



24 JANUARY 2019

猪不肥，肥到狗

"The pig is getting fed but instead the dog is getting fat."

Chinese proverb



IS TODAY'S PIG TOMORROW'S BACON?

Each Lunar New Year is characterized by one of 12 animals which appear in the Chinese zodiac.

This year is the Year of the Pig, which begins on Tuesday 5th of February, but most Chinese people will start holidays next week until 10th February. According to the Chinese Five Elements (Metal, Water, Wood, Fire and Earth) the pig belongs to the Earth group. This year's element is not favouring Shipping, as Water is afraid of Earth, however during the previous Pig year back in 2007 (**Fire Pig**), the BDI was floating at historical high levels; so the question is:

Will the year of the **Earth Pig** be "muddy" for shipping?

The Pig is a symbol of wealth in Chinese culture and is considered to attract fortune and luck; hence the prospects are favorable for **investments (i.e. good time to buy ships/enter shipowning)**. The Pig loves to play in the mud (*which is a mix of Earth [soil] and Water elements*), so **markets are expected to slowly grow but also fluctuate**. According to a Chinese myth, the Jade Emperor decided that the zodiac animals order would be decided by the order they will arrive to his party, **so the Pig came late (last actually)** as it overslept, **thus we should expect a strong finish of the year (4th quarter)**.

Although a "Dog" year, last year was not bad for dry-bulk shipping. This Pig year, is predicted to be a **year of prosperity and "fat" bank accounts**, however some Feng Shui experts suggest to be cautious as hard times may appear unexpectedly (*possibly due to Sino-American trade war and uncertain outlook of Chinese Economy*), and so it is highly recommended to save money for the future.

According to Chinese belief, one should be prudent and **wear red socks (or red underwear) for good luck** during the duration of the animal year that he-or-she were born. **Hence, let's all wear our "reds" and hope for the best!**

Regardless of what's coming, we would like to wish all our Far Eastern readers **to be happy like a pig in mud** – Gong Xi Fa Cai 新年快乐!



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