

20 November 2018

## EQUITIES

002507 CH		Not rated
Stock price as of 16/11/20	18 RMB	22.90
GICS sector	Cons	sumer staples
Market cap	RMBm	18,076
Avg Value Traded (3m)	RMBm	237
12m high/low	RMB	30.78/16.00
PER FY19	Х	23.1
P/BV FY 19	Х	5.8

#### Historical financials

YE Dec (US\$m)	2015A	2016A	2017A
Revenue	931	1,121	1,520
% growth	2.7	20.4	35.6
EBITDA	209	328	526
% growth	26.5	56.7	60.4
EPS	49.00	49.00	52.00
% growth	19.2	63.5	61.0
EBIT Margin	18.0	24.3	30.7

Source: Company data, FactSet, November 2018

#### Share price performance vs. CSI 300



Source: Macquarie Research, November 2018

## **Share Price Driver**

Thematic	
Growth	
Value	
Event	

Source: Macquarie Research, November 2018

#### Analysts

Macquarie Capital Limited



Linda Huang, CFA +852 3922 4068 linda.huang@macquarie.com



China

# MacVisit: Fuling Zhacai No.1 pickled vegetables brand in China

## **Key points**

- Pricing power on the back of brand equity.
- Raw material price likely to increase; channel expansion is underway.
- ▶ Strong balance sheet to provide sufficient ammunition for M&A.

#### **Event**

 We visited Fuling Zhacai's factory in Chongqing and talked with mgmt. during our recent consumer tour. The company develops, produces and sells pickled mustard, pickled mustard sauce and other appetizers under two brands, Wujiang and Huitong. Fuling's market share in 2017 reached 16.8%, more than twice that of the second largest company (Yuquan, 7.1%).

## **Key findings**

- Pricing power on the back of brand equity. From November 2018, Fuling Zhacai lifted CIF (cost, insurance and freight) price for some products by 10%, mainly for areas outside Guangdong to avoid transhipments. The company will provide rebates for some distributors to maintain a competitive margin before it is able to lift retail prices. On the back of its brand equity, the company was able to consecutively raise its CIF price YoY, resulting in a 4% and 16% ASP increase in 2016 and 2017 respectively. Currently, all of Fuling's products are sold at above Rmb2/package, while the retail price of mainstream pickled vegetables is at Rmb1.5-2/package.
- Raw material price likely to increase; channel expansion is under way. According to the company, mustard vegetables accounted for 45% of COGS, while packaging and worker force cost 22% and 10%, respectively. Recently, the purchase price of mustard vegetables for 2019 has been set at Rmb800/ton and above by the company, 14% higher than the floor price for 2018. Meanwhile, for pickled mustard products, Fuling Zhacai has started to expand into the restaurant channel, as it sees significant potential there along with the fast growth of delivery services. For Sichuan pickled vegetables and other appetizers, the penetration rate among its 1,200+ distributors was ~20% in 2017 and will improve in the future, according to the company.
- Strong balance sheet to provide sufficient ammunition for M&A. Thanks
  to its strong cash generative ability, the company recorded 61.6% net cash
  position as at end-3Q18. Post the acquisition of 100% of Huitong's equity in
  2015, the company keeps sufficient ammunition for potential M&A, with focus
  on condiments area, such as soybean paste, according to mgmt.

#### Financials, valuations, and risks

- Fuling Zhacai reported 9M18 revenue of RMB1,545m, up 26% YoY, with net profit up 72% YoY to RMB523m. 3Q18 revenue increased 11% to RMB482m, with net profit increasing 65% to RMB218m.
- The stock is trading at 23x FY19E PER, compared with the average 27x FY19E PER for domestic condiment peers, all based on Bloomberg consensus.

#### Ownership (As of 3Q18)

- Chongqing Fuling State-owned asset investment management Group, 39.65%
- Hong Kong Securities Clearing Co. Ltd., 4.41%
- National Social Security Fund 406 portfolio, 4.31%
- Beijing Construction Co.,Ltd, 3.80%
- Zhou Binquan, 1.68%

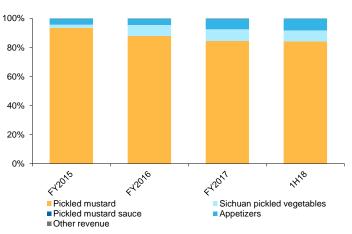
### Balance sheet data and refinancing (As of 3Q18)

- Cash and bank balance of Rmb1,438m
- Fixed asset and construction in process of Rmb878 m
- No short-term and long-term debt
- Net cash/equity ratio at 61.6%

#### Latest results highlights (3Q18)

- Revenue grew by 11% to Rmb482m in 3Q18.
- Gross margin expanded by 10.9ppt to 57.3% in 3Q18.
- EBIT margin increased by 13.5ppt to 48.6%.
- Net profit increased by 65% to Rmb218m.

