Asian Credit Daily

Friday, September 27, 2019

Market Commentary

- The SGD swap curve bear-steepened yesterday, with the shorter tenors traded 0-2bps higher, while the belly and longer tenors traded 2-3bps higher.
- The Bloomberg Barclays Asia USD IG Bond Index average OAS widened 1bps to 130bps while the Bloomberg Barclays Asia USD HY Bond Index average OAS widened 5bps to 535bps.
- Flows in SGD corporates were heavy, with large ticket flows in ABNANV 4.75%'26s, UOBSP 3.58%-PERPs, UBS 4.85%-PERPs and HSBC 4.7%-PERPs. We also saw flows in ARASP 5.6%-PERPs, FPLSP 4.98%-PERPs, SOCGEN 6.125%-PERPs, SPHRSP 4.1%-PERPs, and F 4.125%'24s.
- IOY USTs yields fell 4bps to 1.69% amidst escalation in political risk, after a whistle-blower complaint on President Donald Trump was released by the congressional panel, alleging that President Trump pressured Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden to advance Trump's personal interest. Spread between 3-month treasury bills and 10-year treasury notes remains inverted, with the spread tightening to -8bps.

Credit Summary:

- ABN Amro Bank N.V. | Neutral (3): ABN announced that it is under investigation with regards to requirements under the Act on the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism. The investigation relates to possible failures to report suspicious client transactions under anti-money laundering laws. There was an immediate impact on equity which closed down almost 12%, while bond prices were affected to a smaller extent. Credit impact is muted in our view, given that ABN has ample buffer before its MDA trigger level of 12.32% will be reached (current CET1 ratio: 18.0%). ABN also has around EUR200mn set aside for any potential fines. We are keeping the Neutral (3) rating on ABN for now.
- Mapletree Commercial Trust | Neutral (3): MCT announced it is acquiring Mapletree Business City (Phase 2) for a total acquisition cost of SGD1575.8mn. The property has a committed occupancy rate of 99.4% with an NPI yield of 5%, above MCT's existing portfolio yield of 4.7%. MCT has proposed to issue up to SGD500mn in new equity, and fund the balance by a drawdown of loan facilities. Assuming MCT draws down SGD697.5mn from the new loan facilities, its aggregate leverage is expected to increase slightly to 33.8%, from 33.1% as of end June 2019. We expect the credit metrics of MCT to remain largely stable and we are maintaining MCT at Neutral (3) for now.
- Commerzbank AG | Neutral (4) : The "Commerzbank 5.0" strategic programme were discussed and approved by the Board of Managing Directors and CMZB's Supervisory Board. Key to successful implementation of the plan is an expected reduction in costs of around EUR600mn by 2023 compared to the current year to combat the weak revenue environment with CMZB expecting underlying revenues for 2019 to be flat. This is expected to help the bank achieve its targeted CET1 ratio of 12-13% (12.9% as at 30 June 2019) and return on equity of more than 4% over the medium term.

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Credit Research

Andrew Wong +65 6530 4736 WongVKAM@ocbc.com

Ezien Hoo, CFA +65 6722 2215 EzienHoo@ocbc.com

Wong Hong Wei, CFA +65 6722 2533 WongHongWei@ocbc.com

Seow Zhi Qi +65 6530 7348 zhiqiseow@ocbc.com

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Credit Headlines

ABN Amro Bank N.V. ("ABN") | Issuer Profile: Neutral (3)

- ABN announced in a brief statement that it is under investigation with regards to requirements under the Act on the prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism. The investigation relates to possible failures to report suspicious client transactions under anti-money laundering laws.
- This is in line with prior actions by ABN earlier in the year to review all retail client files in the Netherlands as required by the Dutch Central Bank and also expedite improvements in its customer due diligence program.
- There was an immediate noticeable negative impact on ABN's equity which closed down almost 12% and a smaller impact on its bonds on the expectation that the investigation would result in large fines although the amount is currently unknown.
- While the equity impact is not unexpected given earnings pressure on European banks from negative interest rates, weaker economic performance, Brexit and now likely increased compliance costs, the credit impact is muted in our view given a look at a few numbers:
 - ABN's annual net income averages around EUR2.2bn and in its 2Q2019 and 1H2019 results, its current CET1 ratio of 18.0% was above its 2019 Maximum Distributable Amount (MDA) trigger level of 12.32%. As such, ABN has the capacity for any expected fine in our view.
 - ING Groep NV, the largest Dutch bank, recently paid a record EUR775mn fine to settle an investigation into similar shortcomings.
 - Due to the earlier mentioned review of retail client files as required by the Dutch Central Bank, ABN already provided EUR114mn in the second quarter, in addition to EUR85mn provided in FY2018 for financial crime prevention. As such, there is already around EUR200mn set aside for any fine.
- While the Dutch finance minister has called the investigation worrying, we think the minister is likely speaking more as a shareholder (the government currently owns 56% in ABN). The government were previously looking at selling down their stake but with the share price down, this now looks unlikely. We are keeping the Neutral (3) rating on ABN for now. (Company, OCBC, Bloomberg)

