

# Zhongmin Baihui Retail Group (ZBR)

Ready-Set-Grow!

## SINGAPORE | CONSUMER | INITIATION

- Well market penetration and positioning, a resilient Chinese retail play with zero-debt and strong cash position
- Additional 18.8% store space in 2015/16
- Seeds planted, waiting to yield: Nanjing Nanzhan Store turnaround, recurring rental income from Haicang JV
- Initiate with "Buy" rating and 12-month target price of \$\$2.10 (or a 21.1% upside)

### **Investment Merits**

- Strong foothold and expanding its footprints in Fujian Province
  - (a) A household name in the Fujian Province, backed by its solid 18 years of experience in operating department store and supermarket.
  - (b) Expects an additional 18.8% store space in 2016, bringing total store network to 16 by end-2016 (considering closure of Quanzhou Quangang Store). New stores in the pipeline: Two small stores in Quanzhou, Putian Xianyou and Quanzhou Quangang Zhongxing Store (both expecting to open in 1Q16); and Quanzhou Anxi Xincheng Store expecting to open in 2016.

### Worth the wait

- (a) **The completion of upgrading works for the Xiamen train station** adjacent to one of its flagship store, Xiamen Wucun Store, would see traffic flow to return or even boosting it to a higher level.
- (b) Haicang JV (30% stake) likely to have significant positive implication on rental income. A commercial complex with a total gross floor area (GFA) of 113,500 sq m is expected to be ready by 2018/19. The setup of the exhibition center is to provide venues mainly for exhibition and promotion of imported goods.
- (c) Poising before Nanjing Nanzhan Store's turning point. The maiden store outside of Fujian province, is a *strategic move* in the unfinished Nanjing Mingfa Commercial Center. Besides establishing its presence in the middle of development area while waiting the surrounding estate to be completed, the Group has *tweaked the business mix of this store to reduce operational cost*. It has also introduced its *pilot project of e-commerce* to boost visibility.
- Stable and supportive macro-environment growing population, rising middle-class and affluent consumers translate to a more robust customer base. Furthermore, favourable initiatives and policies from the Chinese authorities would support the company's growth.

#### **Investment Risks**

- Food scare
- Unable to find good locations for new stores / unable to renew lease / delay in store opening / disruptive (construction) projects near the stores
- Keen competition within the supermarket and departmental stores industry
- Change in consumer behavior
- Pace of Chinese economy slowdown is faster than expected

#### **Investment Actions**

We initiate coverage for ZBR with a **"Buy**" rating with a **TP of S\$2.10** based on discounted cash flow (DCF) methodology, implying an upside of **21.1% (with dividends)** from its last closing price.

#### 26 November 2015

BUY (Initiate)	
CLOSING PRICE	SGD 1.78
FORECAST DIV	SGD 0.05
TARGET PRICE	SGD 2.10
TOTAL RETURN	21.1%
COMPANY DATA	
O/S SHARES (MN) :	196
MARKET CAP (USD mn / SGD mn) :	247 / 348
52 - WK HI/LO (SGD) :	1.86 / 1.76
3M Average Daily T/O (mn) :	0.08
MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS (%)	

LEE SWEE KENG	24.57%
CHEN KAITONG	23.89%
SU CAIYE	12.25%
LIM KOK TONG	12.14%

#### PRICE PERFORMANCE (%)

	1M TH	3 M T H	1Y R
COMPANY	(0.6)	(0.3)	(2.2)
STIRETURN	(6.28)	0.63	(10.95)



#### Source: Bloomberg, PSR

#### **KEY FINANCIALS** RMBMN FY 13 **FY14** FY 15F FY 16 F 882 Revenue 879 851 926 EBITDA 100 26 34 60 35 64 NPAT (adi.) 10 63 EPS (adj.) 0.05 0.18 0.32 0.33 PER.x (adi.) 146.4 46.3 24.9 24.5 P/BV.x 16.315.8 12.8 11.0DPS (SGD) 0.01 0.03 0.05 0.05 Div Yield. % 2.8% 2.9% 0.6% 1.4% ROE,% 11.9% 36.2% 56.1% 48.2%

Source: Company Data, PSR est.

Valuation Method DCF (WACC:7.7%; Terminal g: 2.5%)

Soh Lin Sin (+65 6531 1516) Investment Analyst sohls@phillip.com.sg

#### **Company Summary**

Zhongmin Baihui Retail Group Ltd. (ZBR) is principally engaged in the ownership, operation and management of department stores in the People's Republic of China. The Group operates eight self-owned stores and four managed stores in Fujian province and Jiangsu province, spanning an aggregate gross floor area of 2,055,000 sq ft as at 31 October 2015.

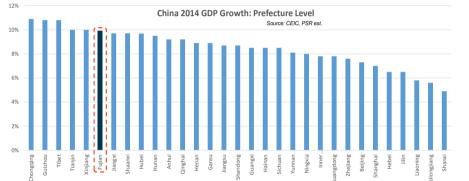
The Group's revenue is mainly derived from four sources, namely, direct sales, commission from concessionaire sales, rental income and income from managed rental.

### **Industry Outlook**

#### Promising market and strong customer base

While China is one of the most competitive emerging markets globally, Fujian is one of the province with most growth potential. It has a solid record of robust growth and rising affluence in its consumer base.

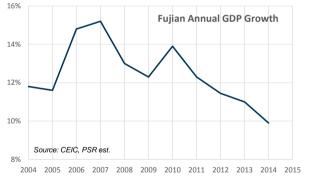




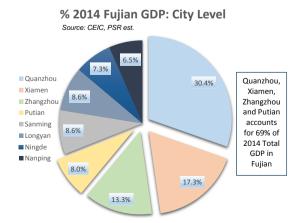
Fujian Province – the 6<sup>th</sup> highest GDP growth in China last year

Fujian grew nearly 10% in 2014 amid China's slowdown (overall China GDP growth in 2014 is 7.4%).

#### Figure 2: Enjoying high single digit growth albeit slowing down



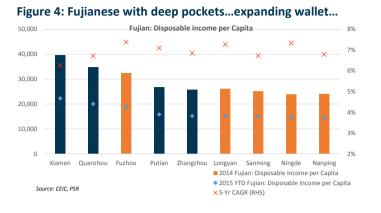
#### Figure 3: Within Fujian Province, coastal cities are the emerging high growth cities



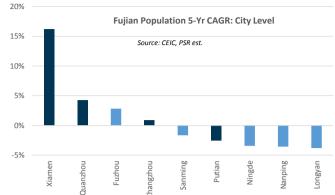
Cities along the sea line are more developed. Quanzhou, Xiamen, Zhangzhou and Putian account for 69% of Fujian's 2014 total GDP. The Group has a strong footing in Fujian Province, particularly in Quanzhou City and Xiamen City.



