

# **NEWS**LETTER

A WILLIAM ALBERT MONTHLY UPDATE

**FEBRUARY 2010** 



## CEO's Desk

- William Albert is very excited to announce the launch of some very innovative new services keeping in mind the current economic trends and the needs of our clients:
- (1) 10GBP.com is the new equity trading gateway from William Albert Securities, which aims at offering "execution only" services for only 10 GBP per trade on equities.

(2)99p-research.com is another excitina endeavour from William Albert Securities, which aims to offer its subscribers one call (on FTSE Index) every trading day to provide latest update on the market for only 99p a month.

To keep pace with the growing new services, William Albert has recently brought on board two very talented brokers, I would like you to join me in welcoming:

### **Alexander Pye:**

Alex is a very hard-working and confident individual with excellent analytical capabilities. Backed with a degree in Neuroscience, I would say, he has gained more of a specialisation in understanding

the psychology of the financial markets and is definitely on the road to success.

### **Mario Martins:**

Mario brings a wealth of experience from Banco Comercial Portugues (Bank of Portugal from the Offshore and Private Banking division He has earlier proved his competency as a senior FX trader in the international money transfer division at LCC Trans-envoi and at JetCash Ltd He has a great market foresight.

Another of our colleagues, Mr. Lukhvinder Binning is fast gaining popularity among his clients. He is a dedicated professional trader who seeks to deliver the maximum profitability to his clients through constantly tracking the markets.

Whilst introducing new services and new people, I am very pleased to announce a new service for all PLUS exchange listed companies. We are providing a corporate advisory service at a fixed annual charge of £2999, enabling the potential clients to utilise William Albert's team of corporate advisors, and arrange a tailor made solution that caters to each individual company's needs.

The services included in the £2999 offer are:

- Advising the client on the regulatory checkpoints as per PLUS rules
- Advising the client on obligation to PLUS Markets as per PLUS rules
- Liaise with PLUS Markets on the clients' behalf
- iv) Assist with disclosures relating to the price sensitive information

Ancillary services offered by William Albert Securities include:

- Capital Raising
- ii) Identification of International Strategic Partners
- iii) Mergers and Acquisitions Advice
- iv) Financial Public Relations

### Regards;

Samrat Deep Bhandari CEO | William Albert Securities

E-mail your views to ceo@williamalbert.com or call at 0203-006-3240.



## **Corporate Finance**

## **Opportunity Awaits:** (Uniabroad at Milton Keynes job fair)

Uniabroad was the main sponsor of the job fair held in Milton Keynes on the 12th and 13th of February, 2010. It was a niche brand building exercise, to establish Uniabroad as a capable educational organisation. Another purpose of the event was to raise interest and awareness amongst ambitious. hardworking and career minded individuals with its unique "Stock Broker Training Program", which received an overwhelming response.

The educational programs in partnerships with leading universities from UK, USA, Asia and

Australia are designed exclusively for prospective and continuing students who are unable to reach universities owing to reasons like distance, funds, relocation or other personal reasons.

Uniabroad also provides short and long-term professional courses to interested individuals who are willing to enhance their skill set to seek better employment opportunities.

The Stock Broker Training Program is tailored for individuals desiring to become fully licensed (CF-30) stockbrokers, Uniabroad provides all the training material and the necessary corporate

sponsorship to the candidates. Upon successful completion of the following three FSA exams:

- 1. Regulation
- 2. Security
- 3. Risk

Uniabroad's stall at the job fair was flooded with current students as well as people who have just graduated, inquiring about the company and the application procedure. Uniabroad also signed up a number of people onto the training program, offering guaranteed positions within the Stock Broker Training Program upon successful completion of the training course.

For any further information, please call Prashant Seth, Corporate Finance Associate at 0203-006-3240 or e-mail prashant.seth@williamalbert.com.





Past Performance Shadow Funds Greece's Debt Entrenchment



Market Research Progress on Global Bank Tax Implementation



William Albert Keeping in Touch





## Corporate Finance continued...

### **Euro Land Marketing and Development**

Euro Land Marketing and Development is a UK based company, the main business objective of the company is to invest in the assets or securities of other businesses (whether publicly traded or not) in the land and property sectors. The company portfolio also includes acquisition of similar businesses in accordance with specific investment criteria. The Directors who

all have a lengthy background in the financial and property sectors will identify the acquisition targets through their market prudence, which will be followed by a structured due diligence process leading to final negotiations.

