

## 2021Q3 Online Bulletin

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# CDSL has surpassed yet another milestone of 4 crore (40 million) active demat accounts

Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL), the first and only listed depository in India, is pleased to announce another noteworthy milestone today as it becomes the first depository to open Four crore plus (40 million) active demat accounts.

CDSL is currently the largest depository in the country in terms of active demat accounts.

Expressing his joy and pride on the moment, Shri Nehal Vora stated "I will firstly congratulate SEBI – the capital market regulator for being the visionary leader that guided us to this digital growth and safe ecosystem. It is their foresight that transited the long demat account opening procedure into an easy digital experience without compromising on the necessary controls. Our milestones are a result of the hard-work and coordination of all the market infrastructure institutions and the market intermediaries. I wish to thank the investors for choosing CDSL to be their depository.

I would like to thank all the participants of the capital market for their contribution in accelerating the digital and financial growth of India."

This journey of financial inclusion has to enhance to engage with a higher number of persons to foray into the securities market to achieve the objective to make India a capital market hub that is highly focused on corporate governance, technology, investor protection, transparency and sustainability.

Further, CDSL will continue to provide services for the progress of the securities markets, for the valued investors in line of our vision of "Empowering the Atmanirbhar Niveshak" through our digital services."

\*Source: <u>CDSL, 2021/07/08</u>

#### Colombo Stock Market Embraces the Second phase of Digitalization

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Sri Lanka (SEC) along with the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE)continue to drive digital advancement in Sri Lanka's capital market with the launch of the second phase of the digitalization of the Stock Market on  $07^{TH}$  July 2021 under the patronage of His Excellency Gotabaya Rajapaksa, the President of Sri Lanka at the Presidential Secretariat.

The event was attended by Dr. P.B Jayasundara , Secretary to President, Mr. Viraj Dayaratne PC, ChairmanSEC, Mr. Dumith Fernando, Chairman CSE, Mr. Manil Jayesinghe, Commission Member SEC, Mr. Naresh Abeyesekera, Chairman of the Digitalization Committee and Commission Member SEC, Mr. Chinthaka Mendis, Director General SEC, Mr. Jayantha Fernando, Director CSE, Mr. Rajeeva Bandaranaike, Chief Executive Officer CSE, Mr. Prabash Wanigatunge, Director, Surveillance and Acting Director Capital Market Development SEC and Mr. Chandrakanth Jayasinghe, Chief Information Officer, CSE.

Following the Covid-19 outbreak in Sri Lanka in March 2020, the need to further digitize the operations of the stock market to ensure uninterrupted access, increase investor participation, enhance operational efficiencies and service standards became a top priority. The digitalization initiative is expected to be completed in three phases and is a collaborative effort of a joint committee comprising of both the SEC and the CSE members appointed by the Chairman of the SEC.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020, a special ceremony was held under the auspices of Hon. Mahinda Rajapaksa, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka to launch the first phase, which included customer onboarding to trade confirmation and execution of corporate actions.

Since the completion of the first phase of digitalization and the launch of the Mobile Application, total app downloads exceeded 65,000 and approximately 17,000 new Central Depository System (CDS)accounts were opened via the mobile app. Moreover, 97% of the total local individual accounts opened were through the app and 84% of the total accounts opened were by those aged between 18 to 40. The app has become one of the fastest growing in Sri Lanka, reaching 21 million smartphones nation-wide. This sharp rise in retail investor participation implies that digitalization of the stock market operations has been able to reach a large section of the more technologically savvy investors. The second phase of the digitalization initiative is expected to cater to the needs of more stakeholders, including investors, issuers and stockbrokers.

Stockbrokers will be in a position to increase efficiency and reduce the cost of printing, preparing and dissemination of forms to clients and reach more effectively to a broader and more diverse section of the public.

