## EQUITY RESEARCH - COMPANY REPORT

# AEON THANA SINSAP (THAILAND)

THAILAND / FINANCE & SECURITIES

## ได้เวลาเร่งล้างหนี้ด้อยคุณภาพ

- เราคาดว่ากำไร 4QFY23 จะฟื้นตัวท่ามกลางการเติบโตของกำไรปกติที่อ่อนแอ
- เรามีมุมมองเป็นกลางต่อความพยายามในการลดหนี้ด้อยคุณภาพ (NPL) และต้นทุนความ เสี่ยงในการปล่อยสินเชื่อ (Credit costs) ของบริษัทฯ ด้วยนโยบายการปล่อยสินเชื่อที่ เข้มงวดน้อยลง อาจทำให้ผลขาดทุนทางเครดิตที่คาดว่าจะเกิดขึ้น (ECL) และการตกชั้น ของ NPL เพิ่มขึ้นในอนาคต
- คงคำแนะนำถือหลังปรับลดราคาเป้าหมายปี FY24 ลงเหลือ 164 บาท

## คาดกำไร 4QFY23 จะฟื้นตัวจาก ECL ที่ลดลง

เราคาดกำไรสุทธิ 4QFY23 ที่ 762 ลบ. (+7.9% q-q, +9.9% y-y) โดยคาดว่า ECL และ Credit costs ที่ลดลงจะช่วยชดเชยธุรกิจหลักที่ตกต่ำ นอกจากนี้เรายังคาดด้วยว่าสินเชื่อจะลดลง 3.5% q-q และ 3.6% y-y จากการดัดจำหน่ายหนี้เสียอย่างมีนัยสำคัญโดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่งใน กลุ่มสินเชื่อบุคคลและบัตรเครดิต ในทางตรงกันข้ามสินเชื่อกลับโตในกลุ่มเช่าซื้อ รถจักรยานยนต์ (7% ของสินเชื่อรวม) กลุ่มที่มีสัดส่วนสำคัญอย่างสินเชื่อบุคคล (47%) และหนี้ สินเชื่อบัตรเครดิต (46%) น่าจะโตต่ำในไตรมาสนี้ ในขณะที่เราคาดว่า Spread จะลดลงเหลือ 16.56% จากต้นทุนในการกู้ยืม (Cost of funds) ที่สูงขึ้นและผลตอบแทนสินเชื่อที่ลดลง

## NPL จะลดลงแรงหลังการตัดจำหน่ายและการผ่อนคลายนโยบาย

เราคาดว่าสัดส่วน NPL จะลดลงค่อนข้างมากมาที่ 5.24% ใน 4QFY23 จาก 6.24% ใน 3QFY23 และ Credit costs จะลดลงเหลือ 7.68% จาก 8.10% นอกจากการตัดจำหน่ายหนี้เชิง รุกแล้ว AEONTS ยังเปิดเผยด้วยว่า 1) บริษัทฯ ได้ลด ECL ของสินเชื่อขั้นที่ 1 ลง 50-80bp จาก 5-6% ตั้งแต่ 4Q23 เนื่องจากบริษัทฯ ได้ศึกษาพฤติกรรมของผู้บริโภคเป็นเวลามากกว่า 3 ปีหลังปรับใช้เกณฑ์ TFRS 9 และ 2) บริษัทฯ ตัดสินใจลดระยะเวลาในการปรับโครงสร้าง สินเชื่อในขั้นที่ 3 เป็น 3 เดือนจาก 6 เดือนก่อนเลื่อนเป็นขั้นที่ 2 ในทางตรงกันข้ามสินเชื่อขั้นที่ 2 ก็น่าจะเพิ่มสูงขึ้นด้วยเช่นเดียวกัน เพราะฉะนั้นเราจึงคาดว่าสัดส่วนสำรองต่อหนี้ด้อย คุณภาพ (Coverage ratio) จะลดลงเหลือ 157% จาก 162% ใน 3QFY23 หลังผลกระทบจาก การตัดจำหน่ายเชิงรุก

## ปรับลดประมาณการกำไรปี FY23-25 เพื่อสะท้อนแนวโน้มที่ไม่สดใส

เราปรับลดประมาณการกำไรสุทธิปี FY23-25 ลง 6% ต่อปีจากก่อนหน้าเพื่อสะท้อนรายได้ ดอกเบี้ยสุทธิ (NII) และรายได้ที่ไม่ใช่ดอกเบี้ยสุทธิ (Non-NII) ที่คาดว่าจะลดลงและสัดส่วน ค่าใช้จ่ายในการดำเนินงานต่อรายได้ (Cost-to-income ratio) ที่คาดว่าจะสูงขึ้นซึ่งทำให้เราคาด ว่ากำไรสุทธิ FY23 จะลดลงแรงถึง 23.3% y-y ก่อนปรับขึ้น 7.5% ในปี FY24 และ 7.1% ในปี FY25 ในส่วนของเป้าประมาณการปี FY24 ของบริษัทฯ ปัจจัยหนุนน่าจะมาจากการเติบโตของ สินเชื่อที่ฟื้นตัวโดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่งในกลุ่มสินเชื่อบุคคลและการเบิกเงินสดจากบัตรเครดิต

## คงคำแนะนำถือหลังปรับลดราคาเป้าหมายปี FY24 ลงเหลือ 164 บาท

เรากงคำแนะนำถือที่ราคาปัจจุบัน เราปรับลดราคาเป้าหมายปี FY24 ลงเหลือ 164 จาก 169 บาท (GGM) กิดเป็นก่า P/BV ได้ที่ 1.55x จาก 1.60x ภายใต้สมมติฐานก่า LT-ROE ที่ 12.3% (จาก 13.5%) และ COE ที่ 9.0% (จาก 9.6%)



## Usanee Liurut, CISA

Fundamental Investment Analyst on Capital Market; License no. 017928 usanee.I@fssia.com, +66 2646 9967 Maeta Cherdsatirakul Research Assistant maeta.c@fssia.com, +66 2646 9971 The Chairman of The Board of Directors of Finansia Syrus Securities PCL is also AEONTS's Director.

