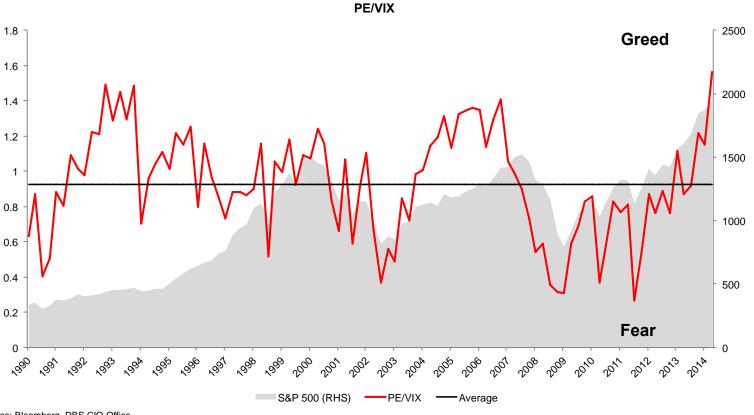
# THE EQUITIES BULL: Continuation, Rotation or Termination?

### **Lim Say Boon**

**Chief Investment Officer, Group Wealth Management & Private Banking, DBS Bank** 



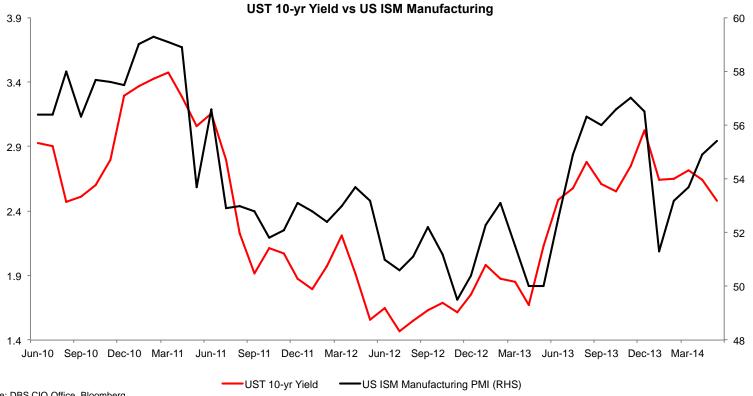
#### High level of complacency reflected in our US "Greed/Fear Index"



Source: Bloomberg, DBS CIO Office

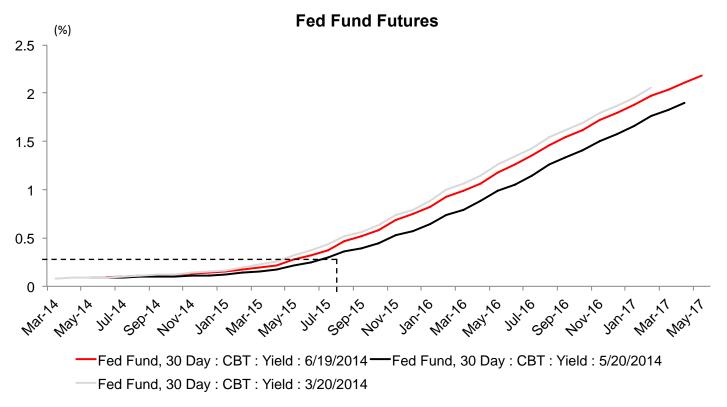
#### Moderate growth, cheap money and low volatility

Moderate US economic growth has kept 10-year Treasury bond yield and inflation relatively low



#### Moderate growth, cheap money and low volatility

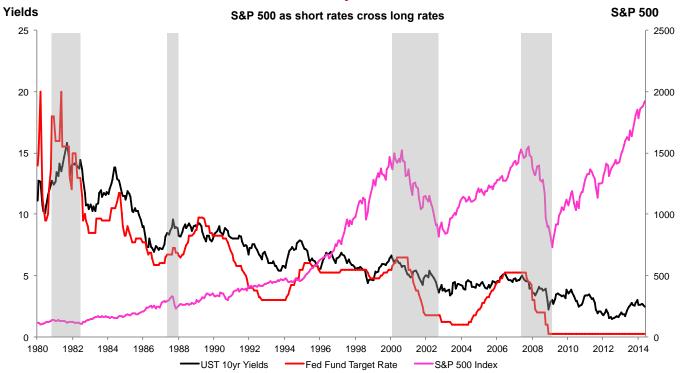
Markets see first Fed Fund rate hike in 2H14



Source: Bloomberg, DBS CIO Office

#### Moderate growth, cheap money and low volatility

Still a long way before the Fed policy rate cuts above the 10-year US Treasury yield. This predicted 3 of the 4 bear markets and every US recession since 1980



- Global equities: Remain overweight 3M, 12M
  - US equities: Remain overweight 3M, 12M

# Spanish and Italian 10-yr yields now trading at same level as US 10-yr yield

Govt Bond Yields (%)



Source: Bloomberg, DBS CIO Office

### Expansion of the ECB balance sheet relative to the size of the Federal Reserve's balance sheet could translate to outperformance for European stocks

