**EQUITY RESEARCH - COMPANY REPORT** 

# THE ERAWAN GROUP

# **ERW TB**

THAILAND / TOURISM & LEISURE



# **UNCHANGED**

TARGET PRICE THB5.50 CLOSE **THB4.72 UP/DOWNSIDE** +16.5% **PRIOR TP THB5.50 UNCHANGED CHANGE IN TP** 

TP vs CONSENSUS

# -0.9%

#### **KEY STOCK DATA**

YE Dec (THB m)	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenue	4,629	6,935	7,374	7,911
Net profit	(224)	533	611	711
EPS (THB)	(0.05)	0.12	0.13	0.15
vs Consensus (%)	-	10.1	(14.5)	(15.7)
EBITDA	969	2,011	2,175	2,366
Core net profit	(278)	533	611	711
Core EPS (THB)	(0.06)	0.12	0.13	0.15
Chg. In EPS est. (%)	nm	-	-	-
EPS growth (%)	nm	nm	6.3	16.3
Core P/E (x)	(76.9)	40.1	37.8	32.5
Dividend yield (%)	-	1.0	1.1	1.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	35.2	16.6	15.4	14.0
Price/book (x)	3.8	3.4	3.0	2.8
Net debt/Equity (%)	222.0	191.5	135.5	121.3
ROE (%)	(4.7)	8.9	8.8	9.0



Share price performance	1 Month	3 Month	12 Month
Absolute (%)	(4.8)	3.1	32.6
Relative to country (%)	(6.4)	9.3	40.9
Mkt cap (USD m)			620
3m avg. daily turnover (USD m)			2.2
Free float (%)			59
Major shareholder		Chottan	avat (17%)
12m high/low (THB)			5.30/3.34
Issued shares (m)			4,531.56

Sources: Bloomberg consensus; FSSIA estimates

# A fresh start in 2023

- Expect 1Q23 core profit to grow by 7% q-q to THB214m, led by strong RevPAR growth of the midscale and economy segments.
- Expect Chinese guests to offset European guests in 2Q23; 2023 core profit should exceed pre-Covid by 15%.
- Maintain BUY with a DCF-derived TP of THB5.5/shr.

# Non-Hop Inn RevPAR should grow by 4% q-q in 1Q23

We expect non-Hop Inn RevPAR to grow by 4% q-q in 1Q23 and exceed the pre-Covid level by 6%, led by the midscale and economy segments. RevPAR of luxury hotels should be relatively flat q-q due to the high base from its hotels in Bangkok in 4Q22. RevPAR of Thailand Hop Inn should grow by 6% in 1Q23 and exceed the pre-Covid level by 20%. We expect the RevPAR of Philippine hotels to grow by 3% q-q in 1Q23 and exceed the pre-Covid level by 9%. We estimate 1Q23 room revenue to grow by 5% q-q, but F&B revenue should drop by 3-4% q-q. Overall, revenue should grow by 1% q-q and the EBITDA margin should slightly improve to 32% (vs 31% in 4Q22), leading core profit to grow 7% q-q to THB214m in 1Q23.

# Chinese guests have become third-ranked revenue contributors

Although ERW has entered the low season in 2Q23, we expect surging Chinese tourist numbers to partially offset the slowdown in European tourists. Note that Chinese tourist arrivals recovered by only c15% in 1Q23. However, they became the third-ranked revenue contributors for ERW in 1Q23 (vs fifth-ranked in 4Q22), while guests from the US and Thailand represented the first and second-ranked, respectively, in 1Q23. Chinese guests were ranked second in terms of room revenue in 2019, with a revenue contribution of 12%.

# 2023 ADR should exceed pre-Covid by 15-20%

We expect the non-Hop Inn OCC rate to increase to 80% in 2023 from 58% in 2022. ADR should grow by 22% y-y in 2023 and exceed the pre-Covid level by 21%. This should lead non-Hop Inn RevPAR to grow by 49% y-y. Meanwhile, we expect Thai Hop Inn RevPAR to grow by 5% y-y and Philippine hotels' RevPAR to grow by 18% y-y. ERW's EBITDA margin should improve to 29% in 2023 (vs 21% in 2022). As a result, we expect a core profit of THB533m in 2023, exceeding pre-Covid by 15%.

# Top beneficiary to capture strong recovery of Thai tourism

We maintain our forecast and DCF-based TP of THB5.5/shr. ERW trades at 38x 2024E P/E (first normalised year) vs its five-year average of 33x. It deserves a premium valuation, in our view, as it is a top beneficiary of Thailand's tourism recovery due to its asset-heavy model.