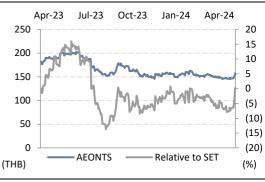
# AEONTS TB

UNCHANGED

TARGET PRICE	THB164.00
CLOSE	THB157.50
UP/DOWNSIDE	+4.1%
PRIOR TP	THB169.00
CHANGE IN TP	-3.0%
TP vs CONSENSUS	-4.6%

## **KEY STOCK DATA**

YE Feb (THB m)	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
Operating profit	4,950	3,715	3,990	4,273
Net profit	3,815	2,927	3,145	3,369
EPS (THB)	15.26	11.71	12.58	13.48
vs Consensus (%)	-	(1.0)	6.8	(0.6)
Recurring net profit	3,815	2,927	3,145	3,369
Core EPS (THB)	15.26	11.71	12.58	13.48
Chg. In EPS est. (%)	-	(6.0)	(6.4)	(5.9)
EPS growth (%)	7.4	(23.3)	7.5	7.1
Core P/E (x)	10.3	13.5	12.5	11.7
Dividend yield (%)	3.5	2.7	2.9	3.1
Price/book (x)	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4
ROE (%)	17.9	12.4	12.4	12.2
ROA (%)	4.3	3.2	3.4	3.5



Share price performance	1 Month	3 Month	12 Month		
Absolute (%)	5.0	(1.6)	(14.9)		
Relative to country (%)	4.4	1.1	(0.5)		
Mkt cap (USD m)			1,082		
3m avg. daily turnover (USD m)					
Free float (%)			41		
Major shareholder	AEON Financia	I Service Co	Ltd (32%)		
12m high/low (THB)		203	.00/144.00		
Issued shares (m)			250		

Sources: Bloomberg consensus; FSSIA estimates

PREPARED BY FSS INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT ADVISORY SECURITIES CO LTD (FSSIA). ANALYST CERTIFICATION AND IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES CAN BE FOUND AT THE END OF THIS REPORT

บทวิเคราะห์ฉบับนี้แปลมาจากต้นฉบับภาษาอังกฤษ ที่ออกรายงานเมื่อวันที่ 1 เมษายน 2024

## **Investment thesis**

We maintain our negative view on AEONTS' business and reiterate our HOLD call at the current price due to:

- The credit card and personal loan segments should continue to experience headwinds in FY24, particularly the credit card segment, which should persist until FY25 on the lifting of the minimum payment to 10% from 8% in FY24.
- Despite its effort to reduce NPLs and credit costs with a less stringent policy, we view this as neutral since it could lead to higher expected credit losses (ECLs) and NPL migration afterward amid the sluggish economic outlook.
- We expect FY24-25 net profit to grow by just c7% p.a. CAGR.

## **Company profile**

AEONTS's main business activity is providing a variety of retail finance services, including credit cards, personal loans, hire purchase, a life-insurance broker business, non-life insurance broker business, debt collection and others. As of 28 Feb 2023, AEONTS has a total of 104 branches, of which 31 branches are in Bangkok and the vicinity while the remaining are distributed nationwide. As of 31 Aug 2023, the company has 3.33m ready-to-use credit cards and 6.61m membership cards for personal loans.

www.aeon.co.th

#### Catalysts

- 1) Better-than-expected loan growth.
- 2) Better-than-expected spread.
- 3) Lower-than-expected NPLs and credit cost.
- 4) Lower-than-expected operating expenses.

## **Risks to our call**

Downside risks are: 1) regulatory actions to curb industry growth; 2) a higher-than-expected policy rate; and 3) deteriorating asset quality. Upside risks are: 1) better-thanestimated economic improvement; 2) stronger-thanestimated improvement in the overall asset quality; and 3) less pressure from the market yield and cost of funds.

## **Event calendar**

Date	Event
9 Apr 2024	4QFY23 results announcement
10 Apr 2024	Analyst meeting

## Principal activities (revenue, 9M23)

- Net interest income 84.0 %
- Non-interest income 16.0 %

Source: Aeon Thana Sinsap (Thailand)

## **Major shareholders**

- AEON Financial Service Co Ltd -32.2 %
- ACS Capital Corp Co Ltd 19.2 %
- Aeon Holding Thailand Co Ltd -8.8 %
- Others 39.9 %

Source: Aeon Thana Sinsap (Thailand)

## **Key assumptions**

	FY2023E	FY2024E	FY2025E
	(%)	(%)	(%)
Loan growth	-3.56%	6.88%	8.82%
Interest spread	17.02	17.00	17.12
Net fee income growth	-5.61%	3.00%	3.00%
Cost to income	37.99%	38.02%	38.00%
Credit cost (bp)	836	817	824
NPL ratio	5.24%	5.50%	5.60%
ROE	12.38%	12.35%	12.23%
ROA	3.11%	3.33%	3.39%

Source: FSSIA estimates

## Earnings sensitivity

			FY2024E -	
Loan growth (%)	±2ppt	4.88	6.88	8.88
% change in net profit		(0.9)		0.9
Spread (%)	±10bp	16.90	17.00	17.10
% change in net profit		(1.5)		1.5
Credit cost (bp)	±10bp	807	817	827
% change in net profit		2.5		(2.5)

Source: FSSIA estimates



## Recovery in 4QFY23E profit supported by declining ECLs

Despite another quarter in which AEONTS aggressively managed its asset quality to a comfortable level as required by the creditor banks, it should demonstrate its resilience with a recovery in 4QFY23 net profit. We estimate a net profit of THB762m, marking a rise of 7.9% q-q and 9.9% y-y. Its core business slump has been offset, in our view, thanks to an expected decline in ECLs and credit costs. We expect a decline in loans of 3.5% q-q and 3.6% y-y due mainly to its significant bad debt write-offs, particularly in the personal and credit card segments. In contrast, loans have grown in the motorcycle hire purchase segment (merely 7% of total). The main contributors, personal loans (47%) and credit card receivables (46%) should have sluggish growth in the quarter owing to its stringent credit quality policy. The latter should be particularly affected by the Bank of Thailand increasing the minimum payment to 8% from 5%. Meanwhile, we expect a softer spread to 16.56% from a rising cost of funds and lower loan yields. Regarding a slight decrease in operating expenses, we expect its continued cost-control policy to lead the cost-to-income ratio to finish at a relatively stable q-q rate of 39.34%.

