

GENERAL ELECTRIC'S RESULTS RATTLE WALL STREET

The price of crude oil hit another record high on international commodity exchanges, last Monday, as The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) determined, at its meeting on Saturday, April 5, 2008, not to increase further exports of the black ooze.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in May was \$US109.09, up about 2.69 percent on the final quote for the week, ended Friday, April 4, 2008.

As for June delivery, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US108.55, up about 2.64 percent on the last settlement of the previous Friday.

On Wall Street, however, the record-high price of crude oil seemed not to faze investors although it is certain to play havoc with the bottom lines of many companies, especially those involved in the transportation industry.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 3.01 points, or about 0.02 percent, ending the relatively quiet trading day at 12,612.43 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ followed the lead of The Dow, but in the opposite direction, dropping 6.15 points, equivalent to about 0.26 percent, as investors drove it down to 2,364.83 points.

On The New York Stock Exchange, advancing counters outran declining ones by the ratio of about 1.21:One, but, on The NASDAQ, declining counters outpaced advancing counters by the ratio of about 1.07:One.

There was little news to influence trading on the world's largest equity market other than the fact that the US dollar's translation value continued to fall against the euro.

In Europe, last Monday, it was a slightly different story to that, being told on Wall Street, because the increase in the price of crude oil sparked investor interest on bourses in the region.

As the translation value of the US dollar wobbled against other '*hard*' currencies, so investors rushed into commodities as a hedge against further erosions of the US dollar.

The US dollar is fast losing its place as the world's currency for international settlement and a retreat to commodity futures is, to many investors, the only alternative.

In times of global uncertainty, gold, silver, platinum and other precious metals have, traditionally, been considered safe havens for investors: Today, add crude oil to that list.

The following is **TARGET**'s list of the closing levels of the key indices of the most-important equity markets of Europe, last Monday night:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	0.99 percent
-----------------------	------	--------------

France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	0.89 percent
-----------------------	------	--------------

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX IndexPlus 0.85 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Plus 1.13 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Plus 0.72 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Plus 0.86 percent

In Asia, for reasons unknown to most investors of the Western World, investors appeared to be mildly bullish.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the territory's 2 equity markets made moderate gains.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index rose about 1.30 percent to 24,578.76 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK90.47 billion.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 1.94:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Up 3.72 percent to \$HK128.40 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Up 3.38 percent to \$HK30.60 per share

Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China
Ltd (Code: 2318)

Up 5.23 percent to \$HK66.35 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code:
388)

Up 2.56 percent to \$HK152.30 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Unchanged at \$HK131.80 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Up 3.07 percent to \$HK10.76 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:
939)

Down 0.15 percent to \$HK6.51 per share

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd
(Code: 1398)

Up 0.34 percent to \$HK5.90 per share

Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)

Down 1.35 percent to \$HK131.40 per share

China Shenhua Energy Company Ltd (Code:
1088)

Up 6.22 percent to \$HK35.00 per share

As for the Main Board's double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asia Commercial Holdings Ltd	104	29.73		0.96
Build King Holdings Ltd	240	10.00		0.275
China Wireless Technologies Ltd	2369	21.54		0.79
Daiwa Associate Holdings Ltd	1037		20.37	0.43
DVN (Holdings) Ltd	500	12.16		0.83
First Shanghai Investments Ltd	227	12.50		1.80
Frankie Dominion International Ltd	704	22.03		0.72
Gay Giano International Group Ltd	686		12.77	0.82
Guangzhou Shipyard International Company Ltd	317	10.15		26.05
Harbin Power Equipment Company Ltd	1133	11.34		14.14
Hidili Industry International Development Ltd	1393	14.02		12.04
Junefield Department Store Group Ltd	758	13.64		0.25
Karce International Holdings Company Ltd	1159	10.53		0.42
Shenji Group Kunming Machine Tool Company Ltd	300	15.56		7.50
Modern Beauty Salon Holdings Ltd	919	10.71		3.10
Sewco International Holdings Ltd	209		12.82	0.34
South East Group Ltd	726	25.26		1.19
SW Kingsway Capital Holdings Ltd	188	12.82		0.22
Ta Yang Group Holdings Ltd	1991	20.00		1.56
Wah Ha Realty Company Ltd	278	15.22		2.65
Wang On Group Ltd	1222	10.20		0.108

Weichai Power Company Ltd	2338	13.48		34.10
Xingda International Holdings Ltd	1899	18.03		1.44
Xingye Copper International Group Ltd	505	19.46		2.21
Zhong Hua International Holdings Ltd	1064	11.54		0.29
Zijin Mining Group Company Ltd	2899	11.58		8.00

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index limped up about 0.42 percent, ending the trading day at 883.65 points.