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#### Investment thesis

ERW is an asset-heavy business, as all of its hotels are owned hotels and it has no asset-light model. Thus, it should be one of the stocks that benefits the most from the recovery of international tourist arrival numbers.

ERW raised capital through a rights offering leading to a lower D/E, which is currently lower than its debt covenant of 2.5x.

ERW plans to use the proceeds from the capital increase to expand its Thai Hop Inn portfolio to more than 100 hotels by 2025, up from 51 hotels currently. Hop Inn is ERW's flagship budget hotel brand focused on domestic travellers and has shown resilient performance.

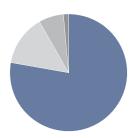
# Company profile

ERW is a hotel operator and developer with a focus on Thailand and ASEAN.

www.theerawan.com

# Principal activities (revenue, 2022)

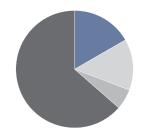
- Non-Hop Inn hotel 77.8 %
- Hop Inn Thailand 14.0 %
- Hop Inn Philippines 6.9 %
- Others 1.4 %



Source: The Erawan Group

# **Major shareholders**

- Chottanavat 16.7 %
- Mitr Siam Capital Limited 14.1
- Mitr Phol Sugar Corp 5.7 %
- Others 63.5 %



Source: The Erawan Group

# **Catalysts**

Key potential growth drivers include 1) a faster OCC rampup rate following the global tourism recovery; 2) strong pentup demand from Chinese tourists; and 3) the recovery of domestic business activities.

#### Risks to our call

Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) a higher hotel room supply, which may result in price competition; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.

# **Event calendar**

Date	Event
May 2023	1Q23 results announcement

# **Key assumptions**

	2023E	2024E	2025E
Number of hotels (no.)	78	84	93
Number of rooms (no.)	10,225	10,951	11,804
All hotels excl. Hop Inn			
Occupancy rate (OCC %)	80	81	82
RevPAR growth (y-y %)	68	2	4
Thailand Hop Inn			
Occupancy rate (OCC %)	74	74	75
RevPAR growth (y-y %)	5	2	4

Source: FSSIA estimates

#### Earnings sensitivity

- For every 1% increase in OCC, we project a 2023 profit increase of 7%, and vice versa, all else being equal.
- For every 1% increase in EBITDA margin, we project a 2023 profit increase of 9%, and vice versa, all else being equal.

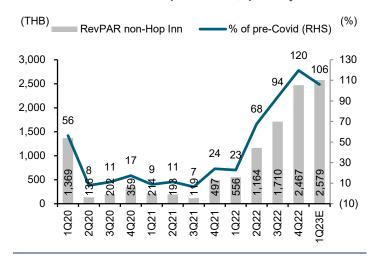
Source: FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 1: 1Q23 results preview

	1Q22	2Q22	3Q22	4Q22	1Q23E	Chan	ge	2023
	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(q-q %)	(y-y %)	(THB m
Sales	638	974	1,283	1,733	1,750	1	174	6,93
- Thailand non-Hop Inn	431	743	1,014	1,411	1,392	(1)	223	
- Hop Inn Thailand	134	156	165	190	205	8	53	
- Hop Inn Phil	51	61	90	116	108	(7)	111	
- Rental	21	13	15	16	45	180	113	
COGS (Incl. depreciation)	(618)	(735)	(827)	(973)	(983)	1	59	(4,18°
Gross profit	20	239	456	759	766	1	3,726	2,75
SG&A	(255)	(311)	(362)	(450)	(441)	(2)	73	(1,664
Operating profit	(235)	(71)	94	309	325	5	(239)	1,09
Other income	8	12	6	14	9	(39)	10	2
Interest	(112)	(111)	(114)	(122)	(122)	0	9	(47
Pretax profit	(339)	(170)	(13)	201	212	5	(163)	65
Income tax	8	7	5	6	5	(12)	(41)	(66
Associates	3	9	3	13	13	Ó	295	`
Minority interest	12	4	(6)	(21)	(17)	(20)	(240)	(5'
Core profit	(315)	(151)	(11)	200	214	7	(168)	53
Extraordinaries, GW & FX	2	12	(0)	40		(100)	(100)	
Reported net profit	(313)	(139)	(12)	240	214	(11)	(168)	53
reported not prom	(0.0)	(100)	()	2-10	2	(.,)	(100)	
Shares out (end Q, m)	4,532	4,532	4,532	4,532	4,532	0	0	4,53
Core EPS	(0.07)	(0.03)	(0.00)	0.04	0.05	7	(168)	0.
EPS	(0.07)	(0.03)	(0.00)	0.05	0.05	(11)	(168)	0.
COGS (Excl. depreciation)	(405)	(520)	(607)	(750)	(760)	1	88	(3,25
Depreciation	(213)	(215)	(220)	(223)	(223)	0	5	(92
EBITDA	(14)	155	320	547	557	2	(4,177)	2,0
Key ratios	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(ppt)	(ppt)	(9
Gross margin	3	25	36	43.8	43.8	(0)	41	
SG&A/Revenue	40	32	28	26	25	(1)	(15)	2
EBITDA margin	(2)	16	25	31	32	0	34	2
Net profit margin	(49)	(14)	(1)	14	12	(2)	61	
Operating stats								
Non-Hop Inn								
OCC (%)	31	55	67	82	84			
OCC growth (y-y %)	14	42	57	52	0			
RevPAR (THB)	556	1,164	1,710	2,467	2,579			
RevPAR growth (y-y %)	160	503	1,337	396	0			
Thailand Hop Inn								
OCC (%)	67	73	74	78	81			
OCC growth (y-y %)	19	42	47	19	0			
RevPAR (THB)	409	450	462	499	527			
RevPAR growth (y-y %)	39	163	182	37	0			
Philippines Hop Inn		100	102					
OCC (%)	51	58	59	74	74			
GGG 1701	31	50	Ja	<i>1</i> <del>+</del>	/ <del>+</del>			
	10	10	/4\	25	0			
OCC growth (y-y %) RevPAR (THB)	12 473	12 565	(1) 620	25 794	0 814			

