

**Market & News in Brief****Market View****Wall Street begins year sharply lower after china sell off**

U.S. stocks began 2016 sharply lower on Monday, with the Dow marking its worst start to a year since 2008, after weak Chinese economic data fanned fears of a global slowdown. Nasdaq led the day's decline and Amazon, down 5.8% at USD 636.99, weighed the most on the S&P 500 and Nasdaq, while the Nasdaq Biotech Index dropped 3.2%. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 276.09 points, or 1.58%, to 17,148.94, the S&P 500 lost 31.28 points, or 1.53%, to 2,012.66 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 104.32 points, or 2.08%, to 4,903.09.

Asian stocks fall amid signs selloff easing while yen holds gain

Losses among Asian stocks were relatively muted when compared with Monday's rout as investors weighed the worst start for global equities in at least three decades with the outlook for some of the world's largest economies. The Nikkei 225 Stock Average was down 0.5% after tumbling 3.1% on Monday. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 Index lost 1.1%, and New Zealand's S&P/NZX 50 Index slipped 0.9% in Wellington's first day of trading for the year. The MSCI All-Country World Index fell 2.1% Monday, topping its slide of 1.5% at the start of 2001. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index dropped 1.5% to 2,012.66, after the gauge ended 2015 down 0.7%.

News in Brief**Economy****Indonesia's inflation falls to lowest rate in 5 years**

Annual inflation has fallen to the lowest rate in five years, as consumer prices last year increased by 3.35%. Monthly inflation in December 2015 was measured at 0.96%, driven largely by higher food prices. In December 2015, food prices recorded the highest increase at 3.2%. Packaged foods, beverages, tobacco and cigarettes rose by 0.5%, while household goods, water, fuel and electricity posted a 0.4% price rise.

Indonesia to Issue global bonds this year

Indonesia will issue global bonds this year in what would be a second issuance to help fund the 2016 state budget. Last December, Indonesia raised USD3.5bn from issuing global bonds as part of its pre-funding for the 2016 budget. Indonesia typically issues global market dollar bonds only once a year.

Corporate**Eagle high plantations acquire USD141mm loan deal with BRI**

Oil palm grower Eagle High Plantations has obtained a USD141mm loan from state-owned Bank Rakyat Indonesia (BRI) to assist with operations of its subsidiaries. The agreement will provide a line of credit for Eagle High subsidiaries Suryabumi Tunggal Perkasa, Pesonalintas Suresejati, Karyapratama Agrisejahtera and Singaland Asetama. Felda is slated to buy a 37% in Eagle High according to an agreement signed in June. Shares of Eagle High Plantations, trading as BWPT, dropped 2% to IDR 141 in Jakarta on Wednesday.

Indonesia major coal miners plan higher production this year

Indonesia major coal miners plan to further boost production in 2016 although analysts estimate that an oversupply in the world's coal market will continue. According to data from the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry's mineral and coal directorate general, by mid-December, as many as 71 companies, consisting of 64 coal contract of work holders and 7 permit holders, proposed a total of 303.33 million tons of production in 2016. The 2016 production plan will be significantly lower compared to the proposed 419 million tons in 2015.

Xurpas eyes more acquisitions and regional expansion

Xurpas Inc., a Philippines based technology company that creates digital products for the mobile consumer, is targeting Southeast Asia for more acquisitions this year as it seeks to expand in the region. Xurpas has acquired a number of companies six months after their IPO in December 2014. These include a USD500,000 convertible note investment in Insights Pte and a USD1.4mm investment in Matchme Pte. Ltd, which enhances the company's mobile game development capacities with MatchMe's real-time, multiplayer online games tournament platform.