Goldman Sachs analysts maintain their bullish view of the commodities markets despite persistent concerns over the macroeconomic health of the European and U.S. economies.

SINGAPORE-- Goldman Sachs analysts maintained their bullish view of the commodities markets Thursday despite persistent concerns over the macroeconomic health of the European and U.S. economies.

While risks have grown in the last few months in line with macro-led market turmoil in Europe and the U.S., the bank expects commodities prices to stay elevated in the medium-to-long term due to emerging-market demand and supply-side disruptions, the analysts said at a news conference.

"We maintain we need to see a more...recessionary environment to derail our commodity view," Senior Commodities Economist Allison Nathan said.

Given the amount of bad news in the markets in recent weeks, "commodity prices are holding up extremely well," Resource Strategy & Commodities Analyst Malcolm Southwood said.

Three-month copper opened at $8,646.75 a metric ton on the London Metal Exchange Thursday, down 12.5% since the start of August and 21.4% lower than Goldman Sachs's 12-month forecast of $11,000/ton. October Brent crude oil on London's ICE Futures exchange opened at $112.41 a barrel, down 3.5% since the start of August and 13.5% lower than the house's 12-month forecast at $130 a barrel.

Copper and oil will reach these 12-month targets due to continuing strong consumption in emerging economies, the analysts said. Southwood said that supply will continue falling short of demand, particularly for copper.

"Copper is the strongest base metal fundamentally at the moment."

Goldman Sachs sees the copper market in deficit in 2012, but says the red metal will move back into a small surplus in 2013. As supply rises, the house expects prices to ease, Southwood said.

The bank is also bullish on zinc, he added, saying it expects the galvanizing metal's fundamentals to improve "dramatically" in the next five years as large mines close and Chinese demand holds firm.

Its 12-month forecast for zinc is $2,700/ton compared with Thursday's opening price of $2,175/ton.

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