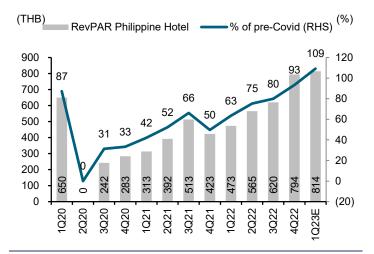
Sources: ERW; FSSIA estimates

## Exhibit 2: RevPAR non-Hop Inn hotels, quarterly



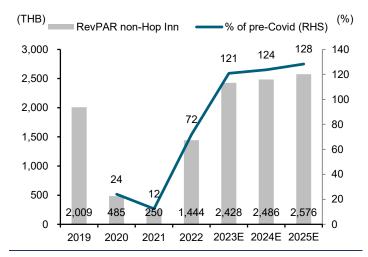
Sources: ERW; FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 4: RevPAR Philippine Hop Inn hotels, quarterly



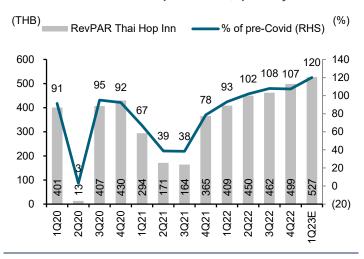
Sources: ERW; FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 6: RevPAR non-Hop Inn hotels, yearly



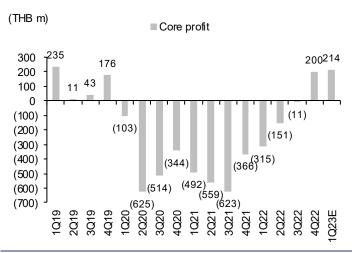
Sources: ERW; FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 3: RevPAR Thai Hop Inn hotels, quarterly



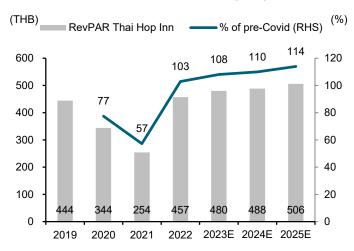
Sources: ERW; FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 5: Core profit, quarterly



Sources: ERW; FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 7: RevPAR Thai Hop Inn hotels, yearly



