

## JOINT NEWS RELEASE

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### HKEX and CESC Explore New Belt & Road Index Initiative

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) has appointed China Exchanges Services Company Limited (CESC), a joint venture of HKEX, Shanghai Stock Exchange and Shenzhen Stock Exchange, to explore a Belt & Road Index in response to the market's interest in a barometer for the Mainland's Belt & Road Initiative.

The index would be the first cross-border Belt & Road Index in the offshore market and would help investors seeking to find investment opportunities in the companies active in investment and business along the Belt & Road route.

The proposed index is composed of companies whose shares can be traded through Stock Connect.

“The Belt & Road Initiative brings significant opportunities for global economic development by connecting over 60 countries and matching their needs and interests. As an international financial centre and the most mature offshore RMB market, Hong Kong will play an important role in the Belt & Road Initiative,” said HKEX Chief Executive Charles Li. “A stock index would be a good way to start helping investors who are seeking exposure to companies with Belt and Road investments.”

“We are exploring an index to capture the stock performance of companies active in investment and business in Belt & Road countries,” said CESC Chief Executive Mao Zhirong. “We are devising the index compilation methodology and we aim to develop a tradable index that will be an objective and credible indicator tracking the development of the Belt & Road Initiative and facilitate investors in identifying investment opportunities.”

Further information will be provided in due course.

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**About CESC**

CESC is a joint venture formed and equally owned by Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited, the Shanghai Stock Exchange and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange. Its aim is to contribute to the development of China's capital markets. Registered and incorporated in Hong Kong, CESC was officially launched in September 2012 and commenced operations on 30 October. CESC's principal businesses include compiling cross-border indices based on products traded on the Hong Kong and Mainland securities markets, developing industry classifications for listed companies, and developing information standards and information products. CESC also develops financial products to link the Mainland and Hong Kong markets with global investors. China Securities Index Company Limited is commissioned to calculate, provide index maintenance and dissemination service for the CES indices.

For further information on CESC, please visit the website at [www.cesc.com](http://www.cesc.com).

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