

**THE FED KEEPS INTEREST RATES CLOSE TO ZERO PERCENT –  
GREECE'S PROBLEMS DOG EQUITY MARKETS –  
MARKETS LOOK FRAGILE DESPITE GAINS**

The pattern of trading, last Monday (March 15, 2010), on the world's largest and most-influential equity markets, was almost identical to that of the previous Monday.

The major difference was that, last Monday, the volume of activity dropped to its lowest level of the year.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 17.46 points, or about 0.16 percent, ending the quiet trading day at 10,642.15 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index gave up 5.45 points, equivalent to about 0.23 percent, dropping back to 2,362.21 points.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 1.33:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.50:One on The NASDAQ.

All kinds of reasons were given for the lacklustre trading conditions on Wall Street, with the predominant suggestion, being that there is concern that the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) might consider tightening up its monetary policy even further.

News Wise

- The District Attorney of Orange County, California, has authorised the issuance of a lawsuit, naming **Toyota Motor Corporation** as the lone Defendant. Mr Tony Rackauckas is alleging that Toyota Motor Corporation sold hundreds of thousands of motor vehicles, knowing fully well that the vehicles were defective. The Action alleges that not less than 5 deaths have been linked to accelerator problems with regard to Toyota motor cars. Investigations continue.

Then, on the world's largest commodity markets, the price of crude oil dropped, materially, as an almost direct response to the suggestion about the PRC Government's likely moves to try to continue to cool its economy.

The last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in April came in at \$US79.80 on The New York Mercantile Exchange (**NYMEX**), representing a fall of about 1.77 percent, compared with the final quote of Friday, March 12, 2010.

As for delivery in May, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US80.08, down about 1.79 percent on the day.

On European equity markets, investors went along with Wall Street's assessment of the world's economic situation, resulting in the key indices of the biggest bourses, dropping out of bed:

Amsterdam's AEX Index

Minus 1.31 percent

France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.92 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.69 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.56 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 0.79 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 0.16 percent

In view of the situation in certain parts of Europe, and specifically in Greece, many investors in Europe were showing concerns that there might well be banking reforms in the offing in due course.

These banking reforms might well have their roots in the US, but they would, without question, have a cascading effect in Europe.

Equity markets hate uncertainties of any kind.

In Asia, bearishness prevailed, for the most part.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, both equity markets lost ground.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index shed about 0.62 percent, dropping back to 21,079.10 points.

The Total Turnover fell back to \$HK49.39 billion, while the ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 2.47:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.55 percent to \$HK80.85 per share
China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Down 1.45 percent to \$HK6.10 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 0.53 percent to \$HK75.05 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Down 1.76 percent to \$HK3.91 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 2.27 percent to \$HK9.04 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Down 1.20 percent to \$HK5.78 per share
Tencent Holdings Ltd (Code: 700)	Up 3.91 percent to \$HK167.50 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Down 0.96 percent to \$HK36.10 per share

Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)

Up 0.09 percent to \$HK116.20 per share

China Shenhua Energy Company Ltd (Code:  
1088)

Down 3.89 percent to \$HK33.35 per share

The biggest movers of the Main Board were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Artel Solutions Group Holdings Ltd	931	20.00		0.51
China Power New Energy Development Company Ltd	735	18.20		0.78
Dan Form Holdings Company Ltd	271	54.30		1.25
Pokfulam Development Company Ltd	225	24.60		8.35

Over on The **Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM)** of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 0.45 percent, dropping back to 768.78 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK626.79 million.

Declining counters outran advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.26:One.

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

Neo Telemedia Ltd (Code: 8167)

Down 7.43 percent to \$HK0.162 per share

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

Down 2.00 percent to \$HK29.40 per share

Cardlink Technology Group Ltd (Code: 8066)

Up 7.35 percent to \$HK1.90 per share

China Chief Cable TV Group Ltd (Code: 8153)

Unchanged at \$HK0.65 per share

Tai Shing International (Holdings) Ltd (Code:  
8103)