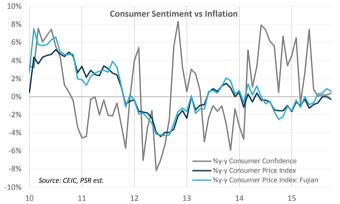


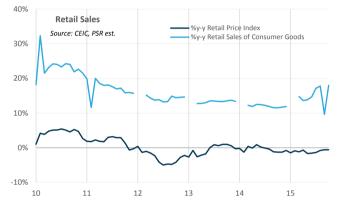


#### Figure 5: ...and increasing market base

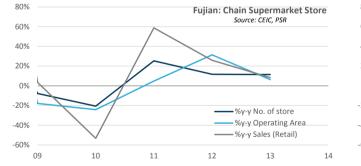


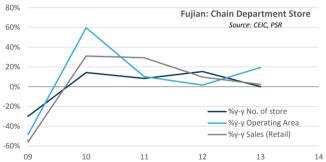
#### Figure 6 & 7: Consumer sentiment and retail sales remain buoyant amid benign inflation





#### Figure 8 & 9: Maintain positive on resiliency in chain supermarket/department store





### **Company's Positioning**

**Experience matters.** Leveraging on this supportive backdrop, ZBR has planted seeds across the Fujian province at strategic location since 1997 (mainly in areas where population is dense and traffic is high). Its roots have well penetrated and positioned in the Fujianese market, all ready to reap from this fertile land.

#### 1) A proven record of strong retail brand name

ZBR, a well-known household brand to the Fujianese, is ranked 18th in the 2014 Top 50 Chains in Fujian Province\* by the Fujian Province Chain Store & Franchise Association.

\* Only take into consideration of ZBR stores in Fujian, i.e. excluding Nanjing Nanzhan

The list includes all retail chains in Fujian, such as garments, sportswear, electronics appliances, etc. Under the Supermarket Category, ZBR is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> after Yonghui Superstores and New Huadu Supercenter.

Behind the scene is also its dedicated and experienced management whom are conversant with the consumption pattern and daily activities of Fujianese.

#### 2) Strategic location

The stores are strategically located either at the heart of a residential area with high population density or at the crossroads of traffic flow.

For example, one of its flagship store in Xiamen Wucun which is an underground shopping area located in the heart of a major transportation hub and beneath a major bustling street.

- The store covers an area of over 300,000 sqft, four floors, including a large underground commercial street. Stretching 412m long, the underground commercial street is touted as the largest of its kind in the Fujian province.
- The street, located under Xiahe Road, is a network of walking paths and underground pedestrian crossings. It links shopping malls on both sides of Xiahe road, connects the World Trade Mall in the west and Yinhe Building in the east, as well as transit to the three major public transportations in the city: a bus rapid transit station, the Xiamen Railway Station and Wucun Long-distance Bus Station.

In addition, the high traffic flow will translate into high eyeball count, which underpins the demand for advertising space – another source of income for the Group.

#### 3) Diverse tenant mix and proper space utilization

Interesting tenant mix increase store hours while doorbusters could draw footfall.

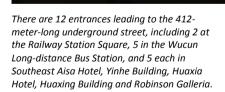
ZBR differentiates itself amidst the competitive retail landscape by adopting the concept of retail-tainment, offering a one-stop family-friendly shopping center. It combines retail – from daily necessities to jewelries – and entertainments – such as eateries, cinemas, and children playgrounds – to draw crowds as well as forming an alternate source of income.

It houses a pretty good mix of local and foreign brand names, providing wide range of varieties to consumers in both products and services.





Prominent signboard at the entrance to Wucun Underground Commercial Street, where the Xiamen Wucun store dominates.









- Popular local brand names such as, Chow Tai Seng, Dicos, and ANTA Sports
- Some well-known foreign brand names, including Casio, Philips, KFC, Nike, Adidas, Converse

According to the Group, average occupancy rate is at around 95%. Empty areas are usually temporal due to change of tenant and in a midst of store renovation.

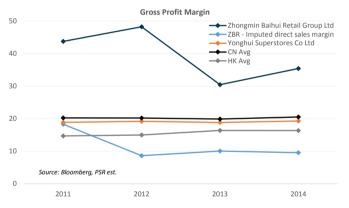
Doorbusters such as seasonal clothing are also key sales driver; while marketing activities, e.g. lucky draw, organizing group activities in the space in front of the stores (e.g. Mooncake gambling a.k.a. 博饼 during Mid-Autumn Festival) could gain traction.

4) Superior margins compared to local peers

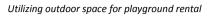
The Group's diversification strategy pays off amid nationwide economic slowdown and keen competition climate. It recorded better overall margins as compared to its pure supermarket peers despite its lower imputed direct sales margin.

While offering affordable supermarket products to its customers, value-added services from other segments, particularly its concessionaire sales, help to lift its profitability. The diversified portfolio also helps to cushion the Group's top line while it expands and nurtures new stores. It provides business mix flexibility for the Group to weather various challenges, adding to its business resiliency and competitive edge.

#### Figure 10: GPM boosted by commission from concessionaire sales



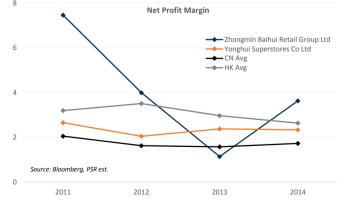
ZBR – Imputed direct sales margin is the implied gross profit margin for direct sales





Indoor playground for kids could both increase store hours as well as draw footfalls







#### 5) Quality and safety are top priorities

Food safety has long been a problem haunting the Chinese consumer market. The management has made it a point to ensure high quality products and services are met and maintained in every stores.

- Meeting international ISO standards for quality and food safety ZBR has a team of trained staff in each supermarkets to conduct daily checks on fresh foods before store opening.
- **One third policy** All grocery inventories must have shelving lives of at least one third of its usable period. Goods that do not meet this criteria will be taken off the shelf and returned to the supplier without penalty charges.



Transparency of daily checks, results of the checks are displayed to the public



Sprinkler system installed to keep vegetables fresh

#### 6) E-Commerce: A complementary service not a substitute

The management is of the view of that customers' emotion plays a critical role in retail experience. Senses – the ability to see, to feel, and to try – enhances customers satisfaction. As such, e-commerce can only be another distribution channel, and will not displace retail shops. Evidently, a lot of e-commerce companies are moving their shops into the physical realm by setting up showrooms and brick-and-mortar shops.

Nonetheless, not underestimating the potential in e-commerce business, but taken into account of the shortfall in economies of scale, the Group has partnered with an e-commerce platform, Beijing 19e E-commerce Co. Ltd, as a pilot program to test the waters.

The tie-up will be managed by its partner and is targeting to serve customers within a short distance of the Nanjing Nanzhan store.

It is currently still in a gestation stage.

Acknowledging the power of internet and social networking app, the Group also prefers to advertise via its website and Weixin.



Source: http://www.xedaojia.com/web/cooperJoin.html



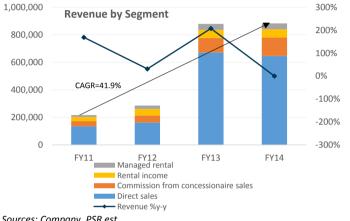
Source: http://www.weibo.com/zmbaihui

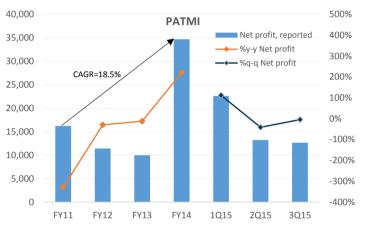
## **Financial Highlights**

#### Strong financial position – Debt free and cash rich 1)

- Revenue grew from RMB217.5 mn in FY2011 to RMB882.4 mn in FY2014, recording an impressive 3-year CAGR of 41.9%.
- PATMI, however, recorded a CAGR of 18.5% during the period, weighed by slow sales activities in Xiamen Zhongshan and Nanjing Nanzhan stores in FY2013.