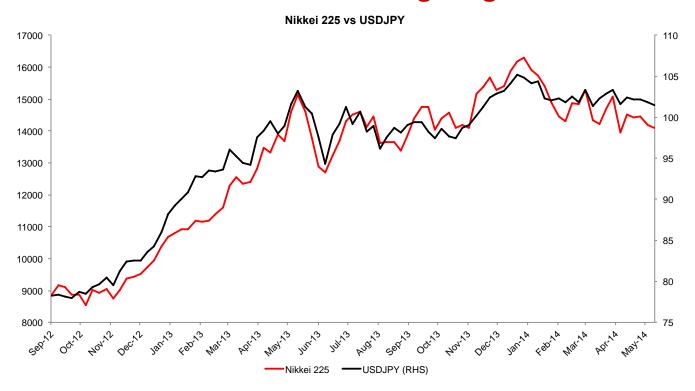
MSCI US/MSCI Europe vs Fed Balance Sheet/ECB Balance Sheet



Source: Bloomberg, DBS CIO Office

**European equities: Remain overweight 3M, 12M** 

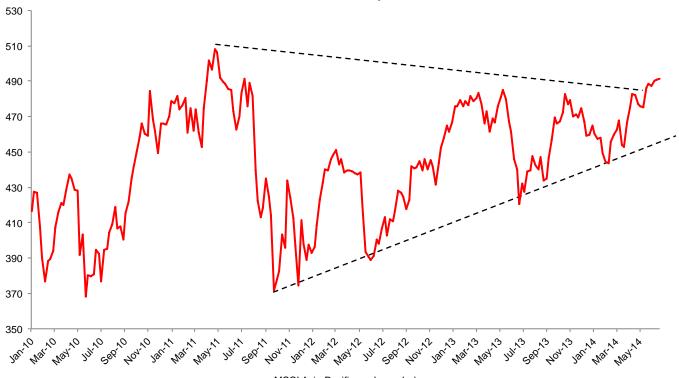
# Japanese equities: It's a USD/JPY story – hence our reduction in weighting in 2Q-14



Japanese equities: Return to overweight 3M, 12M

# The battle intensifies: Both bulls and bears are getting more impatient

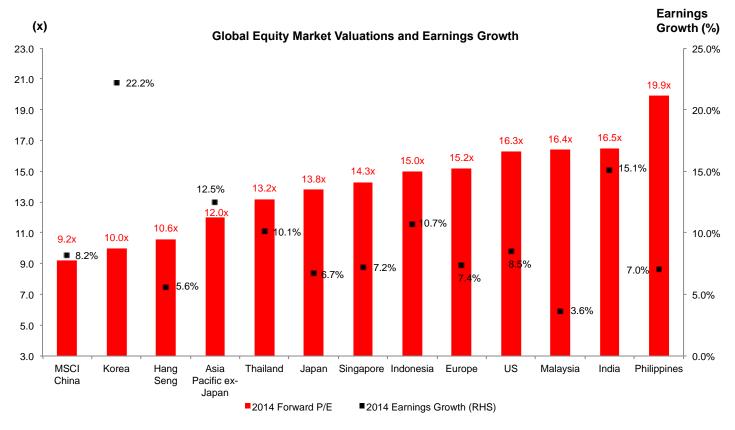
MSCI Asia Pacific ex-Japan Index



Source: DBS CIO Office, Bloomberg

MSCI Asia Pacific ex-Japan Index

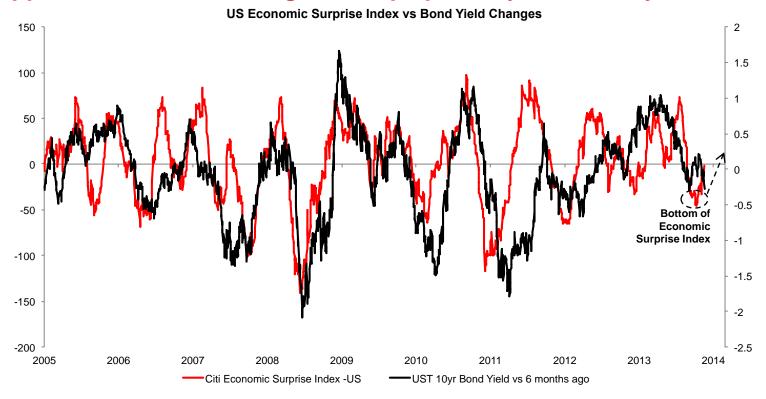
#### Asia: Looking for growth at a reasonable price



Source: IBES, Datastream, DBS CIO Office

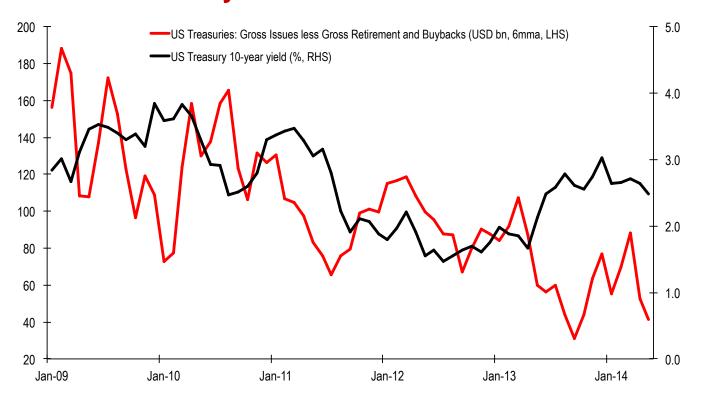
Asia ex-Japan/Emerging Markets: Neutral 3M, Overweight 12M