For FY23, we expect a net profit of THB2.93b, a significant decrease of 23.3% y-y, pressured by growing ECLs and credit costs aligning with its deteriorating asset quality. Meanwhile, we expect PPOP to decrease by 7.1% y-y from the slumping core business, NII (contracting loan growth and spreads), and non-NII (lower gain on sales of written-off bad debts). In addition, we have yet to see significant contributions from its overseas business and subsidiaries.

Exhibit 1:	AEONTS -	4QFY23	earnings	preview
------------	----------	--------	----------	---------

AEONTS	4QFY22	1QFY23	2QFY23	3QFY23	4QFY23E	Cha	nge	FY22	FY23E	Change
	(THB m)	(q-q%)	(y-y%)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(y-y%)				
Interest income	4,786	4,726	4,770	4,650	4,557	(2.0)	(4.8)	19,055	18,702	(1.9)
Interest expense	523	527	574	511	520	1.7	(0.6)	1,904	2,132	12.0
Net interest income	4,263	4,199	4,196	4,139	4,037	(2.5)	(5.3)	17,151	16,570	(3.4)
Non-interest income	766	734	907	755	782	3.5	2.1	3,277	3,177	(3.0)
Operating income	5,029	4,932	5,102	4,894	4,819	(1.5)	(4.2)	20,428	19,747	(3.3)
Operating expenses	2,155	2,033	2,071	2,114	2,095	(0.9)	(2.8)	8,117	8,313	2.4
PPOP	2,874	2,899	3,031	2,780	2,724	(2.0)	(5.2)	12,311	11,434	(7.1)
Expected credit loss	1,964	2,094	1,949	1,899	1,770	(6.8)	(9.9)	7,263	7,712	6.2
Profit before tax	909	805	1,082	881	947	7.6	4.2	4,950	3,715	(24.9)
Income tax expense	181	161	218	171	184	7.7	1.8	996	734	(26.3)
Net profit	693	617	842	706	762	7.9	9.9	3,815	2,927	(23.3)
EPS (THB)	2.77	2.47	3.37	2.82	3.05	7.9	9.9	15.26	11.71	(23.3)
Key balance sheet highlights	(THB m)	(q-q%)	(у-у%)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(y-y%)				
Loan - gross	93,864	93,721	93,886	93,814	90,527	(3.5)	(3.6)	93,864	90,527	(3.6)
Interest bearing debt	67,057	64,701	65,621	65,624	63,559	(3.1)	(5.2)	67,057	63,559	(5.2)
Leverage ratio	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)			(x)	(x)	
IBD/E (x)	2.94	2.77	2.78	2.77	2.60			2.94	2.60	
D/E (x)	3.15	3.02	2.99	2.95	2.78			3.15	2.78	
Asset quality ratio	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)			(%)	(%)	
Gross NPLs (THB m)	5,340	5,541	5,810	5,854	4,750	(18.9)	(11.1)	5,340	4,750	(11.1)
NPL ratio	5.69	5.91	6.19	6.24	5.24			5.69	5.24	(0.44)
Coverage ratio - LLR/ NPLs	190	184	174	162	157			190	157	(32.36)
Credit cost	8.32	8.93	8.31	8.10	7.68			7.86	8.36	0.50
LLR/TL	10.78	10.87	10.74	10.11	8.24			10.78	8.24	
Profitability ratios	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)			(%)	(%)	(ppt)
Cost-to-income ratio	37.10	37.16	36.46	39.11	39.34			36.35	37.99	1.65
Yield on loans	20.27	20.15	20.34	19.82	19.78			20.62	20.29	(0.34)
Cost of funds	3.09	3.20	3.52	3.12	3.22			2.86	3.27	0.41
Spreads	17.18	16.95	16.82	16.70	16.56			17.77	17.02	(0.75)
Net interest margin (NIM)	18.05	17.91	17.89	17.64	17.52			18.56	17.97	(0.59)
ROE	12.44	10.70	14.34	11.93	12.65			17.87	12.38	
ROA	2.90	2.61	3.56	2.98	3.25			4.11	3.11	
Loan growth	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)				(%)	
Loan growth q-q	(1.2)	(0.2)	0.2	(0.1)	(3.5)					
у-у	3.2	1.2	(0.0)	(1.3)	(3.6)				(3.6)	
YTD	3.2	(0.2)	0.0	(0.1)	(3.6)					

Sources: AEONTS; FSSIA estimates

## NPLs to nosedive following write-offs and less stringent policy

We expect the NPL ratio to decrease sharply to 5.24% in 4QFY23 from 6.24% in 3QFY23, and credit costs to decline to 7.68% from 8.10%. Besides the aggressive debt write-offs, AEONTS disclosed that 1) it had presently reduced its stage 1 loans' ECL by 50-80bp from c5-6%, starting from 4Q23, due to having studied customer behaviors for more than three years after implementing TFRS 9; and 2) it decided to contract the restructured loans period in stage 3 to three months from six months before migrating them to stage 2. In contrast, the stage 2 loans would increase sharply as well. Hence, we expect the coverage ratio to decrease to 157% from 162% in 3QFY23 following the impact of its aggressive write-offs.

