A Brief History of Liberalization on Foreign Portfolio Investment

Taiwan opened its door to foreign portfolio investment in 1983. A sequential policy was taken to allow firstly the indirect investment of funds raised overseas by domestic investment trust companies, followed by direct investment of qualified foreign institutional investors (1991) and then finally all foreign natural persons (1996).

On September 30, 2003, the Executive Yuan amended "Regulations Governing Investment in Securities by Overseas Chinese and Foreign Nationals", in which the QFII system was abolished. After that, all foreign investors can invest in the securities market after simply registering with the Taiwan Stock Exchange Co. (TWSE).

The following table is a brief history of liberalization arranged chronologically:

Date	Share Holding Ceiling of Individual Firm by Each Foreign Investor	Share Holding Ceiling of Individual Firm by All Foreign Investors	Ceiling for Total Quota	Quota for	parked in money market	 QFII Qualification and others
Nov. 11. 2012						Overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC are allowed to invest in exchange traded fund of Regulations Governing Offshore Funds.
Oct. 20, 2011						When the original foreign

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							shareholders of a primary TWSE-listed (or GTSM-listed) company receive proceeds from an overallotment exercised by the underwriter, or receive funds due to the disposition of shares of the company through the Taiwan securities market, then after carrying out foreign investor registration, those funds may be retained in the settlement account for use in subsequent investments.
Nov. 11, 2010					The total amount invested by an offshore overseas Chinese or foreign national in government bonds, money market instruments, and money market funds, plus all NT Dollar premiums paid for trades of OTC equity derivatives, OTC NT dollar interest rate derivatives, OTC structured notes, and options-part transactions on convertible bond asset swaps, plus the net settlement amount on		If, after adding government bonds with maturities over one year that were held prior to this issuance of this Order, the amount exceeds the limit stated above, the bonds may be held to maturity, but no new positions in such bonds are permitted to be added.

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				price differences of swaps, must not exceed 30 percent of the net inflow remittance.		
Oct. 4, 2010						Overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC are allowed to invest in offerings of stocks or Taiwan Depository Receipts by foreign companies prior to their primary exchange or GTSM listing or secondary exchange or GTSM listing in Taiwan, and the stocks underwritten in cash capital increases or a secondary issues of Taiwan Depository Receipts for those companies
May. 7, 2010						Released procedures for handling circumstances in which the holders of overseas depositary receipts obtain stock in a domestic company as the result of a demerger and capital reduction by an TWSE-listed or GTSM-listed company that had previously sponsored the issuance of overseas depositary receipts

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Jan. 13, 2010						Compliance matters for primary TWSE-listed, GTSM-listed, and emerging-stock companies, as defined in the Regulations Governing the Offering and Issuance of Securities by Foreign Securities Issuers, in opening employee collective investment accounts
Nov. 10, 2009				It is prohibited for funds remitted into Taiwan by offshore overseas Chinese and foreign nationals to be placed in time deposits, and time deposits that such investors currently hold may not be renewed upon maturity.		
Nov. 4, 2009						In the event an offshore overseas Chinese or foreign national invests in shares issued by a company listed on the stock exchange, TWSE market, or emerging stock market as provided for in the Regulations Governing Investment in Securities by Overseas Chinese and Foreign

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							Nationals and later comes into possession of the shares of an unlisted company as the result of a demerger and capital reduction by the issuer of the original shares, the investor may transfer such holdings within one year of the record date of the demerger without applying to the Ministry of Economic Affairs Investment Commission for approval.
Sep. 21, 2009							Overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC are allowed to invest in detached warrants of corporate bonds with detachable warrants and of preferred shares with detachable warrants offered and issued domestically by companies listed on the TWSE, the GTSM, or the Emerging Stock Market.
Jul. 14, 2009							An overseas subsidiary or branch office of a TWSE-listed, GTSM-listed, or emerging stock company ("issuer") that sets up a

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							collective investment account on behalf of its overseas foreign employees is allowed to use the account to handle employee bonus shares already distributed to overseas foreign employees in previous years.
Jun. 9, 2009							Overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC are allowed to invest in beneficial certificates of futures trust fund.
Oct. 30, 2008						For foreign issuers listed in Taiwan, their original shareholders may keep the capital gains derived from disposal of their shares in the settlement accounts as reserve for future investments by directly applying for the status as a Foreign Institutional Investor ("FINI") or as an Overseas Chinese and Foreign Individual Investor ("FIDI").	
Oct. 20, 2008		nvestment in domes		by offshore			
Oct. 8, 2008							Overseas subsidiaries and

