

25 July 2016

**Notice of Update “Risk Explanatory Note of Exchange-Traded  
Derivative Products”**

Please be informed that with effect from 25 July 2016, our Bank has updated “Risk Explanatory Note of Exchange-Traded Derivative Products ” (“Risk Explanatory Note”), the “Risk Explanatory Note” has included the Leveraged and Inverse Investment Product.

For the details of the above mentioned “Risk Explanatory Note”, please visit our internet banking, the Bank’s website, any branches of the Bank or refer to the below attachment. For any comments and enquiries on the above changes, please visit any branches of the Bank or call our Personal Customer Service Hotline at (852) 3988 2388.

Please refer to the Bank's website in the following location:

Home > More > Download Forms > Notices for Account Opening > Risk Explanatory Note of Exchange-Traded Derivative Products

Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited

Should there be any discrepancy between the English and Chinese versions of this material, the Chinese version shall prevail.

## **RISK EXPLANATORY NOTE**

If you wish to trade exchange-traded derivative products (as defined below) mentioned below, you should read carefully and understand fully the relevant risks associated with the products as mentioned herein.

### **Common Types of Exchange-Traded Derivative Products and Relevant Risks**

#### **Derivative Warrants (“DWs”)**

DWs are issued by third parties such as financial institutions and are generally divided into Calls and Puts. Holders of call warrants have the rights, but not obligation, to purchase from the warrant issuer a given amount of the underlying asset at a predetermined price (also known as the exercise price) within a certain time period. Conversely, holders of put warrants have the right, but not obligation, to sell to warrant issuer a given amount of the underlying asset at a predetermined price within a certain time period. DWs in Hong Kong are usually settled in cash when they are exercised at expiry and are likely to have an unique expiry date.

The time value of a DW decreases over time. All things being equal, the value of a DW will decrease over time as it approaches its expiry date. DWs are not principal protected and the price of DWs may fall in value as rapidly as they may rise and investors may not be able to get back the principal and may lose all the investment.

#### **Equity Warrants / Subscription Warrants**

They are issued by a listed company and give holders the rights to buy the underlying shares of the company. They are either attached to new shares sold in initial public offerings, or distributed together with declared dividends, bonus shares or rights issues. Upon exercise, the underlying company will issue new shares and deliver them to the warrant holders.

The time value of an equity warrant decreases over time. All things being equal, the value of an equity warrant/subscription warrant will decrease over time as it approaches its expiry date. Investors may not be able to get back the principal and may lose all the investment.

#### **Callable Bull / Bear Contracts (“CBBCs”)**

CBBCs are a type of structured product that tracks the performance of an underlying asset without requiring investors to pay the full price required to own the actual asset. They are issued either as Bull or Bear contracts with a fixed expiry date, allowing investors to take bullish or bearish positions on the underlying asset.

CBBCs have a call price and a mandatory call feature – For bull contracts, the call price must be either equal to or above the Strike Price. For bear contracts, the call price must be equal to or below the Strike Price. If the underlying asset's price reaches the Call Price at any time prior to expiry, the CBBCs will expire early. The issuer must call the CBBCs and trading of the CBBCs will be terminated immediately. Such an event is referred to as a mandatory call event (“MCE”). However, when the underlying asset of a CBBC is trading at a price close to its call price, the change in the value of CBBCs may be more volatile and disproportionate with the change in the value of the underlying asset.

There are two categories of CBBCs, namely Category N CBBC and Category R CBBC. A Category N CBBC refers to a CBBC where its call price is equal to its Strike Price, and the CBBC holder will not receive any cash payment once the price of the underlying asset reaches or goes beyond the call price. A Category R CBBC refers to a CBBC where its call price is different from its Strike Price, and the CBBC holder may receive a small amount of cash payment (“Residual Value”) upon the occurrence of an MCE but in the worst case, no Residual Value will be paid. CBBCs can be held until maturity (if not called before expiry) or sold on the HKEx (as defined below) before expiry. Investors should not trade in CBBCs unless he/she understands the nature of the product and is prepared to lose his/her total investment.

The issue price of a CBBC includes funding costs. Funding costs are gradually

reduced over time as the CBBC moves towards expiry. The longer the duration of the CBBC, the higher the total funding costs. In the event that a CBBC is called, investors will lose the funding costs for the entire lifespan of the CBBC. The formula for calculating the funding costs are stated in the listing documents.

Although the price of a CBBC tends to follow closely the price of its underlying asset, but in some situations it may not (i.e. delta may not always be close to one). Prices of CBBCs are affected by a number of factors, including its own demand and supply, funding costs and time to expiry.

#### **Exchange Traded Funds (“ETFs”)**

ETFs are passively managed and open-ended funds. All listed ETFs on the HKEx securities market are authorised by the SFC (as defined below) as collective investment schemes. ETFs are designed to track the performance of their underlying benchmarks (eg an index, a commodity such as gold, etc) and offer investors an efficient way to obtain cost-effective exposure to a wide range of underlying market themes. Synthetic ETFs utilising a synthetic replication strategy use swaps or other derivative instruments to gain exposure to a benchmark.