Sources: ERW; FSSIA estimates

# Exhibit 8: Historical P/E band



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

**Exhibit 9: Historical EV/EBITDA band** 



Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

Exhibit 10: Peer comparisons as of 19 April 2023

Company	BBG	Rec	S	hare price	;	Market		PE		R	DE	PE	3V	EV/ EB	ITDA
			Current	Target	Upside	Сар	23E	24E	25E	23E	24E	23E	24E	23E	24E
			(LCY)	(LCY)	(%)	(USD m)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)
Thailand															
Asset World Corp	AWC TB	BUY	5.35	6.80	27	4,963	81.2	46.5	n/a	2.5	4.1	2.0	1.9	41.1	28.0
Minor International	MINT TB	BUY	31.25	40.00	28	4,820	32.7	25.5	n/a	7.9	10.7	2.7	2.7	11.0	10.0
Central Plaza Hotel	CENTEL TB	BUY	54.25	58.00	7	2,123	34.3	27.9	n/a	11.1	12.4	3.6	3.3	15.0	13.1
Erawan Group	ERW TB	BUY	4.72	5.50	17	620	40.1	37.8	32.5	8.9	8.8	3.4	3.0	16.6	15.4
S Hotels & Resorts	SHR TB	BUY	3.56	5.30	49	371	27.9	18.9	16.4	2.8	4.1	8.0	8.0	8.7	7.6
Dusit Thani	DUSIT TB	BUY	11.30	18.00	59	278	187.9	39.3	3.9	1.2	5.7	2.3	2.2	41.2	31.9
Bound and Beyond	BEYOND TB	BUY	15.90	24.00	51	133	63.1	19.2	15.3	1.3	4.0	0.7	0.7	12.8	9.7
Thailand average						13,308	66.7	30.7	17.0	5.1	7.1	2.2	2.1	20.9	16.5
Regional															
Btg Hotels Group	600258 CH	n/a	23.16	n/a	n/a	3,695	31.7	21.8	18.5	7.3	9.8	2.2	2.1	12.9	11.0
Sh Jinjiang Intl Hotels	900934 CH	n/a	2.09	n/a	n/a	7,790	9.9	6.7	5.6	8.5	11.3	0.9	8.0	17.8	13.6
Huangshan Tourism Develop	900942 CH	n/a	0.84	n/a	n/a	1,206	15.4	12.1	9.8	6.3	8.0	1.0	1.0	13.9	11.3
Genting Bhd	GENT MK	n/a	4.69	n/a	n/a	4,046	15.3	11.7	9.9	3.9	5.1	0.6	0.5	6.8	6.3
Greentree Hospitality	GHG US	n/a	4.52	n/a	n/a	466	10.4	7.0	6.7	19.1	25.0	1.7	1.4	5.8	4.7
Huazhu Group	HTHT US	n/a	49.58	n/a	n/a	15,785	43.0	30.0	30.8	23.4	25.1	10.1	8.0	21.8	16.7
Indian Hotels	IH IN	n/a	330.55	n/a	n/a	5,745	51.9	41.5	34.9	12.0	13.3	6.0	5.3	28.0	24.8
Lemon Tree Hotels	LEMONTRE IN	n/a	82.95	n/a	n/a	845	58.0	41.6	26.2	13.0	15.5	7.0	6.0	22.3	18.6
Lippo Karawaci	LPKR IJ	n/a	81.00	n/a	n/a	385	n/a	69.6	n/a	(1.3)	0.3	0.3	0.3	8.8	7.8
Regional average						39,963	29.4	26.9	17.8	9.3	11.8	3.3	2.8	15.3	12.7
Overall average						53,272	46.8	28.6	17.5	7.6	9.8	2.8	2.5	17.8	14.4

Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

# **Financial Statements**

The Erawan Group

Profit and Loss (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Revenue	1,485	4,629	6,935	7,374	7,911
Cost of goods sold	(1,284)	(2,282)	(3,259)	(3,444)	(3,671)
Gross profit	201	2,346	3,675	3,930	4,241
Other operating income	-	-	-	-	-
Operating costs	(915)	(1,377)	(1,664)	(1,755)	(1,875)
Operating EBITDA	(713)	969	2,011	2,175	2,366
Depreciation	(936)	(872)	(921)	(966)	(1,008)
Goodwill amortisation	-	-	-	-	-
Operating EBIT	(1,649)	97	1,090	1,209	1,358
Net financing costs	(518)	(455)	(475)	(457)	(428)
Associates	9	29	0	0	0
Recurring non-operating income	67	66	41	41	41
Non-recurring items	(10)	54	0	0	0
Profit before tax	(2,109)	(239)	656	793	971
Тах	(46)	26	(66)	(119)	(194)
Profit after tax	(2,155)	(213)	590	674	777
Minority interests	105	(11)	(57)	(63)	(66)
Preferred dividends	-	-	-	-	-
Other items	-	-	-	-	-
Reported net profit	(2,050)	(224)	533	611	711
Non-recurring items & goodwill (net)	10	(54)	0	0	0
Recurring net profit	(2,040)	(278)	533	611	711
Per share (THB)					
Recurring EPS *	(0.45)	(0.06)	0.12	0.13	0.15
Reported EPS	(0.45)	(0.05)	0.12	0.13	0.15
DPS	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.06
Diluted shares (used to calculate per share data)	4,532	4,532	4,532	4,891	4,891
Growth					
Revenue (%)	(35.6)	211.6	49.8	6.3	7.3
Operating EBITDA (%)	nm	nm	107.6	8.2	8.7
Operating EBIT (%)	nm	nm	1,022.3	11.0	12.3
Recurring EPS (%)	nm	nm	nm	6.3	16.3
Reported EPS (%)	nm	nm	nm	6.3	16.3
Operating performance					
Gross margin inc. depreciation (%)	(49.4)	31.9	39.7	40.2	40.9
Gross margin of key business (%)	(49.4)	31.9	39.7	40.2	40.9
Operating EBITDA margin (%)	(48.0)	20.9	29.0	29.5	29.9
Operating EBIT margin (%)	(111.0)	2.1	15.7	16.4	17.2
Net margin (%)	(137.4)	(6.0)	7.7	8.3	9.0
Effective tax rate (%)	(2.2)	8.0	10.0	15.0	20.0
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%)	-	-	40.0	40.0	40.0
nterest cover (X)	(3.1)	0.4	2.4	2.7	3.3
nventory days	12.2	6.6	5.9	6.8	6.7
Debtor days	21.7	10.2	8.4	7.9	7.4
Creditor days	40.8	30.2	31.9	36.5	36.3
Operating ROIC (%)	(8.7)	0.5	5.2	5.5	5.8
ROIC (%)	(8.2)	8.0	5.3	5.6	5.9
ROE (%)	(41.5)	(4.7)	8.9	8.8	9.0
ROA (%)	(7.4)	0.7	4.6	4.7	4.9
Pre-exceptional, pre-goodwill and fully diluted					
Revenue by Division (THB m)	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Non-Hop Inn hotel	921	3,600	5,605	5,858	6,153
Hop Inn Thailand	339	646	758	792	894
Hop Inn Philippines	154	318	409	491	624
Others	71				240
Olliela	/ 1	65	163	233	240

