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Commodities in Asia | Episode 3
Sunil Kashyap, Director, FinMet Pte Ltd.

We continue our *Commodities in Asia* series this week with Sunil Kashyap, Director at FinMet Pte Ltd. SmarterMarkets™ host David Greely sits down with Sunil to discuss gold, nickel, and managing risk in a world where physical commodities markets are increasingly centered in Asia, while the commodities futures markets are in the United States and Europe.

Sunil Kashyap (00s):
While people say, yeah, the financial markets are getting developed, etc. Actually, what COVID has shown us is when things go wrong, the only thing that counts is what's in your hand at this moment, right. So I think in a way, nothing has changed to the gold markets, and that's something that probably is the biggest asset – the fact that it's always been the way it is, and you can depend upon it.

Announcer (21s):
Welcome to SmarterMarkets, a weekly podcast featuring the icons and entrepreneurs of technology, commodities, and finance ranting on the inadequacies of our systems and riffing on ideas for how to solve them. Together we examine the questions: are we facing a crisis of information or a crisis of trust, and will building Smarter Markets be the antidote?
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David Greely (01m 02s):
Welcome back to Commodities in Asia on SmarterMarkets. I'm Dave Greely, Chief Economist at Abaxx Technologies. Our guest today is Sunil Kashyap, Director at FinMet. We'll be discussing gold, nickel and managing risk in a world where physical commodities markets are increasingly centered in Asia, while the commodities futures markets are in the United States and Europe. Hello, Sunil. Welcome to SmarterMarkets.

Sunil Kashyap (01m 27s):
Hi, nice to be here.

David Greely (01m 29s):
Well, really glad to have you here. I've been looking forward to this conversation, to hearing and discussing some of your insights and experience from close to three decades in the Asian gold and precious metals industry. But, you know, I wanted to start in a little bit of a different direction with you today, which is to talk with you about an important event in the base metals market. I wanted to ask you about the crisis in the LME nickel markets last year, because I think it provides a window into understanding Asia's place in the metals markets and ways in which the commodities future markets have not yet adapted to the reality of the role that Asia now plays. So I was hoping you might start us off this morning by talking a little bit and sharing your perspective on the LME nickel crisis and how Asia was involved.

Sunil Kashyap (02m 19s):
Yeah, okay. So maybe I'll just give you the broad picture first and then we'll just dive in and see, we'll peel away what happened and we can understand what was going on under the surface. So essentially what happened last year was that the LME nickel contract saw a huge amount of volatility, and over a very short period of time, the nickel future prices started going up as much as 50 to 100% percent every day and you had a situation where the market was chaotic, bit of spreads were huge, and essentially at the LME had to step in and stop trading, had to review the trades that were done over the previous few hours, and that had to cancel some of the trades. So it was a huge market dislocation and then when you peel back to see what actually was happening, you saw that on the buying side there were several hedge funds several institution players who were buying nickel futures.

Sunil Kashyap (03m 19s):
And on the sell side, predominantly there were some physical players, and there was one dominant Chinese producer, nickel producer, who was on the sell side and the reason why the Chinese producer was actually selling is because he was sitting on physical stocks and

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he was trying to hedge his price risk and, and selling the futures contract. The problem, of course, was that as the longs took more and more positions, his short position turned out to be more and more outta the money, and he had marked a market calls, and at one point, I think he was looking at a mark to market loss of close to $2 billion, which he could not fund. And so that's why they had to bust the trades and create some kind of settlement. So the situation really was that yes, he had the underlying physical, so in a way he was hedged, but you had a mismatch firstly, in terms of timing, because the future's contracts get mark to market every day and you need to meet mark to market calls.

Sunil Kashyap (04m 22s):
And on the other hand, even though he had the physical, it was in the wrong location, quote unquote wrong in China, it was in the wrong form. Okay and it was so far away that you couldn't deliver against the futures contract that was in London. And so that this kind of basis risk, which is between the physical markets in Asia, where there are producers or consumers of physical metal who want to hedge themselves and the futures market in the West where these, these consumers and producers hedge themselves, there is a disconnect between the two in terms of the delivery standards, the timings for delivery, the standards for delivery, et cetera and that disconnect is what we call basis risk. And that basis risk has been ballooning up over time as the volumes of trading by these physical players has grown as a result of the fact that Asia itself has grown bigger and bigger in terms of the commodities markets.