Mapletree Commercial Trust ("MCT") | Issuer Profile: Neutral (3)

- MCT is acquiring Mapletree Business City (Phase 2) ("MBC II") for a total acquisition cost of SGD1,575.8mn (agreed property value: SGD1,550mn).
- This property has a committed occupancy rate of 99.4% with an NPI yield of 5%, above MCT's existing portfolio yield of 4.7%. The average passing rent is SGD6.15 psf pm.
- MCT had previously acquired Mapletree Business City (Phase 1) in 2016. This acquisition will complete MCT's control over the entire Alexandra Precinct, and increase MCT's asset base by 21% to SGD8.90bn from SGD7.35bn and NPI by 22% to SGD424.6mn from SGD347.6mn.
- MCT has proposed to issue up to 500mn new equity units to partially fund the total acquisition cost and fund the balance by a drawdown of loan facilities. MCT has been granted new loan facilities of up to SGD800mn, though we do not expect MCT to fully utilise these new loan facilities. Assuming MCT draws down SGD697.5mn from the new loan facilities, its aggregate leverage is expected to increase slightly to 33.8%, from 33.1% as of end June 2019.
- The pipeline of Right of First Refusal properties for MCT includes HabourFront Centre, HarbourFront Tower 1 and 2, SPI Development Site (otherwise known as Mapletree Lighthouse), St James Power Station and PSA Vista.
- We expect the credit metrics of MCT to remain largely stable and we are maintaining MCT at Neutral (3) for now. (Company, OCBC)



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Credit Headlines

Commerzbank AG ("CMZB") | Issuer Profile: Neutral (4)

- <u>As previously announced</u>, CMZB's 'cornerstones' of its draft "Commerzbank 5.0" strategic programme were discussed and approved by the Board of Managing Directors and CMZB's Supervisory Board.
- Key aspects of the new strategic plan to improve returns on tangible equity and combat the current challenging operating environment include:
 - Focus on mobile banking franchise and rationalisation of the branch network (closure of around 20% of the current domestic network) in the Private and Small Business Customers segment;
 - Increase distribution capacity and digitisation in the Corporate Clients segment to increase market presence with Mittelstand-clients, or SMEs.
 - Total investments of EUR1.6bn comprising EUR750mn is related to investments in digitalisation, IT infrastructure and growth with the rest allocated to restructuring costs associated with the planned closure of 200 branches and net head count reduction of 2,300 comprised a 4,300 reduction and the creation of 2,000 positions in strategic area.
 - Sale of CMZB's stake in Polish mbank S.A. which would provide resources to implement the draft strategy and also reduce risk weighted assets.
- Acquisition of the remaining 18% stake in online bank Aktiengesellschaft ("Comdirect") it does not already own to facilitate the integration of Comdirect into its existing digital expertise at a 25% premium on the closing share price on 19 September
- Other key changes include changes in the Board of Managing Directors including the appointment of a new CFO (Bettina Orlopp) who is currently heading Compliance, Human Resources, Legal and Group Customer Process & Data Management. She succeeds Stephan Engels who previously announced his decision to leave the bank by April 2020.
- Key to successful implementation of the plan is an expected reduction in costs of around EUR600mn by 2023 compared to the current year to combat the weak revenue environment with CMZB expecting underlying revenues for 2019 to be flat. This is expected to help the bank achieve its targeted CET1 ratio of 12-13% (12.9% as at 30 June 2019) and return on equity of more than 4% over the medium term.
- We currently rate CMZB at Neutral (4) issuer profile. (Company, OCBC)