Sources: The Erawan Group; FSSIA estimates

# **Financial Statements**

The Erawan Group

Cash Flow (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025
Recurring net profit	(2,040)	(278)	533	611	71
Depreciation	936	872	921	966	1,00
Associates & minorities	-	-	-	-	
Other non-cash items	701	193	46	52	5
Change in working capital	(1,056)	1,207	273	52	6
Cash flow from operations	(1,460)	1,994	1,773	1,681	1,83
Capex - maintenance	(1,588)	(722)	(989)	(989)	(989
Capex - new investment	-	(15)	0	0	
Net acquisitions & disposals	0	(15)	U	U	
Other investments (net) Cash flow from investing	(1,588)	(737)	(989)	(989)	(989
Dividends paid	(1,300)	(737)	(969)	(213)	(245
Equity finance	2,014	0	0	1,079	(240
Debt finance	(1,538)	(692)	(500)	(500)	(1,000
Other financing cash flows	2,192	(274)	(57)	(63)	(1,000
Cash flow from financing	2,667	(967)	(557)	303	(1,310
Non-recurring cash flows	2,007	(00.)	(00.7	-	(1,01
Other adjustments	0	0	0	0	
Net other adjustments	0	0	0	0	
Novement in cash	(380)	290	227	995	(462
Free cash flow to firm (FCFF)	(2,526.87)	1,714.43	1,262.30	1,152.55	1,282.2
Free cash flow to equity (FCFE)	(2,394.52)	289.75	227.29	129.32	(217.86
or chara (TUP)					
Per share (THB)  FCFF per share	(0.56)	0.38	0.28	0.25	0.2
FCFE per share	(0.53)	0.06	0.05	0.03	(0.05
Recurring cash flow per share	(0.09)	0.17	0.33	0.33	0.3
Palanca Shoot /THP m) Voor Ending Dec	2024	2022	20225	20245	2025
Balance Sheet (THB m) Year Ending Dec	2021		2023E	2024E	2025
Tangible fixed assets (gross)	25,682	26,373	27,373	28,373	29,37
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(6,274)	(7,089)	(8,010)	(8,976)	(9,983
Tangible fixed assets (net)	19,409	19,285	19,364	19,398	19,39
ntangible fixed assets (net)	0	0	0	0	
ong-term financial assets	-	-	-	-	
nvest. in associates & subsidiaries	48	63	63	63	6
Cash & equivalents	1,242	1,532	1,759	2,754	2,29
A/C receivable	100	160	160	160	16
nventories	39	43 291	62 436	66 464	7 49
Other current assets Current assets	1,274 <b>2,655</b>	2,026	2,417	3,444	48 3,01
Other assets	338	338	338	338	3,01
Total assets	22,450	21,712	22,182	23,242	22,81
Common equity	6,012	5,698	6,231	7,709	8,17
Minorities etc.	11	23	23	24	2,
Fotal shareholders' equity	6,023	5,722	6,255	7,732	8,19
ong term debt	14,237	13,935	13,435	12,935	11,93
Other long-term liabilities	880	846	846	846	84
ong-term liabilities	15,117	14,781	14,281	13,781	12,78
A/C payable	143	235	335	354	37
Short term debt	690	300	300	300	30
Other current liabilities	478	675	1,011	1,075	1,15
Current liabilities	1,311	1,209	1,646	1,729	1,83
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity	22,450	21,712	22,182	23,242	22,81
Net working capital	793	(415)	(687)	(739)	(803)
nvested capital	20,587	19,271	19,077	19,059	18,98
Includes convertibles and preferred stock which is be	eing treated as debt				
Per share (THB)					
Book value per share	1.33	1.26	1.38	1.58	1.6
Tangible book value per share	1.33	1.26	1.38	1.58	1.6
Financial strength					
Net debt/equity (%)	227.2	222.0	191.5	135.5	121.
Net debt/total assets (%)	61.0	58.5	54.0	45.1	43
Current ratio (x)	2.0	1.7	1.5	2.0	1
CF interest cover (x)	(3.6)	1.6	1.5	1.3	0.
/aluation	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025
Recurring P/E (x) *			40.1	37.8	32
Recurring P/E (x) " Recurring P/E @ target price (x) *	(10.5)	(76.9) (89.6)	46.8	37.8 44.0	32 37
	<b>(12.2)</b>	(89.6)			
Reported P/E (x)	(10.4)	(95.4)	40.1	37.8	32
Dividend yield (%) Price/book (x)	3.6	3.8	1.0 3.4	1.1 3.0	1 2
• •					
Price/tangible book (x)	3.6	3.8 35.2	3.4 16.6	3.0 15.4	2.
EV/EBITDA (x) **	(49.2) (54.1)	35.2 38.9	16.6 18.4	15.4 17.2	14. 15
EV/EBITDA @ target price (x) **	(54.1)	30.9	10.4	11.4	15
EV/invested capital (x)	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.

Sources: The Erawan Group; FSSIA estimates

#### Public disclosures related to sustainable development evaluation of Thai listed companies

Rating regarding the sustainable development of Thai listed companies, both on the SET and MAI, are publicly available on the website of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Thailand (SEC). Currently, ratings available are 1) "CG Score" by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD); 2) "AGM Checklist" by the Thai Investors Association (TIA), a "CAC certified member" of the Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC); and 3) Sustainability Investment List (THSI) by the Stock Exchange of Thailand. The ratings are updated on an annual basis. FSS International Investment Advisory Company Limited does not confirm nor certify the accuracy of such ratings.

## CG Score by the Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD) 1

The CG Score indicates corporate governance (CG) strength in the sustainable development of Thai listed companies. Annually, the Thai IOD, with support from the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET), surveys and assesses the CG practices of companies and publishes the results on the Thai IOD website in a bid to promote and enhance the CG of Thai listed companies in order to promote compliance with international standards for better investment decisions. The results are from the perspective of a third party, not an evaluation of operations, as of the date appearing in the report, and may be changed after that date.

The five underlying categories and weighting used for the CG scoring in 2022 include the rights of shareholders and equitable treatment of shareholders (weight 25% combined), the role of stakeholders (25%), disclosure and transparency (15%), and board responsibilities (35%).

The CGR report rates CG in six categories: 5 for Excellent (score range 90-100), 4 for Very Good (score range 80-89), 3 for Good (Score range 70-79), 2 for Fair (score range 60-69), 1 for Pass (score range 60-69), and not rated (score below 50).

## AGM Checklist by the Thai Investors Association (TIA)<sup>2</sup>

The "AGM Checklist" quantifies the extent to which shareholders' rights and equitable treatment are incorporated into business operations and the extent to which information is sufficiently disclosed and the level of its transparency. All the considered factors form important elements of two out of five the CG components. Annually, the TIA, with support from the SEC, leads the project to evaluate the quality of Annual General Meetings of Shareholders (AGMs) and to rate quality of the meetings.

