.96
The Philippines	Minus 0.27 percent to 1,409.34
Singapore	Minus 1.51 percent to 1,742.33
South Korea	Minus 0.93 percent to 796.56
Taiwan	Plus 0.04 percent to 6,059.03
Thailand	Minus 0.99 percent to 664.36

Tuesday.

Things were not going well for US President George W. Bush: The Iraqi war was taking more and more US lives in that Middle Eastern country – on a daily basis; the imposition of US tariffs on imported steel into the country had the world in an uproar; and, more and more Americans were not happy with their lot.

Wall Street, according to its gurus, was in the grips of profit-takers; key indices were continuing to fall.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed about 0.54 percent of its value, hitting 9,756.53 points by the close of trading.

Over on the NASDAQ, its Composite Index surrendered a full 1.48 percent of its value, dropping back to 1,941.64 points.

While it was clear that the US economy was improving, it was suggested that such economic improvements had, already, been factored into the prices of stocks and shares, listed on key equity markets of the US.

In Europe, equity markets were not seen to be doing well: Parochial considerations were causing investors to feel jittery about short-term prospects for various eurozone economies – and with good reason, too.

This was how major European bourses ended their respective sessions, last Tuesday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.83 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus 0.08 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.44 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Minus 0.56 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.35 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 0.67 percent

Asia caught the European and American chill, as equity markets in the most-populous part of the world came under extreme selling pressure.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), losses on the 2 stock markets were widespread.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index shed about 1.26 percent of its value, falling back to 12,003.62 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK11.88 billion.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 2.54:One.

The Ten Most active counters were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 1.28 percent to \$HK116.00 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 1.83 percent to \$HK21.50 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 0.84 percent to \$HK58.75 per share
PICC Property and Casualty Company Ltd (Code: 2328)	Unchanged at \$HK2.55 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 1.55 percent to \$HK63.50 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 0.81 percent to \$HK61.00 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Unchanged at \$HK13.50 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Down 0.25 percent to \$HK98.50 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 0.89 percent to \$HK2.775 per share
China Telecom Corporation Ltd (Code: 728)	Down 5.10 percent to \$HK2.325 per share

The biggest movers of the day, however, were reserved for the following counters:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Applied (China) Ltd	472	10.16		0.141
Chi Cheung Investment Company Ltd	112		18.26	0.94
China United International Holdings Ltd	273	11.54		1.16
Credit Card DNA Security System (Holdings) Ltd	1051		10.53	0.017
Dynamic Global Holdings Ltd	231	13.75		0.091
Hi Sun Group Ltd	818		43.33	0.17
Kantone Holdings Ltd	1059	14.76		0.241

Karl Thomson Holdings Ltd	7		13.16	0.33
Medtech Group Company Ltd	1031		16.67	0.01
Morning Star Resources Ltd	542	11.43		0.078
Nam Fong International Holdings Ltd	1176	18.75		0.038
Plus Holdings Ltd	1013		11.67	0.053
Radford Capital Investment Ltd	901		18.89	0.146
Rosedale Hotel Group Ltd	149	11.11		0.18
S.A.S. Dragon Holdings Ltd	1184	14.52		0.71
Shougang Concord Technology Holdings Ltd	521	10.98		0.91
Tomorrow International Holdings Ltd	760	11.11		0.90
Wanji Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd	835	14.63		0.047

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, it was a very similar story to that, being told in the Main Board.

The Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 1.33 percent of its value, falling to 1,206.25 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK128.87 million.

As for the gainers and losers of the day, the ratio was about 1.59:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001)	Down 3 percent to \$HK2.275 per share
Panva Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8132)	Up 1 percent to \$HK3.90 per share
Wah Sang Gas Holding Ltd (Code: 8035)	Down 4 percent to \$HK1.06 per share
Tungda Innovative Lighting Holdings Ltd (Code: 8229)	Down 2 percent to 51 cents per share
CK Life Sciences International (Holdings) Incorporated (Code: 8222)	Down 1 percent to \$HK1.75 per share

The biggest movers on this speculative marketplace were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Advanced Card Systems Holdings Ltd	8210		10.77	0.29
CASH Financial Services Group Ltd	8122		14.55	0.47
Grandy Applied Environmental Technology Corporation	8143	14.78		0.132
Info Communication Holdings Ltd	8082		28.57	0.025
Panorama International Holdings Ltd	8173		11.43	0.062
Q9 Technology Holdings Ltd	8129	12.24		0.055
Tradeeasy Holdings Ltd	8163	24.24		0.041

In Japan, it was another bad day for many Japanese investors, as the US dollar weakened further against the Japanese yen; and, the key index of the premier bourse of The Land of The Rising Sun shed material amounts of its value.