The Total Turnover on this speculative market was about \$HK506.53 million.

The ratio of gainers to losers was, exactly, One:One.

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

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd
(Code: 8138) Up 6.00 percent to \$HK0.159 per share

China Railway Logistics Ltd (Code: 8089) Up 2.20 percent to \$HK1.86 per share

Shandong Weigao Group Medical
Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199) Up 1.55 percent to \$HK11.80 per share

Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings Ltd (Code:
8002) Up 0.93 percent to \$HK1.09 per share

Golden Meditech Company Ltd (Code: 8180)
Down 1.12 percent to \$HK2.66 per share

As for The GEM's biggest movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Asean Resources Ltd	8186	12.38		0.236
China Medical and Bio Science Ltd	8120	20.00		0.18
DeTeam Company Ltd	8112	10.26		0.86
DIGITALHONGKONG.COM	8007	13.33		0.85
ePRO Ltd	8086		10.53	0.17

Espco Technology Holdings Ltd	8299	20.00		0.33
Glory Mark Hi-Tech (Holdings) Ltd	8159		14.29	0.24
Shanghai Jiaoda Withub Information Industrial Company Ltd	8205	18.75		0.38
Midland IC and I Ltd	8090	23.81		0.078
Netel Technology (Holdings) Ltd	8256	16.41		0.149
PINE Technology Holdings Ltd	8013		20.29	0.275

In Japan, as the US dollar's translation value continued to come under pressure, internationally, trading houses, especially those, dealing in commodities, gained appreciably.

This helped to push up the key indices on Japan's 3 equity markets.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index rose 16.69 points, equivalent to about 1.29 percent, ending the trading day at 1,305.63 points.

The ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 2.63:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, which is a much-narrower gauge of trading in select blue chips, listed on The First Section of The Tokyo Stock Exchange than is The TOPIX Index, put on 157.01 yen, or about 1.18 percent, rising to 13,450.23 yen.

On other Asian equity markets, this was how their respective key indices ended last Monday's trading sessions:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 1.30 percent to 24,578.76 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.42 percent to 883.65
Indonesia	Plus 0.43 percent to 2,286.80
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 1.29 percent to 1,305.63 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 1.18 percent to 13,450.23
Malaysia	Minus 0.07 percent to 1,221.07
The Philippines	Minus 1.71 percent to 2,983.04
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 4.45 percent to 3,599.62 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 6.14 percent to 1,067.63

Singapore	Plus 0.84 percent to 3,181.92
South Korea	Plus 0.40 percent to 1,773.56
Taiwan	Plus 1.55 percent to 8,729.79
Thailand	Minus 0.23 percent to 824.80

Tuesday

The **I**nternational **M**onetary **F**und (IMF), in its Global Stability Report, has warned, inter alia:

‘... despite unprecedented intervention by major central banks, financial markets remain under considerable strain, now compounded by a more worrisome macroeconomic environment, weakly capitalised institutions, and broad-based deleveraging ...’.

The IMF, also, said that the potential for losses, worldwide, as a direct and indirect result of the subprime, mortgage-lending industry’s chaos could easily cost \$US945 billion (\$HK7.37 trillion) ... and could rise to even higher levels.

With bank losses of nearly \$US1 trillion, that is enough to purchase New Zealand!

From The (US) National **A**ssociation of **R**ealtors (NAR) came the pen-pushers’ results in respect of sales’ contracts for pre-owned homes in the US, signed in February: Down 21.40 percent, Year-On-Year.

The NAR’s Pending Home Sales Index for February was off by about 1.90 percent to 84.60 points, its lowest level since 2001.

And then, to top it off, Washington Mutual Incorporated, the largest US savings and loan bank, announced that it expected a quarterly loss.

Down came the share prices of banks and financial institutions on major US equity markets as a direct result of that admission.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 35.99 points, or about 0.29 percent, falling back to 12,576.44 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ gave up 16.07 points, equivalent to about 0.68 percent, as investors pushed down this key index to 2,348.76 points.

Losers outnumbered gainers by the ratio of about 1.38:One on The New York Stock Exchange and by about 1.42:One on The NASDAQ.

On The New **Y**ork **M**ercantile **E**xchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in May came in at \$US108.50, down about 0.54 percent on Monday’s closing level.

