Asian Capital Market Law and Regulation Forum: Japan, China and Korea

# Korea's Capital Market Supervision and Recent Developments

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## I. Recent Market Developments

## I. Recent Market Developments

#### **Stock Market**

#### Stock market on the rise since March

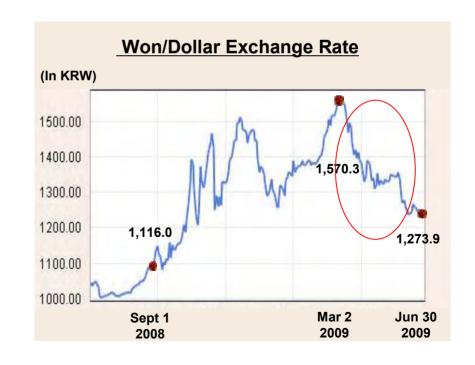
- Signs of market stability
- Active buying by foreign investors

#### **KOSPI** (In points) 1600.00 1500.00 1400.00 1,414.4 1300.00 1,390.1 1,018.8 938.8 1200.00 1100.00 1000.00 Sept 1 Jun 30 Oct 24 Mar 2 2008 2009 2009 2008

#### **Exchange Rate**

#### Korean won gaining ground

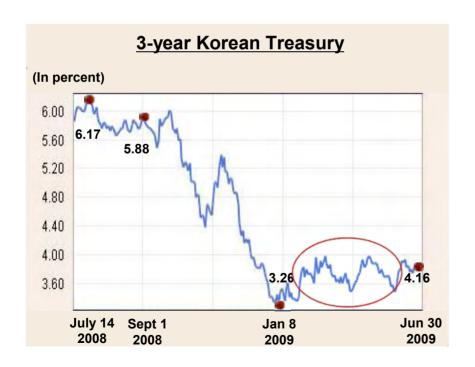
- More stable international markets
- More longer-term foreign borrowing
- Rising current account surplus



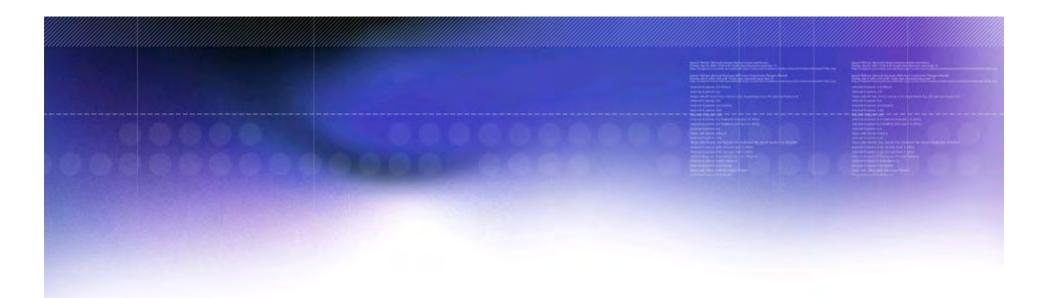
#### **Interest Rate**

#### Low interest rates

- Policy rate cuts by BOK
- Sufficient liquidity



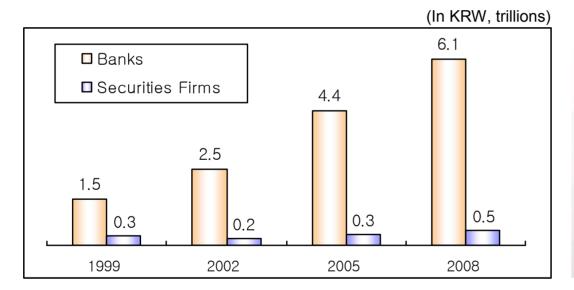
"While the markets around the world are still reeling from the global financial crisis, signs of stability are returning to Korea's financial markets"



# II. Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act (FSCMA)

#### 1. Background

#### **Average Capital: Banks and Securities Firms**



- Bank-dominated market for decades
- Securities firms still primarily depend on brokerage for their income source, which indicates a need for business diversification into investment banking and others

FSCMA to help promote the competitiveness of the capital markets and the financial investment industry

#### 2. Main Ideas of FSCMA

#### **Comprehensive Definition of Financial Investment Products**

#### **Before**

A long list of securities and derivatives products in relevant laws that financial firms are allowed to offer

