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## China: RMB offshore markets, capital account liberalization, and impact on financial sector

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## Offshore markets are necessary for RMB internationalization

- Major global currency must trade 24 hours a day
- Major international currencies are used 3rd party transactions
- Non-residents' demand is largely met by offshore market
- "External circulation" reduces impact on monetary policy
- Offshore market speeds up internationalization

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## Projection of HK's offshore market

Figure 1: Forecasts of the RMB offshore market in Hong Kong

	2010	2011	2012F	2015F	2015 level as % of 2011 domestic level
RMB deposits	300	589	1,000	2,500	3%
Outstanding bonds	68	200	500	1,300	6%
Stock market cap	-	26	30	75	0.3%
CNH daily volume	2	15	40	80	51%
Outstanding loans	-	30	60	500	1%
<b>Assets/deposit ratio</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>83%</b>

Source: authors' projections.

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## External circulation vs repatriation

HK needs to promote RMB external circulation as well as the repatriation mechanisms

External circulation vs repatriation	Repatriation	Ext circulation
MOF bonds	100%	0%
3-types of institutions	100%	0%
RQFII	100%	0%
Bonds issued by Chinese banks	95%	5%
Bonds issued by Chinese corporates	95%	5%
RMB FDI	95%	5%
RMB ODI	50%	50%
Financing for external trade	50%	50%
3rd party usage	0%	100%
Liquidity for trading in HK	0%	100%
RMB securitization (offshore)	0%	100%

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## Policies to promote the development of offshore markets

1. Simplify the documentation requirement for RMB trade settlement;
2. Enhance the transparency and consistency of RMB trade settlement policy;
3. Promote the use of the RMB as a pricing currency for commodities.
4. Encourage the entry of banks from South East Asian countries in China, so that they can help promote the use of RMB for trade and investment activities.
5. Remove the remaining bottlenecks for RMB FDI and RMB ODIs.

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### Policies to promote the development of offshore markets (II)

6. Ensure RMB liquidity provision in the offshore market;
7. Encourage the listing and trading of RMB bonds, equities and other financial products in the offshore market;
8. Promote the 3rd party usage of the RMB in the offshore market;
9. Relax the NOP restrictions by HKMA on banks' RMB businesses;
10. Establish CNH interest and FX fixings and develop CNH repo and future markets.

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### RMB internationalization and capital account liberalization

Without capital account liberalization, RMB internationalization can only materialize <10% of its potential

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### Coordination between cross-border RMB capital flows and RMB convertibility

Essentially, lifting restrictions on cross-border RMB flows for capital account purposes and capital account liberalization (or convertibility between the RMB and other currencies) are two reforms that are mutually substitutable. Lifting restrictions on one of these (restrictions on cross-border RMB flows for capital account purposes, or restrictions on currency convertibility) will made restrictions on another invalid. Therefore these two reforms should go hand in hand.

Example 1: QFII vs 3 types of Institutions  
Example 2: Permission for RMB remittance vs FX conversion

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### Macro conditions permit faster capital account liberalization

The rapid decline in China's trade balance, the increase in ODI, and the reduced RMB appreciation expectations permit a faster opening of China's capital accounts and its domestic capital markets.

来源: 马骏, "对中国贸易顺差的定量研究", 《货币的轨迹》, 中国经济出版社, 2001年8月

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### Exchange rate, interest rates, and pace of capital account liberalization

As the exchange rate approaches its equilibrium, and cross-border RMB interest rate differentials narrow, the capital account should be more open

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### Specific recommendations on capital account liberalization

- Increase the annual limits on FX conversion by individuals and corporates;
- Increase the QFII quota and the quota for foreign institutional investors invest in China's interbank bond market;
- Permit RMB fund raisings by non-resident corporates on the Panda bond market/ the international board and from banks;
- Open the domestic RMB products market to NRA accounts, at a pace consistent with the development of offshore markets;
- Increase the volatility of the RMB exchange rate (vs the USD) by 3-5 fold;
- Introduce prudential measures to replace administrative controls on FX conversion;
- Introduce a CHIPS-like RMB cross-border payments system.

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