#### Figure 12 & 13: Exciting Revenue and PATMI for FY2011-2014 CAGR

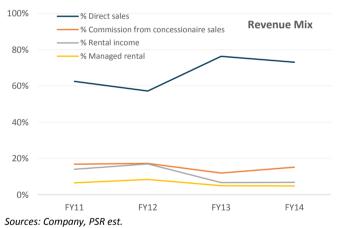




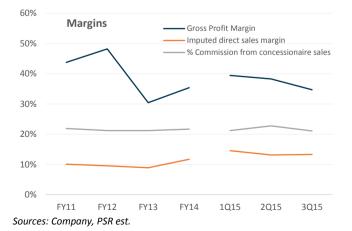
PhillipCapital

Sources: Company, PSR est.

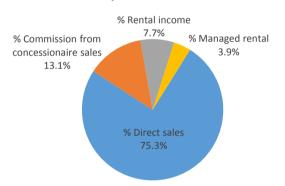
#### Figure 14 & 15: Direct and Concessionaire Sales driving top line



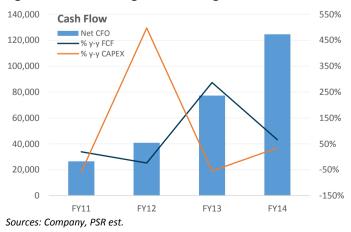
#### Figure 16: Lower sales in gold improved Direct Sales margin



3Q15 Revenue Mix



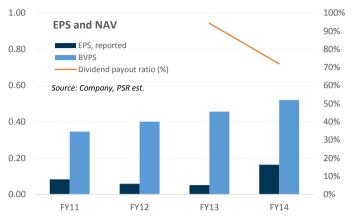
#### Figure 17: Continue to generate strong cash flow





#### 250,000 **Cash and Cash Equivalents** 214,161 Source: Company, PSR est. 200.000 + 38,674 150,000 + 23 657 100,000 87.735 50.000 0 FY11 FY12 FY13 FY14

# Figure 19: Growing EPS and BVPS, but FY14 Dividend was affected by expansion



#### 2) High liquidity backed by a gold vault

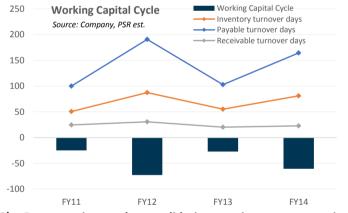
Figure 18: Piling up cash

ZBR has a huge inventories of gold. Gold accounts for 50% of inventory and 11% of direct sales.

Chinese retail appetite for gold has shrank in FY2014, impeding inventory turnover. Nonetheless, the favorable credit terms by suppliers provided the Group ample room to maneuver.

It continues to appeal to cost-cautious customers by offering jewelries at a cheaper price compared to its competitors (e.g. Chow Tai Fook) as it charges a lesser premium for workmanship, brand name and design.

#### Figure 20: Negative Working Capital Cycle enabling the Group to expand







Self-owned gold and silver stores

# 3) Restructuring and consolidation to improve operational efficiency as well as profitability

The Group has commenced a series of cost saving measures to improve profitability

- **Staff costs management** The Group has simplified management by reducing layers of management, as well as redeployed experienced staff to nurture new stores, have improved overall productivity and lowered selling and distribution expenses and administrative expenses.
- **Reducing operational loss** Both decisions to close Xiamen Zhongshan store (in July 2015) and change sales mix in Nanjing Nanzhan store (in FY4Q14) have helped the bottom line.
- **Dropping unprofitable low-end merchandises** The Group is reviewing its department stores sales structure by ceasing sales of some low-end merchandises which require intensive sales labor.



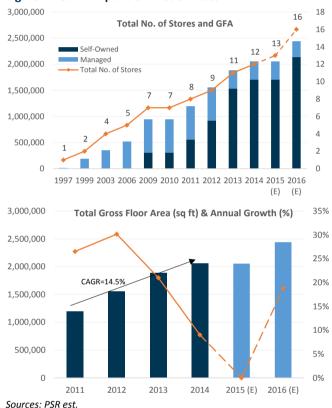
#### **Potential Catalysts**

#### 1) New stores opening

Over the next two years, **new stores in the pipelines** that could significantly improve the top line are – Putian Xianyou Store, 73,000 sq ft, Quanzhou Quangang Zhongxing Store, 219,000 sq ft and Quanzhou Anxi Xincheng Store, 86,000 sq ft.

In addition, in line with its previous guidance, the Group has also recently signed two leases for **two smaller stores in Quanzhou city** – one in a mature residential district (1,000 sq m), and the other is in Anxi County (3,700 sq m) – targeting to start operations by 1QFY2016.

The five new stores would **add another 18.8% store space by end-16**, bringing total store network to 16 (considering closure of Quanzhou Quangang Store).



#### Figure 21 & 22: Expansion mode intact



Putian Xianyou (Ground level)



Putian Xianyou (Basement level)



Quanzhou Quangang Zhongxing

#### 2) Riding the potential upside in Haicang

Venturing into the rental market in Haicang District, Xiamen City, is a strategic move for ZBR. Via its 30% associate, Citi-Base Holdings, it gained access to business opportunities in Haicang market located in the free-trade zone (FTZ). Preferential policies would make the district a desirable business hub.

The commercial complex which is currently under construction is mainly for rental purposes. Phase one is a 3-floor block with a basement carpark. Phase two comprises two buildings of 10 and 18 floors. Phase three is a 14-floor office building. The entire project will have a total GFA of 113,500 sq m.

It has also separately entered into a joint venture agreement with two other parties to establish an exhibition center, by the name of Xiamen Ganghui Commercial Limited with 19% interest.

The setup of the exhibition center is to provide venues mainly for exhibition and promotion of imported goods, which is viewed as synergistic to ZBR as it exposes the group to a wider network of suppliers. The completion of the commercial complex will introduce a new stream of recurring rental income to the Group.

PhillipCapital

#### 3) Turning Point for Nanjing Nanzhan Store

Similarly, setting foot into the capital of Jiangsu province is an opportunistic move. Its maiden store outside of Fujian province is located within the development area of the Nanjing Mingfa Commercial Center, where the Nanjing municipal government aims to create a "one-stop shopping paradise" of over 4 mn sqft, boosting the commercial center's status in the international commercial retail scene.

Upon completion of construction, the area will be packed with hotels, restaurants, entertainment, and leisure facilities, where the Nanjing Nanzhan store could tap into the large tourist crowd as well as locals. However, the sluggish progress of development has taken a toll on the store's sales. The management disclosed that the store is still experiencing operating losses in 3Q15.

Nonetheless, it also marked an important step for ZBR's growth as it brings the local Fujian brand beyond its comfort zone. The pilot program on e-commerce via mobile app would help to boost brand awareness within the city. Improved earnings at the Nanjing Nanzhan store post cost rationalization and rebalancing sales mix (increasing rental income segment) should help to elevate the Group's financial performance.