The US dollar was trading at about 108.69 yen, late in the day, which was skirting a 3-year high.

As the yen strengthens against the greenback, so it shaves off a goodly slice of Japan's ability to compete with the country's largest, single trading partner with its goods and services.

The value of stocks and shares on The Tokyo Stock Exchange mirrored investor concerns.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, which is a key indicator of the direction of blue chips, listed on The Tokyo Stock Exchange, ended last Tuesday's trading session at 10,207.04 yen, down by about 2.83 percent, compared with Monday's close.

The ratio of losers to gainers on this market was about 7.01:One.

The consensus, last Tuesday, was that while Wednesday's market may well rebound from Tuesday's material market falls, such gains were unlikely to put sashimi, back on the menu for the day.

Hi-tech stocks were among the biggest losers of the day, following on from what had transpired on Wall Street, during the first day of trading, last week.

News wise:

- **Domestic shipments of mobile telephones** rose about 20.60 percent in September, Year-on-Year, to about 4.13 million units. It was the eleventh consecutive month of gains for this industry;
- **Private-sector machinery orders** fell 1.60 percent in September, seasonally adjusted, compared with orders, logged in in August. It was the third consecutive month of declines in orders for core, private-sector machines, The Cabinet Office's Economic and Social Research Institute said;
- **Mitsubishi Motors Corporation (MMC)** reported a Group Net Loss Attributable to Shareholders of about 80.22 billion yen for the first half of its Financial Year, ended September 30, 2003. MMC is Japan's fourth largest producer of motor vehicles. In the first half of 2002, the company recorded a Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders of about 6.64 billion yen. Sluggish sales in North America were said to be a major contribution to the company's losses; and,
- **NTT Corporation** posted a Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders of about 383.57 billion yen for the first half of its Fiscal Year, ended September 30, 2003. For the like period in 2002, the company recorded a Net Profit of about 33.16 billion yen.

In other parts of Asia, this was how those stock markets fared, last Tuesday:

HKSAR	Minus 1.23 percent to 12,003.62
Indonesia	Minus 0.38 percent to 617.72
Japan	Minus 2.83 percent to 10,207.04
Malaysia	Minus 0.71 percent to 795.28
The Philippines	Minus 1.81 percent to 1,383.81
Singapore	Minus 2.49 percent to 1,698.95
South Korea	Minus 1.10 percent to 787.77
Taiwan	Minus 0.61 percent to 6,022.08
Thailand	Minus 2.53 percent to 647.55

Wednesday

Wall Street continued its retreat, last Tuesday, dragging down equity markets, round the globe.

There was no single reason for share prices to continue to fall on the world's largest stock markets, but there were so many negative factors, coming to the fore, that investors could hardly be expected to disregard them, completely.

On The New York Stock Exchange, last Tuesday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed another 0.20 percent of its value, while the NASDAQ's Composite Index fell by about 0.60 percent.

The losses were of a fractional nature, to be sure, but many fractions do make whole numbers.

With little in the way of corporate news to stimulate the equity markets of the US, one way or another, key indices tended to drift ... slowly down.

In Europe, noting that Wall Street had not dropped out of bed, completely, it gave some investors hope for the near term, at least, and, with the prospects of further interest-rate increases, fading into the background, many investors started to nibble at some of the '*darlings*', listed on major bourses of the eurozone.

This was how major European bourses ended their respective sessions, last Wednesday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus 0.15 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus 0.60 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus 0.50 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Plus 0.15 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.20 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus 0.44 percent

In Asia, things were not going very well, at all.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board's Hang Seng Index lost another 0.27 percent, ending the day at 11,971.48 points.

