Consumer · Taiwan



Bafang Yunji (2753.TW/2753 TT)

Margin recovery underway

Outperform · Maintained

Price as of September 27 (NT\$)	173.0
12M target price (NT\$)	214.0
Previous target price (NT\$)	214.0
Unchanged (%)	0.0
Upside (%)	23.7

Key message

Bafang Yunji expects its US central kitchen to become profitable in 4Q23, after it scales up, and is seeing signs of easing raw materials costs. We expect margin recovery to help the stock regain momentum. We retain our target price of NT\$214, based on 19x PE. Maintain Outperform.

ra			

0.32 161.0 –255.0
0.32
7.59
56.35
11.48 / 356.9

52-week trading rang	ge (NT\$)	161.0 -	255.0
Performance	3M	6M	12M
Absolute (%)	-5.7	-18.6	-9
Relative (%)	-2.3	-21.6	-27

Quarterly EPS

NT\$	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
2022	2.32A	2.52A	2.69A	2.47A
2023	2.00A	2.17A	2.18F	2.38F
2024	2.50F	2.68F	2.91F	3.17F

Share price chart



Event

We hosted a conference call with Bafang Yunji. Management indicated that they will open an additional 2-4 US stores by year-end, and expects its US central kitchen to become profitable in 4Q23. While pork prices in Taiwan remain elevated, the pricing of other raw materials has come down QoQ, suggesting easing cost headwinds ahead.

Impact

US central kitchen to turn profitable in 4Q23. Bafang Yunji opened its fourth US store in August, and plans to add an additional 2-4 locations by year-end (likely two in November and two in December). Per store daily (PSD) sales have dropped to US\$7-8k on average, from its first-store figure of US\$14k, due mainly to customer cannibalization. Management stated that their per-ticket revenue remains steady, at US\$27-28, and all four stores are profitable. The firm expects the central kitchen, which can accommodate up to 25-30 stores, to become profitable in 4Q23, as more stores open. Going forward, Bafang Yunji hasn't yet finalized its store count target for 2024, but has signed leases for some locations. We expect 10 new stores to open next year, and look for the profitability of their US operations to increase as they scale up.

Easing cost headwinds. In Taiwan, the focus of store additions this year is on FJ Veggie, which is targeted to bring its store count to 60 by year-end, from 40 now, versus 21 at end-2022. The store count for flagship brand Bafang Yunji (dumpling) remains unchanged at 1,001. There were 205 Liang She-Han Pork Ribs stores in operation as of August, versus 201 at end-2022, with some underperforming stores being closed down. The firm added beef noodles to its Bafang Yunji menu in August, and plans to offer frozen packaged food starting in 4Q23, which will provide an additional revenue stream. While pork prices remain elevated, up QoQ in 3Q23, management said the pricing for other raw materials, including chicken, cabbage and flour, has come down QoQ, suggesting milder YoY margin contraction into 2H23.

Earnings to resume growth. With US store locations ramping up, and easing cost headwinds in Taiwan, we expect Bafang Yunji's operating margin to extend a QoQ expansion throughout year-end. Looking ahead, we forecast lower prices for raw materials, and improving profitability in the US, to propel earnings back to YoY growth next year, up 29%, from an estimated 13% contraction in 2023. With solid operating cash flows, the firm expects to sustain a cash dividend payout of 60-70%, implying a yield of 4-5%, based on Wednesday's closing price.

Valuation & Action

We believe the worst of the margin pressure is likely behind us and expect sequential operating margin recovery and a turnaround in the US to serve as a catalyst for stock price gains. We retain our target price of NT\$214, on 19x PE. Maintain Outperform.

Risks

Delays in new store openings; rising raw material prices.

