





With thanks to

Chief Editors:

Jin Mei, Chief Representative, Representative Office for Europe, The People's Bank of China

Giles French, Regulatory Strategy and Trade Director, City of London Corporation

List of Contributors:

Aberdeen Standard Investment

Agricultural Bank of China (ABC), London

Bank of China (BoC), London

China Central Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd. (CCDC)

China Construction Bank (CCB), London (UK Clearing Bank)

China Foreign Exchange Trade System (CFETS)

ChinaFICC

IHS Markit

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), London

London Stock Exchange Group (LSE)

National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors (NAFMII)

NEX

R5FX

Refinitiv

Shanghai Clearing House (SHCH)

Standard Chartered Bank

The People's Bank of China (PBoC) Representative Office for Europe

This report is jointly produced by the City of London Corporation and The People's Bank of China Representative Office for Europe. The City of London Corporation is the governing body of the Square Mile dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK. This publication has been prepared for general guidance on matters of interest only, and does not constitute professional advice. You should not act upon the information contained in this publication without obtaining specific professional advice. No representation or warranty (express or implied) is given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication, and, to the extent permitted by law, the authors and distributors do not accept or assume any liability, responsibility or duty of care for any consequences of you or anyone else acting, or refraining to act, in reliance on the information contained in this publication or for any decision based on it. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without permission in writing from the monitoring group. Contact: REN Zhe (+44 20 76016656 london@pbc.gov.cn).

Foreword

The City of London is pleased to be working in partnership with the People's Bank of China Representative Office for Europe to present the London RMB Business Quarterly. London is the leading offshore RMB trading hub outside of Asia, and this report aims to help us maintain this position, providing an overview of the market for Chinese currency in the City.



Catherine McGuinness
Chair of Policy and Resources
City of London Corporation

We are very proud of the partnership between the City of London Corporation and the People's Bank of China Representative Office for Europe on the London RMB Business Quarterly report. It highlights London's influence as a leader in the RMB internationalisation market outside of Asia and the PBoC's efforts to develop and sustain the RMB market at home and abroad.

The City of London is home to over 30 Chinese financial and professional services firms which joined the London market to build their international presence. The RMB is an important global currency and it is natural, as home to the world's largest FX market, that London monitors its use and innovations closely.

With access to onshore RMB investments in China rapidly increasing, opportunities for new products and ways to manage currency exposure are also growing. This makes for exciting times for the City of London and international investors. The third issue of the London RMB Business Quarterly, explore the opportunities for offshore and onshore RMB investments, as well as perspectives on the offshore and onshore bond markets.

The London RMB Business Quarterly report serves to contribute to the understanding of the London offshore RMB market, providing most recent data, policies and commentaries from market participants. As well as promote the healthy and sustainable development of the London offshore RMB market by monitoring and providing feedback to regulatory bodies in both countries for policies improvement.

We would like to thank all our valued partners who have contributed to the third issue of the London RMB Business Quarterly report. Your contributions played a major part in the success of this quarterly report.



Giles FrenchRegulatory Strategy and
Trade Director,
City of London Corporation



Jin Mei
Chief Representative,
Representative Office for Europe,
The People's Bank of China



Since the December report, RMB exchange rate has been strong against major currencies. Market expectation for RMB exchange rate is stable.

London RMB Foreign Exchange Market

About 29% of all CNH spot trading on EBS took place during EMEA trading hours in February, 1 percentage point down from previous month. The daily CNH FX trading volume in London averaged GBP76.7billion in Q4 2018, slightly down 1.75% from previous quarter, up 44.8% YoY.

London RMB Bond Market

The London dim sum bond market was more active in 2018 than previous year. As of February 2019, there are 113 Dim Sum bonds listed on the London Stock Exchange with a total size of RMB32.85 billion, an average coupon rate of 4.53%.

London RMB Credit Market

By the end of Q4 2018, the amount of RMB deposits totalled RMB56.2billion, up 0.72% from the previous quarter and down 10.24% YoY. The outstanding

amount of RMB loans in London was RMB49.2billion, down 12.25% and 13.83% from previous quarter and Q4 2018 respectively.

London RMB Clearing

The total cumulative clearing volume exceeded RMB10trillion in 2018, an increase of 13.77% over the previous year. The average daily clearing volume was RMB31.37billion in February.

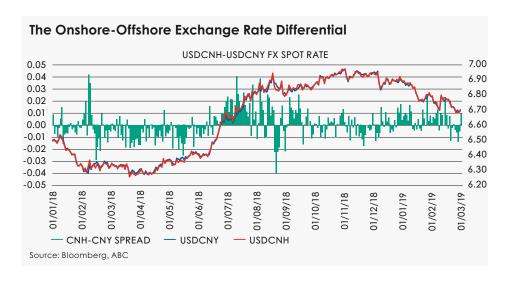
RMB Cross-Border Settlement between China and UK

The total RMB cross-border settlement between China and the UK amounted to RMB377billion in 2018, an increase of 109% over 2017.

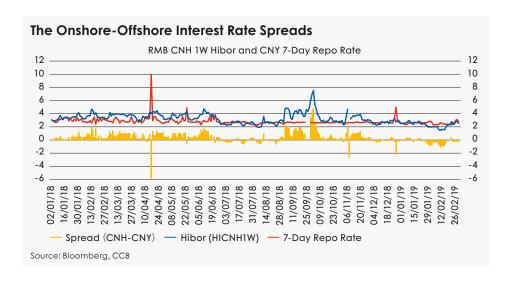
UK's Rank as Offshore RMB Centre

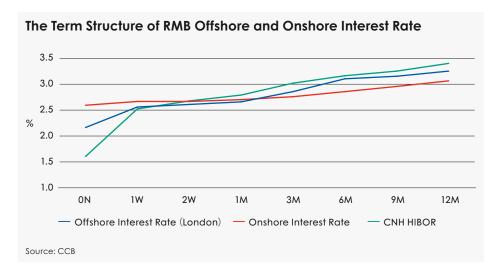
The UK retained its position of having the largest share of RMB payments outside of greater China. In terms of offshore RMB foreign exchange transactions, the UK ranked No 1 in January, accounting for 36.68% of total, slightly higher than last month.

RMB Exchange Rate



RMB Interest Rate

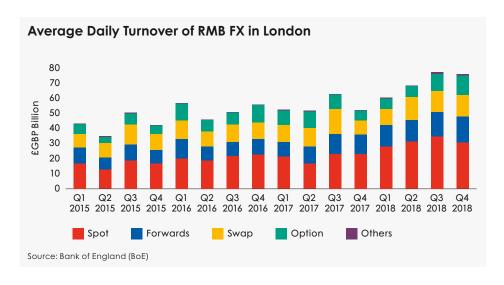


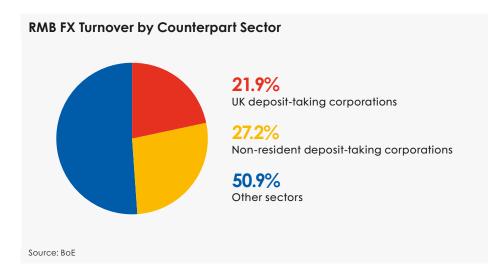


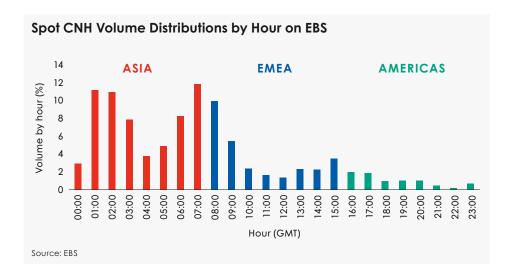
From November 2018 to the end of February 2019, the average FX spot rate of USD/CNH in the offshore market was 6.8481, with the USD/ CNY onshore rate 6.8467. The spread between the two narrowed to only +14 basis points, while the spread of our last report was +59 basis points. Both CNH and CNY were strong in this reporting period, especially from the beginning of 2019. China onshore assets, including stock shares and bonds, were attractive to the investors, especially to the foreign investors as Chinese government promised to further opening-up of onshore capital market and boost the real economy through supporting small-andmedium size firms by tax reduction and financial policies.