### Bonds: 10-year US Treasury yield could edge up as economic data disappointment ends although a sharp spike in yield unlikely at this stage



Source: Bloomberg, DBS CIO Office

### Gains in the 10-year US Treasury yield could be kept moderate by lower net issuance

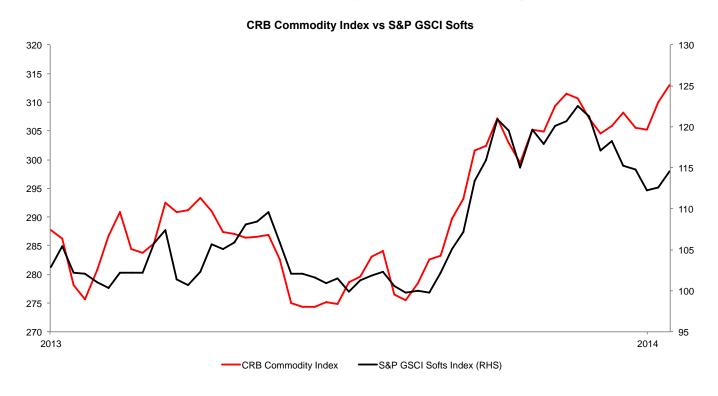


- Global bonds: Underweight 3M, 12M
- Developed Markets government bonds: Underweight 3M, 12 M
  - Developed Markets corporate bonds: Neutral 3M, 12 M
    - EM/Asia ex-Japan bonds: Neutral 3M, 12M



#### **Commodities: A mixed bag with rotation of leadership**

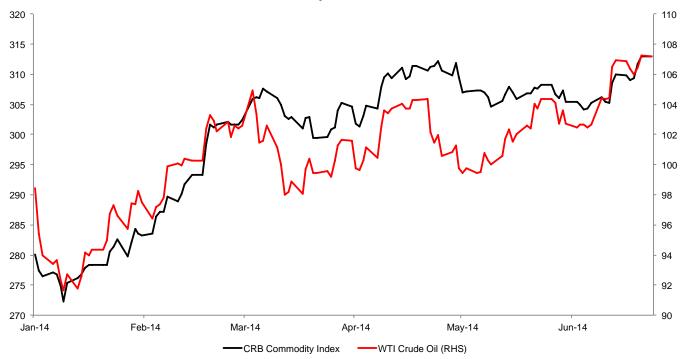
Soft commodities led the upturn at the start of the year



#### Commodities: A mixed bag with rotation of leadership

Crude oil taking over as driver amidst Iraqi conflict





#### **Commodities: A mixed bag with rotation of leadership**

Metals struggling sideways amidst oversupply, high inventories and allegations of financing fraud in China





**Commodities: Neutral 3M, 12M** 

#### **Tactical Asset Allocation**

Asset Class	3-Month Basis		12-Month Basis	
	3Q14	2Q14	3Q14	2Q14
Equities	Overweight	Overweight	Overweight	Overweight
US Equities	Overweight	Overweight	Overweight	Overweight
Europe Equities	Overweight	Overweight	Overweight	Overweight
Japan Equities	Overweight	Neutral	Overweight	Overweight
Asia Pacific ex-Japan Equities	Neutral	Underweight	Overweight	Overweight
Emerging Markets ex-Asia Equities	Neutral	Underweight	Overweight	Overweight
Bonds	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight
Developed Markets (DM) Bonds	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight
DM Government Bonds	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight
DM Corporate Bonds	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Emerging Markets (EM) Bonds	Neutral	Underweight	Neutral	Neutral
Alternatives	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight
Commodities	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Gold	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight
Hedge Funds	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral
Cash	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight	Underweight

Notes: Down from previous rating; Up from previous rating; Source: DBS CIO Office

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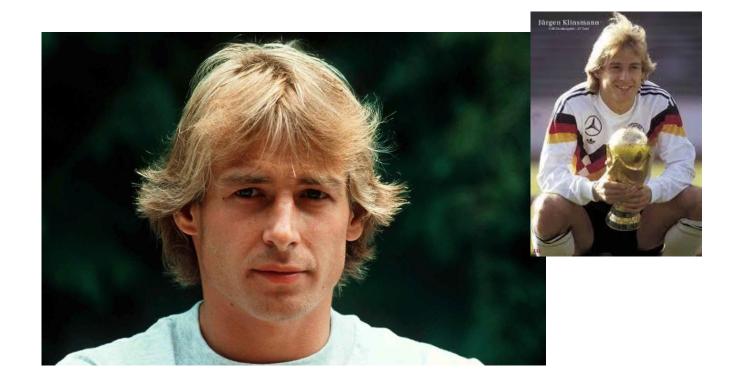
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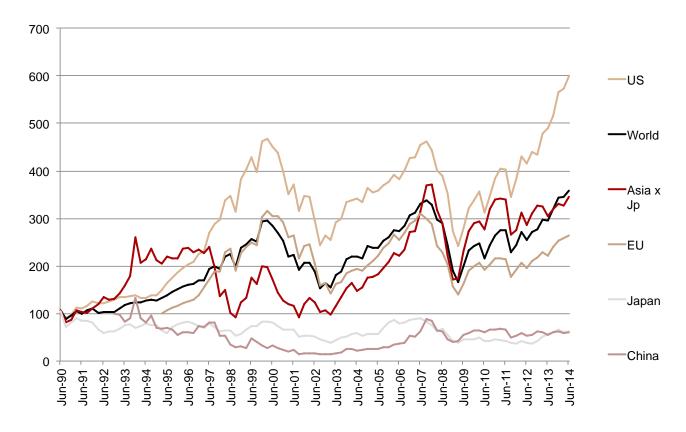
### Where were you on 4 July, 1990?



