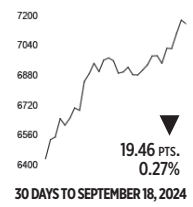
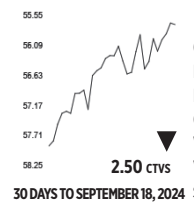



STOCK MARKET		ASIAN MARKETS				WORLD MARKETS		PESO-DOLLAR RATES		ASIAN MONIES-US\$ RATE		WORLD CURRENCIES		DUBAI CRUDE OIL
 <p>PSEi OPEN: 7,161.75 HIGH: 7,219.17 LOW: 7,147.82 CLOSE: 7,155.90 VOL.: 0.880 B VAL(P): 6.139 B 19.46 PTS. 0.27% 30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 18, 2024</p>		SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 JAPAN (NIKKEI 225) 36,380.17 ▲ 176.95 0.49 HONG KONG (HANG SENG) 21,678.84 ▼ -171.24 -0.78 TAIWAN (WEIGHTED) 1,435.80 ▼ -0.80 -0.06 THAILAND (SET INDEX) 3,589.83 ▼ -3.59 -0.10 S.KOREA (KSE COMPOSITE) 8,142.10 ▲ 1.20 0.01 SINGAPORE (STRAITS TIMES) 1,660.59 ▼ -3.69 -0.22 SYDNEY (ALL ORDINARIES) MALAYSIA (KLCSE COMPOSITE)				SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 DOW JONES 41,606.180 ▼ -15,900 NASDAQ 17,628.061 ▲ 35.934 S&P 500 5,634.580 ▲ 1.490 FTSE 100 8,309.860 ▲ 31.420 Euro Stoxx50 4,425.690 ▲ 9.040		 <p>FX OPEN P55.800 HIGH P55.715 LOW P55.865 CLOSE P55.720 W.AVE. P55.783 VOL. \$1,229.50 2.50 CTVS 30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 SOURCE : BAP</p>		SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 LATEST BID (0900GMT) JAPAN (YEN) 141.610 ▼ 140.550 HONG KONG (HK DOLLAR) 7.794 ▼ 7.792 TAIWAN (NT DOLLAR) 32.005 ▼ 31.848 THAILAND (BAHT) 33.250 ▼ 33.290 S. KOREA (WON) 1,322.990 ▼ 1,316.870 SINGAPORE (DOLLAR) 1.294 ▼ 1.293 INDONESIA (RUPIAH) 15,330 ▼ 15,330 MALAYSIA (RINGGIT) 4.242 ▼ 4.250		SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 US\$/UK POUND 1.3219 ▲ 1.3215 US\$/EURO 1.1135 — 1.1135 US\$/AUST DOLLAR 0.6780 ▲ 0.6763 CANADA DOLLAR/US\$ 1.3584 ▲ 1.3582 SWISS FRANC/US\$ 0.8431 ▼ 0.8438		 <p>DUBAI CRUDE OIL FUTURES PRICE ON NEAREST MONTH OF DELIVERY \$73.30/BBL \$0.85 30 DAYS TO SEPTEMBER 17, 2024</p>

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • SEPTEMBER 18, 2024 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2)

ICT	P404.000	AC	P671.000	SM	P965.000	PLUS	P18.560	ALI	P35.950	URC	P97.500	BPI	P125.600	SECB	P82.000	SMPH	P32.400	BDO	P157.200
Value	P688,384,582	Value	P665,380,400	Value	P470,106,405	Value	P361,048,297	Value	P288,752,115	Value	P288,335,392	Value	P266,509,977	Value	P247,980,917	Value	P230,127,315	Value	P229,804,278
-P1.000	▼ -0.247%	P11.000	▲ 1.667%	-P5.000	▼ -0.515%	-P1.340	▼ -6.734%	P0.950	▲ 2.714%	P2.900	▲ 3.066%	-P1.200	▼ -0.946%	P4.700	▲ 6.080%	-P0.150	▼ -0.461%	-P3.800	▼ -2.360%

BSP to cut RRR ‘substantially’ this year

NG unlikely to issue euro bonds this year

By Beatriz Marie D. Cruz
Reporter

THE NATIONAL Government (NG) is unlikely to push through with its planned issuance of euro-denominated bonds this year, the National Treasurer said.

