

Bank of Qingdao (BQD, 3866 HK)

A less-than-sanguine 2017

- BQD's net profit dropped 9.02% YoY in 2017 as a result of lower NIM on structural change in loan mix and issuance of debt securities
- NPL normalized to system average level; risk buffer remains healthy
- CAR position strengthened after preference share issuance; however, if balance sheet growth and high dividend payout persist, growing need to fuel up its CT1 in coming years
- The counter is currently trading at 1.26x 17 P/B

Lower NIM on modified loan mix. BQD's 2017 net profit was reported at RMB 1,900mn, down 9.02% YoY. NIM contracted 51bps YoY to 1.72% due to the combined effect of modified loan mix and the surge in interest expenses arising from debt securities issued. Loan mix in residential mortgage rose from 20.96% of total loans in 2016 to 24.61% in 2017; loan mix in corporate banking fell from 71.66% in 2016 to 68.65% in 2017. Consequently, average loan yield fell 46bps YoY to 4.75% in 2017. Moreover, the extra funding of ~RMB1.4tr from debt securities issued in 2017 was largely allocated to investments at a spread of 21bps, hence the lower overall NIM.

NPL ratio on the rise. Despite system NPL ratio remained stable at 1.74% in 2017, BQD's NPL ratio climbed 33bps YoY to 1.69%. Loan provision expenses surged 24.35% YoY to maintain a healthy provisioning ratio at 2.6% by Dec 2017. Provision coverage ratio decreased to the level of 153.52%. Manufacturing and wholesale & retail (W&R) sectors remained to be the core NPL components. The former's NPL ratio increased from 2.19% in 2016 to 4.43% in 2017 while W&R improved from 4.24% in 2016 to 3.04% in 2017.

Strong CAR position; growing need to fuel up CT1. After the issuance of preference shares in 2017, BQD strengthened its T1 CAR and total CAR to 12.57% and 16.6% as of Dec 2017. However the Group's CT1 was down 1.37ppt YoY to the marginal level of 8.71%. Taking into account of the Group's expanding total assets and total liabilities (up 10.18% and 13.05%) and its persistently high dividend payout ratio (2015-2017: 39.22%-44.23%), we believe there will be a growing need to fuel up its CT1.

Valuation. The counter is trading at 1.26x 17 P/B.

Risk factors: 1) Asset quality deterioration in Qingdao; 2) Pricing competition from big banks in local regions; 3) Low average daily turnover of shares; 4) Earning dilution in 2018E due to BQD's preference share issuance.

Results and Valuation

FY ended Dec 31	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016A	2017A
Revenue (RMB mn)	3,557	4,365	5,006	5,996	5,568
Chg (%,YoY)	23.2	22.7	14.7	19.8	(7.1)
Net profit (RMB mn)	1,142	1,495	1,814	2,089	1,900
Chg (%,YoY)	24.2	30.9	21.3	15.2	(9.0)
EPS (RMB)	0.45	0.59	0.58	0.51	0.47
Chg (%,YoY)	25.0	31.1	(1.7)	(12.1)	(7.8)
BVPS (RMB)	3.21	3.83	4.14	4.35	4.38
Chg (%,YoY)	10.3	19.2	8.2	5.0	0.7
P/E (x)	12.22	9.32	9.48	10.78	11.70
P/B (x)	1.71	1.44	1.33	1.26	1.26
ROAE (%)	14.60	16.62	13.74	12.20	10.73
ROAA (%)	0.96	1.02	1.06	0.90	0.65
DPS(RMB)	0.08	0.30	0.20	0.20	0.20
Yield (%)	1.45	5.53	3.64	3.64	3.64

Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities

Company Report Mar 27, 2018 Rating: NR

Analyst: Johannes Au
Tel: (852) 2147 8802
johannesau@abci.com.hk

Share price (HK\$)	6.81
Previous Rating &TP	NR
Previous Report Date	na

Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities

Key Data	
52Wk H/L(HK\$) 7	7.71/5.40
Issued shares (mn)	4,059
H share	1,763
Domestic share	2,296
Market cap (HK\$ mn)	27,681
H share	12,024
Domestic share	15,657
3-mth avg daily turnover(HK\$ mn))
Major shareholder(s)	0.27
(%):	
Qingdao Conson	12.64

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities

<u>Share Performance</u> <u>Absolute</u>

	<u>Absolute</u>	Relative*
1-mth	2.71	5.96
3-mth	10.00	7.35
6-mth	10.00	(0.19)