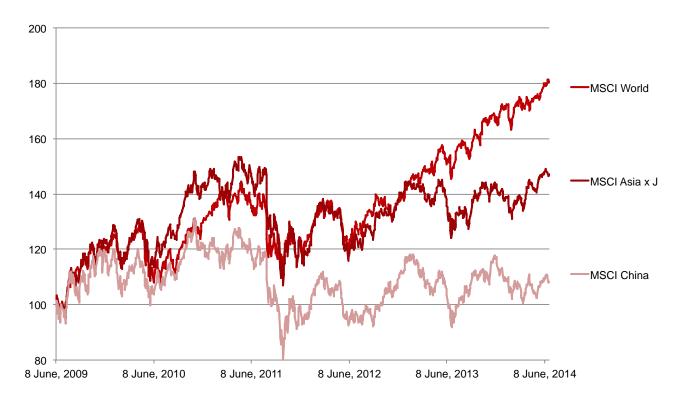
### Fast forward....24 years later to 4 July 2014



#### **Global Equity Markets Since 1990**

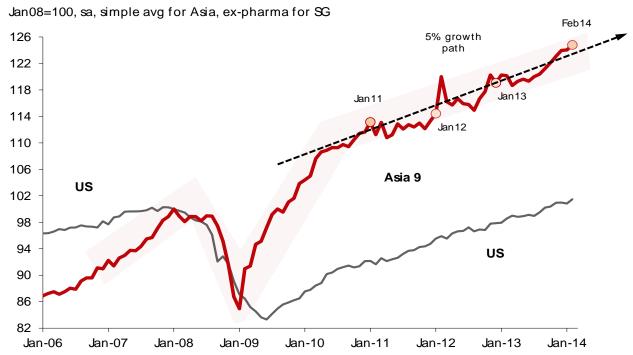


### What about the next 6 months? Asia has lagged Global Equities since 2013...



#### ...Even as Asia macros have been steady

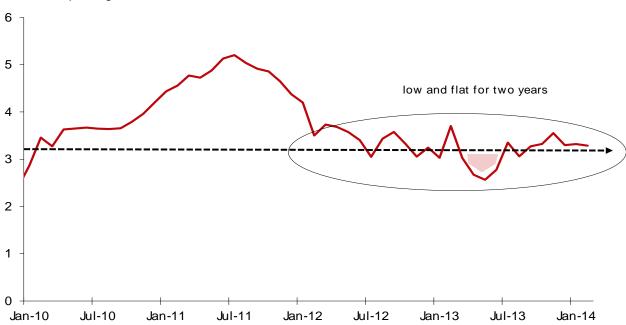
#### US and Asia 9 – industrial production