- Positive-list system for financial products and services
- Only investors investing in those products and services are protected

#### After

## Financial investment products are defined in broader terms

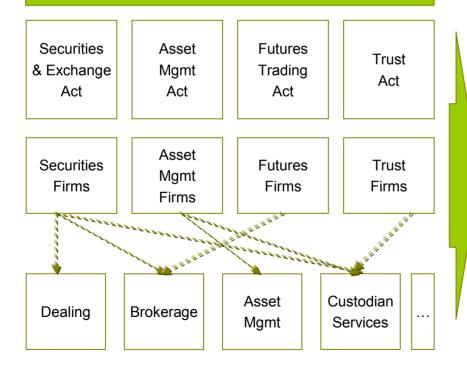
- Defined as financial products with possibility of principal loss
- Investors investing in any financial investment product are protected



#### 2. Main Ideas of FSCMA

#### **Transition to Function-Based Regulation**

#### Sector-Based Approach



#### **Function-Based Approach**

Under FSCMA, a financial product or service is subject to the same regulatory treatment, regardless of who offer them: dealing, brokerage, asset management, discretionary and non-discretionary investment advisory services, and custodian service

#### 2. Main Ideas of FSCMA

#### **Expanded Scope of Business**

#### **Before**

As a rule, financial investment companies were limited to a single regulatory license; for instance, an asset management company cannot engage in securities business

#### After

Financial investment companies now can engage in multiple areas such as dealing, brokerage, and asset management (subject to certain information barrier requirements)



#### II. FSCMA

#### 2. Main Ideas of FSCMA

#### **Measures to Enhance Investor Protection**

- ➤ Investors are classified into two groups: ordinary vs. professional
- > For ordinary investors, stricter investor protection rules apply
  - Know-your-customer rules
  - Principle of suitability
  - Duty to explain about financial investment products
- The following rules are both applicable to ordinary and professional investors
  - Prohibition of unsolicited calls
  - Prohibition of misleading investors with uncertain matters
  - Adoption of cooling-off period
  - Duty to manage conflicts of interest

#### II. FSCMA

#### 3. Key Changes Expected under FSCMA

- > Emergence of local investment banks with global competitiveness
- > Synergy effects arising from engaging in multiple businesses
- New and innovative financial products and services
- ➤ More business opportunities with business specialization

Due to the global financial crisis and a significant increase in risk aversion, it may take some more time to see the expected changes under FSCMA taking place



#### 1. What has happened?

- ➤ A global financial and economic crisis, triggered by a brutal re-rating of risk in core economies
- > This re-rating revealed the under-capitalization of the financial system
- > That, in turn, generated a panic
- ➤ This panic triggered a collapse in credit and consumer demand, which spread the crisis worldwide

#### 2. Why did this happen?

#### **Excessive Liquidity**

- Low real and nominal interest rates and "the reach for yield"
- Excessive mortgage lending

#### **Collapse of CDS Market**

- Subprime mortgage risk concentrated in some financial firms issuing CDS
- Growing counterparty risk

## **Short-termism & Risk Management Failures**

- Innovation in the financial sector, to provide apparently safe, high-yielding assets
- Greater use of leverage with securitization and derivatives

#### **Regulatory Failures**

- Regulatory failures to effectively oversee innovative financial products
- De-regulation and mal-regulation of the financial system
- Procyclical implications of mark-tomarket valuation and credit rating

#### 3. What actions are needed?

#### Discussions at G-20 and other international frameworks

- > Prudential regulations
  - More and higher-quality capital, especially against trading risk
  - Countercyclical capital buffers
  - Stronger focus on liquidity
  - Regulation by economic substance, not legal form
- ➤ Oversight of OTC derivatives: standardization and resilience of credit derivatives markets, especially through CCP
- Soundness of financial firms' compensation policies
- ➤ More effective oversight of activities of CRAs
- Oversight of hedge funds

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## IV. Korea's Capital Market Supervision: In Line with Global Directions

1. Prudential Regulation on Financial Investment Companies

#### **Capital Adequacy**

- > Net capital ratio (NCR: liquid net capital / risk amount retained by a firm) should be 150 percent or over
  - Average NCR as of Mar 2009: 617%
- > The calculation methodology of risk amount recently improved to better reflect operational risk, credit risk, market risk, etc. (Feb 2009)