## Fig 1 Revenue breakdown by product (Rmb m)



Source: Company data, November 2018

#### History and corporate governance

- 1988, established as Chongqing Fuling Zhacai Group.
- 2008, restructured to Chongqing Fuling Zhacai Co., LTD
- 2010, listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.
- 2015, acquired 100% equity of Huitong, who focused on production and sales of Sichuan pickled vegetables.

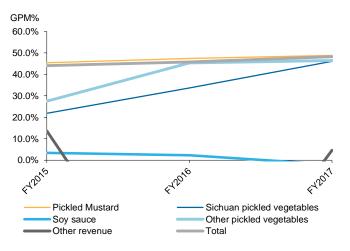
#### Management and Directors background

- Mr. Zhou Binquan, aged 55, was appointed Chairman in May 2011. He is also Vice Chairman of China Condiments Association. He joined the company in 2000 and previously served as General Manager.
- Mr. Zhaoping, aged 52, was appointed the General Manager in May 2011. He joined the company in 2005 and served as Deputy General Manager during 2005-11.
- Mr. Yuan Guosheng, aged 39, serves as a director on the Board and is in charge of sales and marketing. He has been always engaged in the field of sales since he joined the company in 1998.

#### Latest results highlights (FY17)

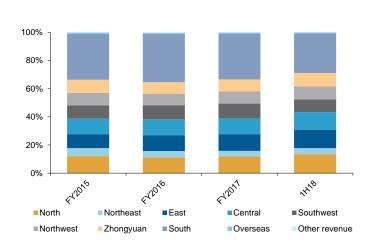
- Revenue grew by 36% to Rmb1,520mn in FY17.
- Gross margin expanded by 2.4ppt to 48.2% from 45.8% in FY16.
- EBIT margin was lifted by 6.4ppt to 30.7% from 24.3% in FY16.
- Net profit increased by 61% to Rmb414m.

## Fig 2 Gross margin by product



Source: Company data, November 2018

Revenue breakdown by region (Rmb m) Fig 3



Source: Company data, November 2018

Gross margin by region (%) Fig 4

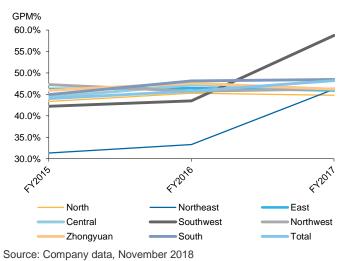
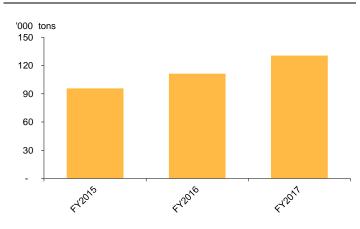
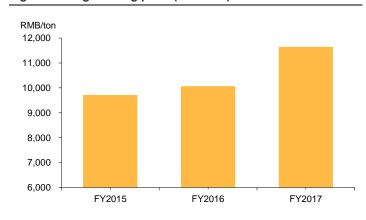


Fig 5 Sales volume ('000 tons)



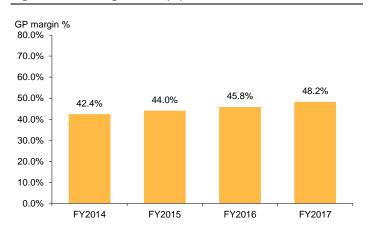
Source: Company data, November 2018

Fig 6 Average selling price (RMB/ton)



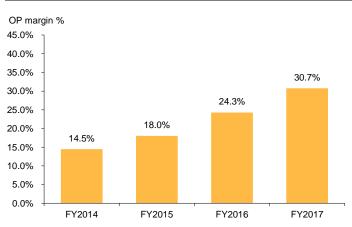
Source: Company data, November 2018

Gross margin trend (%)



Source: Company data, November 2018

Fig 8 Operating margin trend (%)



Source: Company data, November 2018

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Fig 9 Net profit margin trend (%)