The company's business strategy of focusing on these acquisition targets is based on the fact that property and land offer considerable growth and profitability potential. Once investment has

been made in similar business, no matter what its size, Euro Land would provide overall support in arranging additional funds and expanding the shareholder base, and carve a road map for the acquired companies to become profit centres. Euro Land will also, if needed send in its own management team to oversee the day-to -day running of the acquired company. Therefore, speeding up the profitability.

For any further information, please call Prashant Seth, Corporate Finance Associate at 0203-006-3240 or e-mail prashant.seth@williamalbert.com.



■ In 2010, the markets started on a positive note with major global equity market averages gaining in the first week of the year, but the advance stalled and the bears took charge of the market from mid-January until early February, but the market failed to break and close below the all important 9900 level, and so back came the bulls. Broadly, European averages lagged behind major US averages with exception to the NASDAQ 100, which underperformed its American peers as well as the European counterparts. In this background, let's review the William Albert Research desk's market views and calls.

### UK

The recovery in FTSE 100 since mid December lasted till 5600 levels, 20 points below William Albert's December FTSE trading call. After observing some negative developments in the charts, we changed guard and initiated shorts around 5545 levels initially targeting 5157 levels, later revised to 5035 levels, which were expected to hold. Despite reversal in the key indices, the following are the few longs to highlight from our stock calls:

- 1) Barclays buy recommendation issued on Jan 5th around 280p levels traded past 325 within 3 days.
- 2) Punch Taverns initiated around 75p on 11th Jan reached 89p levels in early February.
- On the short side, Xstrata initiated on 18th at 1208p traded below 1000p levels within 2 weeks
- 4) ICAP Plc sell recommendation made at 385p levels on January 27th reached its target of 320p by 5th Feb.



Xstrata (3) call explained using a chart.

### US

On 11th January, we advised clients to start selling the S&P500 once it reached 1150 levels but as the index only managed only to reach 1149.74 on the upside, we revised our sell level to 1145, with the view to buy the position back at 1080. 1056 was the low on 8th Feb before



the index started moving up again.

Few stock calls to mention:-

- 1) A low risk long on TLAB placed a buy recommendation around 5.7 levels on 6th Jan, the stock reached 6.7 levels on Jan 26th, the trade yielding 17.5%.
- 2) Zions Bancorporation buy recommendation made by WA on 7th of last month at approximately \$15 levels, the stock briefly traded past \$20 on 26th January.

For any further information, please call Madhur Beri, Head of Sales and Marketing at 0203-006-3240 or e-mail madhur.beri@williamalbert.com.

**REAKING NEWS** 

BREAKING NEWS - BREAKING NEWS



## GREECE'S DEBT ENTRENCHMENT AND **EU'S FINANCIAL RESCUE PLANS**

■ Greece's financial tragedies from both outside (investors who have dumped Greek assets) and within (tax evaders) have left the country reeling. The country's Euro-zone neighbours have pledged their support to help Greece through this crisis, but don't need to provide financial support right now according to Herman Van Rompuy, the European Council President. Greece's Prime Minister, George Papandreou savs that Greek workers and companies have skirted?? tax worth 31 billion euros, more than 10 percent of gross domestic product.

The country's debt burden has sparked fears of default among investors. Letting Greece default has massive consequences, , mainly for the stability of the euro, EU leaders are deeply reluctant to let the International Monetary Fund extend help. Few market participants believe Greece will be able to carry out the fiscal adjustment it proposes. Greece plans to make one of the largest fiscal contractions on record, around 10% of GDP over 3 years, without any clear incentives or penalties for not achieving their goals, and is a country with a history of failed fiscal consolidations in the past.

There has already been announcements of strikes across various job sectors so far: tax officials, doctors, teachers, and civil servants, are reportedly going on strike soon. Euro area policymakers have stated that Greece won't be expelled from the EURO zone, won't be allowed to default, and that the IMF will not be invited in to help (yet). Greece is looking to borrow another EUR 50 billion in mid to late 2010, after having borrowed EUR 8 bn in January.

Europe may need to stump up as much as 320 billion euros (\$441 billion) if it decides to bail out Greece. The government's three-year deficit reduction plans that calls for 2.4 billion euros in additional revenue from squeezing tax evaders and dodged social security payments, which is about a quarter of the entire deficit-reduction package, including a wage freeze for public workers, less government spending and higher levies on fuel, tobacco and property.