From Nov 2018 to Feb 2019, the onshore interest rate was quite stable with relatively volatile offshore rate. The off-shore RMB 1-week interest rate showed a downward trend. The easing of offshore liquidity was mainly affected by the on-shore monetary policy, driven by the cut of RMB reserve requirement rate in October 2018. On 13 Feb 2019. the USD/CNH forward points were negative for all tenors less than one year, even lower than on-shore forward points, which means the offshore RMB liquidity was more loosened than onshore.

London RMB Foreign Exchange Market



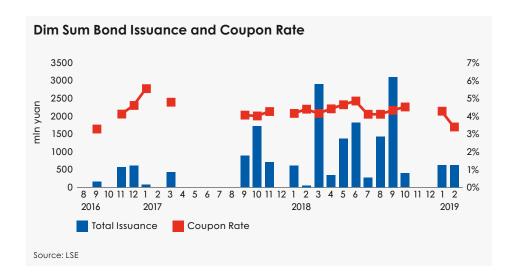




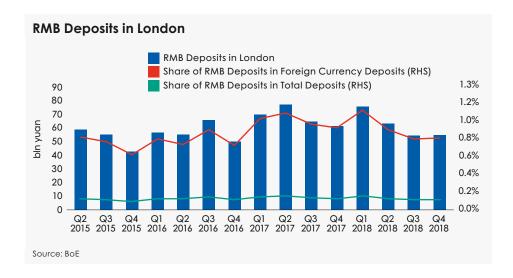
Average daily trading volume of London's offshore RMB was GBP76.6 billion in Q4, slightly down 1.75% from last quarter, up 44.8% YoY. From the perspective of counterparty distribution, the average daily trading volume of UK deposit-taking corporations was GBP16.8 billion, accounting for 21.9%; the average daily trading volume of non-resident deposit taking corporations was GBP20.9 billion, accounting for 27.2%; other financial institutions traded GBP39 billion, accounting for 50.9%.

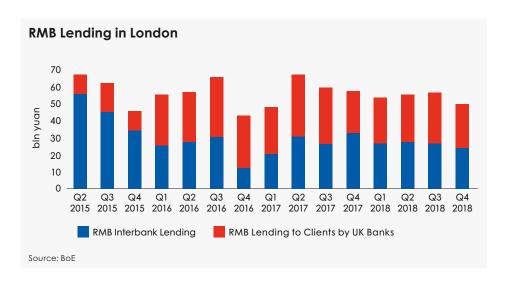
In February, the proportion of the offshore RMB FX trading in London market increased slightly from last month. Trading data from EBS revealed that the proportion of spot CNH trading volume in EMEA trading hours was 29% in February, 1 percent up from previous month. Specifically, in February, Asia, EMEA and Americas trading hours registered 63%, 29% and 8% respectively of total CNH spot trading volumes, compared with a distribution of 64%, 28% and 8% in the previous month, and 55%, 34% and 10% a year ago.

London RMB Bond Market



London RMB Credit Market

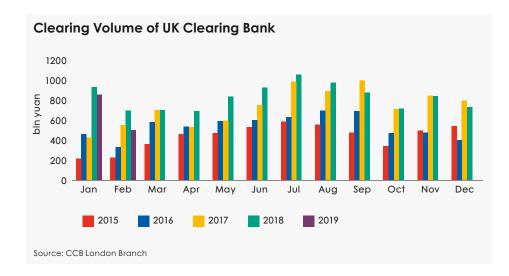




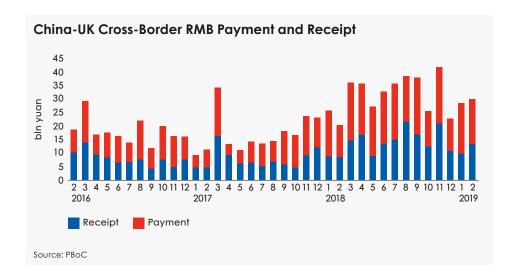
In February, three Dim Sum bonds were newly listed on the London Stock Exchange, with the total issuance size of RMB640million and an average coupon rate of 3.55%. As of February 2019, there are 113 Dim Sum bonds listed on the London Stock Exchange with a total size of RMB32.85 billion, an average coupon rate of 4.53%. The London dim sum bond market was more active in 2018 than previous year. The number of new dim sum bonds in 2018 was 32 more than in 2017, the size of new dim sum bonds in 2018 increased by about RMB9.1 billion from 2017, an increase of more than 260%.

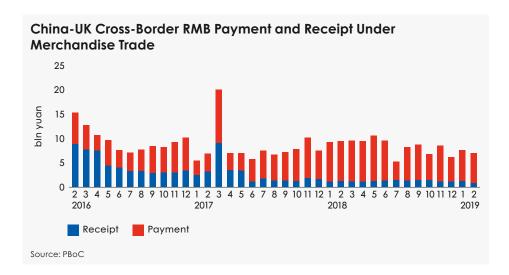
In Q4 2018, RMB deposits in the London offshore market stabilized and the scale of loans declined. The balance of RMB deposits at the end of the Q4 2018 totalled RMB56.2 billion, up 0.72% from the previous quarter and down 10.24% YoY. As of the end of Q4 2018, the balance of RMB loans was RMB49.22 billion, down 12.25% and 13.83% from previous quarter and last quarter of 2017 respectively.

London RMB Clearing



China-UK RMB Cross-Border Settlement



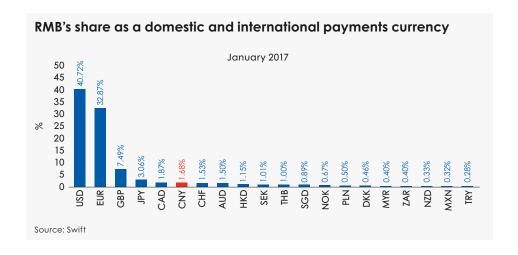


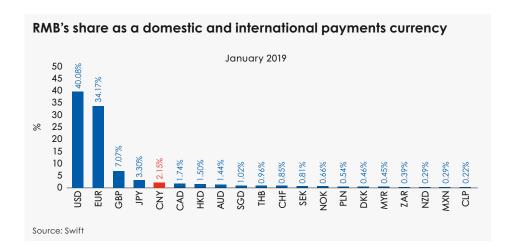
In February, the cumulative clearing volume was RMB502billion with daily average clearing volume RMB31.37billion, and accumulated transaction counts in February stood at 6,722. In 2018, the total amount of clearing volume exceeded RMB10 trillion, an increase of 13.77% over the previous year. By the end of February 2019, the accumulative total RMB clearing volume reached RMB32.59trillion since China Construction Bank London Branch obtained its authorization to become the RMB clearing bank in the UK in June 2014, and China Construction Bank London Branch remained the largest clearing bank out of Asia.

In February, cross-border RMB receipts and payments between China and the UK resumed growth, despite the effects of Chinese lunar new year. The total amount of cross-border RMB receipts and payments between China and the UK was approximately RMB29.9billion, an increase of 5.2% from the previous month and a YoY increase of 48.3%.

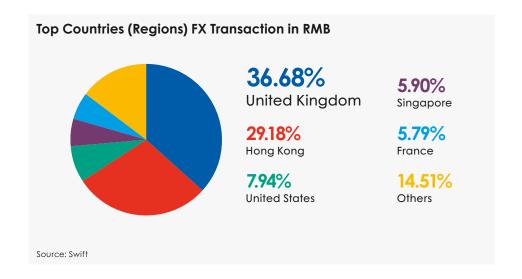
In 2018, the total amount of cross-border RMB transactions between China and the UK was approximately RMB377 billion, an increase of 109% over 2017. Among them, cross-border RMB receipts were about RMB166.2 billion, and payments RMB201.8 billion. The payments were higher than receipts, and RMB35.6 billion flowed into the UK. Cross-border RMB receipts and payments of Sino-British bilateral goods trade was about RMB100.5 billion, accounting for 27% of the total amount of receipts and payments during the same period.

The International Status of the London Offshore RMB Market





According to SWIFT, RMB's share as a domestic and international payments currency (customer initiated and institutional payments) in January 2019 was 2.15%, up slightly from last month. The RMB ranks fifth as a global payment currency, same as December 2018, up one place compared to January 2017. The UK retained its position of having the largest share of RMB payments outside greater China. The top three countries or regions doing FX transactions in RMB in January 2019 were the United Kingdom, Hong Kong and the United States. The United Kingdom accounted for 36.68% of the total, slightly higher than last month.