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						branch offices of TWSE-listed, GTSM-listed, or emerging stock companies now permitted to open an investment account as an offshore foreign institutional investor to handle custody and transfer matters regarding offshore foreign employees' dividend stocks, shares resulting from a cash capital increase, and treasury stock subscriptions.
Jun. 27, 2008						Fund-type FINI no longer required to issue a declaration stating that its fund capital is not from the mainland area, and this applies to fund-type FINIs that are new applicants and those that previously issued declarations.
May. 22, 2008						Securities issued by offshore foreign listed and un-listed companies, approved to list on TWSE, GTSM, or emerging market, approved for investment by offshore overseas Chinese and foreign nationals.

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Mar. 6, 2008							Foreign investors permitted to engage in the trading of equity derivatives with domestic securities firms and banks.
Mar. 4, 2008							Foreign investors permitted to engage in the trading of structured instruments with domestic securities firms and banks.
Jan. 29, 2008							Easing restrictions on foreign asset transfers and adopt after-the-fact registration.
Jan. 24, 2008							Offshore overseas Chinese and foreign nationals who hold shares intended for issuance of overseas depositary receipts by a domestic issuer may first transfer those shares into an overseas depositary receipt temporary deposit account of the centralized securities depository, which is opened by the domestic custodian bank.
Nov. 15, 2007							Simplify procedures for overseas Chinese and foreign nationals selling

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						de-listed shares.
						Whenever the Taiwan Stock
						Exchange issues a
						registration certificate for a
						foreign investor, it will at the
						same time issue a
Aug. 16, 2007						government uniform invoice
						number for the
						tax-withholding agent and
						will then send both by email
						to the foreign investor's
						custodian bank.
						When a global custodian
						institution changes its
						domestic custodian
						institution and transfers
						customers as a block to
Aug. 1, 2007						another custodian institution,
						an agent or representative who receives joint
						authorization from the
						overseas foreign investors
						affected by the change may
						act as their signatory.
						Foreign investors permitted
						to mandate domestic
1 1 20 2007						discretionary investment
Jul. 30, 2007						management institutions to
						conduct discretionary
						securities investment.

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Jun. 15, 2007							Overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC are allowed to borrow securities from securities finance enterprises.
Mar. 21, 2007							Securities Borrowing and Lending (SBL) system opened to offshore foreign institutional investors in the privately placed mutual fund and unit trust category.
Dec. 15, 2006							Allowing overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC may invest in foreign-currency-denominate d securities investment trust fund privately-placed by Securities Investment Trust Enterprises (SITEs).
Nov. 15, 2006							Allowing overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC may invest in domestic securities may obtain New Taiwan dollar loans from domestic financial institutions.
Sep. 13, 2006							Allowing overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC may borrow funds from a securities finance

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							enterprise, for the purpose of settling the purchase of TWSE-listed or GTSM-listed securities.
Aug. 18, 2006							Foreign investors may borrow securities from securities firms.
Aug. 16, 2006							Allow foreign debentures as one of investing bonds by offshore overseas Chinese and foreign nationals.
Aug. 4, 2006							Allowing overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC may invest in foreign-currency-denominate d funds issued by Securities Investment Trust Enterprises
Jun. 20, 2006							An offshore overseas Chinese or foreign national may, for the purpose of settling the purchase of TWSE-listed or GTSM-listed securities, borrow funds from a securities firm.
May. 16, 2006							Securities investment trust funds privately placed by securities investment trust enterprises approved as falling within the scope of

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							securities in which overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC may invest.
Mar. 27, 2006							Foreign investors are permitted to engage in its futures market for non-hedging purposes and trade futures products through omnibus accounts
Feb. 24, 2006							Overseas Chinese and foreign nationals outside the ROC are allowed to invest in Call (Put) Warrants for the initial public offering prior to listing
July 29, 2005							Free transferring of assets between depositary accounts of different ID is allowed as long as it is proven that the final beneficiary of the assets in each of the accounts involved is the same legal entity
July 22, 2005							Foreign investors are permitted to place orders for buying odd-lot stocks.
May 13, 2005					strategic purpose test and relevant verification measures were removed in		