REAKING NEWS - BREAKING NEWS -





## Market Research

## low do we re-act?

■ Since March 2009 despite a low in major global equity markets, the hopes of economic recovery have still been intact. But periodic events like Iceland's banking crisis, Dubai's debt concerns before the New Year, the current turmoil in Greece over the ballooning fiscal deficit as well as issues related to European peripheral countries like Portugal, Ireland, Italy and Spain cast doubts about sustainability of the global recovery.

The combination of tight credit markets and high debt-to-GDP ratios caused government debt yields to increase,, leading to fear about another downturn. At the same time, not surprisingly, credit default swaps for Greece - (instruments which measure the cost of insurance against a debt default) went through the roof. This could have a contagion effect on other problem states as well, if not treated. In our last issue, we highlighted that EURO is unlikely to take away USD's primary reserve status as it is built on uneven grounds with its member countries under economic stress. Now, we will take a closer look on what's brewing in EU and how investors are reacting in this current environment?

We bring to light a study of the financial crisis by Carmen Reinhart and Kenneth Rogoff titled This Time is Different. The study concludes that on average a country's outstanding debt nearly doubles within three years following the crisis and also once a country's public debt exceeds 90% of GDP; its economic growth

rate slows by 1%. Now, the shown chart from McKinsey group presents the divide between the advanced and the emerging economies. It's to be noted that Greece, not included in the chart, stands at 875% debt-to-GDP when including off-balance sheet items.

Country	2009 Total Debt (% of GDP)
India	129
Brazil	142
China	159
Canada	259
Germany	285
United States	300
United Kingdom	466
Japan	471

Source: McKinsey Global Institute

In this environment of bleak growth prospects in the developed economies (EU nations), which some emerging economies rely for export oriented growth; the contagion effect from the debt related issues amongst the weak neighbours' and to others is likely to have a negative effect on the trans-sovereign currency, EURO that is facing its first acid test since creation. Some argue that the EU is a combination of two different group economies with a different policy outlook architecture put together in pursuit of some political agenda. Hence, there are possibilities that this could be the start of a bigger divide, which doesn't bode well for the secondary reserve currency as the

future could be severely tested. This scenario explains why investors are making short-term trades out of the euro and into the dollar.



After recent efforts by Germany to lend a helping hand to Greece, there could be some more action to calm the market place as the respective CDS costs are on the rise. Any fix by member states in collaboration with the IMF could only be a temporary one as this state of worry is likely to re-emerge with a different name. On the other hand, if Greece is left to face the consequences of its previous murky actions, the zone's currency stand can be preserved at the cost of further panic in the debt markets.

In this scenario, major currency pairs' increase in volatility is likely to stay and how it translates for equity markets will be very interesting to see. With the OECD countries' projected earnings inline or just below historical averages, equity markets will tend to outperform in patches, as the increased volatility led by reactions to calm the bond markets would also support to bring the markets back to a range of normal volatility. So the ride northwards will be very rough.

For any further information, please call Madhur Beri, Head of Sales and Marketing at 0203-006-3240 or e-mail madhur.beri@williamalbert.com.

## BREAKING NEWS - BREAKING NEWS



## GORDON BROWN SEES PROGRESS ON GLOBAL BANK TAX IMPLEMENTATION

■ Gordon Brown stated that he observed increasing support for some form of global charge on banks to provide financial support for the industry. Additional measures to get an international agreement about some multinational tax to deal with the responsibility that banks owe to society is in the works and will be put into effect shortly.

A global transactions tax, proposed by Mr. Brown at a meeting of the G20 nations in Scotland last November, was part of the schedule when UK Treasury Minister Paul Myners hosted officials from G7 finance ministries, the IMF, World Bank and the Financial Stability Board in London recently. Myners said his private meeting with the officials regarding discussions about universal risk levies and dependent funds and that good progress had been made. Myners stated "If banks are to enjoy even a small hint of implicit underwriting from the state, they should pay for it."

The US administration previously opposed a tax on financial transactions but earlier this month US President Barack Obama called for a charge to be imposed on major US financial institutions to recover the sum total of the billions of dollars

spent on saving the financial sector.

Obama has put his foot down calling for a limit to be placed on banks' size and trading activities - proposals welcomed by Britain, France and Germany though none of them have stated that they would follow suit yet.

The UK hopes to lock in global agreement on the bank tax at the G-20 summit in June. Gordon Brown firmly stated the money given to the banks to help them through the financial crisis will be recovered and a profit will be made on it at the end of the period.

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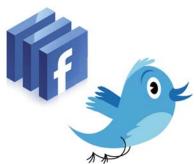




## **Keeping in Touch**

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