Industry Update

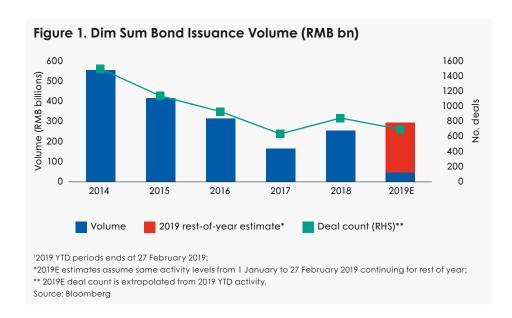
Qian Jiang, International Markets Manager, London Stock Exchange Group Sarah Ellena, Manager, Fixed Income and Funds, London Stock Exchange Group

Dim Sum Bond Market: Recent Developments and Future Outlook

The Dim Sum bond market, which many had considered on the brink of extinction and unable to compete with China's thriving and increasing accessible onshore market, may now be on course for a revival.

The issuance of dim sum bonds, yuan-denominated notes issued outside mainland China, reached close to 260 billion yuan (\$39 billion) in 2018 according to Bloomberg data. Although still lower than its peak in 2014, this represents a 54% increase in issuance volumes compared to 2017.

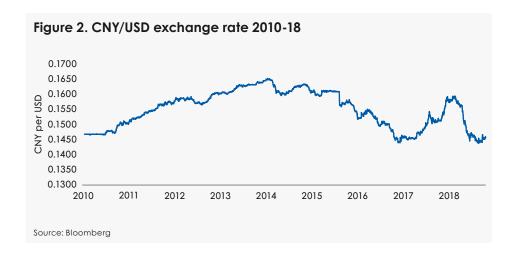
This indicates that International issuers still find the market an attractive funding option, and investors rely on the ease to access dim sum bond deals through a robust, well connected financial infrastructure, underpinned by international standards.



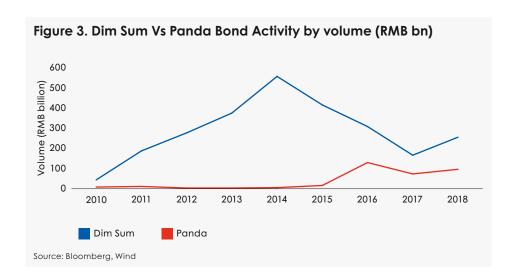
Drivers of Dim Sum Market

Since 2014, dim sum issuance has experienced a pronounced downward trend, with issuance in 2017 bottoming at around 30% of the peak.

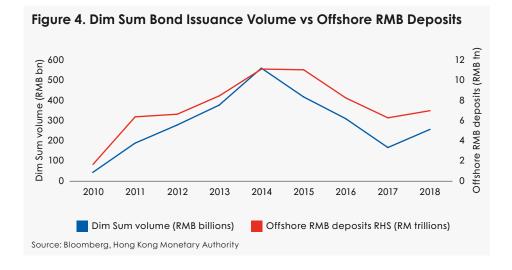
The general consensus has been to attribute this change to the depreciation expectations RMB was subject to since late 2014. As shown in Figure 1, dim sum bond issuance reached its lowest level in 2017 - when the currency was actually recovering from a period of record lows.



The other popular view is that dim sum would gradually disappear as the panda bond market - onshore RMB bond issuance by foreign companies - grew. Panda bonds have long been considered as direct competitors with dim sum but, as shown in Figure 3, the trend of issuance doesn't reveal a substitution effect but rather a high degree of alignment.



When it comes to bond placement, the key decision driver is investor demand. Anecdotical evidence indicates that issuers are much more flexible in their choice of currency than investors and tend to tailor deals to specific group of investors who wish to invest in certain currency, for instance CNH, and swap the proceeds back to home currency afterwards. Investors find this risk diversification beneficial by being able to hold RMB assets in non-China credit.



The size of offshore RMB liquidity pool, therefore, plays a significant role in determining dim sum bond market volume. Figure 4 demonstrates a clear correlation of these two markets. Offshore RMB deposits peaked in 2014 and reached the landmark of 1 trillion, coinciding perfectly with the all time high of dim sum bond issuance.

What is the future for the Dim Sum market?

London Stock Exchange Group believes that dim sum bonds and China's domestic markets are intrinsically interconnected. As complementary funding sources, they offer international issuers and investors the choice and flexibility to suit the individual needs of each transaction. We anticipate these two markets will continue growing together, as the RMB internationalisation process continues and RMB becomes a true global currency.

China has stepped up its efforts to further open its onshore bond market. Since the landmark launch of Bond Connect in June 2017, the level of Chinese bonds held by foreign investors has more than doubled, reaching 1.75 trillion yuan by end of January 2019². Foreign ownership remains small compared with other developed economies, but it is expected to continue to rapidly grow. Full inclusion into global aggregate indices is expected to attract a further passive investment of 1,919 billion yuan (\$286 billion)³, and we expect China's onshore markets to become increasingly attractive for RMB offshore holders seeking further exposure to China's credit as well as for issuers requiring access to deep pools of RMB liquidity.

We expect the dim sum and China's domestic markets to continue growing together, as the RMB internationalisation process continues and RMB becomes a true global currency.

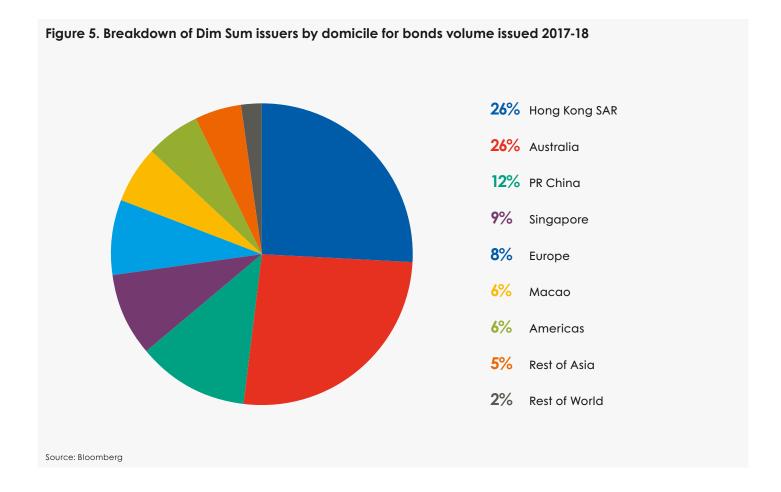
But we also expect the dim sum market to continue to support the internationalisation of RMB. The Belt and Road Initiative, for example, is expected to significantly increase the use of RMB as a payment and trading currency and lead to a sustained increase of RMB offshore deposits. In addition, RMB financing needs for Belt and Road infrastructure projects are estimated to be extensive and beyond the support expected from China. International capital markets – including the dim sum bond market – are a potential source that could help bridge this gap. London, traditionally seen by issuers from Belt and Road countries as the destination of choice for capital raising, is well positioned to benefit from this opportunity.

As the eco-system of listing, trading and investing in Chinese assets continue to develop in London with the introduction of Shanghai-London Stock Connect and other exciting financial industry initiatives, one can expect London - already world's largest RMB clearing centre outside Greater China - and the RMB clearing banks in London to play a more and more important role.

In the long term, dim sum might follow the path of the Eurodollar market, which originated in London in the 1960s to facilitate the use of the dollar in international trade and investment across different time zones and geographies. It allows USD denominated bonds to be issued outside the US by non-US entities and held by foreign investors and has proven to be very attractive due to its high level of flexibility plus a well understood tax, legal and regulatory framework.

 $^{{}^2}http://www.chinabondconnect.com/sc/market-data.htm \\$

standard Chartered https://www.reuters.com/article/china-bonds-index/china-bonds-to-join-bloomberg-barclays-global-aggregate-index-idUSL3N1R54JW



Dim Sum Bonds and London Stock Exchange Group

Globally, the universe of dim sum bond issuers is very diverse. Only 12 % of the amount raised in 2017-18 was issued by PRC domiciled issuers while both Australia and Hong Kong domiciled issuers have been particularly active in our market.

Dim sum growth in London has been mainly driven by international issuers, as depicted by the list of issuance in the Appendix at the end of the report. In 2018, 42 offshore renminbi deals were listed on London Stock Exchange (250% increase vs 2017), all from investment grade corporate issuers.

