

DID YOUR CAT SNEEZE ? IT MAY HAVE AVIAN INFLUENZA !

With US equity markets, being closed for the President's Day holiday, last Monday, Asia had to go it alone for the first 2 days of last week's trading on stock markets in the most-populous part of the world.

On Friday, February 13, there had been a bit of a sell-off of equities on The New York Stock Exchange, with investors, paring the Dow Jones Industrial Average by about 0.62 percent, pulling it back to 10,627.85 points.

On the tech-laden NASDAQ, the Composite Index followed the lead of The Dow, with a fall of about 0.97 percent, ending the week at 2,053.56 points.

The mild sell-off on American equity markets was due to a dip in consumer confidence in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave, according to the prestigious University of Michigan's findings.

In Europe, last Monday, investors sat on their hands, for the most part, waiting to see what would transpire when the world's largest equity markets opened in the US.

This was the way that investors, locked into major equity markets in Europe, saw the situation, last Monday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus 0.57 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.10 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus 0.33 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Plus 0.79 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.20 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus 0.32 percent

Avian Influenza did not appear to play a large part in trading in equities in Asia, last Monday, with major stock markets in the region, just marking time.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board's Hang Seng Index gained about 0.67 percent, ending the day at 13,831.53 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK21.20 billion, with the ratio of gainers to losers, being about 2.16:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

Orient Overseas (International) Ltd (Code: 316)	Down 0.73 percent to \$HK27.30 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Up 4.38 percent to \$HK4.175 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.40 percent to \$HK126.50 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Up 1.28 percent to \$HK15.80 per share
New World Development Company Ltd (Code: 17)	Down 2.87 percent to \$HK8.45 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Up 1.77 percent to \$HK5.75 per share
China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Up 3.82 percent to \$HK3.40 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 1.13 percent to \$HK26.80 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 0.78 percent to \$HK65.00 per share
China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)	Up 3.61 percent to \$HK10.05 per share

As for the double-digit movers of the day, there were a total of 46 counters that qualified for that ranking, with 41 of their number, seeing investors push up the share prices of that bunch by 10 percent or more, while the remaining 5, double-digit movers suffered losses of 10 percent or more in their respective share prices.

Earnest Investments Holdings Ltd (Code: 339) was the biggest gainer of the day, as its share price rose 84.21 percent to 7 cents per share.

G-Vision International (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 657) saw investors shoot down its share price by 20 percent, exactly, sitting on 4 cents by the close of the day.

On The **Growth Enterprise Market** (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Total Turnover rose to about \$HK292.54 million, as advancing counters outran declining counters by the ratio of about 1.11:One.

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

tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001)	Up 6 percent to \$HK2.55 per share
Yantai North Andre Juice Company Ltd (code: 8259)	Up 14 percent to \$HK1.05 per share
Beijing Beida Jade Bird Universal Sci-Tech Company Ltd (Code: 8095)	Unchanged at \$HK1.40 per share
Panva Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8132)	Up 1 percent to \$HK3.90 per share
Tungda Innovative Lighting Holdings Ltd (Code: 8229)	Down 9 percent to 69 cents per share

As for the largest movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Yantai North Andre Juice Company Ltd	8259	14.13		1.05
Billybala Holdings Ltd	8117		15.38	0.11
Creative Energy Solutions Holdings Ltd	8109	24.00		0.31
CyberM International (Holdings) Ltd	8017		14.29	0.30
First Mobile Group Holdings Ltd	8110	10.66		0.27
Glory Future Group Ltd	8071		20.45	0.07
Golding Soft Ltd	8190		15.00	0.051
Henderson Cyber Ltd	8023	13.21		0.30
Ko Yo Ecological Agrotech (Group) Ltd	8042		12.09	0.40
Linefan Technology Holdings Ltd	8166	31.25		0.063
Neolink Cyber Technology (Holding) Ltd	8116	10.00		0.33
Recruit Holdings Ltd	8073		16.00	0.021
Sino Stride Technology (Holdings) Ltd	8177	12.33		0.41
T S Telecom Technologies Ltd	8003		15.79	0.08
Vaso Digital International Holdings Ltd	8220	11.65		0.115
Ningbo Yidong Electronic Company Ltd	8249	13.56		0.67

In The Land of The Rising Sun, the key index of The Tokyo Stock Exchange vacillated between the red and the black for most of the trading day, but ended the trading session with the Nikkei-225 Stock Average, down 8.97 yen, or about 0.08 percent, closing at 10,548.72 yen.

Even so, gaining counters outnumbered losing ones by the ratio of about 2.54:One.

News wise

- **Corporate bankruptcies** in Japan fell by about 16.10 percent in January, compared with the figures of January 2003, to 1,205 filings, according to a private research firm in Tokyo. For the month of January, for the first time in 13 months, no publicly listed companies went to the wall.

And this was the way that other Asian markets fared, last Monday:

The HKSAR	Plus 0.67 percent to 13,831.53
Indonesia	Plus 0.27 percent to 775.23
Japan	Minus 0.08 percent to 10,548.72
Malaysia	Plus 0.27 percent to 828.17
The Philippines	Minus 1.07 percent to 1,464.99
Singapore	Minus 0.14 percent to 1,861.39
South Korea	Minus 0.10 percent to 881.28

Taiwan	Plus 0.25 percent to 6,565.37
Thailand	Minus 2.15 percent to 738.92

Tuesday

Only 2 major equity markets of Asia lost ground, last Tuesday, following a confirmed report, suggesting a very bullish outlook for the Japanese economy for the rest of the year.

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