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					the stock borrowing and lending market for foreign investors		
May 4, 2005							Implement Late Settlement Mechanism
Mar. 31,2005							Simplify registration Process for foreign investors
Mar. 15, 2005	may invest in real	Chinese and non-reestate investment trubeneficiary certification	ust (REIT) ar				
Dec. 21, 2004	Allowing specific for four items.	FINIs may participa	ite as borrow	ers and lenders			
Jun. 15, 2004	 Allow foreign investors to long futures as the hedge position of securities to be purchased, regardless of whether they have already invested in spot market. Further simplify the FINI registration procedure. After a simple registration, offshore foreign institutional investors (FINIs) will no longer need to seek consent letter from Central Bank's department of foreign exchange The proceeds from selling borrowed securities may be repatriated. 						4.
May 27, 2004					Foreign investors are allowed to trade "30 Day Commercial Interest Rate Futures" for the purpose of hedging.		

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May 21, 2004							 Allow foreign investors to long futures as the hedge position of securities to be purchased. Allow local financial institutions to offer temporary finance / credit advance to foreign investors
Feb. 3, 2004					Foreign investors are allowed to invest in money market funds		
Jan. 5, 2004	Specific foreign in bonds in holding.	stitutional investors	are allowed	to lend their			
Dec. 29, 2003					Foreign investors are allowed to trade "Government Bond Futures" for the purpose of hedging.		
Sep. 30, 2003							The Executive Yuan amended "Regulations Governing Investment in Securities by Overseas Chinese and Foreign Nationals", in which the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors (QFII) system was abolished. All

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							foreign investors can, instead of obtaining permission from the Securities and Futures Commission, invest in the securities market after simply registering with the Taiwan Stock Exchange Co. (TWSE) and obtain an investment ID.
July 9, 2003				Abolish the maximum quota limit of USD 3 billion on QFIIs.		Abolish the two-year validity period of QFIIs' approved quotas.	
June 27, 2003							The "Regulations Governing Investment in Securities by Overseas Chinese and Foreign Nationals" is amended as follows: 1. Eliminating the restrictions that foreign investors can open and maintain only one New Taiwan dollar bank account 2. Eliminating the requirement of QFIIs to file annual audited financial report.

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							3. Streamlining account opening procedure and to reduce the concern that current practice could cause trade errors, foreigners should merge their Depository Receipt Conversion Account, Foreign Convertible Bond Conversion Account and Offshore Original Share Selling Account into one General Investment Account 4. QFIIs are allowed to participate in Securities Borrowing and Lending for strategic trading purpose only.
Feb. 26, 2003 Jan. 7, 2003					Foreign institutional investors are permitted to engage in options trading derived from convertible corporate bonds, and tender offers for securities issued by the listed and "Emerging Stock" companies. Foreign investors are		Relaxing the qualification

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					allowed to trade New Taiwan dollar derivative products with financial institutions and over-the-counter securities firms as their counterparts. The derivative products approved include forward interest rate agreements, interest swaps, and interest options of New Taiwan dollars. However, trading such derivative products shall be confined to those foreign investors already having cash positions in government bonds, time deposit and money market instruments.		requirements for Qualified Foreign Investment Institutions (QFIIs): (1) The required amount of securities assets in holding has been cut by one half (i.e. the floor of assets in holding or in management by banks, insurance companies, fund management institutions and other investment institutions has been lowered to be those holding equity assets over 100 million US dollars, and to 50 million US dollars for securities firms), and the requirement for minimum years of securities investment experience has also been annulled. (2) Academic institutions and charitable organizations are allowed to invest in Taiwan capital markets

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							provided that the articles of association stipulate that internal funds can be consigned to outsides managers for investment.
Dec. 20, 2002		are allowed the purcisting shareholders mpanies.		k warrant			
Dec. 12, 2002	placed privately by	are allowed to invest trustee institutions special-purpose co	, or asset-bac				
Oct. 1, 2002		are allowed to subsc ing stocks companie		laced privately			
Sep 11, 2002	foreign investors, a	unched by listed or as 'specified investor enounced by employ	ors', are allow	ved to			
Sep. 3, 2002							When stock options are issued to employees of local companies' foreign subsidiary, the foreign subsidiary can apply to TWSE for opening an account to handle to facilitate selling the shares derived from execution of such options.