As for delivery in June, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US107.86, representing a fall of about 0.64 percent on Monday’s final figure.

In Europe, the heavy load, caused by the release of intelligence, pouring out of the US, was too much for many European investors to bear, resulting in the key indices of major bourses of the region to fall:

Amsterdam’s AEX Index

Minus 0.20 percent

France's CAC 40 Index Minus 0.64 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index Minus 0.71 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Minus 0.40 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Minus 0.10 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 0.93 percent

In Asia, losses were widespread on the leading equity markets of the most-populous part of the world.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the key indices of the territory's 2 equity markets lost traction, but it was on the premier equity market that the most damage was done.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index shed about 1.09 percent to 24,311.69 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK87.74 billion.

The ratio of declining counters to gaining ones was about 2.66:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941) Down 2.02 percent to \$HK125.80 per share

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd
(Code: 1398) Down 0.68 percent to \$HK5.86 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628) Down 1.63 percent to \$HK30.10 per share

Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China
Ltd (Code: 2318) Down 1.21 percent to \$HK65.55 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:
939) Down 1.69 percent to \$HK6.40 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857) Down 1.12 percent to \$HK10.64 per share

China Railway Construction Corporation Ltd
(Code: 1186) Up 2.00 percent to \$HK12.22 per share

China Petroleum and Chemical
Corporation (Code: 386) Down 4.33 percent to \$HK7.29 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code:
388) Down 1.31 percent to \$HK150.30 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Down 0.53 percent to \$HK131.10 per share

As for the Main Board's double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Daiwa Associate Holdings Ltd	1037	18.60		0.51
Dan Form Holdings Company Ltd	271	10.77		0.72
Enerchina Holdings Ltd	622	10.53		0.315
Oriental Explorer Holdings Ltd	430		11.11	0.096
SIM Technology Group Ltd	2000	13.33		1.02
Sunway International Holdings Ltd	58	12.90		0.35
Texhong Textile Group Ltd	2678	10.34		1.28
United Metals Holdings Ltd	2302	14.68		1.25
Vantage International (Holdings) Ltd	15	16.92		0.76
VXL Capital Ltd	727	11.11		1.00
Water Oasis Group Ltd	1161	20.22		2.14
Zhong Hua International Holdings Ltd	1064		13.79	0.25

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 0.21 percent, falling back to 881.83 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK426.14 million.

Losers outran gainers by the ratio of about 1.16:One.

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

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd
(Code: 8138)

Up 1.26 percent to \$HK0.161 per share

China Railway Logistics Ltd (Code: 8089)

Down 1.08 percent to \$HK1.84 per share

Inno-Tech Holdings Ltd (Code: 8202)

Up 26.09 percent to \$HK0.435 per share

Shandong Weigao Group Medical
Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199)

Down 3.99 percent to \$HK11.40 per share

NetDragon Websoft Incorporated (Code: 8288)

Unchanged at \$HK10.32 per share

The GEM's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Asean Resources Ltd	8186	14.41		0.27
China Metal Resources Holdings Ltd	8071	12.20		0.138
Info Communication Holdings Ltd	8082	12.73		0.31
Inno-Tech Holdings Ltd	8202	26.09		0.435
Launch Tech Company Ltd	8196		13.43	1.16
Ming Kei Energy Holdings Ltd	8239	12.96		0.61
North Asia Strategic Holdings Ltd	8080	11.11		1.00
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119		10.00	0.09
Tradeeasy Holdings Ltd	8163	15.15		0.228
WLS Holdings Ltd	8021	10.53		0.21

In Japan, there were only losers in respect of the key indices of the country's 3 equity markets.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index shed about 1.76 percent to 1,282.69 points.

Declining counters outran advancing ones by the ratio of about 3.80:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average lost about 1.49 percent as investors drove it down to 13,250.43 yen.

News Wise

- **Corporate bankruptcies** in Japan, during calendar 2007, rose to 14,366 incidences, a gain of about 7.71 percent, Year-On-Year. The amount of debts, left in the wake of the business failures, amounted to about ¥5.80 trillion, up about 6.41 percent, compared with the statistics in respect of known debts, left behind by Japan's corporate failures of 2006.

