Thailand

Industry Focus

DBS Group Research . Equity

25 May 2006

OVERWEIGHT SET: 714.10

(Upgrade from Neutral)

ANALYSTS

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BANKING SECTOR - TOP PICKS

	Price	Target	
	(Bt)	(Btm)	Price
KASIKORNBANK Siam Commercial	62.50	148,849	85.50
Bank	59.50	200,663	71.50

Source: DBS Vickers

KASIKORNBANK is poised to continue to grow its loan book. The bank also has good quality assets and the lowest NPL ratio in the industry of only 7.08%. Managed by quality management team, KBANK has one of the highest ROE among Thai commercial banks.

Siam Commercial Bank is likely to register loan growth of 9.0% in 2006, the highest among larger Thai banks. The bank also has high Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of 15.1%, which is more than sufficient to support growth over the next three years.

Banking sector

Buying opportunities

- ➤ The Thai banking sector, one of the widely held sectors, experienced heavy sell-offs in the last 2 weeks. The sector index fell 8.5%, more than the SET index's 7.4% fall since May 9, 2006. We believe this is a good opportunity to accumulate key stocks on price weaknesses.
- ➤ Undemanding valuation. We upgraded another two major banks, Siam Commercial Bank and Krung Thai Bank, to BUY on valuation.
- ➤ Overweight. Following our recommendation upgrade on the two banks, we raised our sector weighting to Overweight. Our top picks are Siam Commercial Bank (SCB, TP Bt71.50) and KASIKORNBANK (KBANK, TP Bt85.50).

Thailand banks - Peer group comparison

FY Dec	BBL	КТВ	SCB	KBANK	BAY	SCIB
1 - Year Target Price (Bt) Recommendation PAR	140.00 BUY 10	13.80 BUY 5.15	71.50 BUY 10	85.50 BUY 10	20.00 HOLD 10	27.25 HOLD 10
Share Price (Bt) -As of 24/5/06 EPS (Bt)	106.0	10.6	59.0	62.5	17.6	22.10
FY05A	10.64	1.16	5.56	5.87	2.10	2.97
FY06F	9.37	1.43	4.98	5.85	2.32	2.01
FY07F	9.28	1.47	5.30	6.38	2.05	2.08
PER (x)						
FY05A	9.96	9.10	10.62	10.65	8.40	7.45
FY06F	11.31	7.41	11.85	10.69	7.58	10.99
FY07F	11.42	7.20	11.14	9.79	8.59	10.61
Book Value (Bt)						
FY05A	72.94	7.39	28.74	32.91	13.72	16.87
FY06F	78.62	8.32	30.72	37.52	15.20	17.48
FY07F	86.09	9.20	34.02	42.44	16.49	18.17
P / Book Value (x)						
FY05A	1.45	1.43	2.05	1.90	1.28	1.31
FY06F	1.35	1.27	1.92	1.67	1.16	1.26
FY07F	1.23	1.15	1.73	1.47	1.07	1.22
Source: DBS Vickers						



Highlights

• The banking sector index has fallen 8.5% since May 9, 2006, led by heavy market sell-offs in Thailand and across the region. We believe the recent correction is overdone, and is a good opportunity to accumulate key stocks on price weakness. Thai banks' valuations are now very attractive, given their strong fundamentals.

SETBANK vs SET Index



Source: SET

- Net profit may fall 3.0% y-o-y in 2006, led by the re-instatement of income tax, and grow 2.4% in 2007 (assuming no investment gains in 2007). Nonetheless, pre-tax profit is expected to grow 15.8% in 2006. The promising performance of Thai banks is expected to emanate from widening net interest margin this year, as well as strong growth in fee-based income, particularly consumer-related fees. Although loan growth seems to be slowing, this has been factored into our forecasts. The banking sector loan growth will slow towards the end of the year, following weaker domestic confidence. We are expecting loan growth this year at 6.4% (Apr 06: +8.4% y-o-y). Intense competition for deposits will ultimately raise funding costs, and narrow net interest margins in the following quarters. Nonetheless, on a y-o-y basis, net interest margin is expected to widen to 3.33% in 2006, from 3.18% in 2005.
- Improving asset quality. NPLs are gradually declining while cumulative provision coverage is rising. The Bank of Thailand plans to establish an Asset Management Corporation (AMC) to purchase NPLs from Thai banks in an effort to reduce the system NPLs to c. 2% by 2007. The banks are more aggressive in write-offs and sell-offs of NPLs, as per our recent visits to major banks. We believe that Thai banks' NPLs will continue to decline, although there will be some hiccup in the form of re-entry NPLs due to rising interest rates and a slowing economy. As most banks are expected to continue to allocate normalized loan loss provision, while some will be more aggressive, the sector's cumulative provision coverage is expected to rise from 65.4% in 2005 to 83.6% in 2006.