Key financials and valuations

	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Revenue (NT\$mn)	5,955	6,799	7,309	8,778	9,914
Gross profit (NT\$mn)	2,232	2,526	2,586	3,172	3,632
Operating profit (NT\$mn)	653	788	727	1,004	1,239
Net profit (NT\$mn)	541	661	580	747	900
EPS (NT\$)	8.74	10.00	8.74	11.27	13.57
Cash DPS (NT\$)	6.73	7.50	6.12	7.89	9.50
EPS growth (%)	(17.2)	14.4	(12.6)	29.0	20.4
PE (x)	19.8	17.3	19.8	15.4	12.8
PB (x)	3.8	3.5	3.3	3.1	2.9
EV/EBITDA (x)	7.8	7.7	7.0	5.2	4.1
Net debt to equity (%)	Net cash				
Dividend yield (%)	3.9	4.3	3.5	4.6	5.5
Return on average equity (%)	21.6	21.1	17.2	20.9	23.6

Source: Company data, KGI Research estimates



Figure 1: Breakdown of 3Q-4Q23F earnings forecasts vs. consensus

				3Q23F							4Q23F			
NT\$mn	Revision	Previous	Chg. (%)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Consensus	Diff. (%)	Revision	Previous	Chg. (%)	QoQ (%)	YoY (%)	Consensus	Diff. (%)
Sales	1,867	1,882	(8.0)	5.4	5.1	1,939	(3.7)	1,944	2,002	(2.9)	4.1	9.8	1,967	(1.1)
Gross profit	653	642	1.8	3.5	0.5	677	(3.4)	688	684	0.7	5.3	5.9	710	(3.1)
Operating income	186	186	(0.0)	7.5	(5.3)	172	8.5	202	211	(4.2)	8.6	(8.0)	231	(12.5)
Pretax income	187	187	(0.0)	(0.9)	(18.5)	178	5.4	206	201	2.6	10.2	3.4	236	(12.4)
Net income	145	145	(0.3)	0.5	(18.6)	136	6.3	158	154	2.8	9.3	(3.3)	188	(15.7)
EPS (NT\$)	2.18	2.19	(0.3)	0.5	(18.6)	2.05	6.3	2.38	2.32	2.8	9.3	(3.3)	2.83	(15.7)
Gross margin (%)	35.0	34.1	0.9 ppts	(0.6) ppts	(1.6) ppts	34.9	0.1 ppts	35.4	34.1	1.3 ppts	0.4 ppts	(1.3) ppts	36.1	(0.7) ppts
OP margin (%)	10.0	9.9	0.1 ppts	0.2 ppts	(1.1) ppts	8.8	1.1 ppts	10.4	10.5	(0.1) ppts	0.4 ppts	(2.0) ppts	11.7	(1.3) ppts
Net margin (%)	7.7	7.7	0.0 ppts	(0.4) ppts	(2.3) ppts	7.0	0.7 ppts	8.1	7.7	0.5 ppts	0.4 ppts	(1.1) ppts	9.5	(1.4) ppts

Source: Bloomberg; KGI Research estimates

Figure 2: Breakdown of 2023-25F earnings forecasts vs. consensus

			20)23F			2024F					2025F						
NT\$mn	Revision	Previous	Chg. (%)	YoY (%)	Consensus	Diff. (%)	Revision	Previous	Chg. (%)	YoY (%)	Consensus	Diff. (%)	Revision	Previous	Chg. (%)	YoY (%)	Consensus	Diff. (%)
Sales	7,309	7,377	(0.9)	7.5	7,371	(0.8)	8,778	8,924	(1.6)	20.1	8,633	1.7	9,914	10,274	(3.5)	12.9	10,255	(3.3)
Gross profit	2,586	2,539	1.8	2.4	2,617	(1.2)	3,172	3,112	1.9	22.6	3,121	1.6	3,632	3,772	(3.7)	14.5	3,802	(4.5)
Operating	727	730	(0.3)	(7.6)	736	(1.1)	1,004	1,017	(1.3)	38.0	952	5.5	1,239	1,360	(8.9)	23.4	1,210	2.4
Pretax income	749	723	3.7	(10.1)	763	(1.8)	1,016	1,010	0.6	35.7	962	5.7	1,252	1,353	(7.5)	23.2	1,180	6.1
Net income	580	563	2.9	(12.3)	596	(2.7)	747	747	(0.0)	29.0	742	0.8	900	941	(4.4)	20.4	907	(8.0)
EPS (NT\$)	8.74	8.49	2.9	(12.3)	8.98	(2.7)	11.27	11.27	(0.0)	29.0	11.18	0.8	13.57	14.19	(4.4)	20.4	13.67	(8.0)
Gross margin	35.4	34.4	1.0 ppts	(1.8) ppts	35.5	(0.1) ppts	36.1	34.9	1.3 ppts	0.7 ppts	36.1	(0.0) ppts	36.6	36.7	(0.1) ppts	0.5 ppts	37.1	(0.4) ppts
OP margin (%)	10.0	9.9	0.1 ppts	(1.6) ppts	10.0	(0.0) ppts	11.4	11.4	0.0 ppts	1.5 ppts	11.0	0.4 ppts	12.5	13.2	(0.7) ppts	1.1 ppts	11.8	0.7 ppts
Net margin (%)	7.9	7.6	0.3 ppts	(1.8) ppts	8.1	(0.1) ppts	8.5	8.4	0.1 ppts	0.6 ppts	8.6	(0.1) ppts	9.1	9.2	(0.1) ppts	0.6 ppts	8.8	0.2 ppts

