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Rapid Insights: China - The Door Widens to Global Investors

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Good day everyone. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to discuss about the progressive opening of China's capital market, and the key considerations for market entry with you today.

Fundamentally, let's start with why China and why now. It is clear that the answer is simple. China is too big to ignore. Today, it's the second largest equity and bond market in the world, with a total market cap of \$30 trillion, which is just behind the U.S. market. Yet, in light of this, foreign ownership represents only just a single-digit percentage of the total market share. Now, this is lower compared to other markets such as the U.S. at 27%, and Japan at 10%.

The growth potential is expected to surge for two major reasons. Number one, Chinese securities are increasingly being included in global indices, such as MSCI, FTSE, Bloomberg, Barclays, S&P. And secondly, the continued development and accelerated market reforms, such as the removal of quota, FX liberalization, simplification of market entry, and expansion of asset classes.

In 2020, the global index inclusion drew about \$260 billion of foreign inflows into China. And by about 2025, foreign inflows are expected to increase by about \$1 trillion.

A natural question is what are the trends prevalent to the sovereign space? Sovereign entities have the privilege to access the Chinese bond markets directly through the People's Bank of China. Increasingly, sovereign entities are now consolidating their Chinese portfolios with the global custodians, as they can benefit from the comprehensive end-to-end solutions, and service models, which support both their internally as well as externally managed portfolios.

In light of this, there are key considerations when you're accessing the Chinese capital market. To access the Chinese capital market, there are two channels via China, and two channels via Hong Kong. Each channel is materially different in terms of the entry requirements, the asset classes, FX and funding methods, the account structure, as well as the settlement mechanisms.

Firstly, you need to select the access scheme according to the asset class that you want to invest into, and assess how it falls under your overall investment strategy. Secondly, you need to select an FX and funding method that is scalable and fits your operating framework. It is important to take note that the assets held through the different access schemes are not fungible.

One of the unique features of the Chinese market is that there is only one official currency for the renminbi, which trades both domestically as well as in the offshore market.

Now, just like any other markets, there are market nuances that need to be addressed. A few of these examples include the short settlement cycle, the filtering restrictions for equities, and the different entry requirements across the access schemes, which I shared earlier.

China is paving its way to becoming a more internationally integrated capital market through market reforms and advocacy effort, so as to make it easier for foreign investors to invest in its capital market.

Finally, to help you ensure that you achieve your business success when investing in China's complex capital market, it would help to have a trusted and reliable global service provider who demonstrates four key attributes. One who has the ability to adapt quickly to the evolving market reforms and policies. One who is able to tackle the various market hurdles that still exist. One who can provide end-to-end servicing solutions from market entry, FX, settlement processing, as well as portfolio servicing, and with a proven track record. And one who shares deep market insights, innovative solutions to help you navigate through this complex market seamlessly and efficiently.

Thank you.

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