In other Asian equity markets, this was how their respective key indices fared, last Tuesday:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 1.09 percent to 24,311.69 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 0.21 percent to 881.83
Indonesia	Minus 1.62 percent to 2,249.77
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 1.76 percent to 1,282.69 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 1.49 percent to 13,250.43
Malaysia	Plus 0.38 percent to 1,225.71
The Philippines	Minus 0.06 percent to 2,981.12
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.36 percent to 3,612.54 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 1.89 percent to 1,087.86
Singapore	Minus 1.62 percent to 3,130.42
South Korea	Minus 1.06 percent to 1,754.71
Taiwan	Minus 0.65 percent to 8,672.85
Thailand	Plus 0.25 percent to 826.85

Wednesday

The **I**nternational **M**onetary **F**und (IMF) made further prognostications about the growth (or the lack of it) of the world's economy for the remainder of this calendar year and into 2009, stating, inter alia, that it would continue to slow to about 3.70 percent in 2008 and 2009, about 1.25 percent lower than the 2007 growth rate.

The IMF said:

'The financial market crisis that erupted in August 2007 has developed into the largest financial shock since The Great Depression ...'.

International equity markets reacted to the statements, emanating from the IMF.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost about 0.39 percent of its value, dropping back to 12,527.26 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ shed about 1.13 percent, ending the day at 2,322.12 points.

Losing counters outran gaining ones by the ratio of about 2:One on The New York Stock Exchange and by about 3:One on The NASDAQ.

In addition to the utterances of the IMF, on the world's commodity markets, the price of crude oil hit a fresh new high.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in May hit an intra-day high of \$US112.21 before falling back to \$US110.87, that rate, being the last settlement.

The final quote represented a gain of about 2.18 percent on the Tuesday's last settlement.

As for delivery in June, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US110.19, up about 2.16 on the day.

The erosion in the translation value of the US dollar vis-à-vis other 'hard' currencies helped propel the market rate of the black ooze, of course, but there was, also, news that the stockpiles of crude oil in the US had fallen by about 3.20 million barrels in the previous week.

With the approach of summer, it had well been expected that stockpiles of oil would rise – not fall!

On international foreign-exchange markets, there was even further concerns.

The British pound touched a record low against the euro on expectations that The Bank of England would reduce interest rates by about 25 basis points at its meeting on Thursday.

Sterling was quoted at the close of the trading day at €1.2552.

Against the US dollar, the euro was quoted at \$US1.5710.

In Europe, the key indices of all of the major bourses lost ground, led by Switzerland where its Swiss Market Index shed about 2.18 percent of its value:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.68 percent
-----------------------	--------------------

France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.76 percent
-----------------------	--------------------

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.74 percent
-------------------------------------	--------------------

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.10 percent
--------------------------------	--------------------

Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 0.11 percent
----------------------	--------------------

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 2.18 percent
----------------------------------	--------------------

European investors, of course, were concerned as to the actions that are expected to be taken by the European Central Bank (ECB) and The Bank of England with regard to interest rates.

If interest rates are cut, it will, most likely, result in investors and speculators, running to other currencies where yields are higher, thus causing a downward pressure on both the euro and the pound.

The IMF had, also, reported that the problems of the US economy would visit Europe where the housing markets would come under pressure (in fact, it already has come to pass); and, there would likely be a contraction in the financial markets (which is taking shape, today).

In Asia, only the Malaysian equity market's key indices did not suffer losses.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), both equity markets recorded material losses.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index shed about 1.35 percent, falling back to 23,984.57 points.

The Total Turnover fell to about \$HK83.41 billion.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 3.68:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Down 0.08 percent to \$HK125.70 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628) Down 3.65 percent to \$HK29.00 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:
939)

Down 1.56 percent to \$HK6.30 per share

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd
(Code: 1398)

Up 0.51 percent to \$HK5.89 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Down 3.57 percent to \$HK10.26 per share

China Communications Construction Company
Ltd (Code: 1800)

Down 5.94 percent to \$HK17.42 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Unchanged at \$HK3.57 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Down 0.08 percent to \$HK131.00 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code:
388)

Down 2.99 percent to \$HK145.80 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Down 2.76 percent to \$HK11.98 per share

As for the Main Board's double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Buildmore International Ltd	108		11.76	4.50
Burwill Holdings Ltd	24	13.58		0.46
China Renji Medical Group Ltd	648	10.31		0.107

China Sci-Tech Holdings Ltd	985	18.40		0.148
Guangdong Tannery Ltd	1058		11.11	0.48
Nam Fong International Holdings Ltd	1176	16.39		0.355
Pearl River Tyre (Holdings) Ltd	1187		19.38	1.29
Premium Land Ltd	164	11.27		0.79
Sewco International Holdings Ltd	209	11.76		0.38
Shun Cheong Holdings Ltd	650		22.30	1.08
Sunway International Holdings Ltd	58		14.29	0.30
United Metals Holdings Ltd	2302		10.40	1.12
World Houseware (Holdings) Ltd	713		11.48	0.239
Xingda International Holdings Ltd	1899	13.38		1.61
Zhong Hua International Holdings Ltd	1064	10.00		0.275

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 2.22 percent as investors pushed it down to 862.26 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK411.56 million, while the ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 1.39:One.