Source: Bloomberg; KGI Research estimates

Figure 3: US stores to ramp up



Source: Company data; KGI Research estimates



Figure 4: Company profile

Established in 2000, Bafang Yunji is a multi-brand chain restaurant operator with a total of 1,336 outlets across the Greater China region as of August. The flagship Bafang Yunji dumpling brand represents the lion's share of sales at 72%, followed by Liang She Han Pork Ribs (pork chop rice) at 25%. The majority of the firm's stores are franchised. Taiwan contributed 80% of sales in 2022, while Hong Kong accounted for 18%, with the remainder mainly from the US.

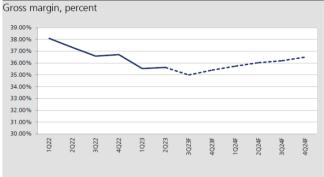
Source: KGI Research





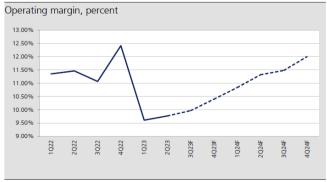
Source: KGI Research

Figure 8: Gross Margin



Source: KGI Research

Figure 10: Operating Margin



Source: KGI Research

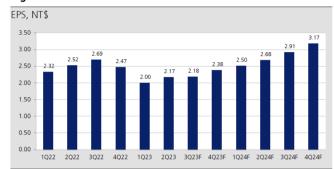
Figure 5 Taiwan is the largest sales contributor