Investors are exposed to the political, economic, currency and other risks related to the underlying asset pool or index or market that the ETF tracks. There may be disparity between the performance of the ETF and the performance of the underlying asset pool or index or market due to, for instance, failure of the tracking strategy, currency differences, fees and expenses. Where the underlying asset pool/index/market that the ETF tracks is subject to restricted access, the efficiency in unit creation or redemption to keep the price of the ETF in line with its net asset value (NAV) may be disrupted, causing the synthetic ETF to trade at a higher premium or discount to its NAV. Investors who buy an ETF at a premium may not be able to recover the premium in the event of the termination. Where a synthetic ETF invests in derivatives to replicate the index performance, customers are exposed to the credit risk of the counterparties who issued the derivatives, in addition to the risks relating to the index. Further, potential contagion and concentration risks of the derivative issuers should be taken into account (e.g. since derivative issuers are predominantly international financial institutions, the failure of one derivative counterparty of a synthetic ETF may have a “knock-on” effect on other derivative counterparties of the synthetic ETF). Some synthetic ETFs have collateral to reduce the counterparty risk, but there may be a risk that the market value of the collateral has fallen substantially when the synthetic ETF seeks to realize the collateral. A higher liquidity risk is involved if a synthetic ETF involves derivatives which do not have an active secondary market. Wider bid-offer spreads in the price of the derivatives may result in losses.

#### **Rights Issue**

For exercising and trading of the rights issue, investors have to pay attention to the deadline and other timelines. Rights issues that are not exercised will have no value upon expiry. But if investors decide to let the rights lapse, then investors will not need to take any action unless investors want to sell the rights in the market. In that case, the rights must be sold during the specified trading period within the subscription period, after which they will become worthless. If investors pass up the rights, the shareholding in the expanded capital of the company will be diluted.

#### **Leveraged and Inverse Investment Product**

Certain Products are collective investment scheme falling within Chapters 8.6 and 8.4A and Appendix I of the Code on Unit Trusts and Mutual Funds (the “Code”). Certain Products may also be subject to additional Chapters of the Code. Certain Trust and Products are authorized by the SFC in Hong Kong under Section 104 of the Securities and Futures Ordinance. The Leveraged Products will utilise leverage to achieve a daily return equivalent to (x) times the return of the Index. Both gains and losses will be magnified. The risk of loss resulting from an investment in the Products in certain circumstances including a bear market will be substantially more than a fund that does not employ leverage. The Inverse Products track the inverse daily performance of the Index. Should the value of the underlying securities of the Index increase, it could have a negative effect on the performance of the Products. Unitholders could, in certain circumstances including a bull market, face minimal or no returns, or may even suffer a complete loss, on such investments.

### **General Major Risks Associated with Exchange-Traded Derivative Products (including but not limited to the following)**

- 1. Issuer default risk**  
In the event that an exchange-traded derivative product issuer becomes insolvent and defaults on their issued products, investors will be considered as unsecured creditors and will have no preferential claims to any assets held by the issuer. Investors should therefore pay close attention to the financial strength and credit worthiness of exchange-traded derivative product issuers. Since exchange-traded derivative products are not asset backed, in the event of issuer bankruptcy, investors can lose their entire investment.
- 2. Gearing risk**  
Exchange-traded derivative products such as DWs, CBBCs and Leveraged and Inverse Investment Products are leveraged and can change in value rapidly according to the gearing ratio relative to the underlying assets. Investors should be aware that the value of an exchange-traded derivative product may fall to zero resulting in a total loss of the initial investment.
- 3. Limited life**  
Most of the exchange-traded derivative products have an expiry date after which the products may become worthless. Investors should be aware of the expiry time horizon and choose a product with an appropriate lifespan for their trading strategy.
- 4. Extraordinary price movements**  
The price of an exchange-traded derivative product may not match its theoretical price due to outside influences such as market supply and demand factors. As a result, actual traded prices can be higher or lower than the theoretical price.
- 5. Foreign exchange risk**  
Investors trading exchange-traded derivative products with underlying assets not denominated in Hong Kong dollars are also exposed to exchange rate risk. Currency rate fluctuations can adversely affect the underlying asset value and thereby also affect the exchange-traded derivative product price.
- 6. Liquidity risk**  
HKEx requires all exchange-traded derivative product issuers to appoint a liquidity provider for each individual issue. The role of liquidity providers is to provide two way quotes to facilitate trading of their products. In the event that a liquidity provider defaults or ceases to fulfill its role, investors may not be able to buy or sell the product until a new liquidity provider has been assigned.
- 7. Volatility risk**  
Prices of DWs and CBBCs can increase or decrease in line with the implied volatility of underlying asset price. Investors should be aware of the underlying asset volatility.
- 8. Intraday investment risk**  
Leveraged and Inverse Investment Products are normally rebalanced at day end. As such, return for investors that invest for period less than a full trading day will generally be greater than or less than (x) times leveraged investment exposure to the Index, depending upon the movement of the Index from the end of one trading day until the time of purchase.
- 9. Portfolio turnover risk**  
Daily rebalancing of Leveraged and Inverse Investment Products' holdings causes a higher level of portfolio transactions than compared to the conventional ETFs. High levels of transactions increase brokerage and other transaction costs.
- 10. Difference in price limit risk**  
Leveraged and Inverse Investment Products' investment objective is to provide investment results that closely correspond to (x) times the daily performance of the Index. Although the Index is an equity index, the Products will invest in Index Futures. For example, the daily price limit for individual stocks of the Index at present is +/- 30% while the daily price limit for Index Futures is +/- 20%. As such, should the Index's daily price movement be greater than the price limit of the Index Futures, the Products may not be able to achieve its investment objective as the Index Futures are unable to deliver a return beyond their price limit.
- 11. Trading suspension risk**  
During the suspension of trading of the Products, investors and potential investors cannot buy and sell units in the Stock Exchange. In terms of providing a fair and orderly market with regarding the interests of investors, the Exchange may suspend the units trading whenever it is