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Key Market Movements

	27-Sep	1W chg (bps)	1M chg (bps)		27-Sep	1W chg	1M chg
iTraxx Asiax IG	76	4	10	Brent Crude Spot (\$/bbl)	62.40	-2.92%	4.86%
iTraxx SovX APAC	36	1	-6	Gold Spot (\$/oz)	1,505.81	-0.73%	-2.40%
iTraxx Japan	62	0	0	CRB	176.23	-0.86%	3.85%
iTraxx Australia	67	2	1	GSCI	411.39	-1.70%	3.88%
CDX NA IG	61	1	4	VIX	16.07	14.38%	-20.88%
CDX NA HY	107	0	1	CT10 (%)	1.692%	-2.94	22.10
iTraxx Eur Main	56	1	6				
iTraxx Eur XO	232	17	-33	AUD/USD	0.675	-0.19%	0.01%
iTraxx Eur Snr Fin	67	4	7	EUR/USD	1.092	-0.93%	-1.58%
iTraxx Eur Sub Fin	144	7	12	USD/SGD	1.382	-0.40%	0.52%
iTraxx Sovx WE	14	0	-3	AUD/SGD	0.933	-0.21%	0.46%
USD Swap Spread 10Y	-12	-1	-4	ASX 200	6,716	-0.23%	3.77%
USD Swap Spread 30Y	-43	-1	-3	DJIA	26,891	-0.75%	4.32%
US Libor-OIS Spread	33	-1	8	SPX	2,978	-0.97%	3.78%
Euro Libor-OIS Spread	5	-1	-1	MSCI Asiax	622	-1.39%	3.55%
				HSI	26,042	-1.49%	1.47%
China 5Y CDS	48	4	0	STI	3,129	-0.96%	2.01%
Malaysia 5Y CDS	52	4	-1	KLCI	1,590	-0.47%	-0.06%
Indonesia 5Y CDS	90	3	-3	JCI	6,230	-0.23%	-0.76%
Thailand 5Y CDS	30	0	-2	EU Stoxx 50	3,532	-0.58%	4.80%
Australia 5Y CDS	20	2	1			Source: B	loomberg



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New Issues

- BOC Aviation Ltd priced a USD150mn re-tap of its existing BOCAVI 3.0%'29s bond at T+150bps, tightening from IPG of T+170bps area.
- Li & Fung Ltd priced a USD400mn 5-year bond at T+290bps, tightening from IPT of T+300bps area.
- PCPD Capital Ltd (Guarantor: Pacific Century Premium Developments Ltd) priced a USD130mn re-tap of its existing PCPDC 4.75% 22s bond at 4.529%, tightening from IPG of 4.53% area.
- ReNew Power Ltd priced a USD90mn re-tap of its existing RPVIN 6.67%'24s bond at 6.3% plus accrued interest, in line with final guidance.
- Central China Real Estate Ltd (Subsidiary Guarantors: Certain of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries outside the PRC) priced a USD200mn re-tap of its existing CENCHI 6.75%'21s bond at 7.375%, tightening from IPT of 7.625% area.
- Jinan Hi-tech Holding Group Co., Ltd priced a USD300mn 3-year bond at 4.5%, tightening from IPT of 4.8% area.
- Beijing Hongkun Weiye Real Estate Development Co. Ltd has mandated banks for a potential USD bond issuance.

Date	Issuer	Size	Tenor	Pricing
26-Sep-19	BOC Aviation Ltd	USD150mn	BOCAVI 3.0%'29s	T+150bps
26-Sep-19	Li & Fung Ltd	USD400mn	5-year	T+290bps
26-Sep-19	PCPD Capital Ltd	USD130mn	PCPDC 4.75%'22s	4.53%
26-Sep-19	ReNew Power Ltd	USD90mn	RPVIN 6.67%'24s	6.3%
26-Sep-19	Central China Real Estate Ltd	USD200mn	CENCHI 6.75%'21s	7.375%
26-Sep-19	Jinan Hi-tech Holding Group Co., Ltd	USD300mn	3-year	4.5%
25-Sep-19	CNOOC Finance (2013) Ltd	USD1.0bn USD500mn	10-year 30-year	T+120bps 3.3%
25-Sep-19	Woori Bank	USD550mn	Perp-NC5	4.25%
25-Sep-19	Hongkong International (Qingdao) Co., Ltd	USD300mn	5-year	4.0%
25-Sep-19	Guangxi Liuzhou Dongcheng Investment Development Group Co., Ltd	USD300mn	3-year	7.0%
25-Sep-19	RKPF Overseas 2019 (A) Ltd	USD480mn	5NC3	6.7%

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Treasury Research & Strategy

Macro Research

Selena Ling

Head of Strategy & Research LingSSSelena@ocbc.com

Howie Lee Thailand, Korea & Commodities

HowieLee@ocbc.com

Emmanuel Ng Senior FX Strategist NgCYEmmanuel@ocbc.com

Carie Li Hong Kong & Macau <u>carierli@ocbcwh.com</u> Tommy Xie Dongming Head of Greater China Research <u>XieD@ocbc.com</u>

Dick Yu Hong Kong & Macau dicksnyu@ocbcwh.com **Terence Wu** FX Strategist <u>TerenceWu@ocbc.com</u>

Credit Research

Andrew Wong Credit Research Analyst

WongVKAM@ocbc.com

Ezien Hoo, CFA Credit Research Analyst EzienHoo@ocbc.com Wong Hong Wei, CFA Credit Research Analyst WongHongWei@ocbc.com Seow Zhi Qi Credit Research Analyst ZhiQiSeow@ocbc.com

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