Maybank Investment Bank

Leong Hup International (LHIB MK)

4Q23 results: Above expectations

Maintain BUY with a higher TP of MYR0.93

LHIB's improving demand for poultry and feed across its regional operations should continue to drive group earnings growth into FY24, along with further cost savings from potential easing in feed raw material costs. Hence, our FY24E-FY25E earnings estimates are adjusted upwards by 20%-24% and we introduce FY26E. Maintain BUY with a higher TP of MYR0.93 based on an unchanged 13x FY24E PER, mean.

Outperformance in Indonesia operations

LHIB's 4Q23 net profit of MYR82m (-10% YoY, -39% QoQ) brought FY23 net profit to MYR302m (+38% YoY), reflecting 106%/103% of ours/consensus full-year earnings estimates. The earnings beat was largely from higher-than-expected Indonesia livestock and feedmill segment sales.

Feedmill segmental EBITDA grew +41% YoY

4Q23 group revenue grew +4% YoY mainly from stronger feedmill sales (+9% YoY). Feedmill EBITDA rose +41% YoY (EBITDA margin: +4.5 ppts YoY) mainly due to higher volume and ASPs in Indonesia and Vietnam, and lower feed raw material costs in Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines. For the livestock segment, 4Q23 sales were marginally better (+0.2% YoY) but EBITDA fell 14% YoY given margin compression from lower poultry ASPs in Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines. Note that Malaysia Government subsidies recognized in 4Q23 amounted to MYR103m (vs. MYR24.9m in 3Q23).

Raising FY24E-FY25E earnings estimates by 20%-24%

Given expectations for a more sustainable FY24 poultry price trend and feedmill demand in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam, we lift our FY24E/FY25E earnings estimates by 20%/24% upon adjusting for current ASP run rates. Further decline in feed raw material ASPs (corn & soybean) will also offer additional support to LHIB's earnings growth trajectory going forward.

FYE Dec (MYR m)	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Revenue	9,043	9,540	9,062	9,235	9,448
EBITDA	765	1,043	877	946	984
Core net profit	219	302	264	299	311
Core EPS (sen)	6.0	8.3	7.2	8.2	8.5
Core EPS growth (%)	156.3	37.8	(12.4)	13.3	3.9
Net DPS (sen)	1.8	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.6
Core P/E (x)	8.3	6.8	9.9	8.7	8.4
P/BV (x)	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9
Net dividend yield (%)	3.6	4.4	3.0	3.4	3.6
ROAE (%)	11.5	14.2	11.3	11.8	11.3
ROAA (%)	3.4	4.6	3.6	3.6	3.5
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.2	4.5	6.5	5.7	5.6
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	91.5	65.6	72.6	59.1	55.6
Consensus net profit	-	-	290	298	na
MIBG vs. Consensus (%)	-	-	(8.7)	0.6	na

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BUY

Share Price MYR 0.72

12m Price Target MYR 0.93 (+33%)

Previous Price Target MYR 0.78

Company Description

The company is an integrated poultry player with operations across Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines

Statistics

52w high/low (MYR)	0.73/0.48
3m avg turnover (USDm)	0.9
Free float (%)	27.4
Issued shares (m)	3,650
Market capitalisation	MYR2.6B
	USD548M

Major shareholders:

Emerging Glory Sdn. Bhd.	52.8%
Concordant Investments Pte Ltd.	9.0%

Price Performance



— Leong Hup - (LHS, MYR) —— Leong Hup / Kuala Lumpur Composite Index - (RHS, %)