## Exhibit 2: AEONTS – staged loans and ECL

	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	3QFY23	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	3QFY23
	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Loans and accrued interest					% Staged lo	oans		
Stage 1	79,447	82,899	85,032	84,135	90.9	91.1	90.5	89.6
Stage 2	2,944	3,702	3,565	3,906	3.4	4.1	3.8	4.2
Stage 3	5,042	4,427	5,340	5,854	5.8	4.9	5.7	6.2
Total	87,433	91,028	93,937	93,894	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Expected credit loss (ECL)					% ECL to s	taged loans		
Stage 1	5,969	5,564	4,398	3,538	7.5	6.7	5.2	4.2
Stage 2	1,579	1,917	1,658	1,614	53.6	51.8	46.5	41.3
Stage 3	4,045	3,470	4,069	4,335	80.2	78.4	76.2	74.1
Total	11,593	10,951	10,125	9,488	13.3	12.0	10.8	10.1
LLR / Loans	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)				
Stage 1	7.51	6.71	5.17	4.21				
Stage 2	53.63	51.80	46.51	41.33				
Stage 3	80.23	78.38	76.20	74.06				
Total	13.26	12.03	10.78	10.10				
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)				
NPL / TL	5.77	4.86	5.69	6.23				
LLR / NPL	230	247	190	162				
NPLs + stage 2 loans/ total loans	9.13	8.93	9.48	10.39				
LLR/(NPLs + stage 2 loans)	145	135	114	97				

Sources: AEONTS; FSSIA's compilation

## Exhibit 3: AEONTS - outstanding and maturity of interest-bearing debt

	Total outstanding			Maturity during period					
	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Total
	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)	(THB m)
FY2023	65,221	61,739	58,258	63,560	3,482	3,482	3,482	3,482	13,927
FY2024	80,019	76,075	71,131	63,847	3,646	3,944	4,944	7,284	19,818
FY2025	91,790	87,186	81,108	68,041	3,944	4,605	6,078	13,067	27,693

Sources: AEONTS; FSSIA estimates

## FY23-25E earnings cut to reflect the gloomy outlook

We cut our FY23-25 net profit assumptions by c6% p.a. from previous to reflect the weaker expected NII and non-NII and a higher cost-to-income ratio. Accordingly, we expect the FY23 net profit to dive by 23.3% y-y, followed by increases of 7.5% in FY24 and 7.1% in FY25. Regarding the company's rough FY24 guidance, the driver should come from recovering loan growth, particularly in the personal and credit card cashing segment. AEONTS also guides for a relatively stable cost-to-income ratio due mainly to the surging promotional costs against the backdrop of a recovery in the credit card segment.

## Exhibit 4: AEONTS – 2023-25E earnings revisions

		- Current			Previous			Change	
	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E	FY23E	FY24E	FY25E
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Net profit (THB m)	2,927	3,145	3,369	3,113	3,360	3,578	(6.0)	(6.4)	(5.9)
EPS (THB)	11.71	12.58	13.48	12.45	13.44	14.31	(6.0)	(6.4)	(5.9)
Target price (THB)		164			169			(3.0)	
2024 P/BV (x)		1.55			1.60				
Net profit growth (%)	(23.3)	7.5	7.1	(18.4)	7.9	6.5			
Spread (%)	17.02	17.00	17.12	16.73	16.73	16.78			
Loan growth (%)	(3.6)	6.9	8.8	4.5	6.2	6.2			
NII growth (%)	(3.4)	2.1	9.1	(0.5)	5.7	6.5			
Insurance brokerage income (%)	(5.6)	3.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	3.0			
Non-NII growth (%)	(3.0)	(0.2)	1.1	(1.4)	2.6	1.1			
Credit cost (bp)	836	817	824	810	816	816			
Cost to income (%)	38.0	38.0	38.0	36.8	36.8	36.8			
NPL ratio	5.24	5.50	5.60	6.50	5.50	5.00			

Source: FSSIA estimates

## Maintain HOLD with FY24 TP cut to THB164

We reiterate our HOLD call at the current price based on the anticipated headwinds continuing throughout FY24, regarding limited business growth to protect its asset quality and stricter credit card business regulations. We reduce our FY24 GGM-based TP to THB164 from THB169, implying a P/BV of 1.55x from 1.60x, under the expected LT-ROE at 12.3% from 13.5% and COE at 9.0% from 9.6%.

## Exhibit 5: GGM-based 2024 TP

Gordon Growth Model	New	Previous
Sustainable ROE	12.3%	13.5%
g	3.0%	3.0%
ROE-g	9.30%	10.50%
Beta	1.00	1.09
Risk free rate	3.0%	3.0%
Risk premium	6.0%	6.0%
COE	9.00%	9.55%
COE-g	6.00%	6.55%
ROE-g/COE-g	1.55	1.60

		Pri	ice performa	ance	
	1M	3M	6M	1Y	YTD
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
TIDLOR TB	0.5	(0.9)	7.2	0.4	(0.9)
MTC TB	4.4	6.1	32.6	38.4	6.1
SAWAD TB	13.3	4.9	(0.6)	(19.4)	4.9
AEONTS TB	6.4	(1.3)	(3.1)	(14.1)	(1.3)
KTC TB	4.6	5.2	4.0	(15.7)	5.2
JMT TB	0.5	(12.5)	(53.3)	(52.0)	(12.5)
BAM TB	22.4	23.9	(3.8)	(25.7)	23.9
CHAYO TB	(9.3)	(10.1)	(27.6)	(36.7)	(10.1)
SETFIN	4.5	0.4	(6.7)	(19.5)	0.4
SET	0.8	(2.7)	(6.3)	(14.4)	(2.7)