Up 0.28 percent to \$HK3.54 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase	Decrease	Closing Price
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		(%)	(%)	(\$HK)
China Ground Source Energy Ltd	8128	15.90		0.40
Dahe Media Company Ltd	8243		10.20	0.44
Goldmond Holdings Ltd	8190	11.40		0.225
PINE Technology Holdings Ltd	8013	13.20		0.30
Rojam Entertainment Holdings Ltd	8075	14.30		0.232
Sun International Group Ltd	8029		14.20	0.97
Vodatel Networks Holdings Ltd	8033	17.30		0.305

On the stock markets of The Land of The Rising Sun – as it used to be known in days of yore – share prices managed fractional gains, with the key indices of the 3 equity markets of the country, creeping up.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is the premier equity market of Japan, its TOPIX Index gained about 0.27 percent to 938.91 points.

Gainers outnumbered losers by the ratio of about 1.63:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, which is a much-narrower gauge of trading on select blue chips, listed on The First Section of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, than the TOPIX Index, put on ¥0.72, rising to ¥10,751.98, an increase of about 0.007 percent, compared with the close of trading on Friday, March 12, 2010.

This was how things looked on other Asian equity markets, last Monday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.62 percent to 21,079.10 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 0.45 percent to 768.78
Indonesia	Plus 0.12 percent to 2,669.61
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 0.27 percent to 938.91 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 0.007 percent to 10,751.98
Malaysia	Minus 0.88 percent to 1,299.67
The Philippines	Plus 0.13 percent to 3,076.79
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 1.21 percent to 2,976.94

	Shenzhen Composite Index Minus 1.05 percent to 1,135.37
Singapore	Minus 0.24 percent to 2,874.33
South Korea	Minus 0.80 percent to 1,649.50
Taiwan	Minus 1.46 percent to 7,634.92
Thailand	Plus 0.20 percent to 734.83

## Tuesday

The US Federal Reserve delighted investors on Wall Street, last Tuesday, when it announced that interest rates in the country would stay at *‘exceptionally low levels ... for an extended period ... To provide support ...’*.

Wall Street investors seemed, initially, to like what they heard, but, still, the key indices were only tiny fractions higher on both The New York Stock Exchange and The NASDAQ.

The following is a verbatim transcript of The Fed’s announcement of last Tuesday:

*‘Information received since the Federal Open Market Committee met in January suggests that economic activity has continued to strengthen and that the labor market is stabilizing. Household spending is expanding at a moderate rate but remains constrained by high unemployment, modest income growth, lower housing wealth, and tight credit. Business spending on equipment and software has risen significantly. However, investment in nonresidential structures is declining, housing starts have been flat at a depressed level, and employers remain reluctant to add to payrolls. While bank lending continues to contract, financial market conditions remain supportive of economic growth. Although the pace of economic recovery is likely to be moderate for a time, the Committee anticipates a gradual return to higher levels of resource utilization in a context of price stability.*

*‘With substantial resource slack continuing to restrain cost pressures and longer-term inflation expectations stable, inflation is likely to be subdued for some time.*

*‘The Committee will maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 0 to 1/4 percent and continues to anticipate that economic conditions, including low rates of resource utilization, subdued inflation trends, and stable inflation expectations, are likely to warrant exceptionally low levels of the federal funds rate for an extended period. To provide support to mortgage lending and housing markets and to improve overall conditions in private credit markets, the Federal Reserve has been purchasing \$1.25 trillion of agency mortgage-backed securities and about \$175 billion of agency debt those purchases are nearing completion, and the remaining transactions will be executed by the end of this month. The Committee will continue to monitor the economic outlook and financial developments and will employ its policy tools as necessary to promote economic recovery and price stability.*

*‘In light of improved functioning of financial markets, the Federal Reserve has been closing the special liquidity facilities that it created to support markets during the crisis. The only remaining such program, the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility, is scheduled to close on June 30 for loans backed by new-issue commercial mortgage-backed securities and on March 31 for loans backed by all other types of collateral.*

*‘Voting for the FOMC monetary policy action were: Ben S. Bernanke, Chairman William C.*

*Dudley, Vice Chairman James Bullard Elizabeth A. Duke Donald L. Kohn Sandra Pianalto Eric S. Rosengren Daniel K. Tarullo and Kevin M. Warsh. Voting against the policy action was Thomas M. Hoenig, who believed that continuing to express the expectation of exceptionally low levels of the federal funds rate for an extended period was no longer warranted because it could lead to the buildup of financial imbalances and increase risks to longer-run macroeconomic and financial stability.'*

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose about 0.41 percent to 10,685.98 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index gained about 0.67 percent, ending the quiet trading day at 2,378.01 points.