	-1M	-3M	-12M
Absolute (%)	30	3	47
Relative to index (%)	27	(4)	39

Source: FactSet



Fig 1: Leong Hup International: Results Summary Table

rig 1. Leong Hup interi		-	Quarterly				Cumulative	
FY Dec (MYR m)	4Q23	4Q22	% YoY	3Q23	% QoQ	12M23	12M22	% YoY
Revenue	2,413.0	2,321.9	3.9	2,516.4	(4.1)	9,539.5	9,042.7	5.5
EBITDA	303.4	268.2	13.1	348.9	(13.0)	1,043.4	765.3	36.3
Depreciation	(83.5)	(77.2)	8.2	(78.9)	5.9	(319.4)	(301.2)	6.0
EBIT	219.8	191.0	15.1	270.0	(18.6)	724.0	464.0	56.0
Interest expense	(36.7)	(40.4)	(9.3)	(42.5)	(13.7)	(169.6)	(137.9)	23.0
Associates	0.1	0.1	(8.1)	0.0	>100.0	0.2	0.4	(56.0)
Pretax profit	183.3	150.7	21.6	227.5	(19.5)	554.7	326.6	69.9
Tax	(38.5)	(36.4)	5.9	(50.2)	(23.2)	(124.9)	(82.7)	51.1
Minority interest	(63.1)	(23.5)	168.1	(44.4)	42.2	(128.1)	(25.0)	412.7
Net profit	81.6	90.7	(10.0)	133.0	(38.6)	301.7	218.9	37.8
Core net profit	81.6	90.7	(10.0)	133.0	(38.6)	301.7	218.9	37.8
			+/- p.ptsYoY		+/- p.ptsQoQ			+/- p.ptsYoY
EBITDA margin (%)	12.6	11.6	1.0	13.9	(1.3)	10.9	8.5	2.5
EBIT margin (%)	9.1	8.2	0.9	10.7	(1.6)	7.6	5.1	2.5
Tax rate (%)	(21.0)	(24.2)	3.1	(22.1)	1.0	(22.5)	(25.3)	2.8
Revenue:			% YoY		% QoQ			% YoY
Livestock	1,263.7	1,261.5	0.2	1,369.4	(7.7)	5,155.6	4,979.2	3.5
Feedmill	1,146.0	1,054.5	8.7	1,143.8	0.2	4,370.8	4,049.0	7.9
Others	3.4	6.0	(43.5)	3.2	6.3	13.1	14.5	(9.9)
Total	2,413.0	2,321.9	3.9	2,516.4	(4.1)	9,539.5	9,042.7	5.5
EBITDA:			% YoY		% QoQ			% YoY
Livestock	83.6	97.6	(14.3)	167.3	(50.0)	341.6	277.3	23.2
Feedmill	228.2	162.2	40.7	187.5	21.7	707.4	483.2	46.4
Others	(8.4)	8.5	n.m.	(5.8)	44.3	(5.6)	4.7	n.m.
Total	303.4	268.2	13.1	348.9	(13.1)	1,043.4	765.3	36.3
EBITDA margin (%):			+/- p.ptsYoY		+/- p.ptsQoQ			+/- p.ptsYoY
Livestock	6.6	7.7	(1.1)	12.2	(5.6)	6.6	5.6	1.1
Feedmill	19.9	15.4	4.5	16.4	3.5	16.2	11.9	4.2
Others	(250.2)	142.3	(392.5)	(184.3)	(65.9)	(42.8)	32.7	(75.5)
Total	12.6	11.6	1.0	13.9	(1.3)	10.9	8.5	2.5

Source: Company

Fig 2: Forward PER

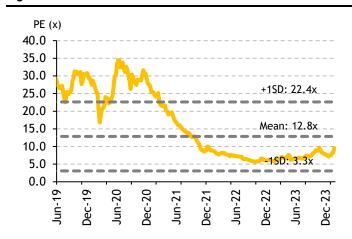
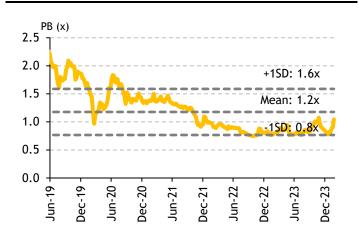


Fig 3: Forward PBV



Source: Bloomberg, Maybank IBG Research

Source: Bloomberg, Maybank IBG Research

Risk statement

There are several risk factors to our earnings estimates, target price and rating for LHIB. The group is subject to market volatility in selling prices as well as demand-supply imbalances, both in feed and poultry. Moreover, poultry is vulnerable to disease and epidemic outbreaks that could further exacerbate demand-supply imbalances.