#### **Forecast Assumptions**

We forecasted a 6.8% revenue 3-year CAGR for 2014-17, which is in line with the moderating Chinese economic growth to below 7%. The top line growth will be driven by the five new stores and a 30bps improvement in gross margin. Eventually, these will translates to a 26.5% net profit CAGR for the same period.

#### 1) Number of outlets and business aspirations

As part of the Group's expansion project, the five new stores would bring total store space to 2,440,700 sq ft and total store network to 16 by end-16.

The management shared that they are currently cautious on its expansion plan given the backdrop of uncertainty. Nonetheless, opportunities prevail in weak property market, the Group will continue to lookout for expansion opportunities (via organic growth, acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances) and remains open to good locations with attractive intrinsic values.

Sidetracking from its initial target to grow its department stores in Fujian, the Group is currently looking to focus on its supermarket business. The management shared that it will continue to explore the option of expanding relatively smaller outlets which are more cost-effective (lesser CAPEX and shorter start-up period).

These pure supermarket small stores will be able to reach out to localized population segments, help brand name to grow, as well as to boost sales per sqft and sales turnover.

Therefore, we think that the initial targeted gross floor area of 3,229,000 sqft (300,000 sqm) is still achievable, but could take a longer period of time instead of materializing by 2016. We also think that it is likely for the Group to extend its reach along the sea line, e.g. Fuzhou, and within the Fujian Province where it has a strong brand name.

#### 2) Profit margins

Over the next two to three years, the five new stores in the pipelines is expected to lift the top line. Meanwhile, the Nanjing Nanzhan store should start to contribute positively to the Group as it rents out close to 50% of its store area.

Expenses in 2014 was bumped up by the Xiamen Zhongshan store (high rental expenses as well as impairment losses on its lease termination).

The Group has been implementing cost control measures since 4Q14. We expect 1) cost control measures to continue, therefore reducing selling and distribution expenses, as well as administrative expenses; and 2) expenses % of total revenue to remain higher than

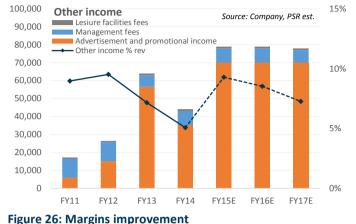


FY13, which is in line with its expansion plan. Consequently, we expect gross margins to improve by 30bps on the top level to 38.0%.

# Figure 23: Direct sales should continue to drive revenue, while managed rental is to shrink in conjunction with its effort to wind down managed stores



Figure 24: Other income increased on higher advertisement and promotional income, but expected to decrease on lower management fees from managed stores







#### 3) Working capital cycle

We expect ZBR to maintain its negative working capital cycle over FY2015-17:

- Inventory turnover days to maintain at below 90 days due to lower sales in gold, which accounts for 50% of its inventory
- **Receivable turnover days** to maintain at below 30 days. *Most of its trade receivables are due from a large telco, who gives out Zhongmin Baihui gift cards to its customers as part of its reward scheme*
- **Payable turnover days** to maintain at 164 days. *Similar credit terms with its suppliers and landlords for its new stores.*

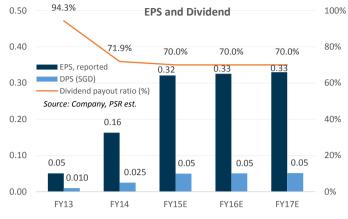
#### 4) Dividend policy

The Group does not have a fixed dividend policy, and has made its maiden dividend of S\$0.01 cent per share in FY2013, which implied a 94.3% payout ratio. Subsequently, it has also declared an interim and final dividend which totaled to S\$0.025 cent per share in FY2014.

Cash rich, we expect ZBR to continue to fund its capex internally and payout 70% of its earnings to reward its shareholders.

In addition, we applied exchange rate of 4.50 RMB to S\$ over FY15-17 to reflect our long term positive view on RMB.





### Figure 27: Sustainable EPS and dividend payout

Sources: Company, PSR est.

### Valuation

ZBR currently trades at a 49.6x FY14 PER, which is 81% higher compared to its regional peers' at 27.2x. However, it is trading at a 8% discount to its Chinese peers. The lower PER accounts for ZBR's 1) smaller market capitalization and 2) single province concentration risk. Nonetheless, we expects the FY15E PER to further normalize to 24.9x.

We are **Positive** on the stock for its 1) strong brand equity backed by experienced management team, 2) growing customer base and industry resiliency, and 3) strong cash position.

We initiate coverage for ZBR with a "**Buy**" rating with a **target price of \$\$2.10** based on discounted cash flow (DCF) methodology. This implies an **upside of 21.1%** (with dividends) from its last closing price.

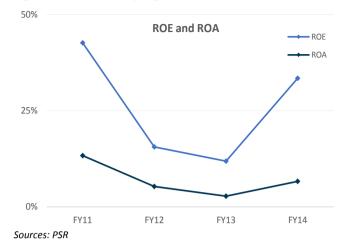
Figure 28:	Valuation	
ltem	WACC	Target
А	Current share price	1.775
В	No. of shares	78,917,234
$A \times B = C$	Market capitalisation	140,078,090
D	Total debt	0
C + D = E	Total value	140,078,090
C / E	Equity ratio	100%
D/E	Debt ratio	0%
	Cost of debt	
	Interest rate	0.0%
	Tax rate	25.0%
	After-tax interest	0.0%
	Cost of equity	
	Risk free rate	3.50%
	Market risk premium	7.0%
	Beta	0.59
	Cost of equity	7.7%
	WACC	7.7%
	Terminal growth rate	2.5%

ltem	Financials (RMB'000)		Ca	ash Flow		
	Year	FY16e	FY17e	FY18e	FY19e	FY20e
	OCF	101,635	111,688	103,348	104,066	106,252
	Capex	(14,819)	(17,174)	(17,748)	(18,347)	(18,974)
	FCF	86,817	94,514	85,600	85,719	87,278
	Terminal value					1,736,751
	PV	80,646	81,557	68,615	63,827	1,261,657
F	Enterprise value	1,556,302				
G	Add: Net Cash	303,221				
Н	Less: Minority Interest	0				
F + G + H =	I Equity value	1,859,523				
J	No. of shares ('000)	196,320				
I/J	Fair value/share (RMB)	9.47				
	Fair value/share (S\$)*	2.10				
	*Assuming CNYSGD: 4.50					