2022 sales breakdown by region, percent



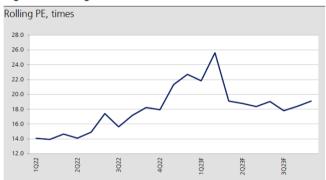
Source: KGI Research

Figure 7: EPS



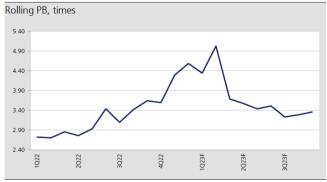
Source: KGI Research

Figure 9: Rolling PE



Source: KGI Research

Figure 11: Rolling PB



Source: KGI Research



Income statement											
	Quarterly		6 225	D 225		. 245	6 245	D 245	Annually	D 245	D 255
	Mar-23A	Jun-23A	Sep-23F	Dec-23F	Mar-24F	Jun-24F	Sep-24F	Dec-24F	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Income statement (NT\$mn)											
Revenue	1,726	1,772	1,867	1,944	2,005	2,139	2,266	2,368	7,309	8,778	9,914
Cost of goods sold	(1,113)	(1,140)	(1,214)	(1,256)	(1,288)	(1,368)	(1,446)	(1,504)	(4,723)	(5,606)	(6,282)
Gross profit	613	631	653	688	716	771	820	864	2,586	3,172	3,632
Operating expenses	(448)	(458)	(467)	(486)	(499)	(529)	(560)	(580)	(1,859)	(2,168)	(2,393)
Operating profit	166	173	186	202	217	242	260	284	727	1,004	1,239
Depreciation of fixed assets	(163)	(163)	(183)	(224)	(208)	(208)	(208)	(208)	(734)	(830)	(925)
Amortisation of intangible assets	(1)	(1)	(1)	0	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)
EBITDA	330	337	370	426	425	450	468	492	1,463	1,837	2,166
Interest income	8	9	8	8	8	8	8	8	32	32	32
Investment income	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other non-op income	7	8	10	10	10	12	12	13	35	47	48
Non-operating income	15	17	18	18	18	20	20	21	67	79	80
Interest expense	(7)	(7)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(8)	(30)	(31)	(30)
Investment loss	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other non-op expenses	(6)	6	(9)	(5)	(8)	(9)	(9)	(9)	(15)	(36)	(37)
Non-operating expenses	(14)	(1)	(17)	(14)	(16)	(17)	(17)	(17)	(46)	(67)	(67)
Pre-tax profit	167	189	187	206	219	245	263	288	749	1,016	1,252
Current taxation	(37)	(48)	(43)	(47)	(49)	(60)	(61)	(65)	(176)	(235)	(280)
Minorities	3	3	1	(1)	(4)	(8)	(9)	(13)	6	(34)	(72)
Normalised net profit	133	144	145	158	166	178	193	211	580	747	900
Extraordinary items	0	(0)	-	(0)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net profit	133	144	145	158	166	178	193	211	580	747	900
EPS (NT\$)	2.00	2.17	2.18	2.38	2.50	2.68	2.91	3.17	8.74	11.27	13.57
Margins (%)											
Gross profit margin	35.5	35.6	35.0	35.4	35.7	36.0	36.2	36.5	35.4	36.1	36.6
Operating margin	9.6	9.8	10.0	10.4	10.8	11.3	11.5	12.0	10.0	11.4	12.5
EBITDA margin	19.1	19.0	19.8	21.9	21.2	21.1	20.7	20.8	20.0	20.9	21.8
Pretax profit margin	9.7	10.7	10.0	10.6	10.9	11.5	11.6	12.2	10.2	11.6	12.6
Net profit margin	7.7	8.1	7.7	8.1	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.9	7.9	8.5	9.1
Sequential growth (%)											
Revenue growth	(2.5)	2.6	5.4	4.1	3.1	6.7	5.9	4.5			
Gross profit growth	(5.6)	2.9	3.5	5.3	4.1	7.6	6.4	5.4			
Operating profit growth	(24.5)	4.3	7.5	8.6	7.5	11.5	7.4	9.3			
EBITDA growth	(15.2)	2.2	9.8	15.1	(0.1)	5.9	4.0	5.1			
Pretax profit growth	(16.3)	13.2	(0.9)	10.2	6.3	11.8	7.3	9.5			
Net profit growth	(18.7)	8.3	0.5	9.3	5.0	6.9	8.8	9.0			
YoY growth (%)	(1011)										
Revenue growth	10.8	4.6	5.1	9.8	16.1	20.7	21.4	21.8	7.5	20.1	12.9
Gross profit growth	3.4	(0.2)	0.5	5.9	16.8	22.1	25.5	25.6	2.4	22.6	14.5
Operating profit growth	(6.2)	(10.9)	(5.3)	(8.0)	31.0	39.9	39.8	40.6	(7.6)	38.0	23.4
EBITDA growth	(1.6)	(5.7)	1.8	9.5	28.9	33.6	26.5	15.6	1.3	25.5	17.9
Pretax profit growth	(1.6)	(11.6)	(18.5)	3.4	31.5	29.9	40.6	39.8	(10.1)	35.7	23.2
Net profit growth	(13.3)	(13.6)	(18.5)	(3.3)	25.0	23.4	33.6	33.2	(10.1)	29.0	20.4

Source: Company data, KGI Research estimates



Balance sheet					
NTSmn	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Total assets	5,319	5,858	6,452	6,868	7,350
Current assets	2,295	2,483	3,408	4,173	5,193
Cash & ST securities	1,757	1,928	2,816	3,493	4,443
Inventory	210	227	251	297	334
Accounts receivable	173	193	207	248	281
Other current assets	155	135	135	135	135
Non-current assets	3,025	3,375	3,044	2,696	2,157
LT investments	4	4	4	4	4
Net fixed assets	1,549	1,710	1,379	1,031	492
Other assets	1,472	1,661	1,661	1,661	1,661
Total liabilities	2,287	2,493	2,920	3,079	3,218
Current liabilities	1,328	1,397	1,831	1,987	2,127
Accounts payable	205	201	222	263	296
Interest bearing ST liabilities	42	34	41	39	40
Other current liabilities	1,082	1,161	1,567	1,684	1,791
Non-current liabilities	959	1,097	1,090	1,092	1,091
Long-term debt	71	34	27	29	28
Other L-T liabilities	43	53	53	53	53
Total equity	3,033	3,364	3,532	3,790	4,132
Share capital	660	663	663	663	663
Retained earnings reserve	1,019	1,197	1,370	1,595	1,865
Minority interests	40	82	76	109	181
Preferred shareholders funds	-	-	-	-	-