However, in the morning session, to 12:30 p.m., the Hang Seng Index fell to 11,896.58 points, off by about 0.89 percent, compared with Tuesday's closing level.

The Total Turnover for the day continued to be on the low side, at about \$HK12.74 billion.

Losing counters ran ahead of gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.36:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Resources Power Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 836)	Unchanged at \$HK2.75 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 1.16 percent to \$HK21.75 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.43 percent to \$HK116.50 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 1.97 percent to \$HK62.25 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 0.43 percent to \$HK58.50 per share
PICC Property and Casualty Company Ltd (Code: 2328)	Up 2.94 percent to \$HK2.625 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 1.64 percent to \$HK60.00 per share
AviChina Industry and Technology Company Ltd (Code: 2357)	Up 3.82 percent to \$HK1.63 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Down 0.76 percent to \$HK97.75 per share
China Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 384)	Down 14.68 percent to \$HK0.93 per share

As for the double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
ABC Communications (Holdings) Ltd	30		10.45	0.30
Applied (China) Ltd	472		10.64	0.126
Capital Estate Ltd	193	12.50		0.027
Central China Enterprises Ltd	351	12.50		0.027
China Gas Holdings Ltd	384		14.68	0.93
Chinney Alliance Group Ltd	385		11.76	0.015
Compass Pacific Holdings Ltd	1188		12.28	0.20
Cosmos Machinery Enterprises Ltd	118	14.29		0.40
G-Vision International (Holdings) Ltd	657	19.05		0.05
Harmony Asset Ltd	428	14.29		0.40
Hi Sun Group Ltd	818	52.94		0.26
Lai Sun Development Company Ltd	488		10.62	0.101
Leaptek Ltd	336	11.11		0.04
Man Yue International Holdings Ltd	894	10.91		0.305
Medtech Group Company Ltd	1031	10.00		0.011
NewOcean Green Energy Holdings Ltd	342	17.14		0.123
Plus Holdings Ltd	1013	13.21		0.06
Starlight International Holdings Ltd	485	10.94		0.355
Start Technology Company Ltd	706	11.54		0.174
Surge Recreation Holdings Ltd	703	13.33		0.068
Truly International Holdings Ltd	732	13.49		7.15
Universe International Holdings Ltd	1046	10.56		0.199
Wanji Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd	835		10.64	0.042

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the speculative equity market of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic China (PRC), after falling fractionally, during the morning session, investors covered some short positions, resulting in the lone index, being able to record a fractional improvement over Tuesday's close.

By the close of the session, The Growth Enterprise Index stood at 1,210.42 points, up by about 0.35 percent.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK130.65 million.

Gainers and losers were, exactly, even, at One:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001)
Wah Sang Gas Holding Ltd (Code: 8035)
Panva Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8132)
Tungda Innovative Lighting Holdings Ltd (Code: 8229)
Kingdee International Software Group Company Ltd (Code: 8133)

Unchanged at \$HK2.275 per share
Down 6 percent to \$HK1.00 per share
Up 1 percent to \$HK3.95 per share
Down 6 percent to 48 cents per share
Up 6 percent to \$HK2.825 per share

The biggest movers of the day were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Advanced Card Systems Holdings Ltd	8210		12.07	0.255
Creative Energy Solutions Holdings Ltd	8109	14.06		0.365
Cyber On-Air Group Company Ltd	8118		12.90	0.054
Excel Technology International Holdings Ltd	8048	15.33		0.173
G.A. Holdings Ltd	8126		20.00	0.14
Grandy Applied Environmental Technology Corporation	8143	13.64		0.15
HK6 Holdings Ltd	8206		10.00	0.09
Info Communication Holdings Ltd	8082	40.00		0.035
LOULAN Holdings Ltd	8039	13.39		0.144
New Universe International Group Ltd	8068	82.14		0.102
Panorama International Holdings Ltd	8173		27.42	0.045
Q9 Technology Holdings Ltd	8129		18.18	0.045
Shine Science and Technology (Holdings) Ltd	8270		13.21	0.23
SYSCAN Technology Holdings Ltd	8083		10.67	0.335
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd	8228		10.00	0.36

In Japan, the key index of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, the Nikkei-225 Stock Average, as had been widely expected, rebounded from Tuesday's losses, but only by about 0.19 percent: The Nikkei-225 Stock Average ended the day at 10,226.22 yen – which, definitely, was not enough to put sashimi, back on the dinner menu.