#### 1. Prudential Regulation on Financial Investment Companies

#### **Risk-Based Supervision**

- Risk Analysis and Management System (RAMS)
- > Introduced in July 2008
- > For 12 business activities, financial investment companies are evaluated using both qualitative (risk management capabilities) and quantitative (risk exposure) criteria
- > Evaluation on a monthly basis and time-series analysis
- > Different follow-up actions are taken depending on evaluation results

#### 1. Prudential Regulation on Financial Investment Companies

#### **Risk Matrix**

	Brokerage	Dealing			Investment Banking		Otherwa	Total		
		Stock	Bond	Others		Underwriting	ABS	PI	Others	Total
1. Risk Exposure										
Market risk										
Credit risk										
Operational risk										
Liquidity risk										
Risk rating (A)										
2. Risk Management Capabilities										
BOD										
Risk mgmt units										
Risk mgmt systems										
Internal controls										
Risk mgmt rating (B)										
3. Composite Rating: (A+B)/2										
Composite rating										

#### 1. Prudential Regulation on Financial Investment Companies

#### **Management Evaluation Ratings**

- > Similar to CAMELS ratings used for banking supervision
- > Introduced for securities and insurance firms in 1999
- > Fine-tuned in July 2009 to accommodate changes under FSCMA
- > Computed using both quantitative and qualitative criteria
  - Quantitative evaluations on a monthly basis
  - A significant drop in the monthly rating or capital deficiencies found during a quarterly quantitative evaluation triggers a qualitative evaluation
  - A poor management evaluation rating triggers prompt corrective actions

#### 1. Prudential Regulation on Financial Investment Companies

#### **Management Evaluation Components**

✓ Firm-wide evaluation (60%)

	Quantitative items	Qualitative items	
Capital Adequacy (30%)	NCR II Capital Ratio	Capital adequacy policies Feasibility of capital maintenance plans	
Earnings (20%)	ROA Earnings efficiency ratio	Soundness of earnings volatility factors Revenues/expenses allocation across business segments	
Internal Controls (10%) • Internal control failure ratio		Internal control procedures Internal control structure	

#### 1. Prudential Regulation on Financial Investment Companies

#### **Management Evaluation Components**

√ Business activity-specific evaluation (40%)

		Quantitative items	Qualitative items		
Dealing &	Liquidity (20%)	(3-month) Liquidity ratio	<ul><li>Adequacy of funding liquidity</li><li>Liquidity management</li></ul>		
Brokerage	Asset soundness (20%)	SBL ratio Bank debt ratio	<ul><li>Risk management policies</li><li>Managerial soundness</li></ul>		
Collective Investment	Liquidity (20%)	Liquidity ratio Fixed investment ratio	<ul><li>Adequacy of funding liquidity</li><li>Liquidity management</li></ul>		
	Asset management (20%)	<ul><li>Return against benchmark</li><li>Changes in AUM</li><li>Changes in fees received</li></ul>	CIS risk management Portfolio management		
(Real estate) Trust	Liquidity (20%)	Liquidity ratio Fixed assets ratio	Adequacy of funding liquidity Liquidity management		
	Asset soundness (20%)	<ul><li>Risk-weighted assets ratio</li><li>SBL ratio</li></ul>	<ul><li>Adequacy of asset classification</li><li>Non-performing assets management</li></ul>		

#### 1. Prudential Regulation on Financial Investment Companies

#### **Stronger Focus on Liquidity**

- > Changes to the computation of short-term liquidity ratios (used for management evaluation ratings and RAMS) to give more consideration to actual cash flows
  - Assets to be converted into cash within the coming three (or one) months / liabilities to be repaid with cash within the coming three (or one) months

#### 1. Prudential Regulation on Financial Investment Companies

## The Fundamental Principles of Financial Regulation (Geneva Report on the World Economy 11, January 2009)

- > Capital regulations to better reflect liquidity risk
- ➤ Modified CAR = Basic CAR X System Risk Factor (maturity mismatch)
- Financial firms having an asset-liability maturity mismatch are typically exposed to funding liquidity risk; thus, they must be encouraged to set aside additional capital against maturity mismatches and rely more on longer-term funding