### Asia10: inflation low and steady

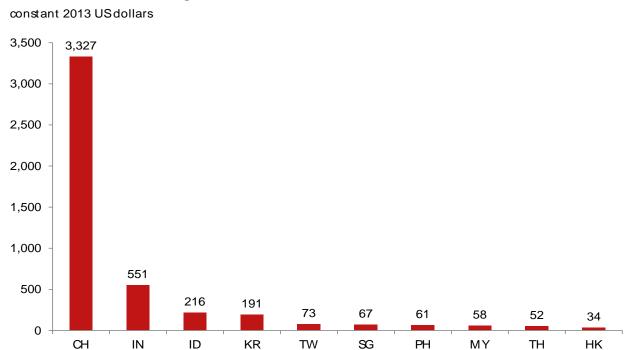
#### Asia10 - CPI inflation

% YoY, simple avg

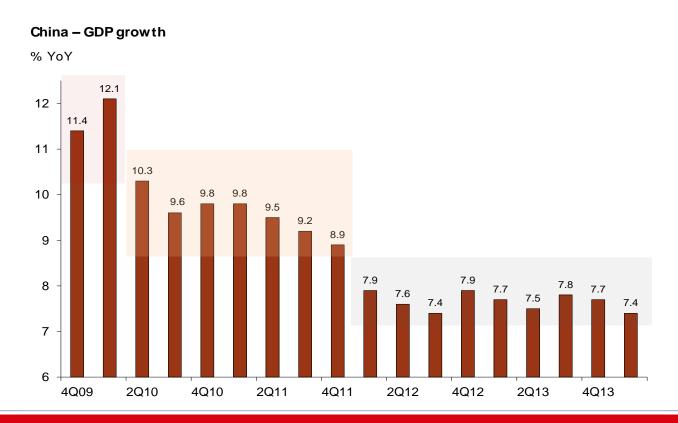


#### China dominates Asia's Growth...

Asia-10: incremental GDP growth, 2008-2013



# ...keeping Asian markets on edge Focus remains on long-run structural change, reform



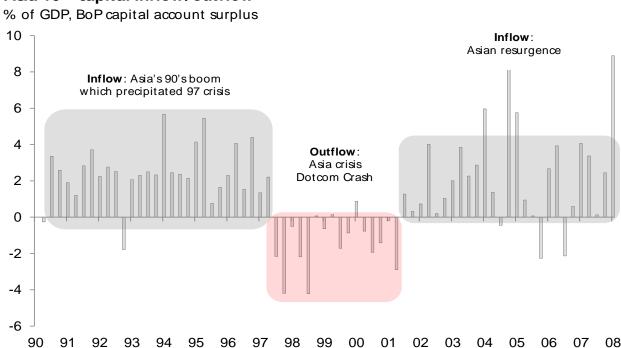
#### China's long-term focus

Financial sector reform is getting most attention at the moment

#### China – structural changes ahead Macro changes Micro changes Financial economy Real economy 1. Raise consumption 1. Clean up bad debts 1. Lessen role of state-owned enterprises as a driver of GDP 2. Interest rate liberalization in the economy 2. Lower exports 3. FX liberalization 2. Pension / social security reform as a driver of GDP 3. Healthcare reform 4. Globalize the RMB 3. Lower investment 5. Open capital account 4. Urbanization as a driver of GDP (implied by 4) 5. Inland development vs coastal areas 6. Raise supervision 6. Lower production capacity of steel, of shadow banks alum, other metals, concrete, paper 7. Tax reform 7. More private investment in airports, urban transit, energy, shipping. 8. Allow more private capital in banking

#### Asia: inflow-outflow from a LT perspective

#### Asia 10 – capital inflow/outflow

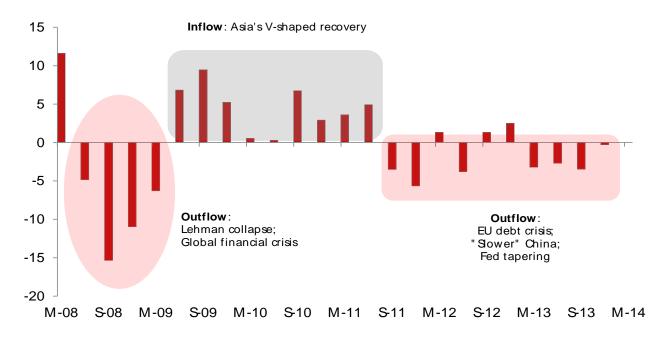




#### Asia: not a dollar of inflow for 2 years

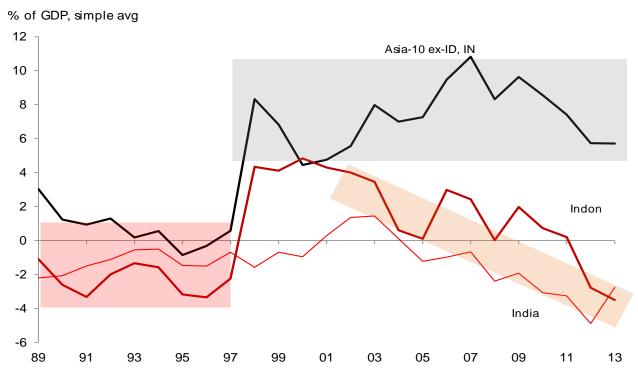
Asia 10 – capital inflow/outflow

BoP capital acct surplus/deficit as % of GDP



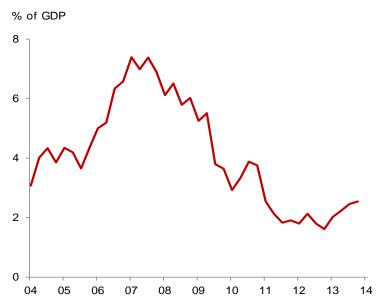
#### Asia: the biggest difference between 1997 and today