	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Growth					
Revenue growth	14.9%	14.2%	7.5%	20.1%	12.9%
Operating profit growth	(14.3%)	20.5%	(7.6%)	38.0%	23.4%
EBITDA growth	(3.5%)	15.9%	1.3%	25.5%	17.9%
Net profit growth	(14.6%)	22.1%	(12.3%)	29.0%	20.4%
EPS growth	(17.2%)	14.4%	(12.6%)	29.0%	20.4%
Profitability					
Gross profit margin	37.5%	37.1%	35.4%	36.1%	36.6%
Operating margin	11.0%	11.6%	10.0%	11.4%	12.5%
EBITDA margin	20.9%	21.3%	20.0%	20.9%	21.8%
Net profit margin	9.1%	9.7%	7.9%	8.5%	9.1%
Return on average assets	11.5%	11.8%	9.4%	11.2%	12.7%
Return on average equity	21.6%	21.1%	17.2%	20.9%	23.6%
Stability					
Gross debt to equity	3.7%	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	1.6%
Net debt to equity	Net cash				
Interest coverage (x)	31.2	29.9	25.6	34.2	42.1
Interest & ST debt coverage (x)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Cash flow interest coverage(x)	47.9	48.2	42.6	50.2	58.7
Cash flow/int. & ST debt (x)	16.7	22.0	18.1	22.1	25.5
Current ratio (x)	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.1	2.4
Quick ratio (x)	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.0	2.3
Net debt (NT\$mn)	(1,135)	(622)	(1,510)	(2,187)	(3,137)
Per share data					
EPS (NT\$)	8.74	10.00	8.74	11.27	13.57
CFPS (NT\$)	17.29	21.00	19.58	23.13	26.99
BVPS (NT\$)	45.31	49.49	52.11	55.49	59.56
Adj BVPS (NT\$)	48.30	49.66	52.11	55.49	59.56
SPS (NT\$)	96.12	102.87	110.20	132.34	149.47
EBITDA/share (NT\$)	20.13	21.87	22.06	27.69	32.66
Cash DPS (NT\$)	6.73	7.50	6.12	7.89	9.50
Activity					
Sales / avg assets	1.27	1.22	1.19	1.32	1.39
Days receivable	10.6	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3
Days inventory	20.6	19.4	19.4	19.4	19.4
Days payable	20.1	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
Cash cycle	11.1	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5

Source: Company data, KGI Research estimates

Profit & loss					
NTSmn	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Revenue	5,955	6,799	7,309	8,778	9,914
Cost of goods sold	(3,723)	(4,273)	(4,723)	(5,606)	(6,282)
Gross profit	2,232	2,526	2,586	3,172	3,632
Operating expenses	(1,579)	(1,738)	(1,859)	(2,168)	(2,393)
Operating profit	653	788	727	1,004	1,239
Non-operating income	52	113	67	79	80
Interest income	3	14	32	32	32
Investment income	-	-	-	-	-
Other non-op income	49	98	35	47	48
Non-operating expenses	(30)	(67)	(46)	(67)	(67)
Interest expense	(22)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(30)
Investment loss	-	-	-	-	-
Other non-op expenses	(8)	(38)	(15)	(36)	(37)
Pre-tax profit	676	833	749	1,016	1,252
Current taxation	(150)	(188)	(176)	(235)	(280)
Minorities	16	16	6	(34)	(72)
Extraordinary items	-	0	-	-	-
Net profit	541	661	580	747	900
EBITDA	1,247	1,445	1,463	1,837	2,166
EPS (NT\$)	8.74	10.00	8.74	11.27	13.57