David Greely (05m 22s):
And these issues of the, the growing basis between the physical markets of Asia and the futures markets that are primarily in US and Europe. I mean, these are broader than the LME nickel market and I imagine other commodity markets share similar vulnerabilities. What do you see creating some of the vulnerabilities that lead to the dislocations and are those vulnerabilities in the gold and precious metals markets as well?

Sunil Kashyap (05m 45s):
Yeah, they are in the precious metals markets as well and I can look at those markets and give you a little bit more of a sense. What's happening is that I think often what happens is the physical players in Asia, be it consumers or producers, they get comfortable in hedging their positions in the Western markets and as long as the markets are orderly, everything works out well. You can put on a position to hedge your physical and then you can take it off when your physical position is closed out and so everything works well. But then over time, they end up increasing the size of their positions, not realizing that they could get into a short squeeze or some kind of a mark to market liquidity crunch. And that's when the problem occurs and we've seen that even happening in the western markets.

Sunil Kashyap (06m 33s):
I mean, last year or two years ago in the precious metals markets, there was a dislocation between the physical market in London and the futures market in comics in, in New York and that was because the physical markets in London worked to a different delivery standard than the futures markets in New York. And of course, the, the differential was enhanced. The problem was enhanced because of COVID because you couldn't change the form that gold was available in London into the form that was required in comics, and that created a huge market dislocation. So it can happen even in western markets between western markets because of logistical issues, which make it difficult to close arbitrage positions, but it's more the case between Asia and the west because of distance, because of the differential in delivery standards.

David Greely (07m 23s):
Could you elaborate a little bit more on the, the difference in specification between London and New York in gold?

Sunil Kashyap (07m 30s):
Yeah, so the London market, the standard delivery for delivery in the London market for gold is 400 ounce bars with 99.5% purity plus, and the delivery standard in Com X in New York is 100 ounce bar, which is 995 plus and the 100 ounce bars basically compares to the 400 ounce bars is a different size, different standard and also in some cases you may have a disconnect in terms of the refineries, which are able to convert those 400 ounce bars into a 100 ounce bars. So that differential of size, and in some cases, purity creates a situation where the refiners, in order to close the arbitrage, any kind of arbitrage has to take the physical out of London, convert that into a hundred ounce bars and deliver it to the futures contract in New York and during COVID that became impossible because most of the refineries were closed flights had been canceled, and that created the dislocation we talked about.

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David Greely (08m 34s):
Right and you know, you had mentioned earlier the idea of basis risk and the idea that in good times the markets work well enough and the basis is small enough that it's manageable, but there's always those risks of serious dislocations like we saw between London and New York and gold at the early days of the COVID pandemic and like help contribute to the short squeeze in nickel when the producer couldn't deliver against their hedges. I was curious, you know, if we take a step back, how do you think about understanding and managing basis risk because there certainly has to be a better way than hope we stay in normal market conditions.

Sunil Kashyap (09m 13s):
Yeah, I think, I think that it's a, it is a big issue and there's no one answer. You know, the, the obvious most simple answer people can say is manage your positions in a way that you don't run up huge positions in the futures contracts that you can't meet margin codes. Basically, the problem happens because even though you may have the physical, the delivery period for the contract may be two months in the future, right but when the contract, the futures contract prices move, you need to meet mar margin calls on a 24 hour basis or in even intraday, right. So form a intraday or short term basis, those mark to market calls have to be met by liquidity, but you need to have money to meet those. So you may have a cash flow issue to meet those margin calls and I think that's where people get tripped up because they don't have enough cash liquidity. They may have the physical, but that's got to be delivered two months from now, right and you know, you need to change form and move it and deliver it into the, into the deposit depositories but the immediacy of meeting mark to market calls is the one that people never think about and so they run up huge positions, and then when the prices move up or down and they have a margin call, they don't have the liquidity meet, meet that call, and that's what creates this problem.

David Greely (10m 29s):
And I'm curious, you know, where are the banks in all of this you know, I worked on in commodities at Goldman many years ago, and it was pretty much a, a normal part of the business that commercial players, participants, hedgers, would do trades over the counter so that they weren't forced to make margin calls the way you would on an exchange but you know, you could post collateral, use your balance sheet strength to kind of protect the positions you had on your hedging positions. Are the banks not willing to extend that type of credit or participate in the over the counter markets in that way?