Loans (Btm)

Unit: Btm	2004	2005	2006	%Chg y-o-y	2007	%Chg y-o-y
BAY	415,108	442,597	475,355	7.4%	498,391	4.8%
BBL	932,940	912,003	947,678	3.9%	975,678	3.0%
KBANK	578,117	621,090	661,090	6.4%	690,090	4.4%
KTB (Ex.P/N)	855,041	894,731	948,731	6.0%	988,731	4.2%
SCB	555,450	603,812	658,312	9.0%	706,312	7.3%
SCIB (Ex.P/N)	211,053	229,474	251,216	9.5%	283,216	12.7%
Total	3 547 709	3 703 708	3 942 383	6.4%	4 142 418	5 1%

Source: DBS Vickers

Net Profits (Btm)

Unit: Btm	2004	2005	2006	%Chg y-o-y	2007	%Chg y-o-y
BAY	4,673	6,017	6,667	10.8%	5,883	-11.8%
BBL	17,620	20,306	17,889	-11.9%	17,713	-1.0%
KBANK	15,340	13,930	14,365	3.1%	15,453	7.6%
KTB	11,094	13,024	15,999	22.8%	16,458	2.9%
SCB	18,489	18,883	16,926	-10.4%	18,005	6.4%
SCIB	6,367	6,265	4,249	-32.2%	4,401	3.6%
Total	73,583	78,425	76,096	-3.0%	77,913	2.4%

Source : DBS Vickers

• Attractive valuations. Thai banks are trading at 2006 PE of 10.4x, lower than regional peers. Banks in Singapore are trading at 12.1x, Hong Kong 12.2x, and Malaysia 12.4x. We expect the banks to deliver solid earnings coupled with a significant improvement in asset quality in the next two years. At this point, we believe the downside for Thai banks are limited, but upside should be significant. We upgraded another two banks to BUY, following the recent market sell-down, i.e. Krung Thai Bank and Siam Commercial Bank. We also upgraded the sector to Overweight. Our top picks are Siam Commercial Bank and KASIKORNBANK.

Reginal PE banking Sector Comparison

	2006F	2007F
Thailand	10.1	10.4
Hongkong	13.5	12.2
Singapore	13.0	12.1
Malaysia	14.3	12.4
Indonesia	11.2	9.5
Average	12.4	11.3

Price are as at 22 May 2006

Target Price and Recommendation

	Price (as of 23/05/06)	Target Price	Base valuation	Recommendation
BAY	17.60	20.00	P/BV07=1.2x	Hold
BBL	110.00	140.00	P/BV07=1.6x	Buy
KBANK	64.50	85.50	P/BV07=2.0x	Buy
KTB	11.00	13.80	P/BV07=1.5 x	Buy
SCB	59.50	71.50	P/BV07=2.1x	Buy
SCIB	22.50	27.25	P/BV07=1.5x	Hold

Source: DBS Vickers



BUY Bt10.60.00 SET: 714.10

(Upgrade from Hold)

Price Target: 1-year Bt13.80

Reason for Report : Company Update

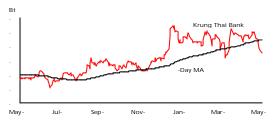
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FORECASTS AND VALUATION

FY Dec (Btm)	2004A	2005A	2006F	2007F
Pretax Profit	11,094	17,270	21,772	22,501
NI	11,094	13,024	15,999	16,458
EPS (Bt)	0.99	1.16	1.43	1.47
EPS Gth (%)	27.4	17.4	22.9	2.9
PE (L) (x)	10.7	9.1	7.4	7.2
PE (F) (x)	11.9	10.1	8.2	8.0
DPS (Bt)	0.47	0.50	0.59	0.60
Div Yield (%)	4.4	4.7	5.5	5.7
ROE (%)	14.7	16.4	18.2	16.8
ROA (%)	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.4
Book Value (Bt)	6.78	7.39	8.32	9.20
P(L)/Book Value (x)	10.7	9.1	7.4	7.2
P(F)/Book Value (x)	11.9	10.1	8.2	8.0

SHARE PRICE CHART



AT A GLANCE

11,185
3,207
56.4
2.1
41.4
26,161

Earnings Rev: FY06: none ; FY07: none **Consenus EPS:** FY06: Bt1.27 ; FY07: Bt1.41 **Variance vs Cons:** FY06: +12.6%; FY07: +4.3%

Sector: Banking

Bloomberg/Reuters Code: KTB TB / KTB.BK **Principal Business:** Banking and financial services.