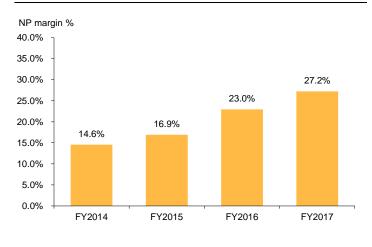


Fig 10 Net debt to equity ratio (%)

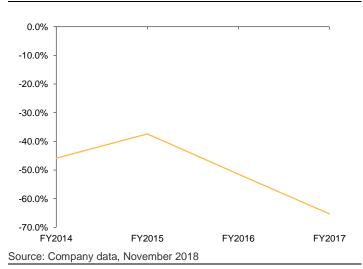
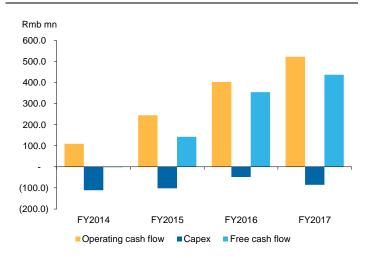


Fig 11 Free cash flow (Rmb m)

Source: Company data, November 2018



Source: Company data, November 2018

Macquarie Research

Revenue         m         514         793         727         1,064         Revenue         m         906         931           Gross profit         m         223         373         360         585         Gross profit         m         384         410           Cost of goods sold         m         290         420         367         478         Cost of goods sold         m         522         521           EBITOA         m         170         224         302         385         EBITDA         m         165         209           Depreciation         m         28         28         29         28         Depreciation         m         32         39           Amortisation         2         1         2         1         Amortisation         2         2         2           EBIT         m         142         196         272         356         EBIT         m         131         168           Net interest income         m         3         0         2         1         Net interest income         m         131         168           Net interest income         m         3         0         0         0         0<	1,121 1,5 513 7 608 7 328 5 53 3 272 4 0 30 306 (49) 257 0
Gross profit         m         223         373         360         585         Gross profit         m         384         410           Cost of goods sold         m         290         420         367         478         Cost of goods sold         m         522         521           EBITDA         m         170         224         302         385         EBITDA         m         165         209           Depreciation         m         28         28         29         28         Depreciation         m         32         39           Amortisation         2         1         2         1         Amortisation         2         2         2           EBIT         m         142         196         272         356         EBIT         m         131         168           Net interest income         m         3         0         2         1         Net interest income         m         131         7           Forex gain/loss         m         0         0         0         0         Forex gain/loss         m         0         0           Other pre-tax profit         m         168         202         286         356	513 7 608 7 328 5 53 3 272 4 0 30 306 (49) (49) 257 0
Cost of goods sold         m         290         420         367         478         Cost of goods sold         m         522         521           EBITDA         m         170         224         302         385         EBITDA         m         165         209           Depreciation         m         28         28         29         28         Depreciation         m         32         39           Amortisation         2         1         2         1         2         1         Amortisation         2         2         2           EBIT         m         142         196         272         356         EBIT         m         131         168           Net interest income         m         3         0         2         1         Net interest income         m         13         7           Forex gain/loss         m         0         0         0         0         Forex gain/loss         m         0         0         0           Other pre-tax profit         m         168         202         286         356         Pre-Tax Profit         m         156         185           Tax expenses         m         (24)         <	608 7 328 5 53 3 272 4 0 30 306 (49) (49) 257 0
EBITDA         m         170         224         302         385         EBITDA         m         165         209           Depreciation         m         28         28         29         28         Depreciation         m         32         39           Amortisation         2         1         2         1         Amortisation         2         2         2           EBIT         m         142         196         272         356         EBIT         m         131         168           Net interest income         m         3         0         2         1         Net interest income         m         13         7           Forex gain/loss         m         0         0         0         0         Forex gain/loss         m         0         0           Other pre-tax profit         m         -30         6         13         -1         Other pre-tax profit         m         12         9           Pre-Tax Profit         m         168         202         286         356         Pre-Tax Profit         m         156         185           Tax expenses         m         (27)         (30)         (44)         (51)         <	328 5 53 3 272 4 4 0 30 306 (49) (257 0
Depreciation	53 3 272 4 0 30 306 (49) (257 0
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EBIT         m         142         196         272         356         EBIT         m         131         168           Net interest income         m         3         0         2         1         Net interest income         m         13         7           Forex gain/loss         m         0         0         0         Forex gain/loss         m         0         0           Other pre-tax profit         m         -30         6         13         -1         Other pre-tax profit         m         12         9           Pre-Tax Profit         m         168         202         286         356         Pre-Tax Profit         m         156         185           Tax expenses         m         (27)         (30)         (44)         (51)         Tax expenses         m         (24)         (27)           Net profit         m         141         172         242         305         Net profit         m         132         157           Minority interest         m         0         0         0         Minority interest         m         132         157           Reported Earnings         m         141         172         242         30	272 4 4 0 30 306 (49) ( 257 6