The new CSE Mobile App, a comprehensive investor platform, will grant access to investor portfolios from any part of the world, enable viewing of past transactions and monthly statements as well as provide investors with a host of other benefits, including the ability to request changes to master files, research reports and content that aims at significantly simplifying the investment experience, create greater value for investors, as well as for the long-term development of the market.

The latest features of the mobile app include CDS eConnect, MYCSE benefitting a wide range of stakeholders of the stock market. CSE website also features 'Investo' the CSE trilingual chatbot or the voice assistant function with the second phase of digitalization, enabling a productive user experience with increased expediency.

This initiative will also enable local companies to open CDS accounts through the mobile app and enable investors to apply for IPOs from anywhere as well as assess the progress of their IPO applications.

Going forward, further digitalization of the stock market, with the third phase due to be completed by the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021, remains a key agenda for the SEC and the CSE in order to establish a more innovative, efficient and inclusive securities market with a well secured vanguard technological framework which is in line with the government's agenda. Sri Lanka is poised to benefit greatly from this digital revolution and take the country to the next level of economic growth.

\*Source: Central Depository Systems (Pvt) Limited (CDS) Sri Lanka, 2021/07/1

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#### BURSA MALAYSIA MAKES AVAILABLE ELECTRONIC RIGHTS ISSUE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE TO ENHANCE INVESTOR EXPERIENCE ON BURSA ANYWHERE APP

Bursa Malaysia Berhad ("Bursa Malaysia" or the "Exchange") has introduced a new service on the Bursa Anywhere mobile application, enabling investors to subscribe for Rights Issue electronically ("eRights").

The new eRights service offers a convenient method for depositors to apply and make payment for rights issues electronically on the mobile app. With e-Rights, physical rights subscription forms and a trip to the bank or post office for payment are no longer necessary.

Bursa Anywhere was developed to provide investors ease of accessibility in managing their CDS accounts remotely. Besides the eRights service, Bursa Anywhere also facilitates CDS account openings, e-Dividend Subscriptions and reactivation of dormant and inactive accounts. The app has garnered over 190,000 downloads since its release in June 2019.

Datuk Muhamad Umar Swift, Chief Executive Officer of Bursa Malaysia said, "With the new feature in place, we envisage significant reduction in the risk of a Rights Securities application being misplaced or delayed during the course of postal delivery services. Any refund arising from the excess share applications would be credited directly into the investor's bank account, instead of having to wait for the refund cheques which was sent via post previously."

"Since its launch, Bursa Anywhere continues to garner new users with every new upgrade. This latest feature is timely as the Covid-19 pandemic has seen most investors choose electronic options for added safety and convenience. It offers investors tremendous cost and time savings by providing secure access to investment opportunities anytime and anywhere. We are continuously looking to enhance our digital touchpoints as part of our mobile-first experience to meet the evolving demands of modern investors."

To use this service, investors need to register on the Bursa Anywhere app, which is available for download in the Apple Store and Google Play Store. For more information on the eRights service, visit <u>https://www.bursamarketplace.com/anywhere/</u>

\*Source: BURSA MALAYSIA, 2021/07/14

#### CDC launches WhatsApp service exclusively for Roshan Digital Account Holders

# CDC Launches **WhatsApp** Service for Roshan Digital Account Holders

Add +92 800 23275 or scan the QR Code to get connected!

### Features



\*Source: CDCPL, 2021/09/04

#### TDCC Pioneers Platform for Shareholder Meetings with Video Conferencing as Assistance to Ensure Pandemic Prevention and Shareholder Rights

As Taiwan lowered the COVID-19 alert level to level 2, the companies listed on the Taiwan Stock Exchange and Taipei Exchange (TWSE/TPEx-listed companies) also started to convene their shareholder meetings one after another recently. However, investors still show concern that the epidemic curve may rise again and have doubts about whether they will attend meetings. With this year's policies of the Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC), the Taiwan Depository & Clearing Corporation (TDCC) has established a Platform for Shareholder Meetings with Video Conferencing as Assistance. Thus, investors can join meetings remotely and ease their worries!