FYE 31 Dec	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Key Metrics					0.4
P/E (reported) (x)	8.5	6.6	9.9	8.7	8.4
Core P/E (x)	8.3	6.8	9.9	8.7	8.4
P/BV (x)	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9
P/NTA (x)	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9
Net dividend yield (%)	3.6	4.4	3.0	3.4	3.6
FCF yield (%)	12.7	33.3	1.8	15.2	3.6
EV/EBITDA (x)	6.2	4.5	6.5	5.7	5.6
EV/EBIT (x)	10.3	6.5	10.3	8.9	8.6
INCOME STATEMENT (MYR m)					
Revenue	9,042.7	9,539.5	9,061.5	9,235.2	9,447.9
EBITDA	765.3	1,043.4	877.4	946.2	983.6
Depreciation	(260.4)	(276.2)	(284.1)	(295.0)	(304.9)
Amortisation	(40.9)	(43.2)	(43.5)	(43.5)	(43.5)
EBIT	464.0	724.0	549.9	607.7	635.2
Net interest income /(exp)	(137.9)	(169.6)	(163.9)	(176.5)	(189.1)
Associates & JV	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Pretax profit	326.6	554.7	386.3	431.5	446.4
Income tax	(82.7)	(124.9)	(87.0)	(97.2)	(100.5)
Minorities	(25.0)	(128.1)	(35.0)	(35.0)	(35.0)
Reported net profit	218.9	301.7	264.3	299.3	310.9
Core net profit	218.9	301.7	264.3	299.3	310.9
core nee prome	210.7	301.7	204.3	277.3	310.7
BALANCE SHEET (MYR m)					
Cash & Short Term Investments	840.3	699.5	1,652.6	2,222.1	2,485.0
Accounts receivable	649.9	729.4	682.1	756.5	715.2
Inventory	1,025.9	978.8	1,129.8	1,023.6	1,180.6
Reinsurance assets	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Property, Plant & Equip (net)	2,784.5	2,730.3	3,135.2	3,240.5	3,335.9
Intangible assets	99.2	102.5	102.2	101.9	101.6
Investment in Associates & JVs	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Other assets	1,190.8	1,284.4	1,265.5	1,254.7	1,246.8
Total assets	6,592.1	6,526.6	7,969.1	8,601.0	9,066.8
ST interest bearing debt	2,022.9	1,615.3	2,262.2	2,429.8	2,597.4
Accounts payable	358.9	359.6	279.3	373.2	294.7
Insurance contract liabilities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
LT interest bearing debt	1,187.6	1,022.0	1,702.6	1,817.8	1,933.0
Other liabilities	433.0	575.0	540.0	551.0	560.0
Total Liabilities	4,002.6	3,571.5	4,784.3	5,171.7	5,384.9
Shareholders Equity	2,005.0	2,236.7	2,431.3	2,640.9	2,858.5
Minority Interest	584.5	718.4	753.4	788.4	823.4
Total shareholder equity	2,589.6	2,955.1	3,184.7	3,429.3	3,681.9
Total liabilities and equity	6,592.1	6,526.6	7,969.1	8,601.0	9,066.8
CASH FLOW (MYR m)					
Pretax profit	326.6	554.7	386.3	431.5	446.4
Depreciation & amortisation	301.2	319.4	327.5	338.5	348.4
Cash taxes paid	(82.7)	(124.9)	(87.0)	(97.2)	(100.5)
Other operating cash flow	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cash flow from operations	509.4	902.8	447.6	796.3	493.1
Capex	(280.6)	(215.9)	(400.0)	(400.0)	(400.0)
Free cash flow	228.8	686.9	47.6	396.3	93.1
Dividends paid	(0.7)	(77.0)	(79.3)	(89.8)	(93.3)
Equity raised / (purchased)	0.0	0.0	5.4	0.0	0.0
Change in Debt	(361.8)	(696.3)	1,327.5	282.8	282.8
Other invest/financing cash flow	(1.6)	51.3	(15.2)	(19.4)	(19.4)
Net cash flow					
NET COST HOW	(135.4)	(35.0)	1,286.0	569.9	263.3



FYE 31 Dec	FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Key Ratios					
Growth ratios (%)					
Revenue growth	26.4	5.5	(5.0)	1.9	2.3
EBITDA growth	42.8	36.3	(15.9)	7.8	4.0
EBIT growth	83.9	56.0	(24.1)	10.5	4.5
Pretax growth	132.7	69.9	(30.4)	11.7	3.4
Reported net profit growth	156.3	37.8	(12.4)	13.3	3.9
Core net profit growth	156.3	37.8	(12.4)	13.3	3.9
Profitability ratios (%)					
EBITDA margin	8.5	10.9	9.7	10.2	10.4
EBIT margin	5.1	7.6	6.1	6.6	6.7
Pretax profit margin	3.6	5.8	4.3	4.7	4.7
Payout ratio	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	30.0
DuPont analysis					
Net profit margin (%)	2.4	3.2	2.9	3.2	3.3
Revenue/Assets (x)	1.4	1.5	1.1	1.1	1.0
Assets/Equity (x)	3.3	2.9	3.3	3.3	3.2
ROAE (%)	11.5	14.2	11.3	11.8	11.3
ROAA (%)	3.4	4.6	3.6	3.6	3.5
Liquidity & Efficiency					
Cash conversion cycle	56.9	56.9	62.3	62.3	62.3
Days receivable outstanding	25.4	26.0	28.0	28.0	28.0
Days inventory outstanding	46.5	48.2	49.2	49.2	49.2
Days payables outstanding	15.0	17.3	14.9	14.9	14.9
Dividend cover (x)	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Current ratio (x)	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6
Leverage & Expense Analysis					
Asset/Liability (x)	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.7
Net gearing (%) (incl perps)	91.5	65.6	72.6	59.1	55.6
Net gearing (%) (excl. perps)	91.5	65.6	72.6	59.1	55.6
Net interest cover (x)	3.4	4.3	3.4	3.4	3.4
Debt/EBITDA (x)	4.2	2.5	4.5	4.5	4.6
Capex/revenue (%)	3.1	2.3	4.4	4.3	4.2
Net debt/ (net cash)	2,370.2	1,937.8	2,312.2	2,025.4	2,045.3

Source: Company; Maybank IBG Research



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Retail Research



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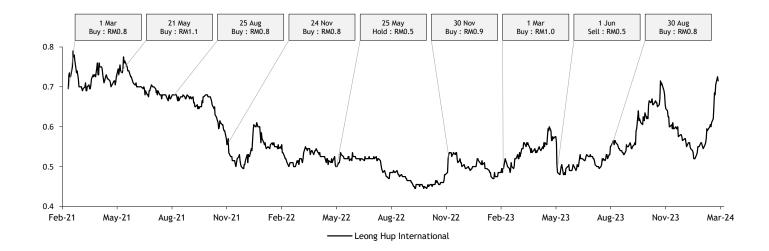
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