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

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd
(Code: 8138)

Up 0.62 percent to \$HK0.162 per share

Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 8173)

Unchanged at \$HK0.58 per share

Shandong Weigao Group Medical
Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199)

Down 7.89 percent to \$HK10.50 per share

NetDragon Websoft Incorporated (Code: 8288)

Down 4.46 percent to \$HK9.86 per share

China Railway Logistics Ltd (Code: 8089)

Down 4.89 percent to \$HK1.75 per share

As for The GEM's biggest movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Challenger Group Holdings Ltd	8203	12.90		0.70
China Asean Resources Ltd	8186	14.81		0.31
Emcom International Ltd	8220		10.42	0.086
G.A. Holdings Ltd	8126		12.50	0.315
Golife Concepts Holdings Ltd	8172		11.76	0.03
Intcera High Tech Group Ltd	8041	30.61		0.064
M Dream Inworld Ltd	8100		13.79	0.15
Prosten Technology Holdings Ltd	8026	13.21		0.60
QUASAR Communication Technology Holdings Ltd	8171	17.39		0.27
Soluteck Holdings Ltd	8111	10.71		0.31
Tianjin TEDA Biomedical Engineering Company Ltd	8189	11.11		0.30
Tradeeasy Holdings Ltd	8163	31.58		0.30
WLS Holdings Ltd	8021	10.48		0.232
Zhejiang Yonglong Enterprises Company Ltd	8211		12.70	0.55

News Wise

- **Oasis Hongkong Airlines Ltd** went into Receivership, last Wednesday. The long-haul, budget airline ran out of money, leaving a reported, accumulated loss of about \$HK1 billion over a period of about 16 months. Some 700 employees lost their jobs and an estimated 30,000 passengers were stranded, around the world. (Please see [TARGET Intelligence Report, Volume X, Number 68, published on Friday, April 11, 2008](#))

In Japan, there were only losses for the key indices of the country's 3 equity markets.

On the premier equity market, The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index gave up about 1.54 percent, dropping back to 1,262.90 points.

Losing counters outran gaining counters by the ratio of about 3.29:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average shed about 1.05 percent, dropping to 13,111.89 yen.

On other Asian equity markets, this was how the key indices of those markets fared, last Wednesday:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 1.35 percent to 23,984.57 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 2.22 percent to 862.26
Indonesia	Minus 3.10 percent to 2,180.09
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 1.54 percent to 1,262.90 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 1.05 percent to 13,111.89
Malaysia	Plus 0.17 percent to 1,227.74
The Philippines	Minus 0.65 percent to 2,961.78
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 5.50 percent to 3,413.91 Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 4.01 percent to 1,044.20
Singapore	Minus 1.30 percent to 3,089.72
South Korea	Closed
Taiwan	Minus 0.06 percent to 8,667.93
Thailand	Minus 0.08 percent to 826.19

Thursday

Things quietened down on the world's largest equity markets, last Thursday, in spite of concerns in Europe where The Bank of England, the Central Bank of the United Kingdom, dropped its key interest rate by 25 basis points.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose about 0.44 percent to 12,581.98 points, while, on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index gained about 1.27 percent, moving up to 2,351.70 points.

Advancing counters beat off declining ones by the ratio of about 1.67:One on The New York Stock Exchange and by about 1.50:One on The NASDAQ.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in May came in at \$US110.11, down about 0.68 percent on Wednesday's final quote.

As for delivery in June, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US109.57, down about 0.56 percent on the last settlement of Wednesday.

In Europe, investors were concerned about the gyrations in the foreign-exchange markets as the euro hit another record level against the US dollar and sterling.

This followed a statement from the **European Central Bank (ECB)** to the effect that inflationary pressures had to be brought to heel and, as such, there would be no reduction in interest rates for the time being.

The following is the one-paragraph statement, issued by the ECB, last Thursday:

'At today's meeting the Governing Council of the ECB decided that the minimum bid rate on the main refinancing operations and the interest rates on the marginal lending facility and the deposit facility will remain unchanged at 4.00%, 5.00% and 3.00% respectively.'