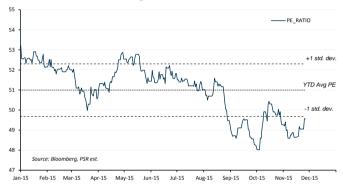


### Figure 29: Consistently high ROE of more than 10% since IPO



#### Figure 30 & 31: ZBR's YTD performance – Outperforming STI and PER below its YTD average





#### Figure 32: Peer Comparison Table

	Bloomberg	Mkt Cap	EV	EV/EBITDA	EV/EBITDA	EV/EBITDA	P/E	P/E	P/E	Net D/E	ROA	ROE	P/B	Dividend	Gross Profit	Net Profi
Company	Ticker	(SGD mn)	(SGD mn)	ттм	FY1	FY2		FY1	FY2	(%)	(%)	(%)		Yield (%)	Margin	Margin
Zhongmin Baihui Retail Group Ltd	ZBR SP	348.5	295.6	25.2	11.8	10.9	49.6	24.9	24.5	Net Cash	6.6	33.4	15.5	2.0	35.4	3.6
Singapore																
setan Singapore Ltd	ISET SP	183.2	107.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Net Cash	-4.2	-5.2	1.0	1.7	N/A	-0.9
Parkson Retail Asia Ltd	PRA SP	182.9	27.1	N/A	0.6	0.6	23.1	10.0	11.7	Net Cash	-8.7	-18.2	1.2	22.2	N/A	-8.1
Average				N/A	0.6	0.6	23.1	10.0	11.7	N/A	-6.5	-11.7	1.1	12.0	N/A	-4.5
China																
ronghui Superstores Co Ltd	601933 CH	9,558.5	8,109.5	23.1	18.7	15.4	40.7	44.0	35.3	Net Cash	5.6	10.2	3.6	1.1	19.3	2.3
Shanghai Bailian Group Co Ltd	600827 CH	7,191.0	5,531.6	N/A	N/A	12.2	25.4	24.0	26.7	Net Cash	3.3	9.5	2.3	1.3	20.9	2.1
BeijingHualian Hypermarket Co Ltd	600361 CH	1,188.5	215.0	N/A	2.7	2.1	96.2	147.6	135.3	Net Cash	0.5	1.8	1.7	1.2	21.4	0.8
Average				23.1	10.7	9.9	54.1	71.9	65.8	N/A	3.1	7.2	2.5	1.2	20.5	1.7
long Kong																
Sun Art Retail Group Ltd	6808 HK	10,424.4	9,362.4	8.9	6.6	6.2	17.7	18.6	18.3	Net Cash	5.6	14.0	2.4	2.7	22.9	3.2
Wumart Stores Inc	1025 HK	1,294.9	1,043.9	9.9	4.7	4.3	17.6	14.9	13.9	Net Cash	2.8	8.6	1.5	N/A	9.8	2.1
Average				9.4	5.6	5.3	17.7	16.8	16.1	N/A	4.2	11.3	1.9	2.7	16.3	2.6
Faiwan																
Shin Shin Co Ltd/Taiwan	2901 TT	83.5	68.6	27.4	N/A	N/A	47.2	N/A	N/A	Net Cash	4.1	4.8	2.2	1.7	86.5	23.8
South Korea																
E-MART Inc	139480 KS	7,423.0	12,266.6	10.8	10.1	9.0	12.2	11.2	13.8	51.9	3.5	7.2	0.9	0.7	27.9	2.2
ndonesia																
Matahari Putra Prima Tbk PT	MPPA IJ	1,092.4	1,129.4	12.1	12.5	10.9	24.0	22.6	21.0	Net Cash	7.8	16.1	3.7	1.8	17.3	4.1
Thailand																
Siam Makro PCL	MAKRO TB	7,231.7	7,487.5	23.0	21.2	17.9	33.9	32.7	27.7	9.4	13.6	45.1	14.3	2.1	10.6	3.4
Big C Supercenter PCL	BIGC TB	6,499.0	7,261.9	13.8	13.3	12.2	22.6	22.3	19.9	32.1	7.7	17.3	3.7	1.3	21.0	5.5
Average				18.4	17.2	15.0	28.3	27.5	23.8	20.7	10.7	31.2	9.0	1.7	15.8	4.5
Malaysia																
Parkson Holdings Bhd	PKS MK	386.1	936.8	6.4	5.5	5.1	16.2	9.6	8.6	Net Cash	0.9	3.0	0.4	N/A	N/A	1.2
Philippines																
Robinsons Retail Holdings Inc	RRHI PM	2,899.5	2,835.3	15.9	14.2	12.1	23.2	22.1	19.2	Net Cash	7.5	10.4	2.3	0.7	21.7	4.4
Puregold Price Club Inc	PGOLD PM	2,853.9	2,957.2	11.8	11.8	10.4	20.3	19.4	17.3	Net Cash	9.4	13.3	2.6	0.9	17.1	5.3
Average				13.9	13.0	11.3	21.7	20.8	18.3	N/A	8.4	11.9	2.4	0.8	19.4	4.9
Simple Average (Excl. ZBR)				15.2	9.4	8.4	27.2	23.8	22.4	36.3	4.0	9.0	2.7	2.8	29.1	4.5
Source: Bloomberg, Phillip Securities Resea		dia section a														



#### Risks

#### 1) Competition

Supermarket chains are mushrooming in China. Chinese opening up policy have brought many large international players to this flourishing land, attempting to gain a share in the grocery market.

However, good times do not last long when Chinese government issued a new tax policy in Dec-10. The new government policy increases foreign companies' operating costs as multiple privileges such as tax breaks and favorable lease terms ceased, stripping off their competitive edge.

- Foreign players winding down branches and slowing expansion, opening up market share for grab Tesco closed four supermarket stores in China in Aug-15; while Carrefour and Walmart have both decided to reduce the number stores but pledged to seek opportunities to expand in the region.
- Local players are faring better relative to their struggling foreign counterparts New Huadu Supercenter and Yonghui Superstores increased the number of their stores significantly, while Beijing Hualian Group aims to open 30 stores.

#### 2) Stores and leases

- Unable to find good locations for new stores
- Unable to renew lease (at favorable terms)
- Delay in store opening
- Disruptive (construction) projects near the stores

#### 3) FX/Currency risk

The Group's main operational subsidiary's sales, purchases, receipts, payments are traded primarily in RMB. As such, it has minimal currency exposure to SGD, except for the dividend remittance and the operating expenses of its Singapore company.

#### Figure 33: Long term positive outlook on RMB



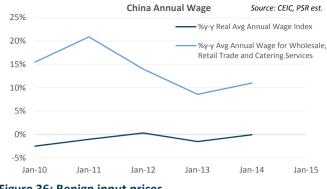
#### 4) Costlier labor and rental could weigh on margins

Rental and labor are ZBR's key expenses.

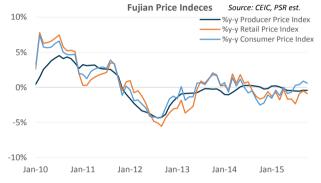
- Growth in average wage for commercial workers has picked up pace since 2013, when China is rebalancing its economy to a consumption-led growth model.
- Against the backdrop of slowing property market and unlikely recovery in commodity prices, we do not expect a jump in rental costs and input prices within the province.



#### Figure 34: Rising labour cost



#### Figure 36: Benign input prices



#### Figure 35: Expects no surprise jump in rental costs



#### Other risks affecting demand 5)

- Pace of Chinese economy slowdown is faster than expected
- Change in consumer behaviour Trend of affluence consumers willing to travel extra miles to purchase daily necessities like milk powder, apparels, luxurious goods, etc.
- Food scare Negative news on Chinese food, food scams, diseases, etc.