appropriate. If the trading of units is suspended, the subscription and redemption of units may also be suspended.

12. **Inverse performance risk**  
Inverse Investment Products track the inverse daily performance of the Index. Should the value of the underlying securities of the Index increase, it could have a negative effect on the performance of the Products. Unitholders could, in certain circumstances including a bull market, face minimal or no returns, or may even suffer a complete loss, on such investments.
13. **Inverse Product vs. short selling risk**  
Investing in Inverse Investment Products is different from taking a short position. Because of rebalancing, the return profile of the Products is not the same as that of a short position. In a volatile market with frequent directional swings, the performance of the Products may deviate from a short position.
14. **Long term holding risk**  
Some Products are not intended for holding longer than one day as the performance of the Products over a period longer than one day will very likely differ in amount and possibly direction from the leveraged performance of the Index over that same period (e.g. the loss may be more than (X) times the fall in the Index). The effect of compounding becomes more pronounced on the Product's performance as the Index experiences volatility. With higher Index volatility, the deviation of the Product's performance from the inverse performance of the Index will increase, and the performance of the Products will generally be adversely affected. As a result of daily rebalancing, the Index's volatility and the effects of compounding of each day's return over time, it is even possible that the Products will lose money over time while the Index's performance falls or is flat.
15. **Futures contracts risks**  
Some Products are futures based products. Investment in futures contracts involves specific risks such as high volatility, leverage, rollover and margin risks. The leverage component of futures contracts can result in a loss significantly greater than the amount invested in the futures contracts by the Products. Exposures to futures contracts may lead to a high risk of significant loss by the Products. A "roll" occurs when an existing futures contract is about to expire and is replaced with a futures contract representing the same underlying but with a later expiration date. The value of the Product's portfolio (and so the Net Asset Value per Unit) may be adversely affected by the cost of rolling positions forward (due to the higher price of the futures contract with a later expiration date) as the futures contracts approach expiry. There may be imperfect correlation between the value of the underlying reference assets and the futures contracts, which may prevent the Products from achieving its investment objective.
16. **Passive investments risks**  
Some Products are not "actively managed" and therefore the Manager will not adopt any temporary defensive position when the Index moves in an unfavourable direction. In such circumstances the Products will also decrease in value.

### **Disclaimer**

This document does not disclose all risks and features of the common types of derivative products ("**exchange-traded derivative products**") mentioned herein which are traded on the Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (the "**HKEx**"). This document has been issued by Bank of China (Hong Kong) Limited ("**BOCHK**") for reference and information purposes only. You should not rely on this document alone to make any investment decision but should read carefully the related offering documentation and any other relevant documentation, in particular, detailed risks relating to each product contained in such documents. You should not deal in exchange-traded derivative products unless you understand the nature of the product and the extent of the exposure to risk. BOCHK will not be responsible or liable for any loss caused by the investment in any products mentioned herein. You should not only consider the information contained in this document nor in the offering documentation but should also consider your own financial position and particular circumstances before making any investment decision. In case of doubt, you are strongly advised to obtain independent professional advice.

The information contained in this document regarding exchange-traded derivative products are based on the information available on the websites of The Securities and Futures Commission (the "**SFC**"), the HKEx and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (the "**HKMA**") etc. For more detailed information regarding financial derivative products, you can refer to the websites of the SFC ([www.sfc.hk/sfc/html/EN](http://www.sfc.hk/sfc/html/EN)), the HKEx ([www.hkex.com.hk/eng/index.htm](http://www.hkex.com.hk/eng/index.htm)) and the HKMA ([www.info.gov.hk/hkma/](http://www.info.gov.hk/hkma/)).

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