Sunil Kashyap (11m 04s):
Yeah, I think things have changed in the last, certainly in the last six, five to six years because of banking regulation in parcel three, you know, with the, with the banking rules of parcel three, the whole way that commodities are reflected, physical commodities are reflected in the bank's balance sheets. The way that OTC derivatives are managed have gone through a huge change to the extent that now a lot of the banks are not allowed to give limits you know, they need to, if they are giving limits for meeting OTC market to market calls, then the capital rating is so high that it becomes unprofitable for them. So a lot of the banks are really pulling back from this whole OTC derivatives business and the regulators also want to push the derivatives more onto exchanges because they want more transparency because remember, the financial crisis when it took place was all driven by OTC derivatives, not in the commodities market, but in the credit markets and what have you and so that's why the regulators are very keen to penalize OTC derivatives and that makes the banks a little bit more shy than they were in the past for offering huge limits to customers, especially market to market limits.

David Greely (12m 24s):
Yeah, it's interesting. It's often when the regulators try to solve one problem and reduce one form of risk, it creates another form of risk somewhere else. That's good. I'm curious, obviously finding a better way to handle the mark to market for bonafide hedgers sounds like, in your view, would be, a good way to help people deal with the basis risk better. Are there other ways that we can make our markets more resilient to this type of risk? Do we need better markets, better tools, better technology, better regulation?

Sunil Kashyap (12m 54s):
I think one of the ways, and we, like we mentioned you know, the issue really is that OTC limits are not available. So one of the ways you could look at is, is creating pools of liquidity regionally, okay. Closer to the way the physical players are and maybe those pools of liquidity not maybe have to be done through an exchange mechanism, because that's what the regulators want. They want a transparent exchange with prices but if you do create those pools of liquidity through an exchange and have delivery standards which match the physical standards of that regional market, then what you do is you, you bridge that gap. Now, it could be that then between that regional exchange and the larger Western exchange, you create arbitrage who then ensure that the prices are in order, but at least what you do is you diversify the risk across several players in that situation, right and so the importance of creating these regional pools of liquidity and regional exchanges with regional delivery standards and contract norms, I think is, is very important and it's

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something that has not been possible in the past, maybe because of technology and, you know, we had a series of crisis with the financial crisis and then COVID and I think that's something that is definitely lacking at this moment, but it's a need of the hour.

David Greely (14m 16s):
Right. So when you think about a regional market for Asia, and maybe Asia's too broad, maybe it has to be a smaller part of Asia, whether it's India, China, Southeast Asia, how would that differ do you think, in terms of specification location from the gold markets that we're more accustomed to in the US and Europe, like, could you walk us through a little bit about the, the physical commercial market in Asia, and what aspects of that would need to be reflected in a financial market, a regional pool of liquidity as you put it?

Sunil Kashyap (14m 50s):
Right. So I think I think, you know, like I mentioned, let's look at gold. We mentioned that the delivery standard in New York is a 100 ounce power. The delivery standard in London is a 400 ounce power in Asia. And most of Asia, the standard bar that is actually traded in the physical markets is a kilo bar that's 100 grams kilo bar which could have purity of 995 of typically four nines and that's the standard delivery standard across Japan, China, most of Southeast Asia, even the Middle East and India, India, the purity changes, but it basically is or one kilo bar. So the kilo bar is a standard gold physical standard that's traded between players. So that is the natural one. If you had to create an exchange that is a natural standard that you need to look at for your contract saying, you know, a kilowatt is deliverable against this contract.

David Greely (15m 44s):
Right and is it, you know, when we look at the market, how divided is it, would one Asian market be a, a large pool of liquidity, or do you need more differentiation within Asia?

Sunil Kashyap (15m 56s):
Yeah, so I think Asia, you know, is very diversified. You've got Japan and Korea on the one hand, which are quite developed in Australia, of course quite developed markets. And then you've got China and India, which are massive domestic markets, but with capital controls, they're basically locked out of the international markets. So it is a bit of a challenge and you've got a lot of smaller countries like Thailand, Indonesia, et cetera, which are quite tiny in terms of the size of the financial markets. So it is a challenge because you've got all these diverse countries with different stages of capital controls and financial regulation and so marrying that into a contract can be difficult, but I think given the fact that Hong Kong and Singapore are quite developed financial markets, a lot of institutional players have quite a lot of knowledge base in terms of how financial markets work. These would be the natural locations you could look at to create such an exchange and then you would have players from, you know, right from Japan to Australia, to China to India looking to these markets as being the sort of primary liquidity provider for their hedges.