At the Central Bank of the United Kingdom, however, there was this 5-paragraph statement:

'The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee today voted to reduce the official Bank Rate paid on commercial bank reserves by 0.25 percentage points to 5.0%.

'CPI inflation rose to 2.5% in February. The Committee expects inflation to rise further this year, reflecting the continuing impact of higher energy and food prices, as well as the recent depreciation of sterling on import costs. Such pressures are already evident in producer input costs and pricing intentions.

'Even if commodity prices remain at their current high levels, inflation should fall back. But to ensure that inflation meets the 2% target in the medium term, the Committee needs to balance two risks. On the upside, above-target inflation this year could raise inflation expectations so that, in the absence of some margin of spare capacity, inflation would remain above the target. On the downside, the disruption in financial markets could lead to a slowdown in the economy that was sufficiently sharp to pull inflation below the target.

'In the Committee's judgement, the balance of these risks to the inflation outlook in the medium term justifies a cut in Bank Rate this month. Credit conditions have tightened and the availability of credit appears to be worsening. While the recent depreciation in sterling will support net exports, the prospects for output growth abroad have deteriorated. In the United Kingdom, business surveys suggest that growth has begun to moderate and that a margin of spare capacity will emerge during this year. This should help to keep domestic inflationary pressures in check in the medium term.

'Against that background, the Committee judged that a reduction in Bank Rate of 0.25 percentage points to 5.0% was necessary to meet the 2% target for CPI inflation in the medium term.'

It was the first time in the previous 5 months that The Bank of England had reduced the key interest rates of the Kingdom.

On European foreign-exchange markets, the euro traded at about \$US1.5912, a record-high level, and, against sterling, at £0.8029.

On the most-important bourses in Europe, there were losers, all round, as the following **TARGET ()** list illustrates:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.38 percent
-----------------------	--------------------

France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.31 percent
-----------------------	--------------------

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.25 percent
-------------------------------------	--------------------

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index Minus 0.31 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index Minus 0.43 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 1.22 percent

It was the third, consecutive days of losses for investors in this part of the world.

In Asia, it was a mixed bag at the region's 10, most-important equity markets.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), while the premier equity market made a fractional gain, the speculative equity market made an almost, equally large fractional loss.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index rose about 0.84 percent to 24,187.10 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK74.81 billion.

The ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 1.14:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857) Down 1.75 percent to \$HK10.08 per share

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)
Up 1.43 percent to \$HK127.50 per share

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd
(Code: 1398)
Up 1.53 percent to \$HK5.98 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628) Up 1.90 percent to \$HK29.55 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)
Up 3.65 percent to \$HK6.53 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)
Up 0.76 percent to \$HK132.00 per share

China Communications Construction Company
Ltd (Code: 1800)
Down 0.69 percent to \$HK17.30 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)
Up 2.52 percent to \$HK3.66 per share

China Petroleum and Chemical
Corporation (Code: 386) Down 1.57 percent to \$HK6.90 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code:
388)
Up 1.44 percent to \$HK147.90 per share

As for the Main Board's biggest movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Advanced Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation Ltd	3355	10.14		0.239
China Agrotech Holdings Ltd	1073	11.54		1.16
Easyknit Enterprises Holdings Ltd	616	14.29		0.04
KTP Holdings Ltd	645	11.11		0.80
One Media Group Ltd	426		12.50	0.49
Pan Asia Environmental Protection Group Ltd	556	10.64		2.60
Rivera (Holdings) Ltd	281	14.52		0.355
Sewco International Holdings Ltd	209		13.16	0.33
Shun Cheong Holdings Ltd	650		20.37	0.86
Symphony Holdings Ltd	1223		11.86	0.52
UDL Holdings Ltd	620	14.29		0.072

On The **Growth Enterprise Market** (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 0.73 percent, dropping back to 856.00, exactly.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK336.68 million, while the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.23:One.