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 2.75:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.70:One on The NASDAQ.

#### News Wise

- **Honda Motor Company Ltd** has recalled some 410,000 of its motor cars in the US due to complaints about faulty brakes. The recalls are for the Odyssey models and the Element vehicles, produced between 2007 and 2008.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in April came in at \$US81.70, up about 2.38 percent on the final quote of Monday.

As for delivery in May, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US81.97, representing an increase of about 2.36 percent on the Monday's last settlement.

In Europe, investors took heart on learning about The Fed's determinations and, noting how the world's oil markets were reacting, all of the key indices of the largest and most-important bourses made very useful gains:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	1.23 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	1.23 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	1.14 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	0.47 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus	1.06 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus	0.72 percent

It appeared to the Europeans that the Greece's problems over its finances had been relegated to history and, with crude-oil prices, very much on the rise, it was all stops out in order to stock up on the 'darlings' of major bourses while time permitted.

#### News Wise

- **Royal Dutch Shell plc** announced that it would be culling its staff by another 1,000 bodies by the end

of 2011.

In Asia, it was something of a stand-off, with about half of the key indices of the biggest equity markets of the region, losing traction, while the other half, made gains.

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 slipped to slightly lower levels.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index lost about 0.27 percent, slipping back to 21,022.93 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK50.30 billion, while the ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 1.98:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Down 0.31 percent to \$HK80.60 per share

Tencent Holdings Ltd (Code: 700)

Down 1.07 percent to \$HK165.70 per share

BYD Company Ltd (Code: 1211)

Up 7.97 percent to \$HK74.55 per share

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Unchanged at \$HK75.05 per share

China Shenhua Energy Company Ltd (Code:  
1088)

Down 2.70 percent to \$HK32.45 per share

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

Up 0.52 percent to \$HK5.81 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:  
939)

Down 0.33 percent to \$HK6.08 per share

Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)

Down 1.64 percent to \$HK114.30 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Down 1.00 percent to \$HK8.95 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Down 0.26 percent to \$HK3.90 per share

The biggest movers of the Main Board included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Chevalier Pacific Holdings Ltd	508		17.00	5.48

Henderson Investment Ltd	97	31.10		0.80
Jiwa Bio-Pharm Holdings Ltd	2327	16.30		0.50
Pak Tak International Ltd	2668	28.00		0.64
See Corporation Ltd	491	22.50		0.395
Shougang Concord Grand (Group) Ltd	730	15.50		0.67

Over on The **Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM)** of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index shed about 0.56 percent, ending the trading session at 764.47 points.

The Total Turnover on this (speculative) equity market was about \$HK604.14 million.

Losing counters outran gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.14:One.

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

Neo Telemedia Ltd (Code: 8167)

Down 0.62 percent to \$HK0.161 per share

Sun International Group Ltd (Code: 8029)

Down 1.03 percent to \$HK0.96 per share

Richfield Group Holdings Ltd (Code: 8136)

Up 8.33 percent to \$HK0.65 per share

China Natural Investment Company Ltd (Code:  
8250)

Down 1.79 percent to \$HK0.55 per share

China Chief Cable TV Group Ltd (Code: 8153)

Unchanged at \$HK0.65 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Asean Resources Ltd	8186	11.20		0.119
China Electric Power Technology Holdings Ltd	8053	19.70		0.365
CIG Yangtze Ports PLC	8233	10.70		0.166
North Asia Strategic Holdings Ltd	8080		11.90	0.295
Yusei Holdings Ltd	8319	13.60		1.59



On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index gave up about 0.09 percent, falling back to 938.10 points.

Gainers outbid losers by the ratio of about 1.01:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average gave up about 0.28 percent, dropping to ¥10,721.71.

