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Techcombank (TCB)

Flat 2020E guidance; higher credit costs

Shareholders approve flat 2020E guidance; higher credit costs implied by guidance

— Shareholders approved flat pretax earnings guidance of VND13,000 billion (up 1% YoY) and annual credit growth target of at least 13% or VND291,586 billion for 2020E. Management explained that flat earnings despite 13% credit growth would come from lower lending rates on coronavirus relief loans and investment costs from the bank's strong focus on the digital transformation. Management's indications that the net interest margin should be only be down modestly – coupled with stable guidance for most operating metrics, especially the non–performing loan ratio – implies that flat earnings growth may also come from the continuation of higher credit costs/charge offs already seen in 1Q results to keep the non–performing loan ratio below 3%. The bank will maintain its strategy of focusing on customer services to increase its ratio of low–cost current account and savings account (CASA) deposits. Management also expects to expand its ecosystem approach to the fast–moving consumer goods (FMCG) value chain and reduce its reliance on residential and commercial real estate (ReCoM). Moreover, TCB will concentrate more on low–risk segments such as residential buyers and the sales phase of projects as part of its real estate, construction and construction materials operations.

No dividends for 2019 and only ESOP announced

— Management will not pay any dividends this year and will dedicate all of 2019 performance to enhance free funds contribution and the capital adequacy ratio. Shareholders, however, did approve the ESOP for 4.76 million shares or 0.14% of current shares outstanding that will be issued to employees at VND10,000 per share sometime in 3Q or 4Q. This should increase the bank's charter capital to VND35,049 billion from VND35,001 billion.

Q&A session: real estate remains a priority area

— The Chairman responded to questions about the bank's concentrated exposure to large corporate clients like Vingroup and the Sun Group by saying these companies are leaders in their respective areas of tourism and entertainment, with market shares of 70%. The bank has no plans to change its current strategy with large corporates and the Chairman told attendees that TCB designated the real estate sector as a priority area five years ago because "this field brings many advantages and has rapidly developed in recent years".

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Investment ratings & definitions

Investment Ratings for Stocks

(based on expectations for absolute price gains over the next 6 months)

Buy:	Hold:	Sell:
+15% or more	+15% to -15%	-15% or more

Investment Ratings for Sectors

(based on expectations for absolute price gains over the next 6 months)

Positive:	Neutral:	Negative:
Outperform the market	Perform in line with the market	Underperform the market

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