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Dec. 27, 2001	Foreign investors companies.	are allowed to inves	t in "Emergir	ng-Stock"			
Dec. 14, 2001					Foreign investors are eligible to trade TXO (TAIEX Option Contracts)		
Nov. 19, 2001							The required documents for each applicant of QFII were amended to a more simplified one, i.e. all statements will be exempted once there had been submitted at the initial application.
Nov. 13, 2001				USD3 billion			The requirement that "all documents made in a foreign language shall be accompanied by a Chinese translation" will be lifted under the condition that those foreign documents shall be made in English
Sep. 28, 2001							The qualification requirement with at least one complete fiscal year for each of categories of QFIIs was deleted.
May 18, 2001							The constituents of eligible Qualified Foreign

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						Institutional Investors ("QFII's") are:
						1. Foreign banks which
						(1) have been incorporated for at least one complete fiscal year,
						(2) have at least US\$200 million invested in securities,
						(3) have securities custody and management experience and
						(4) have international finance or trust experience.
						2. Foreign insurance companies which
						(1) have engaged in the insurance business for at least one complete fiscal

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						year and (2) have at least US\$200 million invested in securities. 3. Fund management companies which (1) are foreign fund managers which (a) have been incorporated for at least one complete fiscal years and (b) have at least US\$200 million in assets under management; or (2) are fund managers [incorporated outside the R.O.C.] which are more than 50% owned by an R.O.C. Securities Investment Trust Enterprise ("SITE") the sources of invested funds

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						of which do not include (a) funds from the R.O.C., (b) funds of the relevant fund manager itself or (c)funds from Mainland China. 4. Securities companies which (1) are foreign securities companies which (a) have net worth of at least US\$100 million and (b) have international securities investment experience or (2) are (a) foreign joint venture securities firms in which an R.O.C. securities firm owns at least 50% of the shares ("Joint Venture Company") or (b) the 100% subsidiaries of a Joint Venture Company or

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							(3) are (a) foreign incorporated 100% owned subsidiaries of R.O.C. securities firms ("Foreign Subsidiary") or (b) the joint venture securities firms in which a Foreign Subsidiary owns at least 51% of the shareholding. 5. Other institutional investors as follows:
							(1) Institutional investors operated by a foreign government which foreign government is the source and owner of the funds invested in Taiwan and is the beneficiary of the gains and losses derived from such investment; (2) Pension funds which have been established

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							for at least one complete fiscal year;
							(3) Mutual funds, unit trusts or investment trusts which
							(a) have been established for at least one complete fiscal year and
							(b) have assets of at least US\$200 million (if the relevant fund or trust is not established as a company, the application must be filed in the name of the trustee(s) of the fund/trust accompanied by the name of the fund/trust);
							(4) Trust companies which
							(a) have been incorporated for at least one complete fiscal year,
							(b) have at least US\$200

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							million in securities assets under trust,
							(c) have securities custody and management experience and
							(d) have international finance or trust experience; or
							(5) other institutional investor which
							(a) have been incorporated for at least one complete fiscal and
							(b) have at least US\$200 million invested in securities.
March 7, 2001						Effective from May 1, 2001, the quota validity for QFIIs to remit in/out approved investment funds is amended from one year to two years. And the recycling investment quota granted to a QFII is	

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		•				amended to become a fixed	
Dec. 30, 2000	lifted the limitation of shareholding for foreign investors of the outstanding shares of each listed/quoted company except for some specific industries					amount quota.	
Nov. 21, 2000				USD2 billion			
Oct. 20, 2000				USD1.5 billion			
Mar. 23, 2000					Foreign investors may trade subordinated debts mainly issued by banks		
Mar. 8, 2000							Simplified the processes of notarization of documents filed by foreign investors
Mar. 8, 2000	To allow foreign in bonds	nvestors to invest in	domestic cor	nvertible			
Nov.20, 1999	50%	50%	Lifted	USD1.2 billion	1. The funds to be used in futures transactions for hedging purposes, together with other investments in money market instruments, shall not exceed 30% of the total remitted-in funds. 2. The calculation of the funds used in futures	The period of recycled remittance of funds is one year. Re-application will have to be filed when the period expires. No restrictions for outward remittance of principals and capital gains.	