#### News Wise

1. **Mos Food Services Incorporated**, the second-largest hamburger chain in Japan, is planning to open 200 restaurants in the PRC within the next 5 years, President Atsushi Sakurada announced and,
2. **Willcom Incorporated**, a mobile telephone carrier in Japan, is planning to reduce its staff levels by about 250 workers, that figure, representing about a quarter of the company's present Establishment Level.

This was how the key indices of other Asian equity markets fared, last Tuesday:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.27 percent to 21,022.93 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 0.56 percent to 764.47
Indonesia	Closed
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.09 percent to 938.10 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 0.28 percent to 10,721.71
Malaysia	Minus 0.06 percent to 1,298.86
The Philippines	Plus 0.27 percent to 3,085.13
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.53 percent to 2,992.84 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.65 percent to 1,142.77
Singapore	Plus 0.77 percent to 2,896.43
South Korea	Minus 0.09 percent to 1,648.01
Taiwan	Plus 0.80 percent to 7,695.63
Thailand	Plus 2.36 percent to 752.20

## Wednesday

The determination of the US Federal Reserve (Please see Tuesday's full report) caused the key indices of most equity markets, around the world, to rise, last Wednesday.

And, with the US dollar, weakening against other '*hard*' currencies, the price of crude oil on international commodity markets made gains, too.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose another 0.45 percent to 10,733.67 points.

It was the seventh consecutive trading day that The Dow has been creeping up by fractions.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ put on 0.47 percent to 2,389.09 points.

Once again, however, the volume of activity on the world's largest equity markets was light.

The ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 2.33:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.50:One on The NASDAQ.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in April came in at \$US82.93, a gain of about 1.51 percent on Tuesday's close.

As for delivery in May, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US83.21, representing a one-day gain of about 1.51 percent, also.

While The Fed's determination to keep interest rates at close to zero may be good news for industrialists and home-owners in the US, for international oil traders and oil producers, it means that the US dollar, as the world's reserve currency, leaves a lot to be desired.

The value of the US dollar vis-à-vis many of the '*hard*' currencies of the world slipped, markedly, last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Since payment of crude oil, for the most part, is made in US dollars, then, oil producers and oil traders raise their prices in order to take into account foreign-exchange translation changes.

On European equity markets, all of the key indices of all of the major bourses made gains as the following **TARGET** () list illustrates:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	1.12 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	0.48 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	0.89 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	0.43 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus	1.08 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus	0.25 percent

For many counters in Europe, last Wednesday's closing levels were at 17-month highs.

Also, with the price of crude oil on the way up, again, energy and energy related counters were hotly sought after.

On Asian equity markets, every key index of every major market rose, some very spectacularly.

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

The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, gained exactly 1.70 percent, rising to 21,384.49 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK65.88 billion, with gaining counters, outnumbering losing ones by the ratio of about 2.43:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)

Up 4.02 percent to \$HK118.90 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Up 3.04 percent to \$HK37.25 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)

Up 1.81 percent to \$HK6.19 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Up 1.79 percent to \$HK81.25 per share

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Up 0.60 percent to \$HK75.50 per share

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

Up 1.38 percent to \$HK5.89 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Up 2.05 percent to \$HK3.98 per share

Tencent Holdings Ltd (Code: 700)

Up 0.06 percent to \$HK165.80 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Up 2.35 percent to \$HK9.16 per share

Alibaba.com Ltd (Code: 1688)

Down 5.91 percent to \$HK17.20 per share

The biggest movers of the Main Board were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Artel Solutions Group Holdings Ltd	931	15.50		0.56

See Corporation Ltd	491		24.10	0.30
Simsen International Corporation Ltd	993	16.40		0.425
Titan Petrochemicals Group Ltd	1192	26.70		0.57

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gained about 1.10 percent as investors pushed it to 772.91 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK621.38 million.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was, however, close, at about 1.02:One.