*Relative to HSI

Haier

Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities

1-Year share performance(HK\$)



Source(s): Bloomberg, ABCI Securities

10.21



Consolidated income statement (2013A-2017A)

FY Ended Dec 31 (RMB mn)	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016A	2017A
Net interest income	3,088	3,596	4,114	5,008	4,802
Net fee and commission	425	689	750	888	829
Other operating income	43	80	142	100	(64)
Operating income	3,557	4,365	5,006	5,996	5,568
Operating expenses	(1,689)	(1,995)	(2,077)	(2,214)	(1,819)
Impairment losses	(349)	(411)	(580)	(1,109)	(1,379)
Profit before tax	1,519	1,958	2,349	2,674	2,370
Income tax expenses	(377)	(463)	(535)	(585)	(466)
Net profit	1,142	1,495	1,814	2,089	1,900
Growth (%)					
Net interest income	18.5	16.5	14.4	21.7	(4.1)
Net fee and commission	80.6	61.9	8.8	18.5	(6.7)
Other operating income	(2.1)	85.2	77.4	(29.5)	(163.7)
Operating income	23.2	22.7	14.7	19.8	(7.1)
Operating expenses	22.4	18.1	4.1	6.6	(17.8)
Impairment losses	23.0	17.9	41.0	91.2	24.4
Profit before tax	24.2	28.9	20.0	13.8	(11.4)
Income tax expenses	24.3	22.9	15.6	9.3	(20.3)
Net profit	24.2	30.9	21.3	15.2	(9.0)
Per share (Rmb)					
EPS	0.45	0.59	0.58	0.51	0.47
BVPS	3.21	3.83	4.14	4.35	4.38
DPS	0.08	0.30	0.20	0.20	0.20
Key ratio (%)					
Net interest margin	2.54	2.43	2.36	2.23	1.72
Net interest spread	2.38	2.26	2.23	2.05	1.57
Cost to income ratio	41.06	39.61	35.80	34.71	31.68
Return on average assets	0.96	1.02	1.06	0.90	0.65
Return on average equity	14.60	16.62	13.74	12.20	10.73
Effective tax rate	24.80	23.65	22.79	21.88	19.67
Dividend payout	17.86	52.04	44.23	39.22	42.55

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities



Consolidated balance sheet (2013A-2017A)

As of Dec 31 (RMB mn)	2013A	2014A	2015A	2016A	2017A
Cash and bank	20,871	23,610	19,920	22,698	27,098
Due from bank and FIs	3,181	3,175	4,693	7,041	3,991
Repo	8,208	2,698	2,517	3,957	3,584
Net loans	54,106	61,248	70,655	84,865	95,515
Investment securities	45,637	61,243	84,780	152,928	164,589
Total IEA	132,002	151,974	182,566	271,489	294,777
Other assets	3,687	4,192	4,669	6,499	11,499
Total assets	135,689	156,166	187,235	277,988	306,276
Customer deposits	96,284	101,734	115,322	141,605	160,084
Due to bank and FIs	12,814	21,742	30,388	51,944	30,676
Repo	10,130	10,069	2,000	17,043	11,900
Borrowing from central bank	1,024	1,004	529	3,432	584
Subordinated debt	4,987	8,335	16,314	41,786	68,633
Total IBL	125,239	142,884	164,553	255,810	271,877
Other liabilities	2,246	3,497	6,069	4,542	8,276
Total liabilities	127,484	146,381	170,622	260,352	280,153
Total equity	8,205	9,784	16,614	17,636	26,123
Growth (%)					
Cash and bank	4.0	13.1	(15.6)	13.9	19.4
Due from bank and FIs	(31.6)	(0.2)	47.8	50.0	(43.3)
Repo	40.1	(67.1)	(6.7)	57.2	(9.4)
Net loans	21.6	13.2	15.4	20.1	12.5
Investment securities	92.6	34.2	38.4	80.4	7.6
Total IEA	33.6	15.1	20.1	48.7	8.6
Total assets	33.5	15.1	19.9	48.5	10.2
Customer deposits	27.3	5.7	13.4	22.8	13.0
Due to bank and FIs	81.0	69.7	39.8	70.9	(40.9)
Repo	(1.2)	(0.6)	(80.1)	752.2	(30.2)
Borrowing from central bank	na	(2.0)	(47.3)	549.0	(83.0)
Subordinated debt	na	67.1	95.7	156.1	64.2
Total IBL	34.7	14.1	15.2	55.5	6.3
Total liabilities	35.3	14.8	16.6	52.6	7.6
Total equity	10.3	19.2	69.8	6.2	48.1
Key ratio (%)					
Loan to deposits	56.79	55.54	59.99	58.24	56.42
CT1 CAR	9.75	9.72	12.48	10.08	8.71
Total CAR	10.88	10.75	15.04	12.00	16.60
NPL ratio	0.75	1.14	1.19	1.36	1.69
Provision to total loans	2.74	2.76	2.81	2.64	2.60
Provision coverage	365.47	242.34	236.13	194.01	153.52
-					