According to TDCC President Han-Chiang Chu, the Platform for Shareholder Meetings with Video Conferencing as Assistance is a new system that is a first in Taiwan. As of the end of July, over ten issuing companies have applied to use the platform. Shareholders who have not conducted e-voting or signed a Power of Attorney (POA) can attend shareholder meetings using live video conferencing tools as long as they complete registration within the time frame from August 6 to four days before shareholder meetings. However, they will not be allowed to attend the physical meetings.

Investors can choose one of the three accesses to attend shareholder meetings via virtual communication methods. They can join meetings on their phones through the upgraded ePASSBOOK application or securities trading applications that direct users to the Stockvote website. They can also choose to attend meetings on their computers by signing in Stockvote with their citizen digital certificates, Ministry of Economic Affairs Certificate Authority (MOEACA) certificates, Taiwan Fast Identity Online (TW FidO) service, or other verification mechanisms. Shareholders can register before shareholder meetings and attend one on the meeting day.

What do investors have to do to register for their online attendance? Select "Registration/Sign-up" under "Shareholder Meetings with Video Conferencing as Assistance". For first-time visitors, they have to fill in an email sign-up form for verification. Then, tap "Registration" to choose the shareholder meetings that they wish to attend. The TDCC will thoughtfully send out email notifications with the shareholder meeting details two days before shareholder meetings, so investors do not have to worry about missing their sessions due to their busy schedules.

On the day of the shareholder meeting, shareholders who have registered beforehand can select "Check-in/Voting" under "Shareholder Meetings with Video Conferencing

as Assistance" to "Check-in" their shareholder meeting session. The system will provide the live streaming routes and shareholders' sign-in information (account, TDCC CN code) for users to log in, watch live streaming meetings, and send in written questions.

As for the crucial function, online voting, investors who have completed check-ins can return to Stockvote to select "Voting" and cast their votes for different proposals after the chair announces the commencement of the meeting. Investors can recast their votes during voting hours. After the closing time, companies will aggregate the voting results and make announcements on the live streaming platform simultaneously.

For companies, investors who attend shareholder meetings via the Platform for Shareholder Meetings with Video Conferencing as Assistance help reduce participants in their physical meetings and avoid the risk of cluster infection. For investors, they can protect their rights and fulfill shareholder activism. This is a win-win situation for companies and investors, and they are both contributing to curbing the pandemic.

\*Source: TDCC, 2021/08/06

#### Digital Adoption Take a Quantum Leap Forward Amid Pandemic; E-Voting Takes up Over 60% in Shareholder Meetings for the First Time

This year's shareholder meeting landscape is particularly different. Many companies have postponed their Annual General Meetings (AGM) due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. To reduce infection from physical contact between humans, most investors have also chosen to join through a convenient system, e-voting. The trend has boosted e-voting to more than 60% in AGMs for the first time.

Responses to COVID-19 have helped accelerate the digital development of the capital market. According to the e-voting statistics of general meetings released by the Taiwan Depository & Clearing Corporation (TDCC), e-voting accounts for as high as 62.7% of the overall voting method of the 1,793 issuing companies, an increase of 6.6% compared to last year. The improvement is indeed a morale booster for the digitization efforts of Taiwan's capital market. Besides, the results see a 15% jump in ballots cast through e-voting as the cumulative total of ballots reached 9.11 million and represented 364.8 billion shares. The e-voting platform also observed up to 97.8% of foreign shareholding in e-voting. The above data shows that e-voting certainly plays an important role in general meetings.