Even so, losing counters outran gaining counters on the First Section by the ratio of about 1.90:One.

It was said that trading in the shares of NTT Corporation (Please see Tuesday's report) had been responsible for the lion's share of the gains because, during the trading session, the Nikkei-225 Stock Average had vacillated between red ink and black ink.

The share price of NTT Corporation jumped 11.09 percent, the daily limit, delighting its shareholders, no doubt, as it rose to 501,000 yen.

News wise:

- **Central Japan Railway Company** reported record group sales in the first half of its Fiscal Year, to September 30, 2003, of about 683.20 billion yen, up by about 900 million yen, compared with the like period in 2002;
- Japan's third-largest producer of toys, **Takara Company**, announced that its Group Net Profit had fallen, Year-on-Year, by about 28.60 percent in the first 6 months of its Financial Year, ended September 30, 2003, to about 1.58 billion yen;
- **Sega Corporation**, a video game producer in Japan, reported a Net Profit Attributable to Shareholders of about 5.93 billion yen, up by about 487 percent, compared with the like period in 2002;
- **Marubeni Corporation**, a trading house in Japan, one which has had its ups and downs of late, said that it would be raising about 75.50 billion yen by issuing Preferred Shares; and,
- **Japan's Current Account Surplus** rose by about 20 percent in the first half of this Fiscal Year, compared with the first half of Fiscal 2002, to about 8.35 trillion yen, The Finance Ministry said.

And, in other Asian stock markets, this was how they closed their respective trading days, last Wednesday:

HKSAR	Minus 0.268 percent to 11,971.48
Indonesia	Plus 0.35 percent to 619.87
Japan	Plus 0.19 percent to 10,226.22

Malaysia	Minus 0.62 percent to 790.31
The Philippines	Minus 1.47 percent to 1,363.53
Singapore	Plus 1.08 percent to 1,717.36
South Korea	Plus 1.08 percent to 796.31
Taiwan	Minus 0.65 percent to 5,982.75
Thailand	Plus 0.92 percent to 653.49

Thursday

Despite the US Administration, being under pressure at flashpoints, around the world, and in spite of the European Union (EU) and Japan, threatening the US with punitive measures in respect of what they claim are discriminatory tariffs on their exports of steel to the US, share prices in the US bounced back, last Wednesday.

Monday and Tuesday had seen Wall Street in retreat, but Wednesday saw the largest equity markets in the world come back with the roar.

The question was, of course: Could those markets hold onto their gains?

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average put on about 1.14 percent, rising to 9,848.83 points in very active trading.

It was a similar story, over on the NASDAQ, with its Composite Index, gaining about 2.19 percent, ending the day at 1,973.11 points.

Europe followed suit, for no other reason than the meaning behind the proverb: What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

There was no special news that affected trading in the EU, last Thursday.

This was how major European bourses ended their respective sessions, on the fourth trading day of the week:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus 0.60 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus 0.04 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus 0.46 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Plus 0.04 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 1.05 percent*
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus 0.51 percent

* This was the largest gainer in Europe, last Thursday

In Asia, most major equity markets ran to higher levels, led by the premier stock market of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index rose about 2.14 percent to 12,227.57 points in hectic, 2-way trading conditions.

But the Total Turnover stayed low, at about \$HK13.08 billion – which is not indicative of a bullish marketplace.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 2.97:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 2.15 percent to \$HK119.00 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 2.99 percent to \$HK22.40 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 1.28 percent to \$HK59.25 per share
China Resources Power Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 836)	Up 2.73 percent to \$HK2.825 per share
PICC Property and Casualty Company Ltd (Code: 2328)	Unchanged at \$HK2.625 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	Down 4.56 percent to \$HK15.70 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 3.21 percent to \$HK64.25 per share

China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)
China Telecom Corporation Ltd (Code: 728)
Maanshan Iron and Steel Company Ltd (Code: 323)