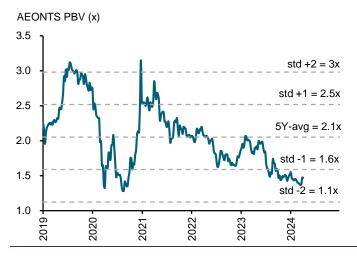
Exhibit 6: Share price performance of non-banks under

coverage, as of 29 March 2024

Source: FSSIA estimates

Source: Bloomberg

## Exhibit 7: AEONTS - one-year prospective P/BV band





Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

## Exhibit 9: Peer comparisons, as of 29 March 2024

Company name	BBG	Rec	Share	Target	Up	PE	PE PBV		ROE		Div y	/ld	
	code		price	price	side	24E	25E	24E	25E	24E	25E	24E	25E
			(LCY)	(LCY)	(%)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(x)	(%)	(%)	(x)	(x)
AEON Thana Sinsap (Thailand)	AEONTS TB	HOLD	157.50	164.00	4	12.5	11.7	1.5	1.4	12.4	12.2	2.9	3.1
Krungthai Card	КТС ТВ	HOLD	45.75	46.00	1	15.5	13.9	3.0	2.7	20.2	20.1	2.9	3.2
Muangthai Capital	MTC TB	HOLD	47.25	43.00	(9)	17.3	13.5	2.7	2.3	16.8	18.3	0.5	0.7
Srisawad Corp	SAWAD TB	HOLD	42.25	40.00	(5)	11.7	10.3	2.1	1.7	18.4	18.2	4.2	1.0
Ngern Tid Lor	TIDLOR TB	BUY	22.40	27.00	21	14.0	11.8	2.0	1.8	15.4	16.2	2.2	2.6
JMT Network services	JMT TB	HOLD	22.20	25.70	16	13.5	11.5	1.2	1.2	9.0	10.5	5.9	7.0
Bangkok Commercial Asset Mgmt.	BAM TB	HOLD	9.75	8.75	(10)	17.7	16.6	0.7	0.7	4.1	4.3	3.8	3.9
Chayo Group	CHAYO TB	BUY	4.98	6.00	20	14.2	12.2	1.5	1.3	11.1	11.3	1.1	1.2
Average						14.5	12.7	1.8	1.6	13.4	13.9	2.9	2.8

Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

Sources: Bloomberg; FSSIA estimates

## **Financial Statements**

Aeon Thana Sinsap (Thailand)

rofit and Loss (THB m) Year Ending Feb	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025E
nterest Income	17,903	19,055	18,702	19,059	20,649
nterest expense	(1,745)	(1,904)	(2,132)	(2,137)	(2,191)
let interest income	16,158	17,151	16,570	16,923	18,457
let fees & commission	2,635	3,015	2,886	2,876	2,908
oreign exchange trading income	-	-	-	-	
ecurities trading income	-	-	-	-	
lividend income	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	254	261	292	295	298
lon interest income	2,888	3,277	3,177	3,171	3,206
otal income	19,047	20,428	19,747	20,094	21,663
taff costs	(7,671)	(7,962)	(8,118)	(8,249)	(8,851)
Other operating costs	(172)	(253)	(202)	(206)	(216)
Operating costs	(7,844)	(8,215)	(8,320)	(8,455)	(9,067)
re provision operating profit	11,203	12,213	11,427	11,639	12,596
Expected credit loss	(6,629)	(7,263)	(7,712)	(7,649)	(8,323)
Other provisions	(-,)				(0,0-0)
Operating profit	4,574	4,950	3,715	3,990	4,273
Recurring non operating income	0	0	0	0,000	-1,210
ssociates	-	-	-	-	
Boodwill amortization	-	-	-	-	
lon recurring items	0	0	0	0	C
Profit before tax	4,574	4,950	3,715	3,990	4,273
ax	(1,000)	4,950 (996)	(734)	(788)	4,273
Profit after tax	3,574	3,954	2,981	3,202	3,429
Ion-controlling interest	(21)	(139)	(54)	(57)	(60)
Preferred dividends	(21)	(139)	(34)	(57)	(00)
	-	-	-	-	
Other items	-	-	-	-	2 260
Reported net profit	3,553	3,815	2,927	3,145	3,369
lon recurring items & goodwill (net)	-	-	0	0	0
tecurring net profit	3,553	3,815	2,927	3,145	3,369
Per share (THB)					
Recurring EPS *	14.21	15.26	11.71	12.58	13.48
teported EPS	14.21	15.26	11.71	12.58	13.48
PPS	5.15	5.50	4.22	4.53	4.86
Growth					
let interest income (%)	(2.0)	6.1	(3.4)	2.1	9.1
lon interest income (%)	6.4	13.4	(3.0)	(0.2)	1.1
re provision operating profit (%)	2.9	9.0	(6.4)	1.9	8.2
Operating profit (%)	(2.1)	8.2	(24.9)	7.4	7.1
Reported net profit (%)	(4.4)	7.4	(23.3)	7.5	7.1
Recurring EPS (%)	(4.4)	7.4	(23.3)	7.5	7.1
Reported EPS (%)	(4.4)	7.4	(23.3)	7.5	7.1
ncome Breakdown					
let interest income (%)	84.8	84.0	83.9	84.2	85.2
let fees & commission (%)	13.8	14.8	14.6	14.3	13.4
oreign exchange trading income (%)	-	-	-	-	
Ecurities trading income (%)	-	-	-	-	
Dividend income (%)	-	-	-	_	
Other income (%)	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.4
Operating performance		110	110	110	
Bross interest yield (%)	21.66	22.02	21.29	21.26	21.60
	2.69	2.86			3.32
cost of funds (%) let interest spread (%)	18.97	19.16	3.27 18.02	3.35 17.91	3.32 18.28
let interest margin (%)	19.5	19.8	18.9	18.9	19.3
Cost/income(%)	41.2	40.2	42.1	42.1	41.9
Cost/assets(%)	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.9	9.1
ffective tax rate (%)	21.9	20.1	19.8	19.8	19.8
		36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0
vividend payout on recurring profit (%)	36.2				
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%) COE (%)	19.2	17.9	12.4	12.4	12.2
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%) COE (%) COE - COE (%)	19.2 10.2	17.9 8.9	3.4	3.4	3.2
Dividend payout on recurring profit (%) COE (%)	19.2	17.9			

Sources: Aeon Thana Sinsap (Thailand); FSSIA estimates

## **Financial Statements**

Aeon Thana Sinsap (Thailand)

