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Global Strategy and Investment Trends by David Fuller

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European currencies lead the way against a devaluing yen.

The enormity of Japan's economic problems, and the paucity of viable solutions from the politicians and bureaucrats, is increasingly recognized by the markets. No country, to my knowledge, has ever broken out of a destructive deflationary cycle (falling output, prices and profits) without a massive devaluation. Japan will be no exception, judging from the charts. Ironically, it was BoJ Governor Hayami - so long an advocate of yen strength and so wrong on Japan's economic recovery prospects, who signalled that Japan's deflationary cycle was becoming a full-blown crisis, by surprising everyone and announcing last month that the BoJ would purchase equities from beleaguered commercial banks, which are technically bust. Of course this only buys a little breathing space for banks, which have

long seen their non-performing loans increase faster than they can be written off. Currency markets are beginning to anticipate the mother of all monetary reflations from Japan.

As chart breakouts are extended, trailing stops are the tactic. The high-yielding Norwegian Krone is leading advances against the yen. The euro, Swiss franc and sterling appear to have completed small, post-breakout consolidations above this year's earlier trading ranges. My minimum 3-month target for euro/yen is ¥130 and dollar/yen should retest the high near ¥135. I continue to expect much higher levels over the longer term. Since there are inevitably many unknowns concerning the precise sequence of this devaluation, my preferred tactic, based on the chart action, is to protect longs against the yen with loose trailing stops.

Best regards - David Fuller









Charts by Bloomberg

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