24 October 2012

# **Equity Focus**

# China Bank Sector – Neutral

**Diversified Banks Industry** 

# **Investors turning positive to banks**

QFII investors have increased stake in A-share banks given most H-shares banks are currently trading at premium. This indicates a turning positive view towards bank sector as low valuations have reflected most negative fundamental factors. We believe investors' focus to shift back to H-shares soon if H to A premium narrowed, and there could be more catalysts if 3Q results surprise the market with stable asset quality and NIM.

QFII money favors Chinese banks. China media reported that QFII investors had increased Rmb550mn stake in 11 A-shares blue chips last week through Haitong Securities, of which Rmb187mn were attributed to 7 A-share banks included ICBC, MSB, BoCom, CNCB, CMB, Shanghai Pudong Development Bank, and Industrial Bank. We believe this reflects that investors are turning positive to Chinese banks as cheap valuation has already factored into most negative expectations.

H to A share premium/discount. Looking at latest H-A shares premium/discount trend, we would see that H-share prices of 5 out of 8 dual listed banks are currently trading at premium to their A-shares. This explains the reason why QFII funds are interested in A-share banks for long-term value when A-shares are now trading around 1x 12E PB. We could expect further increase stake in A-share financial sector in near term.

**Upside potential for H-shares.** If continue increase A-share stake by OFII money could narrows H-share premium, we believe investors' focus will shift back to H-share market soon given fewer trading barriers. Meanwhile, there could be more upside catalysts to H-shares if upcoming 3Q results surprise the market with stable asset quality and NIM.

Risk factors. Prolonged slowdown of China economy, interest rate liberalization and sharp deterioration of asset quality. Upcoming 3Q12 results in late Oct will reflect the consequence of rate cut in Jun and Jul 2012.

# Source: Company, Bloomberg, ABCI Securities Operating income composition in 1H12 (%)

Net interest income 79	.5
Non-interest income 20	.5

5.7

1.1

5 1

4,558

Source: CBRC

**Kev Data** Average PER (x)

Average PBV (x)

Average Dividend Yield (%)

Sector 3 months avg vol (HK\$mn)

Share performance (%)

	Absolute	Relative*
1-mth	11.9	5.4
3-mth	11.5	1.8
6-mth	(5.9)	(4.0)

Source: Bloomberg \*Relative to MSCI China

1 year price performance



Source: Bloomberg

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# **Sector Valuation Summary**

Companies	Ticker	Rating	Price	Target	Upside	12E	12E	12E
			(HK\$)	(HK\$)	(%)	PER	PBV	Yield
CCB	939 HK	Buy	5.87	6.30	7.3	6.4	1.3	5.5
ABC	1288 HK	Buy	3.35	3.45	3.0	6.1	1.2	5.0
MSB	1988 HK	Buy	7.09	7.66	8.0	4.7	1.0	5.4
ICBC	1398 HK	Hold	5.17	4.44	(14.1)	6.6	1.4	4.4
BOC	3988 HK	Hold	3.15	2.94	(6.7)	5.5	0.9	5.7
BoCom	3328 HK	Hold	5.87	5.13	(12.6)	5.6	1.0	5.5
CMB	3968 HK	Hold	14.96	13.47	(10.0)	6.4	1.3	3.9
CNCB	998 HK	Hold	4.19	3.61	(13.8)	4.5	0.8	5.4

Source: Company, Bloomberg, ABCI Securities estimates



Exhibit 1: H-A shares premium/discount

	Ticl	ker	Price			12E PB	
			H-share	A-share	H/A		
	H-share	A-share	(HKD)	(Rmb)	(%)	H-share	A-share
CCB	939	601939	5.87	4.18	17.0	1.3	1.1
ABC	1288	601288	3.35	2.52	10.8	1.2	1.1
MSB	1988	600016	7.09	6.09	(3.0)	1.0	1.0
ICBC	1398	601398	5.17	3.91	10.2	1.4	1.2
BOC	3988	601988	3.15	2.74	(4.2)	0.9	0.9
BoCom	3328	601328	5.87	4.39	11.4	1.0	0.9
CMB	3968	600036	14.96	10.51	18.6	1.3	1.1
CNCB	998	601998	4.19	3.75	(6.9)	0.8	0.8

Source: Bloomberg, ABCI Securities estimates



# **Disclosures**

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# **Definition of equity rating**

Rating	Definition
Buy	Stock return ≥ Market return rate
Hold	Market return $-6\% \le \text{Stock}$ 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 from 2007-2011

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	$1.5 \le 180$ day volatility/180 day benchmark index volatility < 2.6
Medium	$1.0 \le 180$ 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.

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