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

Neo Telemedia Ltd (Code: 8167)

Up 3.73 percent to \$HK0.167 per share

Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd (Code:  
8017)

Up 13.64 percent to \$HK0.25 per share

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

Up 1.39 percent to \$HK29.10 per share

Richfield Group Holdings Ltd (Code: 8136)

Down 1.54 percent to \$HK0.64 per share

Cardlink Technology Group Ltd (Code: 8066)

Down 5.18 percent to \$HK1.83 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
G.A. Holdings Ltd	8126	12.40		0.235
Glory Mark Hi-Tech (Holdings) Ltd	8159	10.00		0.33
ITE (Holdings) Ltd	8092	12.40		0.163
Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd	8017	13.60		0.25
Palmpay China (Holdings) Ltd	8047	36.00		0.238
Sing Lee Software (Group) Ltd	8076	13.70		0.24

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, which is Asia's largest and most-important equity market, its TOPIX Index

rose about 0.99 percent to 947.43 points.

Advancing counters outnumbered declining ones by the ratio of about 4.04:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average rose about 1.17 percent to ¥10,846.98.

#### News Wise

- **The Bank of Japan** announced that it would expand liquidity in the country by doubling its 3-month loans to banks to about ¥20 trillion. Interest rates are to remain at 0.01 percent, The Central Bank said. The reason, given for these moves, is to encourage banks to lend more to its qualified customers.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 1.72 percent to 21,384.49 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 1.10 percent to 772.91
Indonesia	Plus 3.25 percent to 2,756.26
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 0.99 percent to 947.43 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 1.17 percent to 10,846.98
Malaysia	Plus 0.24 percent to 1,301.95
The Philippines	Plus 0.09 percent to 3,088.05
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.93 percent to 3,050.48 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 2.43 percent to 1,170.48
Singapore	Plus 0.79 percent to 2,919.30
South Korea	Plus 2.11 percent to 1,682.86
Taiwan	Plus 1.98 percent to 7,847.84
Thailand	Plus 1.77 percent to 765.54

#### Thursday

Share and stock prices continued to move up, fractionally, on the world's largest equity markets, last

Thursday.

But the volume of activity suggested that there could well be a substantial fall-off in the offing in due course.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose – for the eighth consecutive day – about 0.42 percent to 10,779.17 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index only just managed a 0.09-percent rise, ending the trading day at 2,391.28 points.

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 1.50:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.36:One on The NASDAQ.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in April was \$US82.20, representing a drop, compared with Wednesday's close, of exactly 0.88 percent.

As for delivery in May, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US82.54, down about 0.81 percent on the day.

In Europe on the major bourses, things were not quite as buoyant as was the situation on Wednesday.

For the most part, the key indices of the most-important equity markets lost fractions as the following list illustrates:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.32 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.49 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.19 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.03 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 0.49 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.08 percent

The problem, facing European investors, was the matter of the confirmed financial troubles in Greece.

At the beginning of the week, it appeared that a solution to Greece's problem had been determined, but last Thursday, lingering doubts suggested that things were far from being hunky-dory.

It was reported that Mr George Papandreou, Greece's Prime Minister, had urged the European Union to make a clear offer of financial support in order to settle part, or all, of the country's debt problems.

#### News Wise

- **Siemens AG**, the biggest engineering conglomerate in Europe, is planning to sack some 4,200 workers at its Information Technology Division, according to Mr Joe Kaeser, Chief Financial Officer.

In Asia, following Wednesday's booming equity markets, bearishness returned.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), after a suggestive bullish start to the day's proceedings of the territory's equity markets, selling pressure hotted up with the result that, on the premier stock market, the benchmark index lost traction.

The Hang Seng Index gave up about one quarter of a percentage point, edging down to 21,330.67 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK61.75 billion, while the ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 1.39:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Up 1.19 percent to \$HK76.40 per share

Tencent Holdings Ltd (Code: 700)

Down 5.49 percent to \$HK156.70 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:  
939)

Up 0.48 percent to \$HK6.22 per share

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

Up 0.17 percent to \$HK5.90 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)

Down 0.67 percent to \$HK37.00 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

Up 0.25 percent to \$HK81.45 per share

Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)

Down 0.50 percent to \$HK118.30 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

Up 0.25 percent to \$HK3.99 per share

Dongfeng Motor Group Company Ltd (Code:  
489)

Up 6.92 percent to \$HK12.98 per share

China Petroleum and Chemical  
Corporation (Code: 386)

Down 0.79 percent to \$HK6.28 per share

The biggest Main Board movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
CNT Group Ltd	701	46.80		0.295
Golden Meditech Company Ltd	801	17.00		2.00

Kiu Hung Energy Holdings Ltd	381	26.70		0.38
Vedan International (Holdings) Ltd	2317	18.60		1.02
Winfoong International Ltd	63	20.40		0.218

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index put on about 0.43 percent, rising to 776.22 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK935.38 million.