Dim sum issuers mainly chose to raise capital through London's markets to broaden the appeal of the issue among the largest sophisticated, and global fixed income investors. LSEG supports companies wishing to attract the most diversified investor base from different geographies across different time zones, backed by the city's recognized status as a trading hub for bonds, futures, and foreign exchange with one of the world's deepest liquidity pool. In light of this, we expect London to remain a leading destination for dim sum bond issuers from all over the world and a centre of excellence in supporting RMB internationalization.

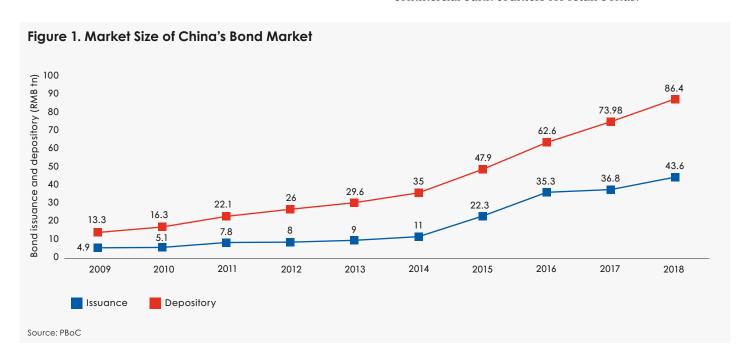
Industry Update

China Foreign Exchange Trade System (CFETS),
National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors (NAFMII),
China Central Depository & Clearing (CCDC),
Shanghai Clearing House (SHCH),
Standard Chartered Bank

China's Bond Market

Market size: The outstanding bond had reached CNY 86.4tn by 2018. According to the BIS statistics of Q3 2018, China's bond market is the third-largest bond market in the world (USD 12.42tn), following those of the US (USD 40.72tn) and Japan (USD 12.62tn).

Trading venue: About 79.72% of the bonds (CNY 908.95tn) are traded in the interbank bond market (CIBM) in 2018, 20.27% (CNY 231.07tn) are traded on the Shanghai and Shenzhen exchanges, and the remaining 0.01% (CNY 132.02bn) are traded elsewhere, such as commercial bank counters for retail bonds.



I. Brief introduction to China's Bond Market

China's bond markets comprise of OTC markets and exchange markets. The China Interbank Bond Market (CIBM) and commercial bank counters are OTC market, while the Exchange markets include Shanghai Exchange and Shenzhen Exchange. The CIBM is the major OTC market for institutional investors, and it is the core part of China's bond market accounting for 80% of trading volume.

The China Foreign Exchange Trade System (CFETS) is the electronic platform for the CIBM, providing issuing service, trading, post-trade, disclosure, benchmarking and training services for various interbank venues including interbank money market, interbank bond market, interbank foreign exchange market and derivative markets. CFETS is also responsible for monitoring trading activities daily and publishing various benchmark indices including the CNY central parity rate, Shanghai Interbank Offered Rate (SHIBOR), Loan Prime Rate (LPR), CNY reference exchange rate, CFETS RMB Exchange Rate Index, etc.

There are two depositories for registration, custody and settlement activities of interbank bond market. One is China Central Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd (CCDC), which is mainly responsible for rate bonds and some of the credit bonds, including central government bond,

local government bond, central bank bill, policy bank bond, commercial bank bond, non-bank financial institution bond, enterprise bond, ABS, international institution bonds etc.

The other depository is Shanghai Clearing House (SHCH), which is mainly responsible for credit bonds, some of the rate bonds, negotiable certificates of deposit, policy bank bonds, panda bonds, SDR denominated bonds, debt financing instruments of non-financial enterprises such as Super & Short-term Commercial Paper (SCP), Commercial Paper (CP), Medium-term Notes (MTN) and Private Placement Notes (PPN). Primary depository model is adopted in the CIBM currently for domestic investors and foreign investors entering the market under CIBM Direct Access Scheme.

For those foreign investors entering the market through Bond Connect, multi-layer depository model is applied. Under both depository models, the participants, mainly institutional investors, transact with each other on bilateral basis. Transactions through CCDC are mainly settled on a real-time, gross, trade-by-trade and DVP basis, while the transactions under SHCH could be

either settled on a net basis with SHCH's role as a Central Counterparty, or on a real-time, gross, trade-by-trade and DVP basis according to the request of the investors. The ultimate regulator of the Interbank Bond Market is People's Bank of China (PBoC).

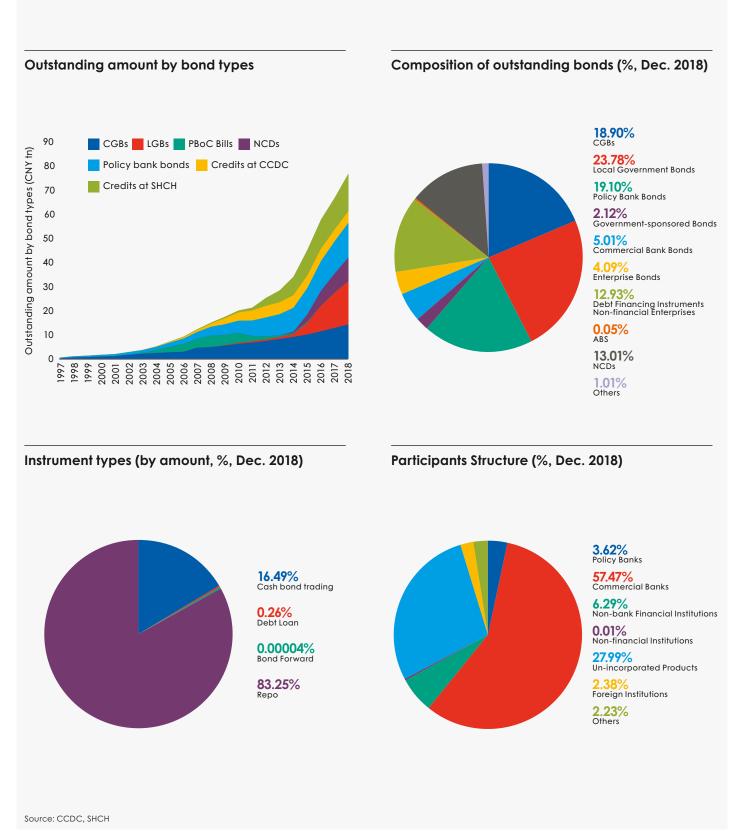
Commercial bank counters are other OTC markets to trade China bonds, where individual and small to medium size investors can trade central government bonds, local government bonds and policy bank bonds via branch networks. These qualified commercial banks also provide custody and settlement services.

Exchange markets include Shanghai exchange and Shenzhen exchange. Participants in the exchange markets include local brokers, asset management companies, insurance companies, corporations and individual investors. The designated depository is China Securities Depository and Clearing Co., Ltd (CSDC), which covers mainly corporate bonds and other bonds traded in the exchange markets. The exchange bond markets are open to the retail investors and hence it adopts the secondary depository model. Transactions are settled on a net basis.

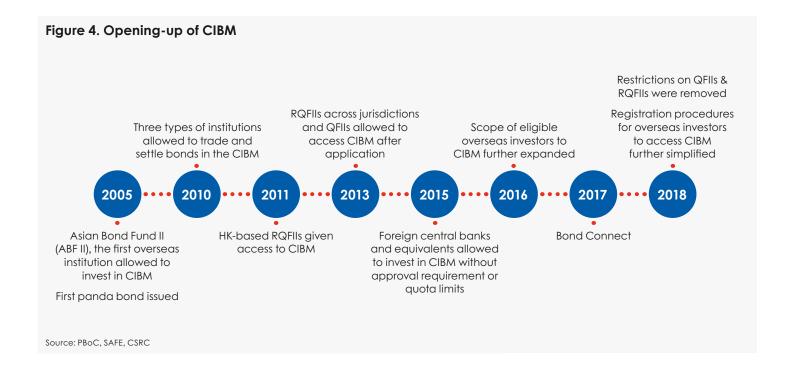
	Interbank Bond Market (CIBM)	Exchange Bond Market	Commercial Bank Counter Market
Regulator	PBoC	CSRC	PBoC
Trading/Transaction	China Foreign Exchange Trade System (CFETS)	Shanghai/Shenzhen Stock Exchanges	Banks
Central Securities Depository	CCDC/SHCH	CSDC	Commercial banks
Available instruments	Central government bond, local government bond, policy bank bond, central bank bill, enterprise bond, MTN, CP, commercial bank bond, financial institution bond, interbank negotiable certificates of deposit, ABS, Repo, Bond Lending, Bond Forward, IRS, Forward Rate Agreement etc.	Central government bond, local government bond, policy bank bond, enterprise bond, corporate bond, convertible bond, private placement bond issued by small and mediumsized enterprise	Book-entry treasury bond, certificated bond, Central government bond, local government bond, policy bank bond
Key investors	Institutional investors (banks, rural credit cooperatives, securities companies, insurance companies, funds, financial companies, offshore institutions, etc.)	Small and medium-sized institutional investors (securities companies, insurance companies, funds, financial companies, individual investors, enterprises, QFII) and individuals	Individual investors
Contribution to primary issuance in 2018	78.21%	14.24%	7.55%
Share of outstanding bond market value at end-2018	87.21%	11.77%	1.02%