Up 5.88 percent to \$HK7.20 per share
Up 3.16 percent to \$HK2.45 per share
Up 4.60 percent to \$HK2.275 per share

The biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asia Zirconium Ltd	395	12.59		1.52
Capital Estate Ltd	193		11.11	0.024
Chevalier iTech Holdings Ltd	508		10.64	0.84
China Agrotech Holdings Ltd	1073	11.54		0.58
China Strategic Holdings Ltd	235		17.32	0.148
CNT Group Ltd	701	12.00		0.168
Dong Fang Gas Holdings Ltd	432		12.50	0.28
First Tractor Company Ltd	38	15.24		1.89
Harmony Asset Ltd	428	12.50		0.45
I-Wood International Holdings Ltd	162	10.00		0.275
Magician Industries (Holdings) Ltd	526	16.00		0.29
Nam Fong International Holdings Ltd	1176	18.42		0.045
New World Infrastructure Ltd	301	12.17		1.29
Oriental Metals (Holdings) Company Ltd	1208	12.00		0.28
Pacific Century Insurance Holdings Ltd	65	14.29		3.00
Pacific Plywood Holdings Ltd	767	20.00		0.024
Plus Holdings Ltd	1013	13.33		0.068
South China Brokerage Company Ltd	619	22.22		0.055
Suwa International Holdings Ltd	567	18.18		0.325
Universe International Holdings Ltd	1046	10.55		0.22
Wing Shing Chemical Holdings Ltd	850	10.44		0.275

While the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd saw spirited trading conditions, last Thursday, it was not the case on The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM), the speculative bourse of the HKSAR.

The Growth Enterprise Index gained just 0.11 percent, running up to 1,211.78 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK181.64 points.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing counters was about 1.12:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Nanjing Dahe Outdoor Media Company Ltd (Code: 8243)	Unchanged at 49.50 cents per share
tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001)	Up 1 percent to \$HK2.30 per share
Golden Meditech Company Ltd (Code: 8180)	Up 1 percent to \$HK2.10 per share
Panva Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8132)	Up 2 percent to \$HK4.025 per share
Tungda Innovative Lighting Holdings Ltd (Code: 8229)	Down 1 percent to 47.50 cents per share

The double-digit movers of The GEM were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Everpride Biopharmaceutical Company Ltd	8019		10.61	0.16
Glory Mark Hi-Tech (Holdings) Ltd	8159		10.53	0.34
New Universe International Group Ltd	8068	47.06		0.15
Panorama International Holdings Ltd	8173	11.11		0.05
ProSticks International Holdings Ltd	8055	10.00		0.022
Universal Technologies Holdings Ltd	8091	12.20		0.092
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd	8228		11.11	0.32

Up went share prices on Asia's 3 largest equity markets, last Thursday, seemingly riding on the back of Wall Street's gains of Wednesday, New York time.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, the Nikkei-225 Stock Average rose by about 1.09 percent, sailing back to 10,337.67 yen, after hitting a high of 10,431.41 yen, early in the trading session.

It seemed to many investors that Wall Street would be hard-pressed to hang onto its gains of Wednesday, and, as a result, this would be reflected on equity markets of Japan, come Friday.

The ratio of gainers to losers was 2.10:One.

News wise:

- **Mitsubishi Corporation**, Japan's largest trading house, said that its Net Profits Attributable to Shareholders for the first half of its Financial Year, ended September 30, 2003, was about 60.56 billion yen, up about 39 percent, Year-on-Year.

As for other Asian equity markets, this was how they finished trading, last Thursday:

HKSAR	Plus 2.139 percent to 12,227.57
Indonesia	Minus 0.84 percent to 614.64
Japan	Plus 1.09 percent to 10,337.67
Malaysia	Plus 0.15 percent to 791.49
The Philippines	Minus 1.44 percent to 1,343.88
Singapore	Plus 1.71 percent to 1,746.74
South Korea	Plus 2.11 percent to 813.11
Taiwan	Plus 0.88 percent to 6,035.44
Thailand	Plus 0.71 percent to 658.15

Friday

Japan set the trend for widespread losses on equity markets, throughout Asia, last Friday, following definitive indications that Wall Street would not, after all, be able to hang onto its gains of Wednesday, New York time.