Krung Thai Bank

Attractive valuation

- ➤ **Sell-offs was overdone.** Krung Thai Bank's share price has fallen 12% from Bt12.5 on May9, 2006 to Bt11.0 currently. The broad market fell 7.4% in the period. The share price has come down to an attractive entry level.
- ➤ KTB plans to issue Hybrid Tier-1 capital worth US\$200-300m in Jun 06. As of 1Q06, the bank had total capital adequacy ratio (CAR) at 11.9%, of which 8.3% is Tier-1 capital. We expect that, after the capital issue, the bank would allocate higher loan loss provisions to a level closer to its peers.
- ➤ Upgrade to BUY on valuation. We value the bank at 1.5x 2007 P/BV or Bt13.8. The near-term risk is the possibility of share sell-offs by its major shareholder the Financial Institution Development Fund (FIDF).

6% loan growth expected this year. The bank's 7.5% 2006 loan growth target seems too ambitious, given our expectations of delays in government mega project investments due to political problems. We expect 6% loan growth for KTB this year.

Management targets NPLs to fall to 8% of total loans in 2006 from 10.3% a year ago, led by selling and write-offs. In 2005, its provision coverage was c. 40%. The sector cumulative provision coverage is expected to rise from 65.4% in 2005 to 83.6% in 2006.

Financial Institution Development Fund (FIDF) may maintain majority stake in the bank, according to the management. This comment follows news that the FIDF planned to gradually sell c. 300m shares in the market to increase KTB's trading liquidity. Currently, FIDF holds 6.3bn shares in KTB or 56.4% stake.

KTB plans to add 600-1,000 ATMs in 2006, which would bring its total number of ATMs closer to its peers i.e. Siam Commercial Bank and Bangkok Bank. The management revealed that KTB was paying Bt10-15m a month in fees to other banks as its clients use the other banks' ATMs. With the enlarged ATM network, the bank expects this expense to be lower, and possibly generate fee-based income for the bank. Moreover, its GFMIS (Government Financial Management Information System) should be a solid source of fee income for the bank in the near future. The government uses GFMIS to track their budget spending.



BUY Bt59.00 SET: 727.21

(Upgrade from Fully Valued)

Price Target: 1-year Bt71.50

Reason for Report: Company Update

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FORECASTS AND VALUATION

FY Dec (Btm)

Pretax Profit

NI

EPS (Bt)

EPS Gth (%)

PE (L) (x)

PE (F) (x)

DPS (Bt)

Div Yield (%)

ROE (%)

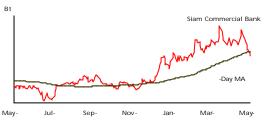
ROA (%)

Book Value (Bt)

P(L)/Book Value (x)

P(F)/Book Value (x)

SHARE PRICE CHART



AT A GLANCE

	3,399
202,252/	5,272
	6.1
	5.3
	85.0
	6,834
	202,252/

FY06: none : FY07: none Earnings Rev: Consenus EPS: FY06: Bt4.76 ; FY07: Bt5.11 Variance vs Cons: FY06: +4.7%; FY07: +3.7%

Sector: Banking

Bloomberg/Reuters Code: SCB TB / SCB.BK Principal Business: Banking and financial services.

Siam Commercial Bank

Buying opportunity

- **Sell-off is overdone**. Siam Commercial Bank (SCB)'s share price fell substantially in the recent sell-down in markets across the region. A widely held stock, SCB has fallen a hefty 13.8% since May 9, 2006. We see this as a great buying opportunity, because its fundamentals remain unchanged.
- Synergies within the group. SCB is strong in various areas, including consumer banking, capital market and underwriting business. As the 4th largest bank, SCB now has the most extensive branch and ATM network among Thai banks. Hence, its consumer-related fees such as transaction fees are growing rapidly, and would eventually become a significant revenue source for the bank. The acquisition of Siam Panich Leasing should strengthen its foothold in hirepurchase lending.
- ▶ Upgrade to BUY. SCB has proved successful its business strategy adopted several years ago. Now the bank is ready to move forward at above average growth rate. Our fair value is Bt71.50 (2.1x P/BV07).