^{*}The commercial bank counter market is considered and extension of the interbank market Source: CCDC, Wind

Figure 3. Composition of CIBM



Note: CGBs — Central Government Bonds, LGBs — Local Government Bonds, PBoC Bills — Bills issued by the People's Bank of China, NCDs — Negotiable certificate of deposits



In CIBM, Bond types can be broadly classified into rates bonds and credit bonds. Rates bonds in China include securities issued by the central government, the central bank and policy banks. Credit bonds are securities issued by commercial banks, non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs), and non-financial corporates.

II. How to invest in CIBM as overseas participants

The opening up of China Interbank Bond Market (CIBM) to overseas participants is in line with the RMB internationalisation journey. As of today, almost all types of offshore financial institutions are eligible to participate in CIBM, and majority of the financial instrument of the CIBM become available to overseas participants. There is no quotas limitation for overseas participants and the application and administrative procedures have been simplified greatly.

Access channels to CIBM

There are two main channels to invest into CIBM:

1) CIBM Direct Access, including QFII and RQFII;

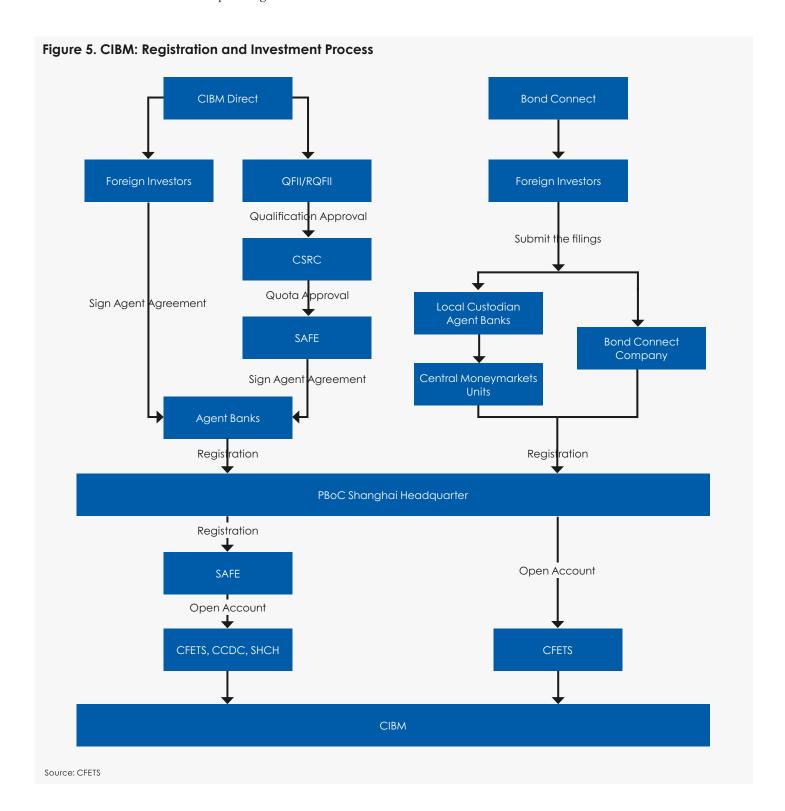
2) Bond Connect. In 2018, CFETS has successfully connected with Bloomberg platform, which enables overseas investors to trade onshore Chinese bonds via the Bloomberg Terminal and offers access to both CIBM Direct Access and Bond Connect. According to the current statistics data, many of the large institutional investors and sovereign wealth funds participate (accounting for 80% of existing foreign CIBM investors) in the market through CIBM Direct Access, while a lot of private side investors choose to go with Bond Connect.

Latest development on Tax

On 22 November 2018, the Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China (MoF) published the Notice No.108 [2018] on tax treatment for Overseas Institutional Investors investing in China bond market. The interest income of the bonds acquired by Overseas Institutional Investors in the China bond market is exempted from Withholding Tax (WHT) and Value-added-Tax (VAT) for three years effective from 7 November 2018 to 6 November 2021. This exemption is not applicable to those onshore entities established by overseas organisations.

Cross-border Remittance

The ratio of cumulative inflow in RMB and FCY should be roughly the same as the ratio of cumulative outflow in RMB and FCY (within a deviation of 10%). First outbound remittance can be in CNY or FCY and is not subject to the same currency composition ratio restriction, but the amount cannot exceed 110% of cumulative inflows of corresponding RMB or FCY amount.



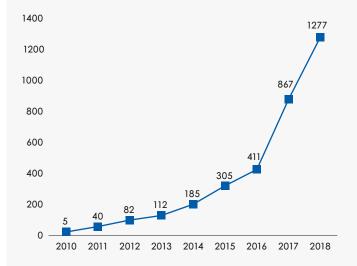
	Direct Access	Bond Connect
Investment quota	No quota limit*	No quota limit
Available transaction types	 Foreign central banks and equivalents, offshore RMB clearing banks and participating banks: all transaction types Commercial institutions: all transaction types except for repo 	Cash bond only
Counterparties	20,000+ CIBM participants	34 onshore market makers
Trading venues	CFETS/Bloomberg + CFETS	Foreign trade platforms, e.g. Tradeweb + CFETS , Bloomberg + CFETS
Account structure	Direct-holding	Indirect-holding (omnibus)
Settlement cycle	T+0/T+1/T+2	T+0/T+1/T+2
Settlement form	DVP	DVP
Restrictions on repatriation of funds	The ratio of cumulative inflow in RMB and FCY should be roughly the same as the ratio of cumulative outflow in RMB and FCY (within a deviation of 10%)	
Tax policy	Exemption of income tax and VAT for overseas investors' bond interests in CIBM for 3 years.	
Overseas Investors	CFETS: transaction fees CSDs: service fees	CFETS: transaction fees CMU: transaction fees Tradeweb: service fees Bloomberg: terminal fee only

[–] except for QFIIs and RQFIIs, who need to obtain pre-approval from SAFE if the requested quota exceeds the base quota – CMU: Central Moneymarkets Unit, CSD: Central Security Depository

Source: CCDC

Figure 7. Overseas Investors Participation in CIBM

Increasing participation of overseas investors in CIBM



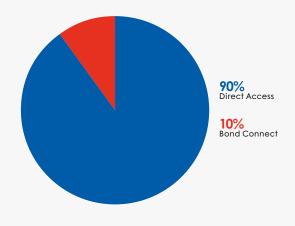
Numbers of accounts of overseas investors (by the end of 2018)

Туре	CIBM Direct Access	Bond Connect
Sovereign	70	-
Commercial Banks	125	93
Financial Funds	503	330
Insurance	27	10
Securities	12	32
Others	37	38
Total	774	503

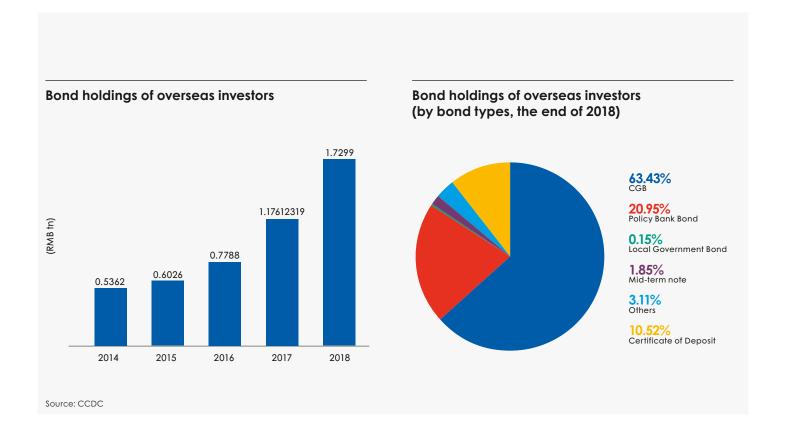
Geographic distribution of overseas investors (number of countries)

Oceania	2
Africa	3
America	5
Asia	14
Europe	20
	'

Bond holdings of overseas investors (by access channels, %, the end of 2018)



Source: CFETS



In recent years, China's bond market gets a lot of attention in the global market. One of the key reasons is the attractive yield. Another reason is the relatively low default rate. At the end of 2018, the overall default rate of China bond market is 0.8%, much lower than the non-performing loan ratio of commercial banks, which is 1.89%. This default rate is also lower than the international average default rate. By the end of 2018, 1186 foreign investors coming from 44 countries have been approved to access CIBM, an increase of 380 compared to 2017. CIBM remains the major channel for foreign investors to enter the market. They mainly invest into china government bonds and policy bank bonds, with an outstanding holding of RMB1.8trillion, which is 46% increase from 2017.