The Checklist contains the minimum requirements under law that companies must comply with, or best practices according to international CG guidance. Representatives of the TIA will attend the meetings and perform the evaluation. The assessment criteria cover AGM procedures before the meeting (45%), at the meeting date (45%), and after the meeting (10%). The first assesses 1) advance circulation of sufficient information for voting; and 2) facilitating of how voting rights can be exercised. The second assesses 1) the ease of attending meetings; 2) transparency and verifiability; and 3) openness for Q&A. The third involves the meeting minutes that should contain discussion issues, resolutions and voting results.

The results are classified into four categories: 5 for Excellent (score 100), 4 for Very Good (score 90-99), 3 for Fair (score 80-89), and not rated (score below 79).

#### CAC certified member by the Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC)3

A <u>CAC certified member</u> is a listed company whose Checklist satisfies the CAC Certification's criteria and is approved by the CAC Council. The core elements of the Checklist include corruption risk assessment, establishment of key controls, and the monitoring and developing of policies. Note that the CAC does not certify the behaviour of the employees nor whether the companies have engaged in bribery, and Certification is good for three years.

Companies deciding to become a CAC certified member <u>start with</u> by submitting a Declaration of Intent signed by the Chairman of the Board to kick off the 18-month deadline for companies to submit the CAC Checklist for Certification. The 18-month provision is for risk assessment, in place of policy and control, training of managers and employees, establishment of whistleblowing channels, and communication of policies to all stakeholders.

The checklist document will be reviewed by the CAC Certification Committee for adequate information and evidence. It is worth noting that the committee consists of nine professionals in business law, corporate governance, internal audit, financial audit and experienced representatives from certified members.

A passed Checklist will move on to the CAC Council for granting certification approvals. The CAC Council consists of twelve prominent individuals who are highly respected in professionalism and ethical achievements. Among them are former ministers, a former central bank governor, the former head of the Thai Listed Companies Association, Chairman of Anti-Corruption Organizations (Thailand), Chairman of Thai Institute of Directors, and reputable academic scholars.

## Sustainability Investment (THSI)<sup>4</sup> by the Stock Exchange of Thailand (<u>SET</u>)

Thailand Sustainability Investment (THSI) quantifies responsibility in Environmental, and Social issues, by managing business with transparency in Governance. The THSI serves as another choice for investors who desire to adopt a responsible investment approach, according to the SET.

Annually, the SET will announce the voluntary participation of the company candidates which pass the preemptive criteria, and whose two key crucial conditions are met, i.e. no irregular trading of the board members and executives and a free float of >150 by the number of shareholders, and combined holding must >15% of paid-up capital. Some key disqualifying criteria include a CG score of below 70%; independent directors and free float violation; executives' wrongdoing related to CG, social and environmental impacts, equity in negative territory, and earnings in the red for more than three years in the last five years. To become eligible for THSI, the candidate must pass three indicators in data declaration: Economic (CG, risk management, customer relation management, supply chain management, and innovation); Environmental (environmental management, eco-efficiency, and climate risk); Social (human rights, talent attraction, operational health & safety, community development, and stakeholder engagement); and the incorporation of ESG in business operations.

To be approved for THSI inclusion, verified data must be scored at a 50% minimum for each indicator, unless the company is a part of the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices<sup>5</sup> (DJSI) during the assessment year. The scoring will be fairly weighted against the nature of the relevant industry and materiality.

Note that, from the <u>THSI list</u>, the SET further developed a sustainability <u>SETTHSI Index</u> in June 2018 from selected THSI companies whose 1) market capitalisation > THB5b (~USD150b); 2) free float >20%; and 3) liquidity >0.5% of paid-up capital for at least 9 out of 12 months. The SETTHSI Index is a market capitalisation-weighted index, cap 5% quarterly weight at maximum, and no cap for number of stocks.

Sources: <u>SEC</u>; <u>Thai IOD</u>; <u>Thai CAC</u>; <u>SET</u>; FSSIA's compilation

#### Disclaimer:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Thai Institute of Directors Association (<u>Thai IOD</u>) was established in December 1999 and is a membership organisation that strives to promote professionalism in directorship. The Thai IOD offers directors certification and professional development courses, provides a variety of seminars, forums and networking events, and conducts research on board governance issues and practices. Membership comprises board members from companies ranging from large publicly listed companies to small private firms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Thai Investors Association (TIA) was established in 1983 with a mission to promote investment knowledge and to protect the investment rights of Thai investors. In 2002, the association was appointed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to represent individual shareholders. To obtain information for evaluation, the association recruits volunteer investors to join AGMs and score the meetings. Weightings for each meeting are at a 45:45:10 ratio. They have been applied since 2017 and subject to change.