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

Town Health International Holdings Company
Ltd (Code: 8138) Down 0.62 percent to \$HK0.161 per share

Shandong Weigao Group Medical
Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199) Down 4.00 percent to \$HK10.08 per share

Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 8173) Down 14.66 percent to \$HK0.495 per share

Intcera High Tech Group Ltd (Code: 8041) Up 21.88 percent to \$HK0.078 per share

China Railway Logistics Ltd (Code: 8089) Down 7.43 percent to \$HK1.62 per share

The GEM's double-digit movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Emcom International Ltd	8220		11.63	0.076
Era Information and Entertainment Ltd	8043	17.50		0.47
Intcera High Tech Group Ltd	8041	21.88		0.078
Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd	8173		14.66	0.495
Melco LottVentures Ltd	8198	10.00		1.10
Mobile Telecom Network (Holdings) Ltd	8266	10.98		0.182
Qianlong Technology International Holdings Ltd	8015	18.64		0.70
Tianjin TEDA Biomedical Engineering Company Ltd	8189		15.00	0.255

In The Land of The Rising Sun, losses prevailed in respect of the key indices of the country's 3 equity markets.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index shed about 1.17 percent, dropping to 1,248.07 points.

Losing counters outnumbered gaining ones by the ratio of 6.90:One, exactly.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average gave up 1.27 percent to fall to 12,945.30 yen.

News Wise

- **Seven and I Holdings Company** will shut down 140 restaurants of its Denny's chain in Japan, the company reported. That number of restaurants represents about 25 percent of the total number of Denny's restaurants in the country;
- In the month of February, Japan's **Current Account Surplus** rose about 2.90 percent, Year-On-Year, The Finance Ministry announced. The figure came in at ¥2,468 trillion;
- Japan's domestic **beer shipments** waned in the first quarter of the year, the 5, top brewers reported. Compared with the like period in 2007, beer shipments were off by about 2.60 percent;
- **Bank deposits** dropped by about 0.20 percent for the 12-month period, ended March 31, 2008, according to The Bank of Japan. This is the first time in 44 years that there has been such a drop in bank deposits; and,
- **Machinery orders** for the month of February dropped about 12.70 percent, seasonally adjusted, Month-On-Month, The Cabinet Office announced. In January, machinery orders were up about 19.60 percent, compared with December 2007.

In other Asian equity markets, this was how their respective key indices fared, last Thursday:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 0.84 percent to 24,187.10 The Growth Enterprise Index
-----------	--

	Minus 0.73 percent to 856.00
Indonesia	Plus 2.56 percent to 2,235.93
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 1.17 percent to 1,248.07 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 1.27 percent to 12,945.30
Malaysia	Minus 1.67 percent to 1,248.19
The Philippines	Minus 0.23 percent to 2,955.11
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.69 percent to 3,471.74 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 2.19 percent to 1,067.04
Singapore	Minus 0.81 percent to 3,064.60
South Korea	Plus 0.57 percent to 1,764.64
Taiwan	Plus 1.86 percent to 8,829.40
Thailand	Minus 0.63 percent to 820.98

Friday

A report from General Electric Company put the cat among the pigeons, so to speak, last Friday, sending the key indices of Wall Street tumbling.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost about 2.04 percent, ending the day at 12,325.42 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ shed about 2.61 percent, ending the week at 2,290.24 points.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 3:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 4:One on The NASDAQ.

For the week, the tally for the world's largest and most-influential equity markets was:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average Minus 2.25 percent

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ Minus 3.41 percent

The underlying reason for last Friday's big sell-off on Wall Street was a report from General Electric, a

bellwether company as far as US investors are concerned, when the giant company announced a 6-percent fall in its profits.

The share price of General Electric fell nearly 13 percent on the news, the largest fall in its share price since October 1987, during the market crash.

The share price of other blue chips fell in the wake of the substantial sell-off of shares in General Electric.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in May was \$US110.14, up about 0.03 percent on Thursday's closing level.

As for delivery in June, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US109.71, up about 0.13 percent on the day.

In Europe, investors followed the lead of Wall Street as the key indices of the most-important bourses shed substantial amounts.

Industrials were hit especially hard as investors determined that, if General Electric could take it on the nose, so could any conglomerate: *'The bigger they come the harder they fall'*, to quote Bob Fitzsimmons.

The following **TARGET** list of the key indices of European bourses tells the tale:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 1.31 percent
-----------------------	--------------------

France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 1.26 percent
-----------------------	--------------------

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 1.50 percent
-------------------------------------	--------------------

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 1.16 percent
--------------------------------	--------------------

Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 0.90 percent
----------------------	--------------------

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 0.73 percent
----------------------------------	--------------------

In Asia, it was a completely different story as investors seemed to be upbeat about stocks and shares in spite of the economic situations that, clearly, prevailed in both the US and Europe.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), both equity markets made material gains.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index rose about 1.99 percent as investors pushed it up to 24,667.79 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK77.14 billion, while the ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 2.30:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)