III. How to raise debt in CIBM as overseas issuers

Besides investment opportunities, CIBM also offer financing opportunities for overseas institutions - issuing Panda Bonds.

A Panda Bond is an RMB-denominated bond issued by overseas institutions in Mainland China. In China interbank market, different types of panda bond issuers include international development organizations, sovereign governments, financial institutions and non-financial enterprises, and investors include domestic institutional investors and overseas institutional investors with the investment qualification of CIBM. Products issued by overseas non-financial enterprise issuers include Super Short-term Commercial Paper (SCP), Commercial Paper (CP), Medium Term Note (MTN), Private Placement Note (PPN), etc. The Panda Bonds can be issued with tenor from 270 days to 10 years. By the end of 2018, there are 47 issuers in China's interbank market that have issued in total 103 panda bonds of 198.06 billion RMB. There are 81 panda bonds outstanding, totalling 154.96 billion RMB, 97% of which are deposited in the Shanghai Clearing House (SHCH).

Panda Bond Issuance

Since the Asian Development Bank and the International Finance Corporation were first approved to issue Panda Bonds in the CIBM in 2005, foreign non-financial companies, international development organizations and foreign government agencies have begun issuing Panda bonds in the CIBM. In 2018, the People's Bank of China (PBoC) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) issued Administrative Measures for Foreign Institutions to Issue Bonds in China Interbank Bond Market, further clarifying relevant requirements for the issuance of Panda Bonds. At present, the issuance of bonds by overseas banks and financial institutions should be approved by the PBoC; foreign government agencies, international development organizations and overseas non-financial companies issuing bonds in the CIBM should go through the registration process with National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors (NAFMII).

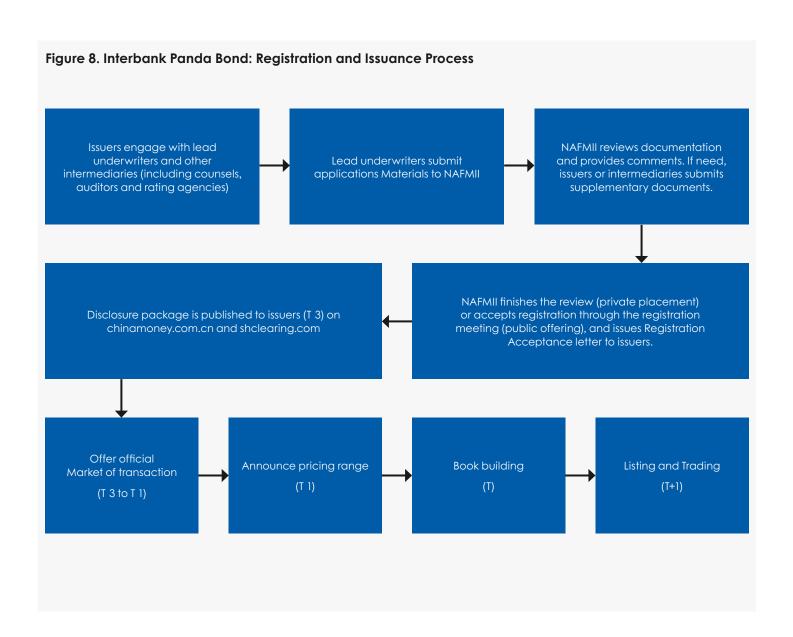
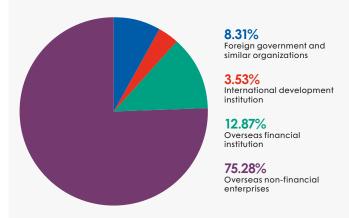
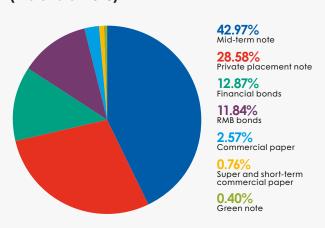


Figure 9. The New Development of China Panda Bond Market

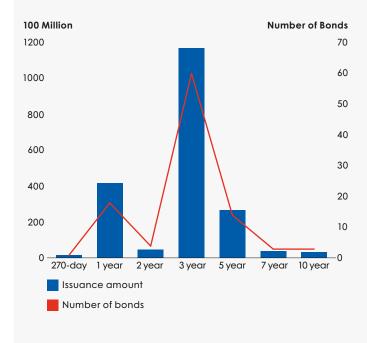
Major Panda bond issuers in CIBM (the end of 2018)



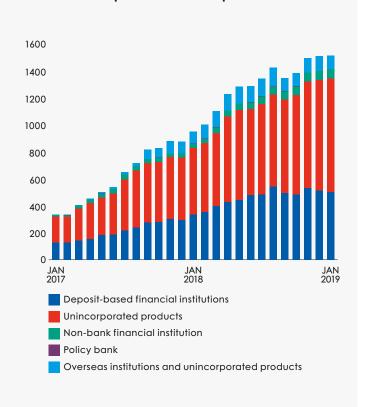
Products of the interbank Panda Bonds (the end of 2018)



Duration of the interbank Panda Bonds (the end of 2018)



Holders of the panda bonds deposited in SHCH



Source: SHCH

How to Issue a Green Panda Bond?

A green panda bond is fundamentally the same as a panda bond expect with proceeds earmarked for green assets or projects. The issuance of a green panda bond needs to follow both the guidelines for panda bonds and for green bonds. China's green bond issuance began in late 2015 with the Agricultural Bank of China issuing a green bond in London. In July 2016, the first green panda bond was issued by the New Development Bank (NDB). To support and facilitate international issuers entrance into the Chinese green bond market, the Climate Bonds Initiative in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) published the 'Green Panda Bond Handbook', which provides a step-by-step guide for prospective issuers and an overview of Chinese regulators and actors. The Handbook launch was supported by the Shanghai Head Office of the People's Bank of China in November 2018. More details and useful information about green panda bonds can be found in the website of Climate Bonds Initiative.

IV. Forward looking of China's Bond Market

In the past two years, PBoC has been actively learning and drawing reference from international market and overseas institutional investors. Based on the requirement of the overseas participants, PBoC has issued a number of new measures to make improvement in investment access channels, tax clarification, accounting standard, capital remittance, risk hedging, credit rating and other various areas. Also, Bloomberg has announced that the Bloomberg Barclay Global Aggregate Index started to include China Government Bonds and Policy Financial Bonds from 1st April 2019. FTSE and other major bond index providers are also planning to review their index composition. Overall, the opening up of China bond market has taken quite a big step forward and significant progress made. Next, PBoC will continue the efforts to improve investment and trading mechanism, to accelerate the opening of credit rating industry, and to provide a user-friendly market environment for overseas participants.