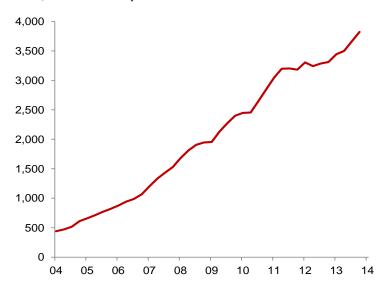
# Asia's currencies are holding up

#### Asia 10 - current account balance

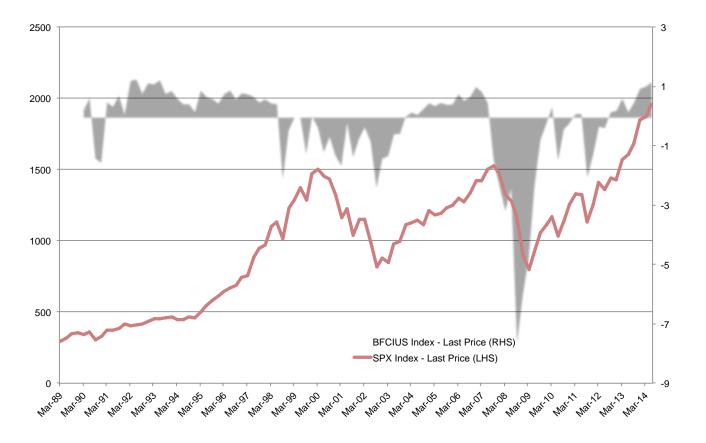


#### Asia 10 - foreign reserves

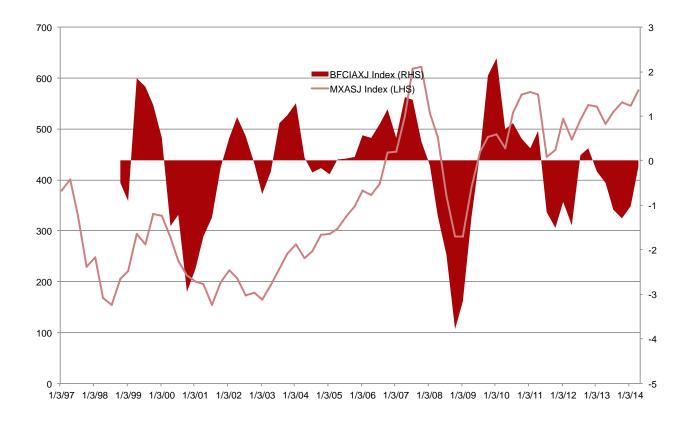
USon, includes fwd ccy commitments



## **US Financial Conditions vs S&P 500**

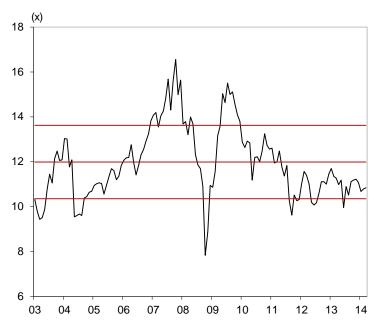


## **Asia Financial Conditions Index vs MXASJ**



# 2014 Expected Asian Equity Returns: 16% (+/- 10% Swing Factor)

#### MSCI AXJ: 12-month forward PER trading below mean (x)



#### Target return

- Earnings growth about 13%
- Dividend yield 2.6%
- Potentially for valuation reversion to mean at about 10%

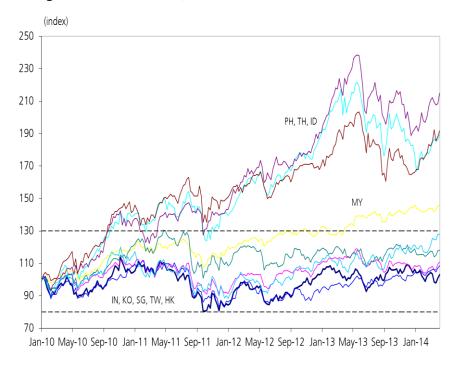
#### Volatility and risks

- Rising bond yields not necessarily negative
- More aggressive US tapering could tamper liquidity flowing back into this region (negative for emerging ASEAN, positive for North Asia by default)
- Short rates movement currently expected
   2015 (Singapore / Hong Kong most sensitive)

Source: Datastream, IBES, DBS

# Asia markets long run outlook favors ASEAN

#### Regional market indices, rebased



- HK/China: Wildcard
- Philippines/Thailand / Indonesia: long term re-rating supported by favourable demographics
  - No Asia crisis
  - Prudent policies
  - 2015 AEC mid term drivers
  - Balanced against valuations
- Malaysia / Singapore: externally driven, domestic drivers
- North Asia: need a very strong external environment to perform
- India: Reform progress key

Source: Datastream, DBS

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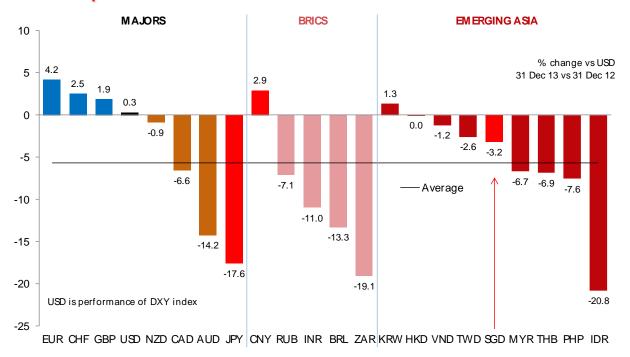
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# 2013 – Buy Developed, Sell Emerging Markets

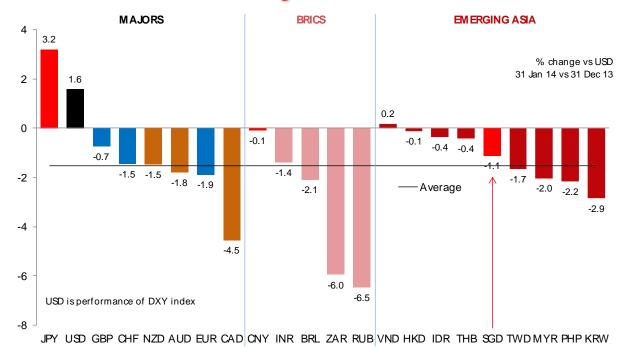
Fed Taper asset purchases + Abenomics Weak JPY