Source(s): Company, ABCI Securities



Disclosures

Analyst Certification

I, Johannes Au, being the person primarily responsible for the content of this research report, in whole or in part, hereby certify that all of the views expressed in this report accurately reflect my personal view about the subject company or companies and its or their securities. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report. I and/or my associates have no financial interests in relation to the listed company (ies) covered in this report, and I and/or my associates do not serve as officer(s) of the listed company (ies) covered in this report.

Disclosures of Interests

ABCI Securities Company Limited and/or its affiliates, within the past 12 months, have investment banking relationship with one or more of the companies mentioned in the report.

Definition of equity rating

Rating	Definition
Buy	Stock return ≥ Market return rate
Hold	Market return – 6% ≤ Stock return < Market return rate
Sell	Stock return < Market return – 6%

Stock return is defined as the expected % change of share price plus gross dividend yield over the next 12 months

Market return: 5-year average market return rate Time horizon of share price target:12-month

Definition of share price risk

Rating	Definition
Very high	2.6 ≤180 day volatility/180 day benchmark index volatility
High	1.5 ≤ 180 day volatility/180 day benchmark index volatility < 2.6
Medium	1.0 ≤180 day volatility/180 day benchmark index volatility < 1.5
Low	180 day volatility/180 day benchmark index volatility < 1.0

We measure share price risk by its volatility relative to volatility of benchmark index. Benchmark index: Hang Seng Index. Volatility is calculated from the standard deviation of day to day logarithmic historic price change. The 180-day price volatility equals the annualized standard deviation of the relative price change for the 180 most recent trading days closing price.

Disclaimers

This report is for our clients only and is for distribution only under such circumstances as may be permitted by applicable law. It has no regard to the specific investment objectives, financial situation or particular needs of any specific recipient. It is published solely for informational purposes and is not to be construed as a solicitation or an offer to buy or sell any securities or related financial instruments. No representation or warranty, either expresses or implied, is provided in relation to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the information contained herein. This report should not be regarded by recipients as a substitute for the exercise of their own judgment. Any opinions expressed in this report are subject to change without notice and may differ or be contrary to opinions expressed by other business areas as a result of using different assumptions and criteria. The analysis contained herein is based on numerous assumptions. Different assumptions could result in materially different results. The analyst(s) responsible for the preparation of this report may interact with trading desk personnel, sales personnel and other constituencies for the purpose of gathering, synthesizing and interpreting market information. ABCI Securities Company Limited is under no obligation to update or keep current the information contained herein. ABCI Securities Company Limited relies on information barriers to control the flow of information contained in one or more areas within ABCI Securities Company Limited, into other areas, units, groups or affiliates of ABCI Securities Company Limited. The compensation of the analyst who prepared this report is determined exclusively by research management and senior management (not including investment banking). Analyst compensation is not based on investment banking revenues, however, compensation may relate to the revenues of ABCI Securities Company Limited as a whole, of which investment banking, sales and trading are a part. The securities described herein may not be eligible for sale in all jurisdictions or to certain categories of investors. The price and value of the investments referred to in this research and the income from them may fluctuate. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results. Foreign currency rates of exchange may adversely affect the value, price or income of any security or related instrument mentioned in this report. For investment advice, trade execution or other enquiries, clients should contact their local sales representative. Neither ABCI Securities Company Limited nor any of its affiliates, directors, employees or agents accepts any liability for any loss or damage arising out of the use of all or any part of this report. Additional information will be made available upon request.

Copyright 2018 ABCI Securities Company Limited

No part of this material may be (i) copied, photocopied or duplicated in any form by any means or (ii) redistributed without the prior written consent of ABCI Securities Company Limited.

Office address: ABCI Securities Company Limited, 13/F Fairmont House, 8 Cotton Tree Drive, Central, Hong

Kong.

Tel: (852) 2868 2183