David Greely (17m 07s):
Right and how has the gold market, the physical market been developing in Asia over the past 10 years through all these changes in bank regulation and, and, and market structure. How has that been growing?

Sunil Kashyap (17m 19s):
Yeah, I mean, I think two things I would say fortunately you know, both China and India have been growing and they've done, they've taken mid and changes to create local domestic exchanges where trading is quite active, and it gives the local players in ability to hedge their positions locally on those exchanges but both those exchanges really function in local currency terms may be in and India rupees and both those currencies are not convertible at the capital account, so it doesn't allow foreign players to easily trade in these markets. So they remain largely local markets and the connectivity to international markets is quite tenuous. It's typically through physical product moving in and outta those of those markets. So that's been a positive trend that at least you've created local pools, but then it doesn't allow foreigners to come in, but besides that, we haven't really been very successful in creating a regional international exchange where international players and regional players can come, come together and get price discovery together. That hasn't happened so far.

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David Greely (18m 29s):
Yeah. What do you think the challenge to that has been, has it been the capital controls or something else?

Sunil Kashyap (18m 34s):
No, I think it's just been, firstly like I said, you know, there was so many distractions of so many things happening you know, people haven't really gone down to actually creating an exchange for that. Secondly, the cost, right you know, in the absence of technology, if you use the traditional exchange model, it can be very expensive to set up contracts and, and make them liquid. So I think technology has been a hindrance and thirdly, you know, the, the precious metal markets have a huge amount of inertia. If you actually look at them, there's nothing new that has happened probably since the ETF in 2002. So it does take time to create innovation within these markets and so that's, that's one of the hurdles to getting something like that going.

David Greely (19m 15s):
Yeah the innovation that there's a lot of work behind that. I was curious, where do you see like a need for innovation. People often talk about use of gold as a currency, you know, kind of it's original use in, in a world where there are lots of capital controls, or do people use gold more as a common currency, or what is, what is the demand for it in Asia?

Sunil Kashyap (19m 38s):
So I think if you look at India and China, and even places like Thailand, Indonesia, gold often is the only international asset that local players, retail players can purchase, right. So it's the only asset where, which is linked to the international markets and typically linked to the US dollar. So often what will happen is that in, in situations where the currency is weakening or there's a problem domestically, the investors would rush into physical gold because it creates a hedge against domestic uncertainty currency devaluation, et cetera. So gold does create that link in a situation where there's capital controls but besides that, and that's been going on for years and decades, besides that, there's no real innovation that has taken place.

David Greely (20m 28s):
And given your experience over the past, you know, three decades, what innovation would you like to see take place, obviously more regional exchanges, Asian benchmarks, is that the area or are there some other aspects where you're like, this would really help push the industry forward?

Sunil Kashyap (20m 43s):
Yeah, I think, I think the ability for a technology driven exchange to build an infrastructure at low cost and then create technological connectivity to the bigger exchanges to provide liquidity into the regional exchange would be very useful because technology is something which allows anybody, whether they're in in Japan or they're in Vietnam, to access a pool of liquidity in a, in a, in a, in a central location and with, especially in the last 5 or 10 years, you know, people's use of technology has grown so much. They're so comfortable now that they don't need to pick up the phone anymore. I mean, it's interesting that in these local markets now, the use of phone calls and, you know, voice has reduced dramatically, even in the smaller markets like Vietnam or in Thailand, if you talk to most of the traders there, all the trades are done in click and click and trade because people have adopted local technology for that. So I think people are comfortable now to look at a screen and trade, and so the time is right to use the technology to create something like that.

David Greely (21m 49s):
And I'm curious, how do you, you know, there, there's often this symbiotic relationship between exchanges and the physical markets where the physical market has to be ready to support and exchange and have that level of liquidity and development and standardization and then there's the ways in which the exchange helps then propel the physical market forward because it allows people to trade with transparency, to lay off risk, to manage the risk better. How do you see the creation of a, a regional exchange for gold in Asia, how would that help propel the physical industry forward?