SCB's loan growth estimated at 9% for FY06 and 7.3% for FY07. The management believes that loan growth this year should reach 10%, led by SMEs and consumer sector. 1Q06 loan growth was 3.1% qo-q, partly from the Shin Corp takeover deal. Net interest margin is expected to expand to 3.44% in FY06, from 3.33% in FY05. Fee income is expected to surge 15% in FY06 and 10% in FY07, largely from consumer-related fees.

Continues to expand branch network. SCB plans to add at least 70 new branches and 800 ATMs in 2006, to its network of 692 branches and 2,803 ATMs (as at end 2005), the largest in Thailand. This is one of the key success factors for SCB, along with group synergies. The bank is strong in the money, debt, and equity markets. Recently, it made a tender offer for its hire purchase subsidiary, Siam Panich Leasing, and acquired 92.5% of the company. This should strengthen its foothold in the hire purchase market.

More aggressive provisions under growth-driven policy. The management said that loan loss provision would rise from Bt300m a quarter in 2005 to Bt450m a quarter in 2006. SCB expects NPLs to fall from 9.3% in 2005 to below 7% in 2006. Given the declining NPLs and accelerating loan loss provision, cumulative provision coverage could reach 100% in 2006. The bank has strong capital base and high asset quality.



Thailand Banks - Comparative Valuations

FY Dec PAR	BBL 10	KTB 5.15	SCB 10	KBANK 10	BAY 10	SCIB 10
Share Price (Bt) -As of 24/05/06	106.0	10.6	59.0	62.5	17.6	22.10
1 - Year Target Price (Bt)	140.00	13.80	71.50	85.50	20.00	27.25
Recommendation	BUY	BUY	BUY	BUY	HOLD	HOLD
Fully diluted EPS (Bt)	10.44	1 14	E E4	5.87	2.10	2.97
FY05A FY06F	10.64 9.37	1.16 1.43	5.56 4.98	5.85	2.10 2.32	2.97
FY07F	9.28	1.47	5.30	6.38	2.05	2.08
Fully diluted EPS Growth (% y-o-y)						
FY05A	15.24	17.40	0.52	(9.57)	27.87	(1.60)
FY06F FY07F	(11.91) (0.98)	22.85 2.87	(10.36) 6.37	(0.40) 9.15	10.77 (11.76)	(32.18) 3.59
	(0.70)	2.07	0.37	7.13	(11.70)	3.37
PER (x) FY05A	9.96	9.10	10.62	10.65	8.40	7.45
FY06F	11.31	7.41	11.85	10.65	7.58	10.99
FY07F	11.42	7.20	11.14	9.79	8.59	10.61
Book NTA (Bt)						
FY05A	72.94	7.39	28.74	32.91	13.72	16.87
FY06F	78.62	8.32	30.72	37.52	15.20	17.48
FY07F	86.09	9.20	34.02	42.44	16.49	18.17
P / Book (x)						
FY05A	1.45	1.43	2.05	1.90	1.28	1.31
FY06F FY07F	1.35 1.23	1.27 1.15	1.92 1.73	1.67 1.47	1.16 1.07	1.26 1.22
	1.23	1.13	1.73	1.47	1.07	1.22
RNAV (Bt)	72.04	7.20	20.74	22.01	10.70	1/ 07
FY05A FY06F	72.94 78.62	7.39 8.32	28.74 30.72	32.91 37.52	13.72 15.20	16.87 17.48
FY07F	86.09	9.20	34.02	42.44	16.49	18.17
P / RNAV (x)						
FY05A	1.45	1.43	2.05	1.90	1.28	1.31
FY06F	1.35	1.27	1.92	1.67	1.16	1.26
FY07F	1.23	1.15	1.73	1.47	1.07	1.22
ROE (%)	15.00	47.44	04.04	10.00	44.47	10.01
FY05A FY06F	15.98 12.37	16.44 18.22	21.01 16.75	19.29 16.60	16.67 16.06	18.24 11.71
FY07F	11.27	16.80	16.36	15.96	12.93	11.69
ROA (%)						
FY05A	1.45	1.13	2.42	1.68	1.00	1.36
FY06F	1.27	1.36	1.94	1.60	1.00	0.93
FY07F	1.23	1.35	1.89	1.65	0.83	0.95
DPS (Bt)	0.00	0.50	2.00	4.05	0.00	4.40
FY05A FY06F	2.00 1.87	0.50 0.59	3.00 2.00	1.25 1.46	0.80 0.83	1.40 1.40
FY07F	1.86	0.60	2.00	1.40	0.83	1.40
		3.00	2.00	1.00	3.00	1.13
Dividend Yield (%) FY05A	1.89	4.72	5.08	2.00	4.55	6.33
FY06F	1.89	4.72 5.53	3.39	2.00	4.55 4.71	6.33
FY07F	1.75	5.69	3.39	2.55	4.55	6.33

