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Research Update:

Tokio Marine & Fire Insurance Co. (Hong Kong) Ltd. 'A' Rating Affirmed; Outlook Stable

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Overview

- We continue to consider TMHK to be a highly strategically important subsidiary of Tokio Marine Group.
- We are therefore affirming our 'A' local currency long-term financial strength rating and counterparty credit rating, and our 'cnAA+' long-term Greater China regional scale rating on TMHK.
- The stable outlook on TMHK reflects the outlook on the core operating entities of Tokio Marine Group.

Rating Action

On Dec. 22, 2016, S&P Global Ratings affirmed its 'A' local currency long-term financial strength rating and counterparty credit ratings on Tokio Marine & Fire Insurance Co. (Hong Kong) Ltd. (TMHK). The outlook is stable. We also affirmed our 'cnAA+' long-term Greater China regional scale rating on the Hong Kong-based property and casualty insurer.

Rationale

We affirmed the ratings on TMHK because we continue to assess the insurer as a highly strategically important subsidiary of the Japan-based Tokio Marine Group. The group's core operating entities include Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. (local currency: A+/Stable/A-1). Our rating on TMHK therefore factors in a high likelihood of group support, if needed, and is one notch lower than the Tokio Marine Group's credit profile. TMHK does not meet all the characteristics of a core subsidiary.

Our assessment of TMHK's importance to the group reflects our view that the company's role as an insurance provider in Hong Kong is integral to the group's overseas strategy, and the parent is highly unlikely to sell the subsidiary. We believe TMHK's role of providing insurance services to Japanese clients' overseas operations in Hong Kong will remain integral to the Tokio Marine Group's strategies. We also expect the parent group to leverage on TMHK's market knowledge and favorable profitability to support its business development in the Greater China region. We therefore believe the group will maintain its strong commitment of support to TMHK.

We expect TMHK to continue to benefit from financial and operational support from the group, and share the group's brand and resources. Through the parent, TMHK will continue to benefit from the wider group in terms of client referrals, technical support, management expertise, and reinsurance arrangements.

TMHK is likely to gain from its high integration with the group, particularly in areas such as customer relationships, appointment of senior management, underwriting and risk management framework.

We expect TMHK to maintain underwriting profitability in line with the group's expectation and better than the industry average over the next two years. That is because we expect the company will likely maintain its underwriting standard and grow its business gradually.

Outlook

The stable outlook on TMHK for the next 24 months reflects the outlook on the core operating entity of Tokio Marine Group and our belief that the insurer will remain a highly strategically important subsidiary of the group.

Downside scenario

We may lower the rating on TMHK if we lower the group credit profile of Tokio Marine Group.

We may also downgrade TMHK if the company's strategic importance to the group diminishes substantially, which we believe is unlikely over the next two years.

Upside scenario

We may upgrade TMHK if we raise the group credit profile of Tokio Marine Group.

Alternatively, we may raise the ratings on TMHK if the insurer's contribution to the group's capital or earnings increases significantly, such that we consider it to be a core subsidiary. We consider such a scenario as remote over the next two years.

Related Criteria

- General Criteria: S&P Global Ratings' National And Regional Scale Mapping Tables, June 01, 2016
- General Criteria: National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings, Sept. 22, 2014
- General Criteria: Group Rating Methodology, Nov. 19, 2013
- Criteria Insurance General: Insurers: Rating Methodology, May 07, 2013
- Criteria Insurance General: Refined Methodology And Assumptions For Analyzing Insurer Capital Adequacy Using The Risk-Based Insurance Capital

Model, June 07, 2010General Criteria: Use Of CreditWatch And Outlooks, Sept. 14, 2009

Related Research

• Tokio Marine Group's Core Subsidiaries Affirmed; Tokio Marine & Nichido Life's Proposed Subordinated Loan Rated 'A-', Nov. 18, 2016

Ratings List

Ratings Affirmed

Tokio Marine & Fire Insurance Co.	(Hong Kong) Ltd.
Counterparty Credit Rating	
Local Currency	A/Stable/
Greater China Regional Scale	cnAA+//
Financial Strength Rating	
Local Currency	A/Stable/

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