Sunil Kashyap (22m 24s):
Yeah, I think if you ask the physical industry, do you need an exchange, the answer would be no. We find the way we are, so you have to have a little bit of a leap of faith. It's like, build it and they will come. So you'll have to do that. I think there's definitely an inherent need, but I don't think people can, can say this is what we want because of the fact that a lot of them are quite traditional in the way they carry on their business. But if you talk to some of the most sophisticated players, the institutional players who deal in physical, they for sure will tell you that, yes, we need to have something like that.

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David Greely (22m 56s):
Right and how do you imagine the connectivity that you spoke of between an Asian regional pool of liquidity and the London market, the New York market, with so much of the physical trade being in Asia, do you see it as, I guess I'm trying to understand which is the dog and which is the tail to use a more American expression?

Sunil Kashyap (23m 16s):
I think the dog remains the westley markets because the pool of liquidity is so large. But you know, if you create two exchanges, you'll get more institutional players who just come in as pure arbitrages because they can understand the delivery standards of two exchanges. They can, and they can try to use differentials between the two much better than the physical players, right, so you'll get, you know, very sophisticated arbitrages coming in and creating that connectivity between the larger exchange and the smaller exchange and then you have regional players, you know, in the physical markets, et cetera, laying off their risk onto that exchange and then arbitrages will take that risk and then laid off with the bigger exchanges. So that's how I see it right now. The only option is that the, the physical guys are going directly into Western exchanges, and then often they're getting squeezed out and so this will, this will ensure that at least the risk gets mitigated locally for them and then bigger players can come in and just do basis traits between two exchanges.

David Greely (24m 19s):
Those who can better handle that basis risk than a correct, than a physical producer or a buyer.

Sunil Kashyap (24m 23s):
Correct, absolutely.

David Greely (24m 25s):
So I was hoping maybe we could take a step back. Given your experience, I'd just love to hear a little bit about your outlook for the development of the gold and precious metals markets and industry in Asia. How much of this do you think will be driven by China, by India, or what nations, what regions do you think are doing interesting things that we need to be aware of?

Sunil Kashyap (24m 49s):
I think there's a couple of things I would say. One is, I think there's the overall sort of concern or something that's top of mind for a lot of players in, in Asia is the responsible sourcing. The fact is that there is a lot of not so good things happening in the cold market sometimes and so the Asian players, while they were smaller, you know, they didn't really care about any of those things, but as they've become big and you know, by world standards, they're more recognizable, they're very concerned to ensure that they, they don't get into any reputational risk issues. So a lot of them are upgrading their standards, the KYC, AML policies to ensure that not only are they clean, because they are always okay, it's now a situation where they've got to be able to exhibit, show the world that look we are.

Sunil Kashyap (25m 37s):
And then so the people can verify that they are meeting the highest global standards. So that's one thing that, that I see across the region happening with a lot of players that they want to distinguish themselves saying we are world class in terms of compliance. The second exciting thing that's happening is, is the setting up of a sort of a offshore exchange in India which will trade gold in kilo bars against US dollars. Right now it's a spot physical exchange, but they're swoon going to offer future contracts. So that'll be one of the first experiments of what we are talking about having a regional exchange created in the US dollars with a physical Asian product. So the exchange is up and running. The new contracts are being tested right now and so by November or December we should see them being launched.

David Greely (26m 27s):
And I was curious, when you look outside of China and India now, you've spent a lot of time in the gold markets in Southeast Asia. How do they fit into to the, the Asian region as a whole in the world?

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Sunil Kashyap (26m 40s):
Yeah, I mean, I think both Hong Kong and Singapore are the major financial markets, and they're the ones who link regional players to the international market. So most of the bullion banks have offices either in Singapore or in Hong Kong. They have metals desk there. Those metal desk are trading London, local London or creating comics against the physical in, in the local markets and that's clearly where the development is taking place. We are seeing more and more international bull banks setting up offices predominantly in Singapore and we do see that the Singapore government is keen to promote Singapore as a regional commodities hub and encourage more physical and hedging activity out of Singapore.

David Greely (27m 28s):
And I wanted to ask one, one last question of you before we go. You brought up the idea that people want to know the provenance, they want to know where the gold came from. That's something we're seeing across many of the commodities markets that people want to understand the supply chain, was it sourced in a responsible way. When you look at that in the gold market, how do you see that developing, is it about where the gold was mined and refined, or is it about whose hands it's passed through, because it's kind of an interesting aspect when you have these almost the de commoditization of certain commodities where people want to be able to distinguish commodities based on where they came from or potentially who they came from?

