



Trading Day 09 Mar 2017

KEY INDICES	Closing	% Chg
FBM KLCI	1,725.54	-0.2
FBM ACE	5,327.68	-0.2
FBM Emas	12,198.68	-0.1
Volume		
Main Board	2,177.90mil	
ACE Board	622.00mil	

KLCI FUTURES	Closing	% Chg
March 17	1,720.50	
April 17	1,720.50	

WORLD INDICES	Closing	% Chg
Dow Jones	20,855.73	-0.3
Nasdaq	5,837.55	0.1
FTSE	7,334.61	-0.1
Nikkei	19,254.03	-0.5
Hang Seng	23,782.27	0.4
STI	3,145.29	0.5

KLIBOR	
1-Mth Interbank	3.18
3-Mth Interbank	3.43

ECONOMIC NEWS

US: Jobless claims rebounded last week from four-decade low

Applications for U.S. jobless benefits rebounded last week from a 44-year low, returning to a range that still shows strength in the labor market. Jobless claims rose by 20,000 to 243,000 in the week ended March 4, a report from the Labor Department showed Thursday. The figures, which are in line with this year's average, are a mirror image of the previous week, when filings fell by 19,000 to 223,000. *(Bloomberg)*

US: Import prices rise 0.2% in February, slightly more than expected

U.S. import and export prices both rose by slightly more than anticipated in the month of February, according to a report released by the Labor Department on Thursday. The report said import prices edged up by 0.2% in February after climbing by an upwardly revised 0.6% in January. Meanwhile, the Labor Department said export prices rose by 0.3% in February after edging up by an upwardly revised 0.2% in January. *(RTT News)*

US: Consumer comfort just reached its highest level in a decade

Americans' confidence continued to mount last week as the Bloomberg Consumer Comfort Index reached the highest point in a decade on more-upbeat assessments about the economy and buying climate, figures showed Thursday. Consumer comfort index rose to 50.6 in the period ended March 5, the highest since March 2007, from 49.8. The measure has exceeded 50 just six times since April 2002. *(Bloomberg)*

EU: ECB keeps bond-buying, rates unchanged amid inflation flare-up

The ECB kept its quantitative-easing program unchanged as policy makers gauge whether a recent jump in inflation will endure. The Governing Council reaffirmed its decision that monthly asset purchases will be reduced to EUR60b (USD63b) from April, compared with EUR80b currently. Policy makers also left the main refinancing rate at zero and the deposit rate at minus 0.4%, as predicted by all economists in a Bloomberg survey. *(Bloomberg)*

China: Chinese CPI inflation weakens to 0.8% YoY in February

Broad measures of Chinese inflation diverged in February, as consumer price growth weakened while factory-gate prices surged to multi-year highs, signalling improved productivity and demand in the world's second-largest economy. The CPI advanced 0.8% YoY in February, after climbing 2.5% in January, the National Bureau of Statistics said in a report on Wednesday. A median estimate of analysts called for an annualized gain of 1.7%. *(Economic Calendar)*

China: Feb new loans total 1.17 trln yuan, more than expected

Chinese banks extended CNY1.2tn in net new yuan loans in February, beating analysts expectations but trailing behind January's level, which was the second highest ever. Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted new yuan loans of 920 billion yuan, compared with 2.03 trillion yuan in January. Outstanding yuan loans grew at 13% on a YoY basis. *(Reuters)*

CORPORATE NEWS

Datasonic: Unit wins RM79.7m job

Datasonic Group Bhd's wholly-owned subsidiary, Datasonic Technologies Sdn Bhd (DTSB) has won a RM79.7m contract to supply additional passport polycarbonate datapage and personalisation services to the Malaysian Immigration Department. The company announced that the contract awarded by the Home Ministry requires the supply of additional 2.8m units of passport polycarbonate datapage and personalisation services. *(StarBiz)*

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