Balance Sheet (THB m) Year Ending Feb	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	20256
Gross customer loans	91,555	94,462	91,300	97,674	106,376
llowance for expected credit loss	(10,951)	(10,125)	(7,468)	(8,252)	(9,128
nterest in suspense	(644)	(598)	(773)	(920)	(1,087
let customer loans	79,959	83,739	83,058	88,502	96,161
Bank loans	44	218	80	50	60
Sovernment securities	0	0	0	0	(
rading securities	-	-	-	-	
nvestment securities	-	-	-	-	
Cash & equivalents	4,236	3,816	3,153	3,050	1,92
Other interesting assets	117	73	85	83	8
Fangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-	
Associates	0	0	0	0	(
Goodwill	-	-	-	-	
Other intangible assets	1,531	1,816	1,562	1,483	1,348
Other assets	4,438	5,400	2,567	2,761	2,983
Total assets	90,469	95,207	93,045	95,929	102,562
Customer deposits	-	-	-	-	
Bank deposits	-	-	-	-	
Dther interest bearing liabilities	66,127	67,057	63,559	63,847	68,04 <sup>-</sup>
Ion interest bearing liabilities	4,078	4,802	4,404	4,942	5,15
Hybrid Capital	-	-	-	-	-,
Fotal liabilities	70,205	71,859	67,964	68,789	73,20
Share capital	-	-	-	-	-,
Reserves	19,161	22,093	23,737	25,735	27,88
Fotal equity	19,889	22,821	24,465	26,463	28,61
Non-controlling interest	375	527	616	677	74
Fotal liabilities & equity	90,469	95,207	93,045	95,929	102,562
Supplementary items	00,400	00,201	00,040	00,020	102,001
Risk weighted assets (RWA)			-	-	
	- 82,669	- 86,535	87,835	- 89,664	95,603
Average interest earning assets					
Average interest bearing liabilities	64,763	66,592	65,308	63,703	65,94
CET 1 capital	-	-	-	-	
Fotal capital	0	0	0	0	5.00
Gross non performing loans (NPL)	4,427	5,340	4,750	5,325	5,90
Per share (THB)					
Book value per share	79.55	91.29	97.86	105.85	114.47
Fangible book value per share	-	-	-	-	
Growth					
Gross customer loans	3.9	3.2	(3.3)	7.0	8.9
Average interest earning assets	(4.1)	4.7	1.5	2.1	6.0
Total asset (%)	3.5	5.2	(2.3)	3.1	6.
Risk weighted assets (%)	-	-	-	-	
Customer deposits (%)	-	-	-	-	
everage & capital measures					
Customer Ioan/deposits (%)	-	-	-	-	
Equity/assets (%)	22.0	24.0	26.3	27.6	27.9
Tangible equity/assets (%)	20.3	22.1	24.6	26.0	26.
RWA/assets (%)	-	-	-	-	
CET 1 CAR (%)	-	-	-	-	
Total CAR (%)	-	-	-	-	
Asset Quality (FSSIA's calculation)					
Change in NPL (%)	(12.2)	20.6	(11.1)	12.1	10.3
IPL/gross loans (%)	(12.2)	5.7	5.2	5.5	5.
Allowance for ECL/gross loans (%)	12.0	10.7	8.2	8.4	8.
Allowance for ECL/NPL (%)	247.3	189.6	157.2	155.0	8. 154.
	241.3	109.0	137.2	133.0	104.
aluation	2021	2022	2023E	2024E	2025
tecurring P/E (x) *	11.1	10.3	13.5	12.5	11.
Recurring P/E @ target price (x) *	11.5	10.3	14.0	13.0	12.
Reported P/E (x)	11.5	10.7	13.5	12.5	12.
Dividend yield (%)	3.3	3.5	2.7	2.9	3.
Price/book (x)	2.0	3.5 1.7	1.6	2.9 1.5	3. 1.4
	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.4
		-	-	-	
Price/tangible book (x) Price/tangible book @ target price (x)	-				

Sources: Aeon Thana Sinsap (Thailand); FSSIA estimates

# AEON Thana Sinsap (Thailand) (AEONTS TB)



 $\star \star$ 

33.86 /100

## Exhibit 10: FSSIA ESG score implication

Rating	Score	Implication
****	>79-100	Leading its industry peers in managing the most significant ESG risks which not only better cost efficiency but also lead to higher profitability.
$\star\star\star\star$	>59-79	A mixed track record of managing the most significant ESG risks and opportunities relative to industry peers.
$\star \star \star$	>39-59	Relevant ESG materiality matrix has been constructively addressed, well-managed and incorporated into day-to-day operations, in which targets and achievements are evaluated annually.
**	>19-39	Relevant ESG materiality matrix has been identified with key management in charge for progress to be followed up on and to provide intensive disclosure. Most targets are conventional and achievable.
*	1-19	The company has adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), established sustainability management guidelines and fully complies with regulations or ESG suggested guidance from related organizations such as the SET and SEC.

Source: FSSIA estimates

## Exhibit 11: ESG – peer comparison

	FSSIA	Domestic ratings						Global ratings						Bloomberg	
	ESG score	DJSI	SET THSI	THSI	CG score	AGM level	Thai CAC	Morningstar ESG risk	ESG Book	MSCI	Moody's	Refinitiv	S&P Global	ESG score	Disclosure score
SET100	69.20	5.34	4.40	4.40	4.76	4.65	3.84	Medium	51.76	BBB	20.87	58.72	63.91	3.72	28.17
Coverage	67.12	5.11	4.15	4.17	4.83	4.71	3.53	Medium	52.04	BB	16.97	56.85	62.09	3.40	31.94
AEONTS	33.86				4.00	3.00		Medium	40.10	BBB		27.64	17.00		
BAM	55.19		Y	Y	5.00	4.00	Certified	Medium	47.11	В		49.29	14.00	2.88	51.77
JMT	35.60				4.00	5.00	Declared	Medium		BBB		12.70	13.00		39.90
KTC	71.80		Y	Y	5.00	5.00	Certified	Low	57.22	Α		64.48	59.00	4.96	57.09
SAWAD	46.52		Y	Y	4.00	5.00		Medium	43.97	BB		20.18	13.00	1.93	40.04