Sunil Kashyap (28m 10s):
Yeah, no, I think it's all of the, our, I mean, I think people want to show that along the supply chain, there have been no illegal activities associated with the management of that gold or the conversion of that gold from mine to money, right and I think that's the primary concern right now. Of course, in more developed markets, people want to look at also things like carbon footprint and those kind of situations, but I don't think that's a big concern in Asia right now. Right now, all they try to make, you know, make sure is that, look, you know, I'm selling this ounce of gold, and I can tell you for sure that there has been no illegal activity connected to this gold from the time that it came out of the mind to the time that it's, it's in the hands of consumer.

David Greely (29m 00s):
And when, when you look forward, how important do you think that's gonna be in the future. Is that just gonna become part of the, part of the market?

Sunil Kashyap (29m 08s):
It's already very important. It's already very important. All the big players are spending a lot of money to ensure that they meet global standards, because the downside is, is so much right when you, you don't want to have anything that, you know, impacts your, your reputation, because as soon as that happens, the rest of the market just leaves you and, and abandons you and so that's something that's everybody is very concerned about. So they make sure that they take, call it precautious, necessary, that they don't inadvertently fall into something like this.

David Greely (29m 41s):
And maybe, maybe I lied before, I have one more question for you know, I think there's, gold is one of those commodities whose death has been called for many times over many decades, if not centuries, and yet it's still with us. So kind of when we come through, you know, we've gone through a dollar world, we've gone through crypto, we've gone through all these other stores of value, you know, where do you see the future for gold in Asia and in the use that we put it to?

Sunil Kashyap (30m 13s):
Yeah, I think it's more of the same. I think, I think the unique part of gold, there's three things that, that attracts people about gold. I think one is of course, the ease of trading or physical. You can buy physical anytime. You don't have to open a mutual fund account or brokerage account, anything. You just go down and buy physical gold. So just the ease of trading, especially, you know, whether you're in Vietnam, Indonesia, or Singapore, just go with your local currency, buy gold, right. So it's an asset which you can buy anytime, even 24 hours a day, right. So that's one thing that that's always been there for so long. It was true hundreds of years ago. It's still true now, right. So that's one thing. I think the second thing about gold that people understand is, is of course, a physicality that once you have it, you have, you know, it's not in a custodian account, it's not in a depository, it's, it's with you, right?

Sunil Kashyap (31m 02s):
And ore than that, there is no counterparty risk. It's not that somebody can take it away. If it's good with you, it's with you. It's not as if suddenly it's gonna disappear like a Lehman bond or something right. So that's the second part that is quite attractive to people and

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the third thing, like I mentioned to you is, is the linkage to the international markets, right? If you are in Cambodia, right, you can't buy a Microsoft share, you can't buy us, you can, you hold physical US dollars, that's about it, right. But you can't buy a bond, you can't buy equity in US dollars. You can either buy physical US dollar notes or you buy gold. So that ability to, that access to an international commodity, okay, which is liquid anywhere in the world, is very important. So, and it's been the case before, and every year it gets more and more embedded because while people say, yeah, you know, the financial market's getting developed, et cetera, actually, what COVID has shown us is it's when things go wrong, the only thing that counts is what's in your hand at this moment, right.

Sunil Kashyap (32m 08s):
When you can't go to the bank, you can't go anywhere. You start thinking, this is what I have, right. So I think, I think in a way, nothing has changed through the gold markets, and that's something that probably is the biggest asset, the fact that it's, it's always been the way it is, and you can depend upon it and it diversifies your risk, right? The other issue is when all the assets are moving all over the place, gold is steady, may move two, three, 5%, you know, a 3% move in gold price is a huge thing. Whereas a 3% move in bonds and stocks are as usual nowadays, within a day, right, so it's a very stable, diversified asset which gives you protection and that's something that's, I think is something that even the younger generation understands.

David Greely (32m 52s):
Thanks again to Sunil Kashyap, director at FinMet. We hope you enjoyed the episode. Join us next week as we continue our series Commodities in Asia with Lee Howell, Executive Director at the Villars Institute. We'll be discussing the shifting tides in international affairs and the new geopolitical realities that are being created by the energy transition, and Asia's place in it. We hope you'll join us.

Announcer (33m 16s):
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Announcer (34m 05s):
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