According to Zhen-Zhen Huang, TDCC Senior Vice President of Issuer Services, the evoting platform has continued to provide a variety of additional services in response to FinTech advancement since it was established in 2009. In 2021, the TDCC also launched the Platform for Shareholder Meetings with Video Conferencing as Assistance, a brand new system aligned with international practices. The TDCC will keep optimizing the new platform and help it keep up with regulatory amendments. Before shareholder meetings, all shareholders can conduct e-voting either through the upgraded ePASSBOOK APP and securities trading APPs on their mobile phones, or log into the Stockvote website on computers. Other than that, investors can also watch live streaming shareholder meetings, send in real-time questions, and cast their ballots online by completing pre-meeting registration. The virtual participation approach brings issuers and shareholders closer, further fulfills shareholder activism, improves Taiwan's transparency in corporate governance, and fosters a positive environment for the capital market.

\*Source: TDCC, 2021/09/30

# SET launches the "SMART Marketplace", an online data platform that provides direct access to securities and derivatives information

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) introduces an online data platform called "SMART Marketplace" to help investors analyze and make investment decisions more efficiently. Investors can receive securities and derivatives data, such as tick data, reference data, and corporate action via application programming interface (API), making data more accessible and convenient.

SET Senior Executive Vice President - Head of Information Technology Division Thirapun Sanpakit said that in today's data-driven world, investors require timely and accurate data for efficient analysis prior to making investment decisions to meet their various investment needs. One of SET's priorities is to continue to provide world-class information service that allows market players to access SET data as much as possible and as quickly as possible. SET has created "SMART Marketplace", an online data service platform that provides data via API, enabling market players such as SET participants, market data vendors, local and foreign institutional investors, and retail investors to easily access and use data in risk management and work process efficiency improvement.

Data on "SMART Marketplace" consist of 1) intraday trading data (tick data) of SET and Thailand Futures Exchange (TFEX) which is provided as historical and end-of-day data, 2) reference data of securities and derivatives, including ISIN, warrants exercise ratio, and 3) listed companies' corporate actions, such as rights issue, dividend payment, stock split, and capital change. In the future, SET plans to add more information on "SMART Marketplace", such as environmental, social and governance (ESG) data and financial statements from listed firms. All of this is aimed to provide investors with comprehensive data for further analysis, processing and investment decisions that are suited to their specific needs.

For more information about "SMART Marketplace" and to subscribe for service on a monthly or a one-time basis, please visit www.set.or.th/smartmarketplace.

\*Source: <u>SET, 2021/08/13</u>

#### HKEX TO INTRODUCE NEW MOBILE MARKET DATA SERVICE

Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX) is pleased to announce today (Friday) an enhancement to its suite of market data offerings, with the introduction of a new mobile market data subscription service. The new service, which is expected to commence on 1 October 2021, will allow retail investors to access live streaming local securities market data exclusively from their mobile devices.

HKEX's new market data subscription service will provide mobile device users with access to full Level 1 live streaming Hong Kong securities market data, at a monthly mobile-only rate of \$38 per user. Investors can subscribe to this new service through their brokers or information vendors upon the launch of the new service.

HKEX Co-Head of Markets Wilfred Yiu said: "Increasingly, investors are using their mobile devices to trade stocks and access market data. HKEX is excited to be launching this new service tailored specifically to the needs of retail investors, supporting the latest practices and technologies in accessing securities market data. This new service supports our commitment to providing affordable, best-in-class, convenient market data services for investors in Hong Kong and beyond."

\*Source: <u>HKEX, 2021/09/10</u>

#### **CIGS Modification Feature Now Available to Legal Entities**

Legal shareholders can now edit their information or change their representative in CSDI's e-KYC system, Comprehensive Information Gathering System (CIGS) directly.

Legal shareholders will no longer need to send a written note to require editing their information or changing a representative to act on their behalves and instead they can easily log into their profile in CIGS and make all necessary changes. Due to repeated requests by those legal shareholders who have already registered in CIGS to be able to change their information by themselves in the system, this feature has been activated in CIGS since September 17, 2021.

\*Source: CSDI Newsletter, summer 2021