Cash flow					
NT\$mn	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
Operations cash flow	1,071	1,388	1,299	1,534	1,790
Net profit	541	661	580	747	900
Depreciation & amortisation	594	658	736	833	927
Decrease in working capital	(41)	(32)	(17)	(46)	(37)
Other operating cash flow	(23)	101	(0)	0	0
Investing cash flow	(879)	(1,088)	(404)	(484)	(388)
Sale of ST investment	(479)	(728)	-	-	-
New investments	-	-	-	-	-
Capital expenditure	(510)	(447)	(402)	(482)	(386)
Others investing cashflow	110	87	(2)	(2)	(2)
Free cash flow	549	786	871	1,074	1,464
Financing cash flow	39	(902)	(6)	(372)	(451)
Increase in short term debt	(43)	3			
Increase in long term loans	(26)	(51)	-	-	-
New ordinary shares issued	973	-			
Ordinary dividends paid	(390)	(429)	-	(406)	(523)
Other financing cashflow	(475)	(425)	(6)	34	72
Forex effects	(12)	44			
Total cash generated	220	(558)	888	677	951

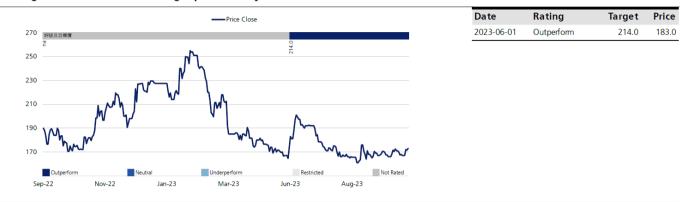
ROIC					
	Dec-21A	Dec-22A	Dec-23F	Dec-24F	Dec-25F
1 - COGS/revenue					
- Operating exp./revenue	26.5%	25.6%	25.4%	24.7%	24.1%
= Operating margin	11.0%	11.6%	10.0%	11.4%	12.5%
1 / (Working capital/revenue	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.1)
+ Net PPE/revenue	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0
+ Other assets/revenue)	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
= Capital turnover	5.2	5.4	13.7	76.4	(20.1)
Operating margin	11.0%	11.6%	10.0%	11.4%	12.5%
x Capital turnover	5.2	5.4	13.7	76.4	(20.1)
x (1 - tax rate)	77.8%	77.4%	76.5%	76.9%	77.6%
= After-tax ROIC	44.0%	48.6%	104.1%	671.8%	(194.8%)

Source: Company data, KGI Research estimates

27 September 2023



Bafang - Recommendation & target price history



Source: TEJ, KGI Research

All the above named KGI analyst(s) is SFC licensed person accredited to KGI Asia Ltd to carry on the relevant regulated activities. Each of them and/or his/her associate(s) does not have any financial interest in the respectively covered stock, issuer and/or new listing applicant.

Disclaimer

All the information contained in this report is not intended for use by persons or entities located in or residing in jurisdictions which restrict the distribution of this information by KGI Asia Limited ("KGI") or an affiliate of KGI. Such information shall not constitute investment advice, or an offer to sell, or an invitation, solicitation or recommendation to subscribe for or invest in any securities or investment products α services nor a distribution of information for any such purpose in any jurisdiction. In particular, the information herein is not for distribution and does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of any offer to buy any securities in the United States of America, or to α for the benefit of United States persons (being residents of the United States of America or partnerships or corporations organised under the laws of the United States of America or any state, territory α possession thereof). All the information contained in this report is for general information and reference purpose only without taking into account of any particular investor's objectives, financial situation or needs. Such information is not intended to provide professional advice and should not be relied upon in that regard.

Some of KGI equity research and earnings estimates are available electronically on www.kgi.com.hk. Please contact your KGI representative for information. The information and opinions in this report are those of KGI internal research activity. KGI does not make any representation or warranty, express or implied, as to the fairness, accuracy, completeness or correctness of the information and opinions contained in this report. The information and opinions cortained in this report are subject to change without any notice. No person accepts any liability whatsoever for any loss however arising from any use of this report or its contents. This report is not to be construed as an invitation or offer to buy or sell securities and/or to participate in any investment activity. This report is being supplied solely for informational purposes and may not be redistributed, reproduced or published (in whole or in part) by any means for any purpose without the prior written consent of KGI. Members of the KGI group and their affiliates may provide services to any companies and affiliates of such companies mentioned herein. Members of the KGI group, their affiliates and their directors, officers and employees may from time to time have a position in any securities mentioned herein.