“When we issued the last \$2.5-billion dollar bonds, it was more cost-efficient (than the euro bonds),” National Treasurer Sharon P. Almanza told reporters on the sidelines of an event late on Tuesday.

“On a swap basis, euro is costlier, so it’s really the dollar (that was issued). During that time, we just decided that maybe... (the euro bond is) still one of the possible (choices) but not for this year,” she said in mixed English and Filipino.

The NG last issued euro bonds in April 2021, raising €2.1-billion (P122.4 billion) to support its budget as the country was struggling amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The government planned to borrow \$5 billion from the inter-

national debt market this year. It has already raised \$2 billion from the issuance of US dollar-denominated global bonds in May, and another \$2.5 billion in August. This leaves \$500 million yet to be raised.

When asked how it will raise the remaining \$500 million, Ms. Almanza said: “It will depend, because we’re also monitoring the deficit.”

“We’ve made adjustments, if you would look at the BESF (Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing), because we will be able to also source some loans from official development assistance,” she added.

The NG expects to receive P306.6 billion in program loans and P68.73 billion in project loans this year.

Ms. Almanza said the government is still eyeing Samurai bonds but is still monitoring the market.

“We are also watchful of the BoJ’s (Bank of Japan) move if they will hike (interest rates), although the yen is now appreciating so it’s better,” Ms. Almanza said in mixed English and Filipino.

Euro bonds, S1/11

Central bank has no plans to offer long-term bonds

THE BANGKO SENTRAL ng Pilipinas (BSP) has no plans of issuing long-term securities, its top official said.

“We have no plans for that. Now, it’s just a liquidity issue. Longer-term bonds are for financing of say, government operations, but what we are doing now is purely a liquidity effort,” BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. said in a press chat on Wednesday.

The BSP absorbs excess cash from the financial system through its monetary instruments, which include its overnight reverse repurchase (ON RRP) facility, short-term liquidity management tools, and standing liquidity facilities.

Data from the central bank showed that around 50% of its market operations are done through short-term BSP bills.

As of end-September, the central bank siphoned off P1.77 trillion in excess money supply through its monetary operations. Of this, P804 billion was mopped up by BSP bills.

“Maturities are shorter in general than what the National Government (NG) does when it issues its own government securities. Since 2019, we’ve been able to use

this facility, and it has helped us very much in terms of managing the liquidity of the whole system,” Mr. Remolona said.

BSP Assistant Governor Zeno R. Abenoja said the BSP bills were created in close coordination with the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

“When we crafted the BSP bills, the tenor was carefully calibrated so it will not overlap with the Treasury bills (T-bills). The T-bills run from three months onwards to a year, so the BSP has been operating below that horizon,” he said.

The BSP can technically issue any tenor but ensures its securities do not crowd out different instruments currently in the market, Mr. Abenoja added.

Short-term instruments also offer more stability and predictability.

“If you rely on shorter maturities, then we have to do more issuances every day and every one and two weeks. To provide some stability in the operation, sometimes there’s benefit to that. That’s one reason why we are focusing on these particular BSP bills,” he said.

Long-term bonds, S1/11

PHILIPPINES RANKS 45TH IN BEST COUNTRIES LIST

The Philippines dropped two places to rank 45th out of 89 countries with a score of 25 (out of possible 100) in the latest annual Best Countries rankings by *US News & World Report*, in collaboration with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. The rankings are based on global perceptions which define countries in terms of a number of qualitative characteristics, which can influence trade, travel, investment, and national economies.



2024 Overall Scores and Rankings of Select East and Southeast Asian Countries

2024 Rank (Out of 89)	Rank Changes from 2023	Country	2024 Overall Score (Out of 100)
2	▲4	JAPAN	96.6
14	▲2	SINGAPORE	81.7
16	▲4	CHINA	80.0
18	▲3	SOUTH KOREA	78.1
28	▲1	THAILAND	57.1
38	◀0	MALAYSIA	35.8
41	◀0	INDONESIA	30.5
44	◀0	VIETNAM	26.6
45	▼2	PHILIPPINES	25.0
68	▼4	CAMBODIA	10.0
73	▲7	MYANMAR	7.5

Philippines’ Historical Performance

Year	Rank	Score
2016	33/60	21.7
2017	43/80	20.8
2018	49/80	18.9
2019	50/80	16.9
2020	45/73	20.0
2021	44/78	22.4
2022	46/85	23.1
2023	43/87	26.4
2024	45/89	25.0