Source: Company, DBS VICKERS



Thailand Banks - Key Earnings Data

FY Dec	BBL	КТВ	SCB	KBANK	BAY	SCIB
Inc bef Goodwill / Provisions (Btm)						
FY05A	26,823	23,709	20,689	21,334	10,125	6,534
FY06F	32,786	27,472	23,919	23,360	11,357	6,450
FY07F	31,323	27,501	25,183	24,192	11,171	6,692
Net Profit (Btm)	20.207	12.024	10.002	12.020	/ 017	/ D/F
FY05A FY06F	20,306 17,889	13,024 15,999	18,883 16,926	13,930 13,874	6,017 6,667	6,265 4,249
FY07F	17,712	16,458	18,005	15,144	5,883	4,401
Net Profit Growth (% y-o-y)						
FY05A	15.24	17.40	2.13	(9.20)	28.76	(1.60)
FY06F	(11.91)	22.85	(10.36)	(0.40)	10.80	(32.18)
FY07F	(0.98)	2.87	6.37	9.15	(11.76)	3.59
Net Interest Margin (%)						
FY05A	2.90	3.50	3.33	3.79	2.88	2.65
FY06F	3.03	3.90	3.44	4.12	3.04	2.54
FY07F	2.96	3.78	3.22	4.02	2.89	2.45
Non-Interest Income as % of Total Inc FY05A	24.00	12.64	31.67	23.49	18.82	15.11
FY06F	24.00 24.35	10.34	27.96	23.49 19.87	14.28	13.73
FY07F	22.10	9.35	27.60	18.94	13.26	15.11
Cost-to-Income Ratio (%)						
FY05A	53.68	48.45	47.77	48.65	53.05	55.24
FY06F	49.40	46.54	47.55	49.56	53.42	55.41
FY07F	51.41	46.96	47.61	49.83	55.22	55.92
Loan-to-Deposit Ratio (%)	70.07	04.00	07.04	00.17	70.07	77.74
FY05A FY06F	78.86 80.71	91.00 92.36	97.01 87.96	90.16 87.39	79.96 78.82	77.74 63.93
FY07F	81.50	94.42	89.58	88.90	79.83	70.64
Loan Growth (% y-o-y)						
FY05A	(2.24)	4.64	8.71	7.43	6.62	8.73
FY06F	3.91	6.04	9.03	4.08	6.15	9.47
FY07F	2.95	4.22	7.29	4.49	4.68	12.74
* KTB and SCIB : Loan exclude Note Deposit Growth (% y-o-y)						
FY05A	(2.49)	(2.02)	(0.37)	(2.42)	12.42	(0.86)
FY06F	1.52	4.48	20.24	7.38	7.69	2.82
FY07F	1.96	1.95	5.34	2.70	3.36	2.04
NPL Ratio (%)						
FY05A	10.94	10.32	9.33	7.08	9.28	2.53
FY06F FY07F	8.28 5.38	9.45 8.26	6.63 4.48	6.17 5.31	7.54 5.98	2.98 2.57
	5.30	0.20	4.40	5.51	5.70	2.57
Cumulative Provision Cover (%) FY05A	79.13	42.12	86.67	65.51	44.89	122.27
FY06F	79.13 106.21	42.12 49.67	86.67 114.18	84.75	44.89 54.10	122.27
FY07F	170.29	60.67	163.21	105.35	65.13	137.36
Total CAR (%)						
FY05A	14.00	12.10	15.10	14.47	11.01	11.91
FY06F	17.02	14.13	16.45	17.50	11.92	14.12
FY07F	18.05	14.74	16.89	18.99	12.09	14.31

Source: Company, DBS VICKERS



ANALYST CERTIFICATION

The research analyst primarily responsible for the content of this research report, in part or in whole certifies that the views about the companies and their securities expressed in this report accurately reflect his/her personal views. The analyst also certifies that no part of his/her compensation was, is, or will be, directly, or indirectly, related to specific recommendations or views expressed in this report.

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