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					transactions shall be		
0 . 20 1000					based on initial margin.		
Oct. 30, 1999					1. The funds to be used in futures transactions for hedging purposes, together with other investments in money		
					market instruments, shall not exceed 30% of the remitted-in funds.		
					2. The calculation of the funds used in futures transactions shall be based on initial margin.		
Mar.30, 1999	Raised from 30% to 50%	Raised from 15% to 50%					
July 20, 1998					The funds to be used in futures transaction for hedging purposes shall be included in the 30% ceiling for the funds parked in money market instruments.		
Jan. 7, 1998	Raised from 25% to 30%	Raised from 10% to15%					
Oct. 8, 1997				Any foreign investor whose investment amount is		The period of recycled remittance of funds is one year. Re-application will have to be filed when the period expires.	

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				under USD50 million shall apply to the SEC directly, without the approval of the Central Bank.			
June 3, 1997					 To allow foreign investors to invest in listed covered warrants under the condition that the contracts have to be settled by cash. Each foreign investor shall not hold more than 10% of the issued warrants. 		
June 2, 1997				Ceiling for each offshore juridical person foreign investors adjusted to USD50 million.			
Dec. 19, 1996				USD600 million for		The recycled inward remittance is extended to 6	

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				each QFII		months.	
Nov. 02, 1996	Raised from 20% to 25%	Raised from 7.5% to 10%					
Mar. 3, 1996	20%	7.5%					
Mar. 3, 1996	(*Allow foreign natural persons and smaller judicial persons , or GFII, to invest locally. Applications for quota are reviewed by the Taiwan Stock Exchange.))			each foreign natural person is	The funds parked in money market instruments, time deposits and government bonds shall not exceed 30% of the total remitted-in funds.		
Jan. 13, 1996						Lifting the restrictions on outward remittance of principals.	
Dec. 29, 1995				The		principuis.	

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				investment quota for each QFII is raised to USD400 million. Additional quota may be applied if certain conditions are met.			
Sep. 13, 1995	Raised from 12%	Raised from 6%					
Aug. 24, 1995	to 15%	to7.5%				The funds should be remitted in within 6 months after the quota has been approved	
July 19, 1995					The funds being invested in NTD time deposits of less than three months are allowed to be deposited once more upon maturity with the same term. The funds parked in		
					money market instruments and government bonds shall not exceed 30% of the		

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					total funds remitted-in.		
July 8, 1995	Raised from 10% to 12%	Raised from 5% to 6%					
Feb. 8, 1995			Lifted the total ceiling for QFIIs and Investment trust companies to invest in Taiwan's stock market.			The funds should be remitted in within 4 months after the quota has been approved	
Apr. 19, 1994			Raised from USD5 billion to USD7.5 billion				
Nov. 19, 1993				Raised from USD 100 million to USD200 million			
Nov. 8, 1993						The principal that has been remitted out may be remitted in again within 3 months.	
Aug. 19, 1993			Raised from				

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			USD2.5 billion to USD5 billion				
Jan. 16, 1993				Raised to USD100 million			
Feb. 24, 1992					10% of the funds remitted in may be invested in money market instruments with maturity of less than 90 days.		
Dec. 23, 1991					10% of the funds remitted in may be invested in NTD time deposits with maturity of less than three months.		
Nov. 1, 1991						The funds should be remitted in within 6 months after the quota has been approved	
Jan. 2, 1991	10% (* The debut of the QFII system)	5%	USD2.5 billion	USD5~50 million	None	 The funds should be remitted in within three months after the quota has been approved. The principal shall not remit out until 3 months after being remitted in. 	
						3. Capital gains may only	

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						be remitted outward once a year.	
May 26, 1983	None (* The debut of the policy of gradually opening the stock market to foreign investment by allowing funds raised overseas by domestic investment trust companies to invest locally)		None	None	None	Principal and capital gains are not allowed to remit outward until the funds have been raised for over a year.	