Net interest income         m         3         0         2         1         Net interest income         m         13         7           Forex gain/loss         m         0         0         0         0         Forex gain/loss         m         0         0           Other pre-tax profit         m         -30         6         13         -1         Other pre-tax profit         m         12         9           Pre-Tax Profit         m         168         202         286         356         Pre-Tax Profit         m         156         185           Tax expenses         m         (27)         (30)         (44)         (51)         Tax expenses         m         (24)         (27)           Net profit         m         141         172         242         305         Net profit         m         132         157           Minority interest         m         0         0         0         0         Minority interest         m         0         0           Reported Earnings         m         141         172         242         305         Reported Earnings         m         132         157           EPS (rep)         ¢         27	4 0 30 306 (49) (257 0
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Tax expenses         m         (27)         (30)         (44)         (51)         Tax expenses         m         (24)         (27)           Net profit         m         141         172         242         305         Net profit         m         132         157           Minority interest         m         141         172         242         305         Reported Earnings         m         132         157           Reported Earnings         m         141         172         242         305         Reported Earnings         m         132         157           EPS (rep)         ¢         27         22         30         39         EPS (rep)         ¢         66         49           EPS (adj)         ¢         27         22         30         39         EPS (adj)         ¢         66         49	(49) ( <b>257</b> 0 <b>257</b> 4
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Minority interest         m         0         0         0         0         Minority interest         m         0         0           Reported Earnings         m         141         172         242         305         Reported Earnings         m         132         157           Reported Earnings         m         141         172         242         305         Reported Earnings         m         132         157           EPS (rep)         ¢         27         22         30         39         EPS (rep)         ¢         66         49           EPS (adj)         ¢         27         22         30         39         EPS (adj)         ¢         66         49	0 <b>257 4</b>
Reported Earnings   m   141   172   242   305   Reported Earnings   m   132   157   Reported Earnings   m   141   172   242   305   Reported Earnings   m   132   157   157   157   157   157   158   159	257 4
Reported Earnings         m         141         172         242         305         Reported Earnings         m         132         157           EPS (rep)         ¢         27         22         30         39         EPS (rep)         ¢         66         49           EPS (adj)         ¢         27         22         30         39         EPS (adj)         ¢         66         49	
EPS (rep) ¢ 27 22 30 39 EPS (rep) ¢ 66 49 EPS (adj) ¢ 27 22 30 39 EPS (adj) ¢ 66 49	231 4
EPS (adj) ¢ 27 22 30 39 EPS (adj) ¢ 66 49	
	49
FDO (I - /- I')	49
EPS grow th yoy (adj) % 29 0 11 77 EPS grow th yoy (adj) % (6) 19	63
PE (rep) x 44 38	27
PE (adj) x 44 38	27
EBITDA margin % 33.1 28.3 41.6 36.2	40.0
EBIT margin % 27.6 24.7 37.3 33.5 Total DPS ¢ 10.0 20.0	10.0 1
Revenue grow th % 13 31 42 34 Payout ratio % 15.2 40.8	20.4 2
EBIT grow th % 109 51 91 82 Weighted average shares m 200 324	526 7
2014A 2015A 2016A 2017A Cash Flow Analysis 2014A 2015A	2016A 201
Profit and Loss Ratios	
Revenue growth         %         7.1         2.7         20.4         35.6         Net income         m         132         157	257 4
EBITDA growth % (4.5) 26.5 56.7 60.4 Depreciation & Amortisation m 34 42	56
EBIT Grow th % (6.1) 27.8 62.2 71.9 Other non-cash adjustments m (3) 21	5 (
Gross profit margin % 42.4 44.0 45.8 48.2 Changes in non-cash capital m (54) 25	85
<b>EBITDA</b> margin % 18.3 22.5 29.3 34.6 <b>Operating cash flow m 109 245</b>	403
EBIT margin % 14.5 18.0 24.3 30.7 Acquisations m 0 0	0
Net profit margin % 14.6 16.9 23.0 27.2 Capex m (111) (102)	(48) (
Payout ratio % 15.2 40.8 20.4 28.8 Asset sales m 8 0	0
Other m (103) (163)	(274) (5
Balance Sheet Ratios Investing cash flow m (206) (265)	(322) (6
ROE % 12 13 17 24 Dividends m (31) (21)	(66)
ROA % 10 10 14 19 Equity raised m 0 0	0
Net debt/equity x (0.5) (0.4) (0.5) (0.65) Debt movements m 0 (117)	0
Other m 0 35	(3)
Financing cash flow m (31) (103)	(69)
Forex m (0) 0	Ó
Net change in cash/debt m (128) (124)	12 (1
Free cash flow m (2) 142	354 <sup>`</sup> 4
Balance Sheet 2014A 2015A	2016A 201
Cash 523 514	806 1,2
Receivables 4 3	1
Inventories 142 175	172 2
Investments 0 0	0
Fixed asset 560 761	750 7
Intangible asset 93 130	127 1
Other assets 52 77	76
Total assets 1,372 1,660	1,932 2,4
Payables 96 123	
Short term debt 0 0	0
Long term debt 0 0	0
Other liabilities 136 162	
	366 5
Share capital 202 329	526
Surplus reserves 62 78	104
Undistributed profits 365 486	652
Other 511 482	
Total S/H equity 1,140 1,375	1,566 1,9
Total liab & S/H equity 1,372 1,660  All figures in CNY unless noted.	1,932 2,4

