## Vietnam's Stocks to be Boosted by Biden Win, Market Watchers Say

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By Nguyen Kieu Giang (Bloomberg) -- Vietnam's stock market stands to benefit from Joe Biden's victory in the U.S. election as the outcome is likely to lead to a de-escalation of U.S.-China trade tensions, potentially expand global supply chains and also renew expectations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. That's the view from some fund managers and analysts who see more gains coming for the benchmark VN Index that has rallied about 13% over the past three months to be among the top performers in Asia in this period. Here are their comments:

Toshifumi Sugimoto, chairman of Capital Asset Management Co.:

\* "Protectionism will reduce and we expect to see more global freetrade agreements. More stimulus from the Biden administration would also mean Vietnam will have chances to export more to the U.S. Biden is a strong supporter of TPP as he knows it would benefit the U.S., and Vietnam will be a winner" in such a scenario, he said

Ruchir Desai, a fund manager at Asia Frontier Capital Ltd. in Hong Kong:

\* "Overall, if a Biden presidency brings more calm to U.S-China relations, it will be positive for sentiment for the region as most Asian countries have close trade ties with both U.S. and China. This positive sentiment in the region will also be good for Vietnam as the VN Index has not rallied much since the start of 2018 when the trade war began"

\* "I don't think a Biden presidency will stop the manufacturing shift into Vietnam because the shift has been occurring much before the trade war began"

Nguyen Anh Duc, head of institutional sales at SSI Securities Corp.:

\* "In the short term, the market may cheer up a bit as volatility from the election is over. TPP could have a chance of revival, which is good for Vietnam"

Tran Hoang Son, head of market strategy at MB Securities:

\* "Biden's victory may bring more positive signals to the global stock market in general and Vietnam in particular, thanks to more active participation of the U.S. in the global trade"

\* "Global trade likely to be boosted when U.S.-China relations calm down, global supply chains may be resumed to help major economies and Asia recover more positively after the pandemic. In addition, the renewal of the TPP agreement is also expected and that will have a positive impact on Vietnam"

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