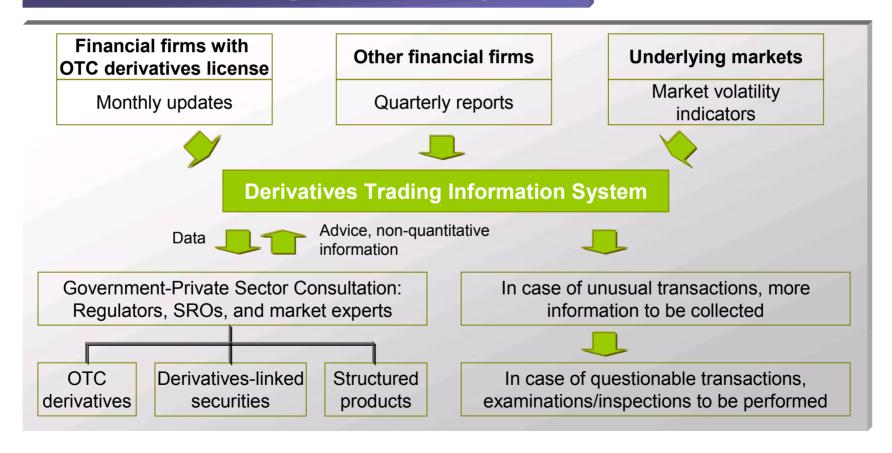
#### 2. Supervision of Derivatives Transactions

#### **Derivatives Trading Information System**

- > To be introduced in 2009 to help ensure timely monitoring and regulatory responses
- > To cover information related to financial firms' derivatives trading such as OTC derivatives, currency derivatives, derivatives-linked securities, and credit derivatives
  - Underlying assets, counterparties, reference entities, etc.
- > To be used for stress testing to estimate losses under certain distressed market conditions

#### 2. Supervision of Derivatives Transactions

#### **Derivatives Trading Information System**



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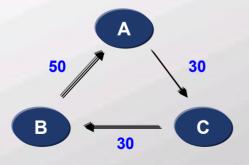
## V. Regulatory Issues under Review

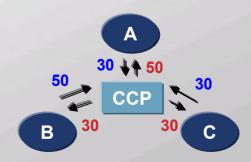
#### 1. Supervision of Derivatives Transactions

#### **Central Clearing Counterparty**

> Compared with an OTC bilateral market, a central clearing counterparty helps reduce counterparty risk significantly

#### OTC Bilateral Market Central Clearing Counterparty





#### 1. Supervision of Derivatives Transactions

#### **Central Clearing Counterparty**

- > G20 leaders called for establishing CCPs for CDS
- > In the US, clearing of all standardized OTC derivatives through regulated central counterparties may be required
- ➤ In Korea, an idea of clearing OTC derivatives through a central clearing counterparty is under review
  - A task force to come up with a road map in the second half of 2009

#### 2. Sound Compensation Practices

#### **G20 Principles**

- > Firms' boards of directors should play an active role in the design, operation, and evaluation of compensation schemes
- > Compensation arrangements should properly reflect risk and be sensitive to the time horizon of risks
- > Firms should publicly disclose clear, comprehensive, and timely information about compensation
- > Supervisors will assess firms' compensation policies as part of their overall assessment of their soundness

In Korea, KOFIA and KCMI are working on a plan to ensure sound and reasonable compensation practices

#### 3. Oversight on CRAs

#### **G20 Recommendations**

- > All credit rating agencies should be subject to a regulatory oversight regime
- > National authorities will enforce compliance and require changes to a rating agency's practices and procedures for managing conflicts of interest and assuring the transparency and quality of the rating process

- ✓ All of the four credit rating agencies in Korea are subject to regulatory approval and regular examinations
- ✓ Changes to strengthen their internal controls are under consideration



**VI. The Way Forward** 

## VI. The Way Forward

#### Cross-Border Supervision and Cooperation

- > As global financial markets are increasingly interconnected, systemic risks and their spillovers are more likely
- > Regulators across the world should work more closely together through IOSCO and other international regulatory frameworks
- > China, Japan, and Korea should play a leading role in promoting regional cooperation



## THANK YOU