Source: Company data, Wind, Bloomberg, November 2018

#### Important disclosures:

#### **Recommendation definitions**

## Macquarie - Australia/New Zealand

Outperform – return >3% in excess of benchmark return Neutral – return within 3% of benchmark return Underperform – return >3% below benchmark return

Benchmark return is determined by long term nominal GDP growth plus 12 month forward market dividend yield, which is currently around 9%.

#### Macquarie - Asia/Europe

Outperform – expected return >+10% Neutral – expected return from -10% to +10% Underperform – expected return <-10%

#### Mazi Macquarie - South Africa

Outperform – expected return >+10% Neutral – expected return from -10% to +10% Underperform – expected return <-10%

#### Macquarie - Canada

Outperform – return >5% in excess of benchmark return Neutral – return within 5% of benchmark return Underperform – return >5% below benchmark return

#### Macquarie - USA

Outperform (Buy) – return >5% in excess of Russell 3000 index return

Neutral (Hold) – return within 5% of Russell 3000 index return

Underperform (Sell)- return >5% below Russell 3000 index return

#### Volatility index definition\*

This is calculated from the volatility of historical price movements.

Very high-highest risk – Stock should be expected to move up or down 60–100% in a year – investors should be aware this stock is highly speculative.

**High** – stock should be expected to move up or down at least 40–60% in a year – investors should be aware this stock could be speculative.

**Medium** – stock should be expected to move up or down at least 30–40% in a year.

**Low-medium** – stock should be expected to move up or down at least 25–30% in a year.

**Low** – stock should be expected to move up or down at least 15–25% in a year.

\* Applicable to Asia/Australian/NZ/Canada stock

\* Applicable to Asia/Australian/NZ/Canada stocks only

Recommendations - 12 months

**Note:** Quant recommendations may differ from Fundamental Analyst recommendations

#### **Financial definitions**

All "Adjusted" data items have had the following adjustments made:

Added back: goodwill amortisation, provision for catastrophe reserves, IFRS derivatives & hedging, IFRS impairments & IFRS interest expense Excluded: non recurring items, asset revals, property revals, appraisal value uplift, preference dividends & minority interests

EPS = adjusted net profit / efpowa\*

ROA = adjusted ebit / average total assets

ROA Banks/Insurance = adjusted net profit /average total assets

ROE = adjusted net profit / average shareholders funds Gross cashflow = adjusted net profit + depreciation \*equivalent fully paid ordinary weighted average number of shares

All Reported numbers for Australian/NZ listed stocks are modelled under IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards).

#### Recommendation proportions - For quarter ending 30 September 2018

	AU/NZ	Asia	RSA	USA	CA	EUR	
Outperform	51.56%	59.51%	45.05%	46.88%	67.86%	46.70%	(for global coverage by Macquarie, 3.70% of stocks followed are investment banking clients)
Neutral	33.20%	28.92%	37.36%	47.70%	25.00%	42.73%	(for global coverage by Macquarie, 2.04% of stocks followed are investment banking clients)
Underperform	15.23%	11.57%	17.58%	5.42%	7.14%	10.57%	(for global coverage by Macquarie, 0.47% of stocks followed are investment banking clients)

#### Company-specific disclosures:

Important disclosure information regarding the subject companies covered in this report is available at <a href="www.macquarie.com/research/disclosures">www.macquarie.com/research/disclosures</a>.