US equity markets had started to drift, once again, suggesting that Friday's markets would see further losses.

And, when the US equity markets come off, the world takes careful note.

On The New York Stock Exchange, last Thursday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed about 0.11 percent, ending the day at 9,837.94 points.

On the NASDAQ, its Composite Index saw investors shave it down by about 0.29 percent to 1,967.35 points.

As the adage goes, a market that cannot rise must fall.

From Washington, D.C., it was reported that the number of unemployed workers, making claims against their unemployment benefits, had risen by 13,000 Claims to 366,000 Claims, Week-on-Week.

In Europe, last Friday, both Germany and France, the 2 largest economies of the European Union (EU), announced that their economies had returned to growth.

The German economy grew by about 0.20 percent for the quarter, ended September 30, 2003, while France topped that figure, claiming that its economy expanded by between 0.20 percent and 0.30 percent for the same quarter.

With the 2, most-important economies of the EU no longer enjoying economic recessions, Europe took heart.

This was how major European bourses ended their respective sessions, last Friday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.01 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus 0.55 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus 0.84 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Plus 1.06 percent *

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index
Italy's MIBTEL Index

Plus 0.82 percent
Plus 0.39 percent

* This was the largest gainer in Europe, last Friday

While things looked a little better in the eurozone, not so in Asia.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index surrendered about 0.20 percent, ending the week at 12,203.53 points.

The Total Turnover continued to be on the low side, at about \$HK11.86 billion.

While the Hang Seng Index was only off by a fraction, the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was telling, at about 1.28:One.

There was nothing to stimulate trading in equities in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) ... and so it drifted south.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.42 percent to \$HK118.50 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 0.89 percent to \$HK22.20 per share
China Resources Power Holdings Company Ltd (Code: 836)	Up 2.65 percent to \$HK2.90 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 0.84 percent to \$HK58.75 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 1.17 percent to \$HK65.00 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	Down 2.55 percent to \$HK15.30 per share
Sinopec Yizheng Chemical Fibre Company Ltd (Code: 1033)	Up 4.73 percent to \$HK1.77 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Up 0.37 percent to \$HK13.70 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Down 0.25 percent to \$HK99.50 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 0.81 percent to \$HK62.00 per share

As for the double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
CATIC International Holdings Ltd	232	12.87		0.193
China Motion Telecom International Ltd	989		10.45	0.60
China Strategic Holdings Ltd	235	21.62		0.18
China United International Holdings Ltd	273		11.50	1.00
Dickson Group Holdings Ltd	313		12.28	0.05
Dong Fang Gas Holdings Ltd	432	10.71		0.31
Emperor (China Concept) Investments Ltd	296		10.71	2.50
Far East Technology International Ltd	36		22.00	0.195
Golden Dragon Group (Holdings) Ltd	329	14.29		0.40
Greater China Holdings Ltd	431		15.56	0.38
Leaptek Ltd	336	32.43		0.049
Mascotte Holdings Ltd	136		23.40	0.18
Morning Star Resources Ltd	542		10.26	0.07
Oriental Investment Corporation Ltd	735	40.59		0.142
Plus Holdings Ltd	1013		14.71	0.058
Rontex International Holdings Ltd	1142	12.70		1.42
South China Brokerage Company Ltd	619		12.73	0.048
Sun East Technology (Holdings) Ltd	365	11.29		1.38
Surge Recreation Holdings Ltd	703	11.76		0.076
Tomorrow International Holdings Ltd	760	10.75		1.03
Tonic Industries Holdings Ltd	978	12.96		0.61
Wing Shing Chemical Holdings Ltd	850	20.00		0.33

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the situation was similar to that of the Main Board.