Philippines’ Profile

Subranking (Weights)	Rank	Score
Movers (16.58%)	47	26.4
Quality of Life (13.21%)	42	20.2
Entrepreneurship (12.91%)	51	10.5
Agility (12.65%)	53	14.0
Social Purpose (12.53%)	49	9.2
Open for Business (9.65%)	19	72.3
Cultural Influence (9.30%)	45	15.7
Adventure (5.62%)	23	50.3
Power (4.34%)	49	7.4
Heritage (3.22%)	36	35.8

NOTES:
— Nearly 17,000 respondents across the globe were surveyed from March 22 to May 23.
— In the 2024 edition, the 89 countries had to meet four benchmark criteria to be included in the study. These are gross domestic product (2018-2022), foreign direct investment inflows (2018-2022), international tourism receipts or tourism arrivals (2018-2022), and being included in the UN’s Human Development Index (2018-2022). The first three criteria are based on World Bank data.

Top 10				Bottom 10			
2024 Rank (Out of 89)	Country	Rank Changes from 2023	2024 Overall Score (Out of 100)	2024 Rank (Out of 89)	Country	Rank Changes from 2023	2024 Overall Score (Out of 100)
1	Switzerland	▲0	100.0	89	Belarus	▼3	0.0
2	Japan	▲4	96.6	88	Serbia	▼6	1.5
3	United States	▲2	94.2	87	Lebanon	▼2	2.0
4	Canada	▼2	94.1	86	Algeria	▼7	3.5
5	Australia	▼1	92.9	85	Cameroon	▼7	3.8
6	Sweden	▼3	91.7	84	Honduras	▼3	4.1
7	Germany	▲0	90.6	83	Kazakhstan	▲1	4.1
8	United Kingdom	▲1	87.9	82	Iran	▲5	5.1
9	New Zealand	▼1	86.0	81	Azerbaijan	▼4	5.6
10	Denmark	▲3	85.2	80	Ukraine	▼12	5.7

Source: US News & World Report’s Best Countries 2024 (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/rankings>)
BusinessWorld Research: Abigail Marie P. Yraola
BusinessWorld Graphics: Bong R. Fortin

RRR, S1/11

Federal Reserve cut to serve as starting gun for central banks across Asia

AFTER more than two years of currency pain, Asia’s central banks are in for some relief as the US Federal Reserve is set to cut interest rates by a quarter-point on Wednesday. The path for the region’s own monetary policy, though, will be bumpy from here.

Lower rates in the US frees up space for officials in Jakarta to Seoul and Mumbai to move lower too. The prospect for the Fed kicking off a regional cutting cycle has attracted investors, who’ve

poured money into emerging Asian debt and equities, helping strengthen currencies in the region.

The question now for Asia’s central bankers is how much they need to cut in the coming months, or whether they even need to cut at all. Places such as India and the Philippines face inflationary risks, while South Korea may prioritize financial stability.

“It would be an error to think the region’s policy makers are chomping at the bit for their chance to commence

monetary policy easing,” said Brian Tan, Barclays Plc senior regional economist. “It’s not obvious that the economy is just crying out for policy easing and that policy makers need to shift as soon as possible.”

The wake-up call may arrive as soon as this week, with central banks in China, Taiwan and Japan all expected to hold rates, though there’s some chance of a cut in Indonesia. They’re followed by the Reserve Bank of Australia on Sept. 24, which is also expected to keep rates steady.

Then, in a 10-day spree mid-October, a swath of peers from India to the Philippines issue their own diverging decisions. Markets and economists are at odds on what that will look like.

Swap markets are pricing in a benchmark reduction of 50 basis points (bps) for the Reserve Bank of New Zealand on Oct. 9, with some chance of easing also expected for the Reserve Bank of India on the same day.

While New Zealand is likely to cut through the rest of 2024 as the economy

teeters on the edge of a third recession in two years, analysts see a different picture playing out for the rest of the region.

Inflationary pressures in India and the Philippines are likely to keep policy makers there more cautious, with analysts forecasting only one 25-bp cut in the fourth quarter, surveys show. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. signaled a quarter-point cut in October or December.

Federal Reserve, S1/11