# Summary of Korean Regulatory Regime: Private Placement of Offshore Funds



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# I. Market Trends

#### Market Trends in Korea

#### Size of Asset Management Market

#### Size of Market per Sector



- Asset management market overall has been continuously growing in the past three years
- First decrease in last three years was in Q4 2016 as public fund market experienced recession affecting total market size
- Private fund and DIM market continues growth trend

#### Market Trends in Korea

**Private Fund** 

Market

Public Fund Market	<ul> <li>Contraction of Market</li> <li>Gradual recovery in first half of 2016, but decline in Q4 2016</li> <li>Substantial capital outflow from bond funds as aftermath of increase in US interest rates</li> <li>AUM at end of Q4 2016 was KRW 212 trillion (5.3% decline from KRW 224 trillion previous quarter)</li> </ul>
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- Interest in bond funds decreased while AI funds (real estate and infra) reached a record high (KRW 92.7 trillion)
- Net inflow of KRW 2.8 trillion
- AUM at end of Q4 2016 was KRW 253 trillion (increased 2.6% from previous quarter)

#### Market Trends in Korea





# II. Sale of Offshore Funds

## **Direct Private Placement**

Korean Feeder Fund Structure

### **Direct Offering – Registration Requirement**

## Fund Registration Requirement



- All offshore funds marketed to Korean residents must be registered with the Financial Services Commission
- If limited to only "Qualified Professional Investors", simplified private placement registration

### **Direct Offering – Registration Requirement**

## Who is a "Qualified Professional Investor"

- Government, Bank of Korea, Korea Investment Corporation
- Financial institutions
- Certain statutory pension funds and other statutory entities (e.g., NPS, Korea Post, KDIC, KAMCO)
- Listed companies and certain general corporate and HNWI (since May 2017)

#### Direct Private Placement – Registration Requirement

## Eligibility Requirements

- Disclosure of Fees and Expenses
- No Sanctions on the Manager by the Korean Regulators
- No Suspension of Business by Asset Manager, Trustee/Custodian, Distributor, Administrator
- Lawful Establishment of the Fund
- Policy matter: Evidence of investment track record



## Direct Offering – Registration Requirement

## Documentation



- Fund Registration Application
- Supporting documents

## Timing



- About 4 weeks after filing
- To be completed prior to execution of subscription agreement
  - Marketing may commence prior to registration

#### Local Distributor Requirement

# Marketing of offshore funds to Korean residents must be done through a <u>locally licensed distributor</u>



## Direct Offering – Local Distributor Requirement

## **Role & Obligations**

- - Formal marketing, provision of fund documents
  - NAV disclosure, Asset Management Reports
  - Books and Records
  - KOFIA sales reporting

Direct Private Placement

## **Korean Feeder Fund Structure**

#### Direct Private Placement vs. Korean Feeder Fund Structures



#### Korean Feeder Fund Structures

## **Increasing Demand & Potential Issues**

- Language barriers & time zone differences
- Reporting obligations
- FX reporting
- No hedging required by investor
- No direct nexus between offshore fund and end investor

#### Korean Feeder Fund Structures



### Sub-Management / Advisory Models

## "Delegation" Model

- Korean fund manager delegates management function of Korean fund to Offshore Manager (Sub-management model)
- Offshore manager provides investment advice to Korean fund manager (Advisory model)

#### **Considerations**

- Co-branding helpful when first entering the market
- No need to register offshore fund
- Management restrictions applicable to Korean fund shall apply

## **Closer Look at Marketing Activities**







#### Pre-Marketing vis-à-vis QPIs

#### **Q** What types of activities are allowed?

#### A Offshore fund manager may:

- Meet potential Korean investors (i.e., QPIs) on a low profile basis
- Engage in high-level discussions about the funds, fund manager, etc.
- Not distribute PPM and subscription documents (i.e., legal documents)
- As this is NOT an express legal exemption, 'pre-marketing' should be done on a low profile/ limited basis.

#### If QPI shows initial interest in particular offshore fund



#### Full Marketing vis-à-vis QPIs

#### **Q** Can offshore fund manager engage in marketing in Korea?

No, marketing (offer and sale) must be done through a locally licensed distributor Exception: If the Korean investor is a Korean feeder fund, no requirement to appoint the local distributor.

# Q Can offshore fund manager directly contact potential Korean QPIs once a local distributor is appointed?

A Local distributor should attend and lead marketing discussions



# III. Cross-border DIM/IA



#### Cross-border DIM/IA Services

DIM

Companies wishing to manage *segregated accounts* for Qualified Professional Investors in Korea on a cross-border basis must register as a cross-border discretionary investment manager with the Financial Services Commission

IA

Companies wishing to provide non-discretionary *investment advice* to Qualified Professional Investors or Retail Investors in Korea on a cross-border basis must register as a cross-border investment adviser with the Financial Services Commission

#### Cross-border DIM/IA Services

**Exceptions** 

- Management of assets for certain governmental and quasi-governmental institutions and statutory pension funds, such as BOK, KIC, NPS, *provided* no solicitation or marketing
- Management delegation by local AMC or DIM company

### Cross-border DIM/IA Services

## **Delegation of Business function**

- Investment Management Function
- Marketing/Client Servicing

### Requirements



- No license in Korea required; Licensed in home country
- Business delegation report and supporting documents





# **IV. Other Compliance Matters**

#### New Anti-Graft Law

# Sept. 28, 2016 ) Effective date of the Anti-Graft Law



Expansive definition of "public officials"



Relevance to duty or reciprocity not necessary



Prohibition on improper requests



Corporate liability

#### Prohibition on Provision/Receipt of Benefits

Issue	Key Points
Benefits to Public Officials (Liability for Giver and Recipient)	<ul> <li>Criminal sanctions for one-time benefit exceeding KRW 1 million or aggregate benefits totaling KRW 3 million in one fiscal year, regardless of connection to recipient's official duties</li> <li>Up to three years' imprisonment and/or up to KRW 30 million criminal fine; forfeiture of benefit received</li> </ul>

- Administrative fines for benefits up to KRW 1 million provided in connection to recipient's official duties
  - Two to five times the amount of conferred benefit

#### Several exceptions enumerated in the Anti-Graft Act

#### Exceptions Regarding Benefits to Public Officials

#### Main Exceptions

- Honoraria for external lectures (limits set forth in presidential decree)
- Meals and gifts (limits set forth in presidential decree), provided for the purpose of facilitation in the performance of one's duties
- Financial or other advantages that are offered from a legitimate source of right due to a private transaction
- Souvenirs or promotional items distributed to mass recipients, or rewards or gifts distributed through contests or raffles/lotteries
- Benefits such as transportation, accommodation, and food provided by a host of an 'official event' relating to the official duties of the public official, where such benefits are within a customary scope and are provided uniformly to all participants

#### **Corporate Liability**



However, a corporation will be exempt from liability if it exercised significant care and supervision to prevent its employees' violations

Highlights the importance of compliance policies and systems

# Thank you

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