## **SWOT** Analysis

Strengths	Weakness
<ul> <li>Strengths</li> <li>Strong retail brand name, ability to attract concessionaires and suppliers.</li> <li>Dedicated an experienced management.</li> <li>Strategic location provides a higher bargaining power to tenants. Low lease rate, with market rate charged to subtenant Ability to extract more value from the chain from sub-tenant.</li> <li>Reliable partners to obtain lease at a bargain (large space at reasonable price).</li> <li>Competitive edge in seeking good location and attractive deals, and support from the local government.</li> <li>Strong financial position – cash rich with huge gold inventories.</li> <li>Ability to pass on cost to customers.</li> <li>Diversified portfolio. Different models to complement each other as well as to cushion short term weakness in specific segments.</li> <li>Flexibility in determining business mix.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Cannibalism due to another ZBR store in the vicinity.</li> <li>Highly labor intensive.</li> <li>Single province-dependent.</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul> <li>New stores.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Intense competition within the industry, rising from both</li> </ul>
• Rental income to grow in tandem with government's policy	domestic and overseas.
easing in the property market.	<ul> <li>Low barrier to new entrant.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Possible new business model – Smaller pure supermarket</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Challenges to obtain good location with big floor area. Lack</li> </ul>
outlets, introducing e-commerce.	of supply for leases with big retail space in old cities (where
<ul> <li>Improvement on logistics, warehousing and bulk purchasing to improve margins.</li> </ul>	there are higher resident density as compared to the new cities).

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#### **Company Background**

Zhongmin Baihui Retail Group Ltd is principally engaged in the ownership, operation and management of department stores in the People's Republic of China under the name "中 闽百汇".

It was incorporated in Singapore on 17 Sep-04, listed on the Catalist Board of the Singapore Exchange on 20 Jan-11, and was subsequently transferred to the Mainboard on 3 Sep-13.

It started its first store in Anxi County, Quanzhou City, Fujian province in 1997, and has expanded its footprint in Fujian province and Jiangsu province to operate eight self-owned stores and four managed stores spanning an aggregate gross floor area of 2,055,000 sq ft (190,900 sq m) as at 31 October 2015.

The four managed stores are owned by a related company, Quanzhou Zhongmin Baihui, and the Group receives fixed management fees (RMB1.0 mn per managed store p.a., payable on a monthly basis and are subjected to review every three years) for running these stores.

Most of the self-owned stores are under favorable lease agreements, with lease terms ranging from 8 to 20 years. The Group does not need to worry about lease renewal until 2021.

#### Figure 37: Stores location



Source: Company (as of 31 Dec 2014)







Xiamen City			
<ul> <li>Xiamen Wucun Store, 2009</li> <li>Self-Owned</li> <li>28,700 sq m</li> <li>One of the largest underground retail malls in Fujian province. Located in the commercial center of Xiamen City, in the heart of a transportation hub that is a nexus linked by walkways and underground pedestrian crossings to bus terminals, a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) station and Xiamen Railway Station.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Xiamen Jiahe Store, 2011</li> <li>Self-Owned</li> <li>23,300 sq m</li> <li>Located in the heart of a residential area in Xiamen City with heavy human traffic and will be served by lines 1 and 2 of the new subway network which is currently under construction.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Xiamen Haicang Store, YTC</li> <li>Self-Owned</li> <li>8,000 sq m</li> <li>Located in a mature area of Haicang District and is in close proximity to the main road of free trade zone with an extensive public transport network directly to Xiamen Island and other nearby districts such as Xinglin and Jimei.</li> </ul>	
Zhangzhou City		Putian City	
<ul> <li>Zhangzhou Zhongshan Store, 2003</li> <li>Managed</li> <li>11,100 sq m</li> <li>Located in the city center of Zhangzhou City with high and constant pedestrian flow and high visibility.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Zhangzhou Longwen Store, YTC</li> <li>Self-Owned</li> <li>YTC</li> <li>43,700 sq m</li> <li>Located next to the Central Business District and the municipal government of Zhangzhou City, surrounded by residential buildings and schools.</li> </ul>	Putian Xianyou Store, 2016         (Expected)         • Self-Owned         • 6,700 sq m         • Located in Xianyou Lizhong Wenti Lvhua Square which is within the area of Central Park of Xianyou County, a densely populated one-stop hub for shopping, leisure and entertainment.	
Jiangsu Province			
<ul> <li><b>Nanjing Nanzhan Store, 2012</b></li> <li>Self-Owned</li> <li>33,600 sq m</li> <li>Located next to the Nanjing Railway Station which is the biggest train station in Asia.</li> </ul>			
Source: Company			

#### **Business segments**

The Group's revenue is mainly derived from four sources, namely, direct sales, commission from concessionaire sales, rental income and income from managed rental.

#### 1. Direct Sales

- Supermarket (offers both fresh foods and dry goods), jewellery sales to Accounts for >70% of total revenue. . customers. Products are sourced and sold by itself.
- Second largest contributor to gross profit.





#### Commission from concessionaire sales 2.

- Based on a fixed sum or an agreed percentage of sales (average of 21% of gross proceeds from concessionaire sales), whichever is higher. The amount includes maintenance fees charged to tenants.
- Largest contributor to gross profit.

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Supermarket - Dry products and fresh foods (including vegetables, fruits, meat, and live seafood)

Just-in-time Inventory

- Reduce stock obsolescence
- Optimize and balancing retail and storage spaces
- Minimize utilities cost for storage areas

Bulk purchasing is harder due to logistics and suppliers constraints, but did not elimiate the option of central warehousing

Accounts for ~15% of total sales.



#### 3. **Rental income**

- Rental of premises at fixed rates for a period of one to five years. Favorable lease Accounts for ~7% of total sales. terms enable ZBR to earn a good spread even if it rents at a market rate.
- Also provides temporary and seasonal leases of spaces in the department store for suppliers to conduct promotional activities. This improves shopping experience, gives flexibility to space utilization, as well as helps to improve foot traffic.
- Rental income inclusive of maintenance fees charged to lessees.

#### Managed rental 4.

- Fixed rent plus management fees.
- Provides more shopping options to customers.

Other sources of income include fixed management fees from the four managed stores and advertising and promotion fees.

Accounts for ~4% of total sales.



#### **Group structure**

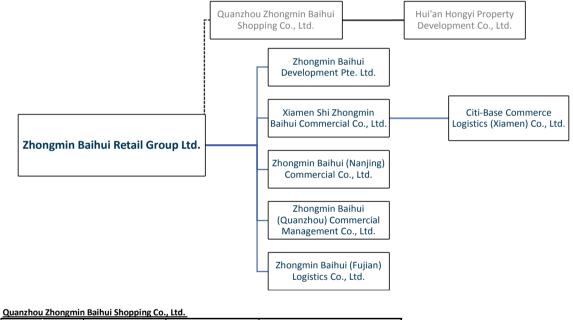
Debunk negative myths: Enhancing corporate governance, clear-cut structure to minimize IPT

The transfer of both Tumen and Quanxiu stores in Quanzhou in 2013 are testament of the Group honoring its pledge to both the Singapore Exchange (SGX) as well as its shareholders to minimize potential conflict of interest arising from the interested party transaction (IPT).

Pre-IPO, the Group had six Managed stores – five stores in Quanzhou (namely, Anxi, Tumen, Quangang, Quanxiu, and Hui'an Huixing) and one store in Zhangzhou Zhongshan. It had ceased growing its Managed stores segment since then and had agreed to eventually close or transfer its Managed stores from Quanzhou Zhongmin Baihui (the parent company of ZBR's Managed sores) to ZBR. The Group has also indicated its intention of discontinuing its Quanzhou Quangang store once its new Quanzhou Quangang Zhongxing store is opened (also due to close proximity to each other). It will also consider winding down one or two stores after their leases expire.