## Analyst certification:

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## **Equities**

# Asia Research

#### **Head of Equity Research**

Jake Lynch (Asia - Head)	(852) 3922 3583
Hiroyuki Sakaida (Japan – Head)	(813) 3512 6695
Conrad Werner (ASEAN – Head)	(65) 6601 0182

#### **Automobiles, Auto Parts**

Janet Lewis (China, Japan)	(813) 3512 7856
Allen Yuan (China)	(8621) 2412 9009
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Dexter Hsu (China, Taiwan)	(8862) 2734 7530
Keisuke Moriyama (Japan)	(813) 3512 7476
Chan Hwang (Korea)	(822) 3705 8643
Suresh Ganapathy (India)	(9122) 6720 4078
Jayden Vantarakis (Indonesia)	(6221) 2598 8310
Anand Pathmakanthan (Malaysia)	(603) 2059 8833
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Peach Patharavanakul (Thailand)	(662) 694 7753

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Anna Park (Korea)	(822) 3705 8669
Sumangal Nevatia (India)	(9122) 6720 4093
Jayden Vantarakis (Indonesia)	(6221) 2598 8310
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#### Conglomerates

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Conrad Werner (Singapore)	(65) 6601 0182

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Richardo Walujo (Indonesia)	(6221) 2598 8369
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Bo Denworalak (Thailand)	(662) 694 7774

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Eric Zong (China, Hong Kong)	(852) 3922 4749
Kunio Sakaida (Japan)	(813) 3512 7873
James Hong (Korea)	(822) 3705 8661
Corinne Jian (Taiwan)	(8862) 2734 7522
Inderjeetsingh Bhatia (India)	(9122) 6720 4087
Azita Nazrene (ASEAN)	(65) 6601 0560

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Wendy Huang (Asia)	(852) 3922 3378
Marcus Yang (Greater China)	(8862) 2734 7532
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Alankar Garude (India)	(9122) 6720 4134

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Yasuhiro Nakada (Japan)	(813) 3512 7862
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Ben Shane Lim (Malaysia)	(603) 2059 8868
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Richardo Walujo (Indonesia)	(6221) 259 88 369

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Richard Danusaputra (Indonesia)	(6221) 2598 8368
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Daniel Kim (Korea)	(822) 3705 8641
Abhishek Bhandari (India)	(9122) 6720 4088
Farrah Aqlima (Malaysia)	(603) 2059 8987

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Allen Chang (Greater China)	(852) 3922 1136
Prem Jearajasingam (ASEAN)	(603) 2059 8989
Nathania Nurhalim (Indonesia)	(6221) 2598 8365
Kervin Sisayan (Philippines)	(632) 857 0893

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Hiroyuki Sakaida (Japan) Patrick Dai (China)	(813) 3512 6695 (8621) 2412 9082
	(9122) 6720 4087
Karisa Magpayo (Philippines)	(632) 857 0899

#### Strategy, Country

Viktor Shvets (Asia, Global)	(852) 3922 3883
David Ng (China, Hong Kong)	(852) 3922 1291
Hiroyuki Sakaida (Japan)	(813) 3512 6695
Chan Hwang (Korea)	(822) 3705 8643
Jeffrey Ohlweiler (Taiwan)	(8862) 2734 7512
Inderjeetsingh Bhatia (India)	(9122) 6720 4087
Conrad Werner (ASEAN, Singapore)	(65) 6601 0182
Jayden Vantarakis (Indonesia)	(6221) 2598 8310
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Paul Colaco (San Francisco)	(1 415) 762 5003
Eric Lin (Taiwan)	(8862) 2734 7590
Angus Kent (Thailand)	(662) 694 7601
Mothlib Miah (UK/Europe)	(44 20) 3037 4893
Christina Lee (US)	(44 20) 3037 4873

#### **Sales Trading**

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# Sales Trading cont'd

Suhaida Samsudin (Malaysia) Michael Santos (Philippines) Chris Reale (New York) Marc Rosa (New York) Justin Morrison (Singapore) Brendan Rake (Thailand) Mike Keen (UK/Europe)

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