Sources: DBS Research, Reuters data

# January 2014 - Very Bullish USD

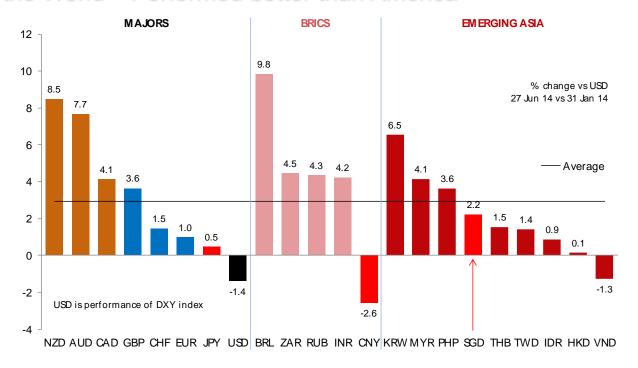
# Fed Tapers ⇒ Fed Hikes ⇒ Strong USD



Sources: DBS Research, Reuters data

# After Chinese New Year - USD disappoints

### Rest of the World – Performed better than America



Sources: DBS Research, Reuters data

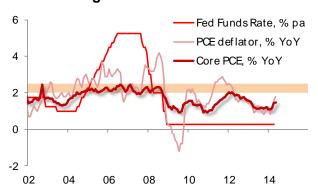
# **US** rate hike guidance – a moving target



#### Fed abandoned unemployment target



#### Inflation target set at 2.0-2.5%





New York Fed President **William Dudley** 

# Markets say Fed will hike in mid-2015 I won't put too much weight on this (24 Jun 14)

Fed can get unemployment rate considerably lower without an inflation problem (24 Jun 14)



San Francisco Fed President John Williams

We are about 2 years off from being an economy with normal unemployment and inflation (24 Jun 14)

**See Fed Funds Rate at 2.00-2.50% by end-2016** (30 May 14)



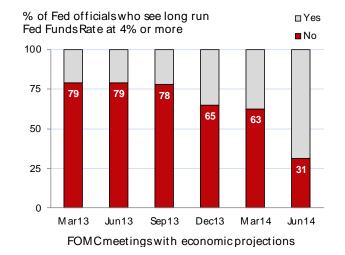
Prof & President Emeritus Harvard University Lawrence Summers

"There is increasing concern that we may be in an era of **secular stagnation** 

in which there is **insufficient investment demand** to absorb all the financial savings done by households and corporations,

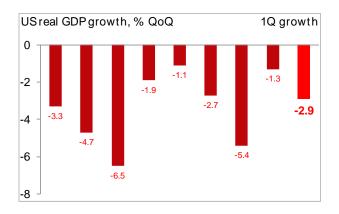
even with **interest rates so low as to risk financial bubbles**." (Boston Globe, 11 Apr 2014)

Fewer & fewer Fed officials
see Fed Funds Rate rising
to 4% or more after 2016

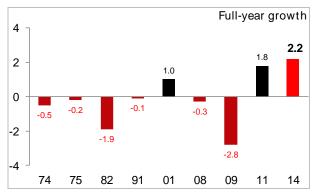


Sources: DBS Research, Federal Reserve

# Still too high – Fed's 2014 growth projection

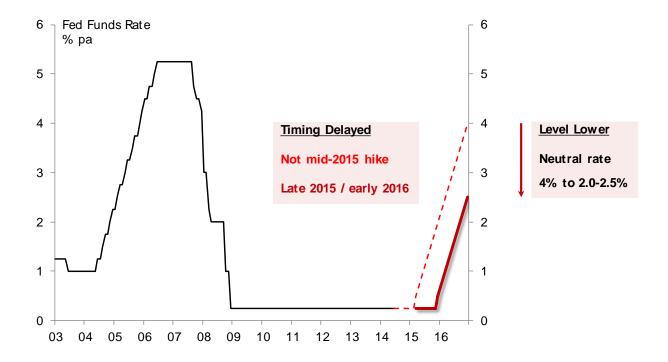


When US economy disappoints in 1Q



full-year growth tends to disappoint as well

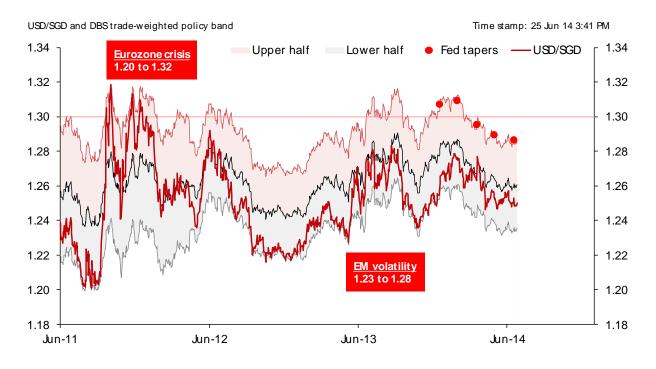
# **US** rate hike view – what has changed?