The continuous effort are viewed positively as it showcased Management's active role in improving its governance and transparency.

#### Figure 38: The Group and its sister private company, Quanzhou Zhongmin Baihui Shopping Co., Ltd.



	Position in ZBR	Shareholding in ZBR	Shareholding in Quanzhou ZMBH
Mr Chen Kaitong	CEO and ED	23.72%	61.70%
Mr Su Caiye	Non-ED	11.86%	30.85%
Mr Su Jianli	Deputy CEO and ED	2.87%	7.45%

\* As of 12 March 2013

#### Hui'an Hongyi Property Development Co., Ltd.

	Position in ZBR	Shareholding in ZBR	Shareholding in Quanzhou ZMBH	Shareholding in Hui'an Hongyi
Mr Chen Kaitong	CEO and ED	20.61%	61.70%	30.23%
Mr Su Caiye	Non-ED	10.21%	30.85%	15.12%
Mr Su Jianli	Deputy CEO and ED	2.87%	7.45%	3.65%

\* As of 1 April 2013

Source: Company



### **Board of Directors**

Balanced board composition and ownership promotes check and balance. The board comprises four Singaporeans and four Chinese nationals.

Board of Directors	Position in ZBR	Since
Mr Lee Swee Keng	Executive Chairman	Sep-04
Mr Chen Kaitong	Chief Executive Officer and	Dec-08
	Executive Director	
Mr Su Jianli	Deputy CEO (Marketing and	Dec-08
	Operations) and Executive	
	Director	
Mr Andrew Lim Kok-Kin	Executive Director	Jan-12
Mr Su Caiye	Non-Executive Non-	Dec-08
	Independent Director	
Dr Ong She Hong	Independent Director	Dec-10
Mr Koh Lian Huat	Independent Director	Dec-10
Ms Xu Ruyu	Independent Director	Dec-10

Source: Company

#### **Key Management**

Key personnel in operations management are Chinese who have local insights and ground truth. Meanwhile, the Singaporean CFO would ensure accounting, financial administration, and the compliance and reporting obligations of the Group are consistent with Singapore standard.

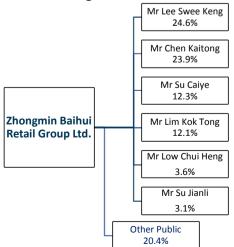
Key Management	Position in ZBR	Since
Ms Wang Liyu	Deputy CEO (Administration	2010
	and Human Resources)	
Mr Jeffrey Kan Kai Hi	Chief Financial Officer	2010
Ms Jian Aihong	Operations Manager	2010

Source: Company

#### Shareholding structure

ZBR has six substantial shareholders: 1) Mr Lee Swee Keng, 2) Mr Chen Kaitong, 3) Mr Su Caiye, 4) Lim Kok Tong, 5) Mr Low Chui Heng, and 6) Mr Su Jian Li. Together, they form 79.6% of the Group's outstanding shares.

#### Figure 39: Shareholding structure



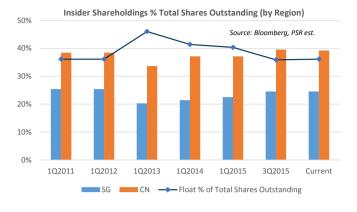
#### Figure 40: Substantial shareholders trend



Resignation of Mr Low Chui Heng as an Executive Director of the Group in May-15 was reflected on his ownership.

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# Figure 41: Insider ownership in SG to CN maintains at 2:3 ratio, no significant paradigm shift



#### Figure 42: Shareholders alarmed by China's slowdown



#### Conclusion

The slowdown in Chinese economy amid global uncertainties has been one of the main concerns of every investors, particularly within the region. However, we are positive that China consumption growth story will continue to prevail as the world's second largest economy shift its investment-led growth model to consumption based.

Despite most of the S-Chips took a beating after a series of event as sceptical investors shun away from China related stocks, but we think that there are room still for optimism within this segment. The stable stock price of Zhongmin Baihui Retail Group Ltd. is a vote of confidence from the investors to the Chinese economy, its consumption story, the company's business, as well as the company's management.

We initiate coverage on ZBR with a **"Buy"** rating and **\$\$2.10 12-month target price** based on discounted cash flow (DCF) methodology. This represents an **upside of 21.5%**.

Balance Sheet Y/E Dec, RMB mn

Total non-current assets

Accounts receivables

Shareholder Equity

ASSETS PPE

Others

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FY15F FY16F

## **Financials**

#### Income Statement

Y/E Dec, RMB mn	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15F	FY16F
Revenue	286	879	882	851	926
Gross profit	138	268	312	323	352
EBITDA	26	34	60	100	102
Depreciation & Amortisation	(3)	(6)	(8)	(9)	(9)
EBIT	24	29	51	91	93
Net Finance Inc/(Exp)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Profit Before Tax	23	28	50	90	91
Taxation	(12)	(18)	(18)	(27)	(28)
Net profit, reported	11	10	32	63	64
Net profit, adj.	11	10	35	63	64

(1)	(1)	Cash	111	150	214	195
90	91	Inventories	48	137	116	117
(27)	(28)	Others	24	18	26	26
63	64	Total current assets	210	375	396	390
63	64	Total Assets	261	463	506	509
		LIABILITIES				
		Accounts payables	104	240	274	238
		Short term loans	1	0	0	0
		Others	15	56	49	49
		Total current liabilities	120	296	323	286
		Long term loans	10	0	0	0
		Others	52	78	81	100
15F	FY16F	Total non-current liabilities	62	78	81	100
0.32	0.33	Total Liabilities	182	373	404	387
0.32	0.33					
0.05	0.05	EQUITY				
0.62	0.73	Non-controlling interests	0	0	0	0

FY12

FY13

FY14

Per share data (RMB)					
Y/E Dec	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15F	FY16F
EPS, reported	0.06	0.05	0.16	0.32	0.33
EPS, adj.	0.06	0.05	0.18	0.32	0.33
DPS (SGD)	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.05
BVPS	0.40	0.46	0.52	0.62	0.73
Exchange rate (SGDCNY)	5.10	4.79	4.69	4.50	4.50

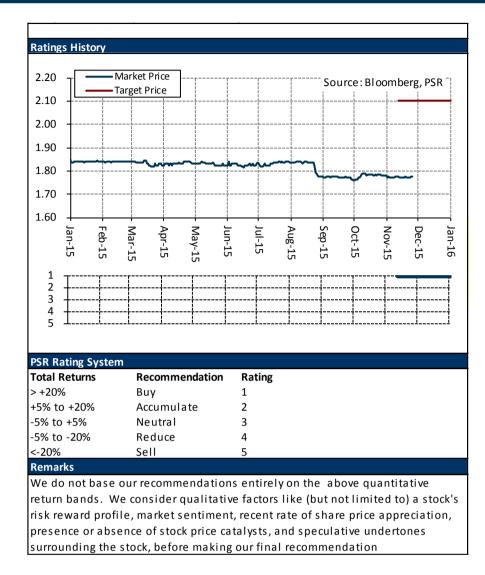
Cash Flow					
Y/E Dec, RMB mn	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15F	FY16F
CFO					
Profit Before Tax	23	28	50	90	91
Depreciation & Amortisation	3	6	8	9	9
WC changes	14	42	64	(50)	6
Net finance inc/(exp)	0	0	1	1	1
Tax paid	(11)	(22)	(27)	(27)	(28)
Others	12	23	27	20	22
Cashflow from ops	41	77	125	42	102
CFI					
CAPEX, net	(24)	(11)	(14)	(14)	(15)
Others	(4)	(26)	(8)	(4)	0
Cashflow from investments	(27)	(27)	(23)	(17)	(15)
CFF					
Share issuance, net	0	0	0	0	0
Loans, net of repayments	(9)	(11)	0	0	0
Dividends	0	0	(19)	(44)	(45)
Others	19	0	(18)	0	0
Cashflow from financing	10	(11)	(37)	(44)	(45)
Net change in cash	24	39	64	(19)	42
Effects of exchange rates	(1)	1	(0)	0	0
CCE, end	111	150	214	195	237