Advancing counters outran declining ones by the ratio of about 1.09:One.

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

China Chief Cable TV Group Ltd (Code: 8153)

Down 12.12 percent to \$HK0.58 per share

Neo Telemedia Ltd (Code: 8167)

Unchanged at \$HK0.167 per share

Richfield Group Holdings Ltd (Code: 8136)

Up 1.56 percent to \$HK0.65 per share

Palmpay China (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 8047)

Down 2.52 percent to \$HK0.232 per share

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

Unchanged at \$HK29.10 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Asean Resources Ltd	8186	15.60		0.104
China Chief Cable TV Group Ltd	8153		12.10	0.58
China Digital Licensing (Group) Ltd	8175	14.00		0.285
FAVA International Holdings Ltd	8108	12.50		0.27
HC International Incorporated	8292	10.70		0.83
Pan Asia Mining Ltd	8173	10.30		0.032
Sino Haijing Holdings Ltd	8065	21.60		0.59



SYSCAN Technology Holdings Ltd	8083	12.60		0.179
TLT Lottotainment Group Ltd	8022	17.40		0.54

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index shed about 0.70 percent to 940.79 points.

Losers outpaced gainers by the ratio of about 1.89:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average gave up about 0.95 percent, dropping back to ¥10,774.03.

#### News Wise

- **The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association** has forecast that domestic sales of motor cars, lorries and buses will fall by about 4.90 percent in 2010, Year-On-Year. If the forecast is accurate, it will mean that Japan's domestic sales of such vehicles had fallen to their lowest level in 33-years.

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

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.25 percent to 21,330.67 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.43 percent to 776.22
Indonesia	Minus 0.69 percent to 2,737.24
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.70 percent to 940.79 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 0.95 percent to 10,744.03
Malaysia	Minus 0.001 percent to 1,301.94
The Philippines	Plus 0.42 percent to 3,100.95
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 0.14 percent to 3,046.09 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.13 percent to 1,172.03
Singapore	Minus 0.18 percent to 2,913.94
South Korea	Minus 0.46 percent to 1,675.17
Taiwan	Plus 0.49 percent to 7,886.34
Thailand	Minus 0.85 percent to 759.02

## **Friday**

As expected, stock and share prices started to fall, last Friday, as the financial problems of Greece revisited equity markets, around the world.

On The New York Stock Exchange, after 8 days of recording fractional gains on all trading days, last Friday saw a reversal of that trend.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average surrendered 0.35 percent to end the week at 10,741.98 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed about 0.71 percent, dropping back to 2,374.41 points.

Declining counters outran advancing ones by the ratio of about 2.33:One on The New York Stock Exchange and by about 1.60:One on The NASDAQ.

The tally for the week for Wall Street was:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average	Plus	1.10 percent
The Composite Index of The NASDAQ	Plus	0.29 percent

What was hitting Wall Street investors was an inability of the heads of Europe to nut out a plan to alleviate Greece in its time of dire financial need.

The Government of Germany has made it known that it will veto any suggestion by the European Union to issue a blank cheque to Prime Minister George Papandreou of Greece.

Until a viable resolution can be agreed in respect of the problems, facing Greece, it will hang in the manner of the Sword of Damocles, dangling over Europe's proverbial throat.

As though to add weight to the danger of a financially troubled Greece, on international commodity markets, the price of crude oil came off, very materially.

On The **New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX)**, the largest commodity market in the world, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in April came in at \$US80.68, representing a fall of about 1.88 percent, compared with Thursday's final quote.

As for delivery in May, the last settlement of a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US80.97, down about 1.90 percent on Thursday's last settlement.

In Europe, the key indices of every major bourse, with the lone exception of the key index of The London Stock Exchange, dropped to lower levels.