The Growth Enterprise Index gained about 0.09 percent, ending the session at 1,212.84 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK186.36 million, but declining counters were ahead of advancing ones by the ratio of 2:One, exactly.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Ningbo Yidong Electronic Company Ltd (Code: 8249)	53 cents per share*
Golden Meditech Company Ltd (Code: 8180)	Up 7 percent to \$HK2.25 per share
tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001)	Unchanged at \$HK2.30 per share
Panva Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8132)	Up 2 percent to \$HK4.125 per share
Wah Sang Gas Holding Ltd (Code: 8035)	Up 1 percent to \$HK1.03 per share

* This was a new listing, with last Friday, being the first day of trading

The biggest movers on this market included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Cyber On-Air Group Company Ltd	8118		20.00	0.04
Emperor Entertainment Group Ltd	8078	27.08		0.61
Fortune Telecom Holdings Ltd	8040	11.11		0.80
Grandy Applied Environmental Technology Corporation	8143		14.38	0.125
Info Communication Holdings Ltd	8082		14.29	0.03
ITE (Holdings) Ltd	8092	21.67		0.073
New Universe International Group Ltd	8068		14.67	0.128
Panorama International Holdings Ltd	8173	100.00		0.10
Satellite Devices Corporation	8172	28.57		0.036
Tradeeasy Holdings Ltd	8163		12.50	0.035
Vertex Communications and Technology Group Ltd	8228		17.19	0.265

The tally for the week for The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd was:

The Hang Seng Index	Minus	0.10 percent
The Growth Enterprise Index	Minus	1.15 percent

In Japan, the '*big gun*' had shown up in the flesh: The US Secretary of Defense, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, had flown to Tokyo to hold meetings with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

Mr Rumsfeld, who is not averse to a little rough and tumble, having been a college wrestler in days of yore, wants to get Japan to send troops to Iraq, in accordance with previous promises.

Japan, however, does not want to send its troops in harm's way – which is what would happen the moment that Japanese soldiers land in US-occupied/US-liberated Iraq.

Aside from the outspoken Donald Rumsfeld, being in the Capital City of The Land of The Rising Sun, not much else was happening in Japan.

The US dollar rate was holding steady against the Japanese currency, at about 108.10 yen, but the fact that the US dollar was not strengthening against the yen was not assisting Japan in its attempts to hoist itself out of the economic mire of the past few decades.

The Japanese Government announced that the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** rose by about 0.60 percent for the quarter, to September 30, 2003.

Annualising this figure would suggest a growth for this year of about 2.20 percent.

The growth in the GDP for the September quarter represented the 7th consecutive quarter of growth for the Japanese economy.

But that growth could disappear in one quarter if the yen continues to be strong because, then, Japan would not be as competitive as it was in the past with regard to exporting its goods and services to the US.

Trading on The Tokyo Stock Exchange mirrored the concerns of many Japanese economists, last Friday, as the key indices of this equity market, the largest in Asia, continued to come under selling pressure.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, which tracks the direction of blue chips on The Tokyo Stock Exchange, fell 1.65 percent, last Friday, to end the week at 10,167.06 yen.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was 1.70:One, exactly – which said it, all.

News wise:

- **Resona Holdings Incorporated** announced that it expected a Loss Attributable to Shareholders of about 1.71 trillion yen for the Financial Year, ending March 31, 2004. The fourth-largest banking group in Japan said that it would be sacking 4,000 of its workers by March 2005. In June, Resona said that it estimated a Net Profit of about 63.50 billion yen for the Current Year;
- **Yakult Honsha Company**, the producer of the fermented lactic drink of the same name, announced that its Net Profits Attributable to Shareholders were about 10.93 billion yen for the first half of its Fiscal Year, to September 30, 2003. That result was an increase of about 17 percent, compared with the like period in 2002; and,
- **Rakuten Incorporated** said that it would pay about 30 billion yen in order to pick up a 96.70-percent stake in DLJdirect SFG Securities Incorporated.

And, the tally for the week for The Tokyo Stock Exchange was:

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 4.36 percent

This was the way that other Asian equity markets finished the week of November 14, 2003:

HKSAR	Minus 0.20 percent to 12,203.53
Indonesia	Minus 0.70 percent to 610.34
Japan	Minus 1.65 percent to 10,167.06
Malaysia	Plus 0.09 percent to 792.23
The Philippines	Plus 0.12 percent to 1,343.53
Singapore	Minus 0.57 percent to 1,736.72
South Korea	Minus 0.40 percent to 809.89
Taiwan	Plus 0.15 percent to 6,044.77
Thailand	Minus 0.12 percent to 657.38

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