Reference:

PBoC: Guidance for overseas participants http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688235/3688609/3777454/3778692/index.html

CFETS: http://www.chinamoney.com.cn/english/

CCDC: https://www.chinabond.com.cn/d2s/engindex.html

SHCH: http://english.shclearing.com

NAFMII: http://www.nafmii.org.cn//english/



- On 14th January, in order to meet the needs of foreign investors to expand investment in China's capital market, the total amount of qualified foreign institutional investors (QFII) increased from USD150 billion to USD300 billion with the approval of the State Council.
- On 16th January, the Beijing Municipal Government and the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) signed a memorandum of cooperation in Beijing. SWIFT will establish a wholly foreign-owned enterprise in Beijing and will join the China Payment and Clearing Association, which will be supervised and managed by the People's Bank of China. In addition, SWIFT has signed a letter of intent with the Cross-border Clearing Corporation (CIPS Operator) to further deepen the cooperation between the two parties in the development of cross-border payment services.
- on 28th January, the People's Bank of China issued an announcement to record the S&P Credit Rating (China) Co., Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of S&P Global Inc. in Beijing. On the same day, the National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors (NAFMII) also announced that it would accept the registration of the S&P Credit Rating (China) Co., Ltd. into the inter-bank bond market to conduct bond rating business. The opening-up of the credit rating industry is an important part of the steady expansion of the financial market to the outside world.
- On 31st January, Bloomberg officially confirmed that it will include Chinese bonds in the Bloomberg Barclays Bond Index from April 2019.
- On 31st January, the CSRC publicly solicited opinions on the revision and integration of "the Measures for the Administration of Domestic Securities Investment by Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors",

"the Pilot Measures for Domestic Securities
Investment of Qualified Foreign Institutional
Investors and Relevant Supporting Rules." The main
amendments include firstly, the two systems of QFII
and RQFII to be combined into one, and the relevant
supporting regulations are integrated to form a unified
"Administrative Measures" and "Implementation
Regulations".

The second is to relax the access conditions.

Cancellation of quantitative indicator requirements; retention of institutional categories and compliance conditions. At the same time, simplify the application documents and shorten the time required for approval.

The third is to expand the scope of investment. In addition to the original varieties, QFII, RQFII can also invest: stocks listed in the national SME share transfer system (New Third Board); bond repurchase; private equity investment funds; financial futures; commodity futures; options etc.

The fourth is to optimize the management of the custodian: clarify that the QFII custodian qualification examination and approval items are changed to post filing record management requirements; the number of QFII custodians is no longer restricted.

- The fifth is to strengthen continuous supervision, improve account management, improve the monitoring and analysis mechanism, increase the requirements for providing relevant cross-border transaction information, and increase the punishment of violations.
- On 28th February, MSCI Inc. announced that it will increase the weight of China A shares in the MSCI Indices by increasing the inclusion factor from 5% to 20% in three steps. Step 1: MSCI will increase the index inclusion factor of all China A Large Cap shares in the MSCI Indices from 5% to 10% and add ChiNext Large Cap shares with a 10% inclusion factor coinciding with the May 2019 Semi Annual Index Review. Step 2: MSCI will increase the inclusion factor of all China A Large Cap shares in the MSCI Indices from 10% to 15% coinciding with the August 2019 Quarterly Index Review. Step 3: MSCI will increase the inclusion factor of all China A Large Cap shares in the MSCI Indices from 15% to 20%, and add China A Mid Cap shares, including eligible ChiNext shares, with a 20% inclusion factor to the MSCI indices coinciding with the November 2019 Semi-Annual Index Review.

Appendix I List of Dim Sum Bond (RMB Bond) Issuance in London

Issuer	Amount Issued (RMB)	Coupon (%)	Issue Date	Maturity
European Bank For Reconstruction & Development	300.00MM	2.6	28/02/2019	28/02/2020
QNB Finance Ltd	135.00MM	3.93	28/02/2019	28/02/2021
First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC	200.00MM	4.12	11/02/2019	11/02/2024
QNB Finance Ltd	500.00MM	4.35	29/01/2019	29/01/2022
QNB Finance Ltd	135.00MM	4.6	23/01/2019	23/01/2024
Hitachi Capital UK PLC	200.00MM	4.75	29/10/2018	29/04/2022
Westpac Banking Corp	200.00MM	4.7	12/10/2018	12/10/2022
Hitachi Capital UK PLC	600.00MM	4.6	27/09/2018	27/09/2021
Royal Bank of Canada	140.00MM	4.3	20/09/2018	20/09/2020
Bank of Montreal	200.00MM	4.53	19/09/2018	19/09/2021
Bank of Montreal	155.00MM	4.72	19/09/2018	19/09/2023
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	270.00MM	4.795	14/09/2018	14/09/2023
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	140.00MM	4.61	13/09/2018	13/09/2023
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	145.00MM	4.62	11/09/2018	11/09/2023
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	137.00MM	4.6	11/09/2018	11/09/2023
First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC	650.00MM	4.5	10/09/2018	10/09/2021
Royal Bank of Canada	160.00MM	4.48	07/09/2018	07/09/2023
Westpac Banking Corp	190.00MM	4.6	07/09/2018	07/09/2023
Westpac Banking Corp	160.00MM	4.621	07/09/2018	07/09/2023
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	80.00MM	4.52	07/09/2018	07/09/2023
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	140.00MM	4.6	04/09/2018	04/09/2023
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	140.00MM	4.3	24/08/2018	24/08/2021
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	138.00MM	4.63	24/08/2018	24/08/2023
Westpac Banking Corp	270.00MM	4.65	23/08/2018	23/08/2023
Westpac Banking Corp	140.00MM	4.35	15/08/2018	15/08/2023
Westpac Banking Corp	627.00MM	4.42	14/08/2018	14/08/2023
Westpac Banking Corp	140.00MM	4.51	01/08/2018	01/08/2028
Royal Bank of Canada	135.00MM	4.3	17/07/2018	17/07/2023
QNB Finance Ltd	142.00MM	5.32	05/07/2018	06/07/2021
QNB Finance Ltd	1.25MMM	5.25	21/06/2018	21/06/2021
QNB Finance Ltd	600.00MM	5.2	07/06/2018	07/06/2021
First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC	1.10MM	4.8	01/06/2018	01/06/2021
Westpac Banking Corp	200.00MM	4.77	30/05/2018	30/05/2023
Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank SA	200.00MM	4.72	29/05/2018	29/05/2023
QNB Finance Ltd	1.00MMM	5.1	14/05/2018	14/05/2021
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	340.MM	4.615	26/04/2018	26/04/2023
Westpac Banking Corp	400.00MM	4.35	29/03/2018	29/03/2019
First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC	900.00MM	4.8	29/03/2018	29/03/2021
QNB Finance Ltd	200.00MM	5.5	20/03/2018	20/03/2021
Hitachi Capital UK PLC	80.00MM	4.78	16/03/2018	16/03/2021
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	500.00MM	4.375	13/03/2018	13/03/2019

Issuer	Amount Issued (RMB)	Coupon (%)	Issue Date	Maturity
QNB Finance Ltd	130.00MM	5.465	09/03/2018	09/03/2020
QNB Finance Ltd	750.00MM	5.1	08/03/2018	08/03/2021
Hitachi Capital UK PLC	50.00MM	4.6	27/02/2018	22/02/2022
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	64.00MM	4.39	30/01/2018	30/01/2021
Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank SA	50.00MM	4.55	29/01/2018	29/01/2021
Westpac Banking Corp	500.00MM	4.35	19/01/2018	19/01/2021
First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC	110.00MM	4.6	30/11/2017	30/11/2020
International Finance Corp	47.00MM	3.92	13/11/2017	13/11/2019
International Finance Corp	19.00MM	3.9	13/11/2017	13/11/2020
Hitachi Capital UK PLC	500.00MM	4.5	09/11/2017	09/10/2020
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	1.50MMM	4.2	26/10/2017	26/10/2020
Hitachi Capital UK PLC	184.00MM	4.4	13/10/2017	13/10/2020
International Finance Corp	75.00MM	3.91	11/10/2017	11/10/2022
Royal Bank of Canada	900.00MM	4.25	29/09/2017	29/09/2020
Lloyds Bank PLC	30.00MM	5.23	31/03/2017	31/03/2022
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	70.00MM	5.81	18/01/2017	18/01/2022
Hitachi Capital UK PLC	300.00MM	4.67	19/12/2016	19/12/2019
QNB Finance Ltd	130.00MM	5.33	15/12/2016	15/12/2019
Westpac Banking Corp	65.00MM	4.8	15/12/2016	15/05/2020
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	120.00MM	4.65	07/12/2016	07/12/2021
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	70.00MM	4.41	29/11/2016	29/11/2019
Australia & New Zealand Banking Gro	130.00MM	4.35	23/11/2016	23/11/2021
QNB Finance Ltd	130.00MM	4.4	18/11/2016	18/11/2019
QNB Finance Ltd	160.00MM	4.3	17/11/2016	17/11/2019
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	90.00MM	4.06	02/11/2016	02/11/2021
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	100.00MM	3.85	27/07/2016	27/07/2020
Credit Agricole SA	60.00MM	4	22/07/2016	22/07/2019
QNB Finance Ltd	130.00MM	4.35	21/07/2016	21/07/2019
Australia & New Zealand Banking Gro	280.00MM	4.35	08/06/2016	08/06/2019
Australia & New Zealand Banking Gro	140.00MM	4.31	07/06/2016	07/06/2019
First Gulf Bank PJSC	516.00MM	4.55	03/06/2016	03/06/2019
China Government Bond	3.00MMM	3.28	02/06/2016	02/06/2019
Australia & New Zealand Banking Gro	410.00MM	4.15	27/05/2016	27/05/2019
Australia & New Zealand Banking Gro	330.00MM	4.293	27/05/2016	27/05/2019
Australia & New Zealand Banking Gro	215.00MM	4.07	24/05/2016	24/05/2019
First Gulf Bank PJSC	65.00MM	4.6	12/05/2016	13/05/2019
Westpac Banking Corp	130.00MM	4.19	12/05/2016	12/05/2021
Royal Bank of Canada	150.00MM	4	06/05/2016	06/05/2019
Royal Bank of Canada/Toronto	200.00MM	4.12	29/04/2016	29/04/2019
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	100.00MM	4.15	28/04/2016	28/04/2019
Hungary Government International B	1.00MMM	6.25	25/04/2016	25/04/2019