Thai Private Sector Collective Action against Corruption (CAC) was founded in 2010 and is 100% privately funded. It is an initiative by the Thai private sector to take part in tackling corruption problems via collective action. The CAC promotes the implementation of effective anti-corruption policies in order to create a transparent business ecosystem by developing a unique certification program for large/medium/small companies to apply for and to control corruption risk systematically and efficiently. The CAC's operations are sponsored by the US-based Center for Private Enterprise (CIPE) and the UK Prosperity Fund.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Sustainability Investment List (<u>THSI</u>), created by the Stock Exchange of Thailand in 2015, comprises the listed companies that conduct sustainable business operations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Dow Jones Sustainability Indices – Wikipedia – Launched in 1999, DJSI evaluates the sustainability performance of companies based on corporate economic, environmental, and social performance.

#### **GENERAL DISCLAIMER**

# ANALYST(S) CERTIFICATION

#### Teerapol Udomvej, CFA FSS International Investment Advisory Securities Co., Ltd

The individual(s) identified above certify(ies) that (i) all views expressed in this report accurately reflect the personal view of the analyst(s) with regard to any and all of the subject securities, companies or issuers mentioned in this report; and (ii) no part of the compensation of the analyst(s) was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed herein.

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Company	Ticker	Price	Rating	Valuation & Risks
The Erawan Group	ERW TB	THB 4.72	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) a higher hotel room supply, which may result in price competition; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.
Asset World Corp	AWC TB	THB 5.35	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) a higher hotel room supply, which may result in price competition; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.
Minor International	MINT TB	THB 31.25	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) a higher hotel room supply and higher competition in the F&B business, which may result in price competition; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.
Central Plaza Hotel	CENTEL TB	THB 54.25	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) a higher hotel room supply and higher competition in the F&B business, which may result in price competition; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.
S Hotels and Resorts	SHR TB	THB 3.56	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) a higher hotel room supply, which may result in price competition; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.
Dusit Thani	DUSIT TB	THB 11.30	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) a higher hotel room supply, which may result in price competition; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.
Bound and Beyond	BEYOND TB	THB 15.90	BUY	Downside risks to our DCF-based target price include 1) extraordinary events such as political turmoil and natural disasters; 2) a higher hotel room supply, which may result in price competition; and 3) the slower-than-expected recovery of international tourist numbers.

Source: FSSIA estimates

#### **Additional Disclosures**

Target price history, stock price charts, valuation and risk details, and equity rating histories applicable to each company rated in this report is available in our most recently published reports. You can contact the analyst named on the front of this note or your representative at Finansia Syrus Securities Public Company Limited

FSSIA may incorporate the recommendations and target prices of companies currently covered by FSS Research into equity research reports, denoted by an 'FSS' before the recommendation. FSS Research is part of Finansia Syrus Securities Public Company Limited, which is the parent company of FSSIA.

All share prices are as at market close on 19-Apr-2023 unless otherwise stated.

#### RECOMMENDATION STRUCTURE

#### Stock ratings

Stock ratings are based on absolute upside or downside, which we define as (target price\* - current price) / current price.

BUY (B). The upside is 10% or more.

HOLD (H). The upside or downside is less than 10%.

REDUCE (R). The downside is 10% or more.

Unless otherwise specified, these recommendations are set with a 12-month horizon. Thus, it is possible that future price volatility may cause a temporary mismatch between upside/downside for a stock based on market price and the formal recommendation.

\* In most cases, the target price will equal the analyst's assessment of the current fair value of the stock. However, if the analyst doesn't think the market will reassess the stock over the specified time horizon due to a lack of events or catalysts, then the target price may differ from fair value. In most cases, therefore, our recommendation is an assessment of the mismatch between current market price and our assessment of current fair value.

#### **Industry Recommendations**

Overweight. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be positive over the next 12 months.

Neutral. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be maintained over the next 12 months.

Underweight. The analyst expects the fundamental conditions of the sector to be negative over the next 12 months.

#### **Country (Strategy) Recommendations**

**Overweight (O).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on two or more of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

**Neutral (N).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst expects the market to score positively on one of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.

**Underweight (U).** Over the next 12 months, the analyst does not expect the market to score positively on any of the criteria used to determine market recommendations: index returns relative to the regional benchmark, index sharpe ratio relative to the regional benchmark and index returns relative to the market cost of equity.