Up 2.84 percent to \$HK6.15 per share

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Up 2.59 percent to \$HK130.80 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)

Up 2.76 percent to \$HK6.71 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Up 2.71 percent to \$HK30.35 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Up 3.01 percent to \$HK3.77 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Up 2.78 percent to \$HK10.36 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Up 0.61 percent to \$HK132.80 per share

China Merchants Bank Company Ltd (Code: 3968)

Up 4.55 percent to \$HK29.85 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

Up 4.57 percent to \$HK12.82 per share

Bank of Communications Company Ltd (Code:
3328)

Up 4.99 percent to \$HK10.52 per share

As for the biggest Main Board movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asia Commercial Holdings Ltd	104	10.00		0.88
AviChina Industry and Technology Company Ltd	2357		12.10	1.38
BYD Company Ltd	1211		10.91	12.90
China Energy Development Holdings Ltd	228	11.76		0.57
China Wireless Technologies Ltd	2369	11.84		0.85
Co-Prosperity Holdings Ltd	707		16.67	0.425
Cosmopolitan International Holdings Ltd	120	10.71		0.465
Fufeng Group Ltd	546	10.91		0.61
GCL-Poly Energy Holdings Ltd	3800		12.36	1.56
Grandtop International Holdings Ltd	2309		11.69	0.204
Guangdong Tannery Ltd	1058	10.87		0.51

Junefield Department Store Group Ltd	758	15.22		0.265
Kingdee International Software Group Company Ltd	268		10.59	6.84
Pacific Plywood Holdings Ltd	767	10.64		0.104
Sunny Global Holdings Ltd	1094	33.82		0.455
Temujin International Investments Ltd	204		12.07	1.02
Times Ltd	1832		10.71	2.50

Over on The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index was pushed up to 862.20 points, a one-day gain of about 0.72 percent.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK362.92 million.

Advancing counters beat off declining ones by the ratio of about 1.08:One.

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

Town Health International Holdings Company Ltd
(Code: 8138) Down 6.21 percent to \$HK0.151 per share

China Railway Logistics Ltd (Code: 8089) Down 3.09 percent to \$HK1.57 per share

Zhongyu Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8070) Unchanged at \$HK0.80 per share

Intcera High Tech Group Ltd (Code: 8041) Down 6.41 percent to \$HK0.073 per share

Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 8173) Down 3.03 percent to \$HK0.48 per share

As for The GEM's double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Byford International Ltd	8272	16.25		0.93
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081	28.57		0.45
Espco Technology Holdings Ltd	8299	13.43		0.38
Global Link Communications Holdings Ltd	8060	12.14		0.194

Goldmond Holdings Ltd	8190		10.71	0.125
HC International Incorporated	8292		11.25	0.355
Inspur International Ltd	8141	13.11		1.38
ITE (Holdings) Ltd	8092		29.00	0.071
Qianlong Technology International Holdings Ltd	8015		11.43	0.62
QUASAR Communication Technology Holdings Ltd	8171	19.64		0.335

For the week, the tally for the second, most-important equity market of Asia was:

The Hang Seng Index Plus 1.66 percent

The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 2.02 percent

In Japan, it was as though investors had just discovered the existence of their equity markets.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index rose about 2.45 percent to 1,278.62 points.

Gainers outran losers by the ratio of about 10.36:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average put on about 2.92 percent, ending the week at 13,323.73 yen.

The tally for Asia's largest and most-important equity market was:

The TOPIX Index Plus 1.13 percent

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 0.23 percent

And this was how the key indices of other Asian equity markets ended the week of April 11, 2008:

The HKSAR	<p>Hang Seng Index Plus 1.99 percent to 24,667.79 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.72 percent to 862.20</p>
Indonesia	<p>Plus 3.04 percent to 2,303.93</p>
Japan	<p>TOPIX Index Plus 2.45 percent to 1,278.62 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 2.92 percent to 13,323.73</p>

Malaysia	Minus 0.11 percent to 1,246.79
The Philippines	Minus 0.48 percent to 2,940.98
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.61 percent to 3,492.89 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.94 percent to 1,077.02
Singapore	Plus 2.03 percent to 3,126.87
South Korea	Plus 0.85 percent to 1,779.71
Taiwan	Plus 0.91 percent to 8,909.58
Thailand	Plus 0.75 percent to 827.10

-- E N D --

While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published, TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which they have read in **TARGET**, please feel free to e-mail your views to editor@targetnewspapers.com. **TARGET** does not guarantee to publish readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.*