Sources: SETTRADE.com; FSSIA's compilation

## Exhibit 12: ESG disclosure from the company's one report

FY ending Feb 28	FY 2022
Environmental	
Climate change policy	
Climate change opportunities discussed	
GHG scope 2 location-based policy	Yes
Biodiversity policy	
Energy efficiency policy	Yes
Electricity used	Yes
Fuel used - crude oil/diesel	
Waste reduction policy	Yes
Water policy	Yes
Water consumption	1,133.13
Social	
Human rights policy	Yes
Policy against child labor	
Quality assurance and recall policy	Yes
Consumer data protection policy	Yes
Equal opportunity policy	Yes
Gender pay gap breakout	
Pct women in workforce	Yes
Business ethics policy	Yes
Anti-bribery ethics policy	Yes
Health and safety policy	Yes
Lost time incident rate - employees	
Training policy	Yes
Fair remuneration policy	Yes
Number of employees - CSR	
Total hours spent by firm - employee training	324
Social supply chain management	 

FY ending Feb 28	FY 2022
Governance	
Board size / Independent directors (ID) / Female	12/4/2
No. of board meetings for the year / % attendance	12 / 98.61%
Company conducts board evaluations	Yes
Number of non-executive directors on board	2
Director share ownership guidelines	No
Board age limit	No
Age of the youngest / oldest director	61 / 75
Number of executives / female	11/3
Executive share ownership guidelines	No
Size of audit committee / ID	3/3
Audit committee meetings	10
Audit committee meeting attendance (%)	100
Size of compensation committee	
Number of compensation committee meetings	
Compensation committee meeting attendance (%)	
Size of nomination committee / ID	
Number of nomination committee meetings	
Nomination committee meeting attendance (%)	
Board compensation (THB m)	24.21
Auditor fee (THB m)	7.59
(Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Jaiyos Audit Company Limited)	

## **Disclaimer for ESG scoring**

ESG score	Methodolog	I <u>y</u>			Rating						
The Dow Jones Sustainability Indices ( <u>DJSI</u> ) By S&P Global	process base from the ann Only the top- inclusion.	ed on the con ual S&P Glob -ranked comp	transparent, rules-based npanies' Total Sustainabi pal Corporate Sustainabil nanies within each indust	ility Scores resulting ity Assessment (CSA). ry are selected for	Be a member and invited to the annual S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) for DJSI. Companies with an S&P Global ESG Score of less than 45% of the S&P Global ESG Score of the highest scoring company are disqualified. The constituents of the DJSI indices are selected from the Eligible Universe.						
Sustainability Investment List ( <u>THSI</u> ) by The Stock Exchange of Thailand ( <u>SET</u> )	managing bu Candidates r 1) no irregula float of >150 up capital. S 70%; 2) inde wrongdoing	usiness with tr must pass the ar trading of th shareholders ome key disq pendent direct related to CG	ility in Environmental and ransparency in Governar preemptive criteria, with he board members and e s, and combined holding ualifying criteria include: ctors and free float violati , social & environmental earnings in red for > 3 ye	nce, updated annually. In two crucial conditions: executives; and 2) free must be >15% of paid- 1) CG score of below ion; 3) executives' impacts; 4) equity in	To be eligible for <u>THSI inclusion</u> , verified data must be scored at a minimum of 50% for each indicator, unless the company is a part of DJSI during the assessment year. The scoring will be fairly weighted against the nature of the relevant industry and materiality. <u>SETTHSI Index</u> is extended from the THSI companies whose 1) market capitalization > 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 a maximum, and no cap for number of stocks.						
CG Score by Thai Institute of Directors Association (Thai IOD)	annually by t Thailand (SE	the Thai IOD,	th in sustainable develop with support from the St ts are from the perspecti s.	ock Exchange of	Good (80-89), 3 and not rated for equitable treatm	B for Good (70 or scores below nent of shareh 5%); 4) disclo	ories: 5 for Excell -79), 2 for Fair (6 w 50. Weightings olders (weight 2 sure & transpare	0-69), 1 for P include: 1) th 5% combined	ass (60-69), e rights; 2) an ; 3) the role o		
AGM level By Thai Investors Association (TIA) with support from the SEC	treatment an transparent a out of five th criteria cover date (45%), <i>circulation of s</i> <i>exercised. The</i> <i>and verifiability</i>	e incorporated and sufficientl e CG compor r AGM proced and after the ufficient informate e second assess r; and 3) openno	which shareholders' right d into business operation y disclosed. All form imp nents to be evaluated an dures before the meeting meeting (10%). (The first a tion for voting; and 2) facilita ses 1) the ease of attending r ess for Q&A. The third involvi ues, resolutions and voting re	is and information is ortant elements of two nually. The assessment (45%), at the meeting assesses 1) advance ting how voting rights can be neetings; 2) transparency es the meeting minutes that	be						
Thai CAC By Thai Private Sector Collective Action Against Corruption (CAC)	establishmen policies. The (Companies de Declaration of Certification, ir managers and	nt of key contr certification eciding to becor Intent to kick of acluding risk ass employees, est	Checklist include corrupt rols, and the monitoring a is good for three years. me a CAC certified member s f an 18-month deadline to su sessment, in place of policy a tablishment of whistleblowing II stakeholders.)	and developing of start by submitting a bmit the CAC Checklist for and control, training of	The document will be reviewed by a committee of nine professionals. A passed Checklist will move for granting certification by the CAC Council approvals whose members are twelve highly respected individuals in professionalism and ethical achievements.						
<u>Morningstar</u> Sustainalytics	based on an risk is unmar	assessment naged. Source	isk rating provides an ov of how much of a compa is to be reviewed include corp her media, NGO reports/web	ny's exposure to ESG	more risk is unr	nanaged, the	score is the sum higher ESG risk	is scored.			
		ompany feedbac uality & peer rev	ck, ESG controversies, issuer views.	r feedback on draft ESG	<b>NEGL</b> 0-10	Low 10-20	<b>Medium</b> 20-30	High 30-40	Severe 40+		
ESG Book	positioned to the principle helps explair over-weightin	o outperform o of financial m n future risk-a	sustainable companies the over the long term. The me ateriality including informed djusted performance. Ma ith higher materiality and erly basis.	nethodology considers nation that significantly ateriality is applied by	scores using m	ateriality-base	ated as a weight d weights. The s dicating better p	core is scaled			
<u>MSCI</u>				anagement of financially their exposure to ESG rise					ethodology to		
	AAA	8.571-10.00	Leader:	leading its industry in m	anaging the most si	gnificant ESG ris	sks and opportunitie	S			
	AA A	7.143-8.57									
	BBB	4.286-5.71		a mixed or unexception	al track record of ma	anaging the mos	t significant ESG ris	ks and opportur	ities relative to		
	вв	2.857-4.28	-	industry peers							
	В	1.429-2.85	Laggard:	lagging its industry base	ed on its high expos	ure and failure to	manage significan	t ESG risks			
	CCC	0.000-1.42	8								
Moody's ESG solutions	believes that	t a company ii		take into account ESG on to its business model and medium to long term.	,		1				
Refinitiv ESG rating	based on pu	blicly availabl	e and auditable data. Th	e a company's relative ES e score ranges from 0 to are 0 to 25 = poor; >25 to 50	100 on relative E	SG performan	ce and insufficie	nt degree of tr			
	The S&P Glo			asuring a company's perf ssification. The score ran			of ESG risks, op	portunities, an	d impacts		
S&P Global		no pooro ma									
<u>S&amp;P Global</u> Bloomberg			score is based on Bloo	uating the company's agg omberg's view of ESG fina the weights are determin	ancial materiality.	The score is a	weighted gener	alized mean (	power mean)		