Falling commodity prices – which included, of course, crude-oil prices – and a sagging euro vis-à-vis the US dollar were among the reasons for the falls in stock and share prices in this part of the world.

And, naturally, fears as to the final outcome with regard to Greece and its financial burdens worried many a European investor.

This was how the key indices of major European bourses fared, last Friday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.96 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus 0.32 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index      Minus 0.49 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index              Plus 0.13 percent

Italy's MIBTEL Index                          Minus 0.29 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index          Minus 0.13 percent

In Asia, the key indices of most of the equity markets made gains, but they were, in the main, very small fractions.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), both equity markets ended the week with a bit of a push, but the volume activity was low.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index rose about 0.19 percent to 21,370.82 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK58.73 billion.

While The Hang Index was in positive territory at the close of the trading day, losing counters outran gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.15:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

Tencent Holdings Ltd (Code: 700)                      Down 0.45 percent to \$HK156.00 per share

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)                          Up 0.20 percent to \$HK76.55 per share

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd  
(Code: 1398)    Up 0.17 percent to \$HK5.91 per share

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code:  
939)    Up 0.64 percent to \$HK6.26 per share

China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)      Down 0.14 percent to \$HK36.95 per share

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)                                  Down 1.09 percent to \$HK12.66 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)                              Down 0.61 percent to \$HK80.95 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)                          Up 1.00 percent to \$HK4.03 per share

China Shenhua Energy Company Ltd (Code:  
1088)    Down 0.46 percent to \$HK32.75 per share

Aluminum Corporation of China Ltd (Code:              Up 3.32 percent to \$HK8.40 per share

2600)

The Main Board's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Chanco International Group Ltd	264	17.90		0.66
China Ocean Shipbuilding Industry Group Ltd	651	15.40		0.60
Mexan Ltd	22	31.10		0.173
Ruyan Group (Holdings) Ltd	329	24.40		0.28
Tidetime Sun (Group) Ltd	307	31.00		0.169

On The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index added about 0.68 percent, finishing off the week at 781.49 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK473.11 million, with advancing counters, outnumbering retreating ones by the ratio of about 1.02:One.

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

Kaisun Energy Group Ltd (Code: 8203)

Up 12.75 percent to \$HK1.15 per share

Palmpay China (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 8047)

Up 7.76 percent to \$HK0.25 per share

Neo Telemedia Ltd (Code: 8167)

Down 0.60 percent to \$HK0.166 per share

China Chief Cable TV Group Ltd (Code: 8153)

Up 1.72 percent to \$HK0.59 per share

Heng Xin China Holdings Ltd (Code: 8046)

Up 5.00 percent to \$HK0.63 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Bio Cassava Holdings Ltd	8129	11.80		0.057
Dahe Media Company Ltd	8243		10.30	0.39
HC International Incorporated	8292	12.00		0.93

Kaisun Energy Group Ltd	8203	12.70		1.15
North Asia Strategic Holdings Ltd	8080		14.10	0.213
Vertex Group Ltd	8228	30.80		0.068

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

The Hang Seng Index	Plus	0.76 percent
The Growth Enterprise Index	Plus	1.20 percent

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index moved up to 948.93 points, a gain of about 0.87 percent on Thursday's close.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average rose about 0.75 percent to ¥10,824.72.

The ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 2.87:One.

For Asia's largest and most-important equity market – for the time being, at least – the tally for the week, ended Friday, March 19, 2010, was:

The TOPIX Index	Plus	1.34 percent
The Nikkei-225 Stock Average	Plus	0.67 percent

This was how the key indices of other Asian equity markets closed, last Friday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 0.19 percent to 21,370.82 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.68 percent to 781.49
Indonesia	Plus 0.21 percent to 2,742.97
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 0.87 percent to 948.93 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 0.75 percent to 10,824.72
Malaysia	Plus 0.41 percent to 1,296.60
The Philippines	Minus 0.12 percent to 3,097.23
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.71 percent to 3,067.75 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.81 percent to 1,181.50
Singapore	Plus 0.06 percent to 2,915.70

South Korea	Plus 0.65 percent to 1,686.11
Taiwan	Plus 0.15 percent to 7,897.91
Thailand	Plus 2.05 percent to 774.59

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