Issuer	Amount Issued (RMB)	Coupon (%)	Issue Date	Maturity
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	100.00MM	4.25	21/04/2016	21/04/2019
Royal Bank of Canada	130.00MM	4.23	21/04/2016	21/04/2019
Westpac Banking Corp	190.00MM	4.39	20/04/2016	20/04/2020
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	90.00MM	4.23	19/04/2016	19/04/2019
Standard Chartered Bank	432.00MM	4.52	15/04/2016	15/04/2019
Standard Chartered Bank	470.00MM	4.56	15/04/2016	15/04/2019
Westpac Banking Corp	135.00MM	4.8	29/03/2016	29/03/2019
Westpac Banking Corp	130.00MM	4.75	22/03/2016	22/03/2019
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	150.00MM	4.685	21/03/2016	21/03/2019
Royal Bank of Canada	150.00MM	5	18/03/2016	18/03/2019
Westpac Banking Corp	131.00MM	5.02	18/03/2016	18/03/2019
First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC	130.00MM	4.75	15/03/2016	15/03/2019
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	131.00MM	4.85	14/03/2016	14/03/2019
Royal Bank of Canada	230.00MM	4.85	11/03/2016	11/03/2019
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	100.00MM	4.85	11/03/2016	11/03/2019
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	135.00MM	4.95	10/03/2016	10/03/2019
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	180.00MM	5.07	07/03/2016	07/03/2021
Royal Bank of Canada	200.00MM	5.08	04/03/2016	04/03/2019
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	65.00MM	5.08	04/03/2016	04/03/2019
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	150.00MM	5.095	02/03/2016	02/03/2019
Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment	50.00MM	4.2	05/08/2015	05/08/2020
Australia & New Zealand Banking Gro	405.00MM	4	28/07/2015	28/07/2020
Lloyds Bank PLC	100.00MM	4.4	24/07/2015	24/07/2020
Lloyds Bank PLC	54.00MM	4.53	24/07/2015	24/07/2025
Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment	125.00MM	4.1	23/07/2015	23/07/2020
First Abu Dhabi Bank PJSC	200.00MM	4.79	17/03/2015	17/03/2020
International Finance Corp	1.55MMM	3.1	24/09/2014	24/09/2019
China Development Bank Corp	500.00MM	3.6	19/09/2014	19/09/2019
China Development Bank Corp	900.00MM	4.35	19/09/2014	19/09/2024
Lloyds Bank PLC	200.00MM	4.62	17/01/2014	17/01/2024
Lloyds Bank PLC	100.00MM	4.61	24/09/2012	24/09/2022

Source: London Stock Exchange

Appendix II Summary of Bond Issuance by Oversea Issuers in China Interbank Bond Market

Type of issuer		Registration Amount (bn)	Issued Amount (bn)	Outstanding Amount (bn)	Issue Number
International	ADB	2	2	1	2
Development	IFC	2	2	0	2
Organisation	NDB	13	3	3	1
Governments	ROK	3	3	0	1
	BC, Canada	6	4	4	2
	Poland	6	3	3	1
	Hungary	3	3	3	2
	UAE	3	2	2	1
	Saxony Germany	6	0	0	0
	Philippine	1.46	1.46	1.46	1
Financial	HSBC HK	1	1	1	1
Institutions	BOC HK				
	Standard Chartered HK	10	10	10	2
	Chong Hing Bank	2	1	1	1
	National Bank of Canada	3	1.5	1.5	1
	ABC International	5	3.5	0	1
	CBC Asia	3	3	3	1
	Wing Lung Bank	6	0	0	0
	ICBC Asia	10	0	0	0
	Citic Bank International	3	0	0	0
	Bank of Malaya	3	3	3	1
	Mizuho Bank	6	1	1	1
	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubisi UFJ	0.5	0.5	0.5	1
Non-financial	Daimler	55	47	27	20
Institutions	China Merchants HK	3	0.5	0	1
	China Resources Land	30	20	20	7
	SMIC	6	2.1	1.5	2
	Veolia Environment	15	2	2	2
	China Resources Cement	13.5	3.5	3	2
	Hengan International	5	2	2	1
	SINOTEC	7	4	2	2
	Wharf	20	6	6	2
	CNTHM	4.5	4.5	4.5	2
	China Merchant Port	10	4	2.5	2
	GLP	10	7.6	7.6	6
	Joy City	10	1	1	1
	CPCED	2.5	0.8	0.8	1
	China Jinmao	16	8	8	3
	China Gas	9.6	4.8	4.8	3
	Huarong International	3	3	3	1
	COSCO	10	10	10	4
	BOC Group Investment	8	3.5	3.5	2
	Kunlun Energy	10	0	0	0

Type of issuer		Registration Amount (bn)	Issued Amount (bn)	Outstanding Amount (bn)	Issue Number
Non-financial	Shimao Properties	8	0	0	0
Institutions	Longfor Properties	8	2	2	2
	Sun Hung Kai Properties	10	1.2	1.2	1
	Country Garden	9.5	0	0	0
	China Mengniu	15	0	0	0
	China Orient International Asset Management Limited	2.8	0	0	0
	China Water Affairs Group Limited	3	0.2	0.2	1
	Hang Lung Properties	10	1	1	1
	Air Liquide S.A	10	2.2	2.2	2
	Yuexiu Tranport	2	0	0	0
	Trafigura Group	2.35	1.7	1.7	3
	BEWG	8	8	8	6
	Want Want China	8	0.5	0.5	1
Total (RMB Bond	1)	445.71	200.06	165.46	105
International Bo	ınk for Reconstruction	18.63	4.65	4.65	1
and Development (IBRD)		2 bn SDR	(0.5 bn SDR)	(0.5 bn SDR)	
Standard Chartered HK		0.93	0.93	0	1
		100 M SDR	(100 M SDR)	(100 M SDR)	I
Total (RMB Equivalent)		465.27	205.64	170.11	107

Source: National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors

Appendix III Agreements on RMB Business Between China and the UK

Currency swap between China and the UK

In June 2013, the PBoC and BoE signed a bilateral currency swap agreement of RMB200 billion/GBP20 billion. In October 2015, the PBoC and BoE renewed the swap agreement and increased the size to RMB350 billion/GBP35 billion, effective for three years. In November 2018, the PBoC and BoE renewed the swap agreement again and the scale remained unchanged, effective for three years.

Clearing bank

In March 2014, the PBoC and BoE signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish RMB clearing arrangements in London. In June 2014, the PBoC authorized China Construction Bank (London) to serve as the RMB clearing bank in London. In July 2016, the PBoC approved the transfer of clearing functions from China Construction Bank (London) to China Construction Bank, London Branch. By the end of January 2019, CIPS had 882 indirect participating banks, increasing 46 since our last report. Among them, 14 participating banks were from the UK, accounting for 1.59% of the total.

RQFII

In October 2013 China announced the RQFII program for UK with a quota of RMB80 billion.