Valuation Ratios					
Y/E Dec	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15F	FY16F
P/E (X), adj.	125.5	146.4	46.3	24.9	24.5
P/B (X)	18.2	16.3	15.8	12.8	11.0
EV/EBITDA (X), adj.	51.0	38.7	23.3	13.8	13.1
Dividend Yield (%)	0.0%	0.6%	1.4%	2.8%	2.9%
Growth & Margins (%)					
Growth					
Revenue	31.4%	207.6%	0.4%	-3.6%	8.9%
EBITDA	-2.7%	29.8%	76.5%	66.7%	1.9%
EBIT	85.5%	102.1%	76.9%	77.1%	1.5%
Net profit, adj.	-29.7%	-12.5%	247.7%	81.5%	1.5%
Margins					
Gross margin	48.2%	30.4%	35.4%	38.0%	38.0%
EBITDA margin	9.1%	3.9%	6.8%	11.7%	11.0%
EBIT margin	8.3%	3.3%	5.8%	10.7%	10.0%
Net profit margin	4.0%	1.1%	3.9%	7.4%	6.9%
Key Ratios					
ROE (%)	15.6%	11.9%	36.2%	56.1%	48.2%
ROA (%)	5.3%	2.8%	7.2%	12.4%	11.8%
Net Debt/(Cash)	(100)	(150)	(214)	(195)	(237)
Net Gearing (X)	Net Cash				

Source: Company, Phillip Securities Research (Singapore) Estimates

\*Forward multiples & yields based on current market price; historical multiples & yields based on historical market price.







#### Management

Chan Wai Chee (CEO, Research - Special Opportunities) - yebo@phillip.com.sg

Consumer | Healthcare Soh Lin Sin - sohls@phillip.com.sg

Transport| REITs (Industrial) Richard Leow, CFTe richardleowwt@phillip.com.sg

> SINGAPORE Phillip Securities Pte Ltd Raffles City Tower 250, North Bridge Road #06-00 Singapore 179101 Tel +65 6533 6001 Fax +65 6535 6631 Website: Www.poems.com.sg

> > JAPAN

Phillip Securities Japan, Ltd. 4-2 Nihonbashi Kabuto-cho Chuo-ku, Tokyo 103-0026 Tel +81-3 3666 2101 Fax +81-3 3666 6090 Website: www.phillip.co.jp

THAILAND Phillip Securities (Thailand) Public Co. Ltd 15th Floor, Vorawat Building, 849 Silom Road, Silom, Bangrak, Bangkok 10500 Thailand Tel +66-2 6351700 / 22680999 Fax +66-2 22680921

Website www<u>.phillip.co.th</u>

Phillip Futures Inc 141 W Jackson Blvd Ste 3050 The Chicago Board of Trade Building Chicago, IL 60604 USA Tel +1-312 356 9000 Fax +1-312 356 9005 Website: www.phillipusa.com

INDIA PhillipCapital (India) Private Limited No.1, 18th Floor Urmi Estate 95, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg Lower Parel West, Mumbai 400-013 Maharashtra, India Tel: +91-22-2300 2999 / Fax: +91-22-2300 2969 Website: www.phillipcapital.in

CAMBODIA Phillip Bank Plc Ground Floor of B-Office Centre,#61-64, Norodom Blvd Corner Street 306,Sangkat Boeung Keng Kang 1 Khan Chamkamorn, Phnom Penh, Cambodia Cambodia Tel: 855 (0) 7796 6151/855 (0) 1620 0769 Website: www.phillipbank.com.kh

#### Contact Information (Singapore Research Team)

Jacky Lee Chee Waiy (Head, Research) jackyleecw@phillip.com.sg

Property Developers | Hospitality Peter Ng - peterngmc@phillip.com.sg

**REITs** Dehong Tan - tandh<u>@phillip.com.sg</u>

#### Contact Information (Regional Member Companies) MALAYSIA Phillip Capital Management Sdn Bhd

B-3-6 Block B Level 3 Megan Avenue II, No. 12, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng, 50450 Kuala Lumpur Tel +603 2162 8841 Fax +603 2166 5099 Website: WWW.poems.com.my

> INDONESIA PT Phillip Securities Indonesia ANZ Tower Level 23B, JI Jend Sudirman Kav 33A Jakarta 10220 – Indonesia Tel +62-21 5790 0800 Fax +62-21 5790 0809 Website: www.phillip.co.id

#### FRANCE

King & Shaxson Capital Limited 3rd Floor, 35 Rue de la Bienfaisance 75008 Paris France Tel +33-1 45633100 Fax +33-1 45636017 Website: www.kingandshaxson.com

AUSTRALIA

Phillip Capital Limited Level 12, 15 William Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000, Australia Tel +61-03 9629 8288 Fax +61-03 9629 8882 Website: WWW.phillipcapital.com.au

TURKEY

PhillipCapital Menkul Degerler Dr. Cemil Bengü Cad. Hak Is Merkezi No. 2 Kat. 6A Caglayan 34403 Istanbul, Turkey Tel: 0212 296 84 84 Fax: 0212 233 69 29 Website: www.phillipcapital.com.tr Research Operations Officer Mohamed Ghazali - ghazali<u>@phillip.com.sg</u>

> HONG KONG Phillip Securities (HK) Ltd 11/F United Centre 95 Queensway Hong Kong Tel +852 2277 6600 Fax +852 2868 5307 Websites: www.phillip.com.hk

> > CHINA

Phillip Financial Advisory (Shanghai) Co Ltd No 550 Yan An East Road, Ocean Tower Unit 2318, Postal code 200001 Tel +86-21 5169 9200 Fax +86-21 6351 2940 Website: www.phillip.com.cn

UNITED KINGDOM King & Shaxson Capital Limited 6th Floor, Candlewick House, 120 Cannon Street, London, EC4N 6AS Tel +44-20 7426 5950 Fax +44-20 7626 1757 Website: WWW.kingandshaxson.com

SRI LANKA

Asha Phillip Securities Limited 2nd Floor, Lakshmans Building, No. 321, Galle Road, Colombo 03, Sri Lanka Tel: (94) 11 2429 100 Fax: (94) 11 2429 199 Website: www.ashaphillip.net

DUBAI

Phillip Futures DMCC Member of the Dubai Gold and Commodities Exchange (DGCX) Unit No 601, Plot No 58, White Crown Bldg, Sheikh Zayed Road, P.O.Box 212291 Dubai-UAE Tel: +971-4-3325052 / Fax: + 971-4-3328895



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