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"; 2) "AGM Level"; 3) "Thai CAC"; and 4) THSI. The ratings are updated on an annual basis. FSSIA does not confirm nor certify the accuracy of such ratings. Source: FSSIA's compilation

## **GENERAL DISCLAIMER**

## ANALYST(S) CERTIFICATION

#### Usanee Liurut, CISA 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.

This report has been prepared by FSS International Investment Advisory Securities Company Limited (FSSIA). The information herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable and accurate; however FSSIA makes no representation as to the accuracy and completeness of such information. Information and opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice. FSSIA has no intention to solicit investors to buy or sell any security in this report. In addition, FSSIA does not guarantee returns nor price of the securities described in the report nor accept any liability for any loss or damage of any kind arising out of the use of such information or opinions in this report. Investors should study this report carefully in making investment decisions. All rights are reserved.

This report may not be reproduced, distributed or published by any person in any manner for any purpose without permission of FSSIA. Investment in securities has risks. Investors are advised to consider carefully before making investment decisions.

Company	Ticker	Price	Rating	Valuation & Risks
Aeon Thana Sinsap (Thailand	I) AEONTS TB	THB 157.50	HOLD	Downside risks are: 1) regulatory actions to curb industry growth; 2) a higher-than- expected policy rate; and 3) deteriorating asset quality. Upside risks are: 1) better-than- estimated economic improvement; 2) stronger-than-estimated improvement in the overall asset quality; and 3) less pressure from the market yield and cost of funds.
Muangthai Capital	MTC TB	THB 47.25	HOLD	Downside risks to our GGM-based TP include 1) a further weakening of asset quality that could potentially hit both loan yield and credit cost; and 2) changes in financial regulations by the Bank of Thailand and the Office of Consumer Protection Board. Upside riskes are 1) a positive development of asset quality which could bring down its credit costs and 2) a decreasing market interest rate which could alleviate its cost of funds burden.
Krungthai Card	КТС ТВ	THB 45.75	HOLD	Downside risks are: 1) regulatory actions to curb industry growth; 2) a higher-than- expected policy rate; and 3) deteriorating asset quality. Upside risks are: 1) better-than- estimated economic improvement; 2) stronger-than-estimated improvement in the overall asset quality; and 3) less pressure from the market yield and cost of funds.
Srisawad Corp	SAWAD TB	THB 42.25	HOLD	Downside risks to our GGM-based TP include 1) a further weakening of asset quality that could potentially hit both loan yield and credit cost; and 2) changes in financial regulations by the Bank of Thailand and the Office of Consumer Protection Board. Upside risks include 1) a faster-than-expected decline in losses on sales of repossessed cars for SCAP; and 2) an interest rate downtrend could push its interest spread.
Ngern Tid Lor	TIDLOR TB	THB 22.40	BUY	Downside risks to our GGM-based TP include 1) the expansion into auto-title loans by the Government Savings Bank and Auto X (subsidiary of SCB X); 2) further weakening asset quality could potentially hit both loan yield and credit cost; and 3) tighter supervision from related regulators.
JMT Network Services	JMT TB	THB 22.20	HOLD	Downside risks to our P/BV-based TP include 1) lower cash collection from both debt management and debt tracking collection services; and 2) higher-than-expected funding costs and operating expenses. Upside risks includes 1) better-than-expected purchasing power and cash collection 2) lower-than-expected operating and financing expense
Bangkok Commercial Asset Mngt.	BAM TB	THB 9.75	HOLD	Downside risks to our NAV-based TP include 1) lower cash collection than estimated; 2) lower-than-expected bad debt acquisition; and 3) a slowdown in the property market. Upsides include 1) better-than-expected economic conditions and debt repayment momentum; and 2) an acceleration in the demand for NPAs.
Chayo Group	CHAYO TB	THB 4.98	BUY	Downside risks to our GGM-based TP include 1) lower-than-expected bad debt acquisition; and 2) higher-than-expected operating expenses.

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.

All share prices are as at market close on 29-Mar-2024 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.