# Singapore dollar

Stable, not weak

USD/SGD forecasts					
	<u>27-Jun</u>	3Q14	<u>4Q14</u>	<u>1Q15</u>	<u>2Q15</u>
DBS	1.25	1.23	1.22	1.21	1.20
Consensus		1.26	1.27	1.26	1.27



# MAS managed SGD volatility well Capital inflows, not outflows

#### **DBS SGD NEER policy band** 106 106 Step 2 SGD NEER kept 104 104 in upper half of policy band 102 EU 102 crisis 100 100 98 98 volatility 96 96 94 94 Step 1 Policy band wasnarrowed 92 92

in Apr 2012

2013

2014

90

#### Record high foreign reserves

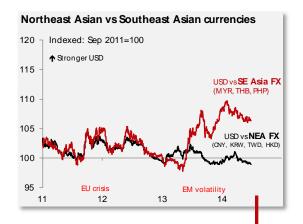


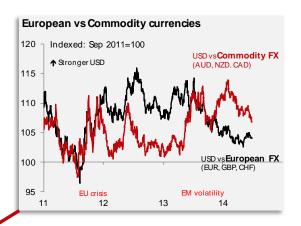
Sources: DBS Research, Bloomberg data

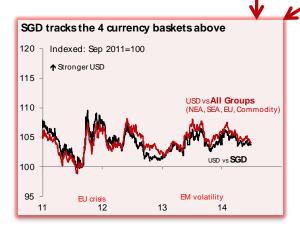
2012

90

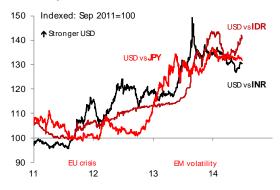
2011







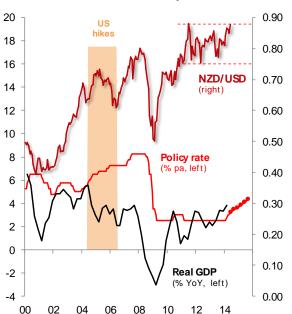
#### Extremely volatile Asian currencies



## **New Zealand dollar**

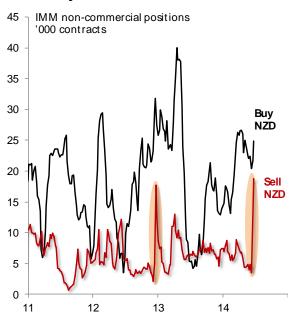
## First to hike – 3 times already

#### NZ rate hikes with recovery





#### NZD - Buyers more convicted than Sellers

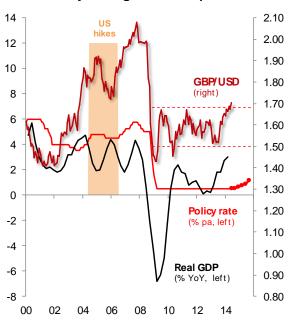




# **British pound**

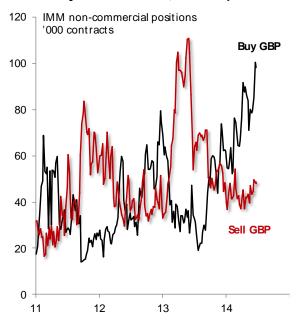
# Next to hike by May 2015

#### UK recovery stronger-than-expected





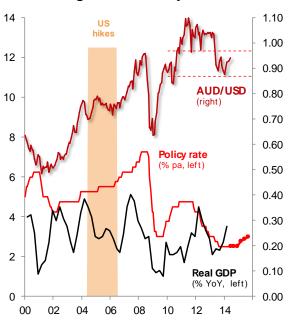
#### GBP - Buyers committed, Sellers quit



## Australian dollar

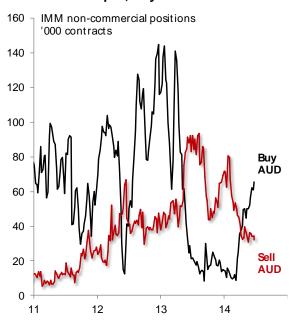
## "Not if, but when" RBA will hike

#### Australia's growth recovery





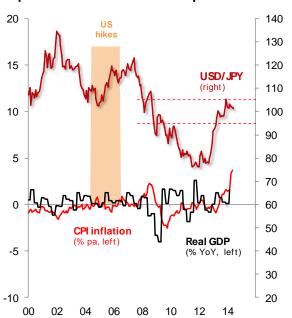
#### AUD - Sellers quit, Buyers return



# Japanese yen

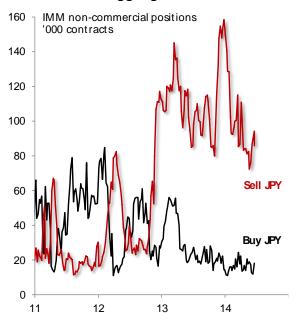
## QE2 - not a done deal

Japan - Growth & inflation up





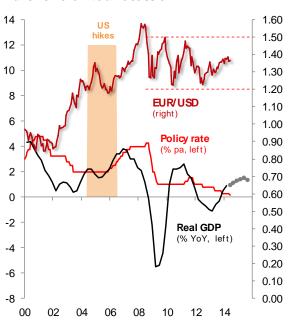
#### JPY - Sellers struggling to hold on



# Euro

### QE – no decision till mid-2015

#### Eurozone exited recession





#### EUR - Buyers & sellers lack conviction



## 2014 - From bullish to bearish USD

- US rate hike expectations tempered materially
- Recovery story strengthening in rest of the world
- Rate hike expectations strengthening in
  - NZD, GBP, AUD, MYR and PHP
- Speculators dumped the USDs they bought...
- ...and buying other currencies (for carry)
- USD/SGD in lower 1.20-1.25 range in 2H 2014



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