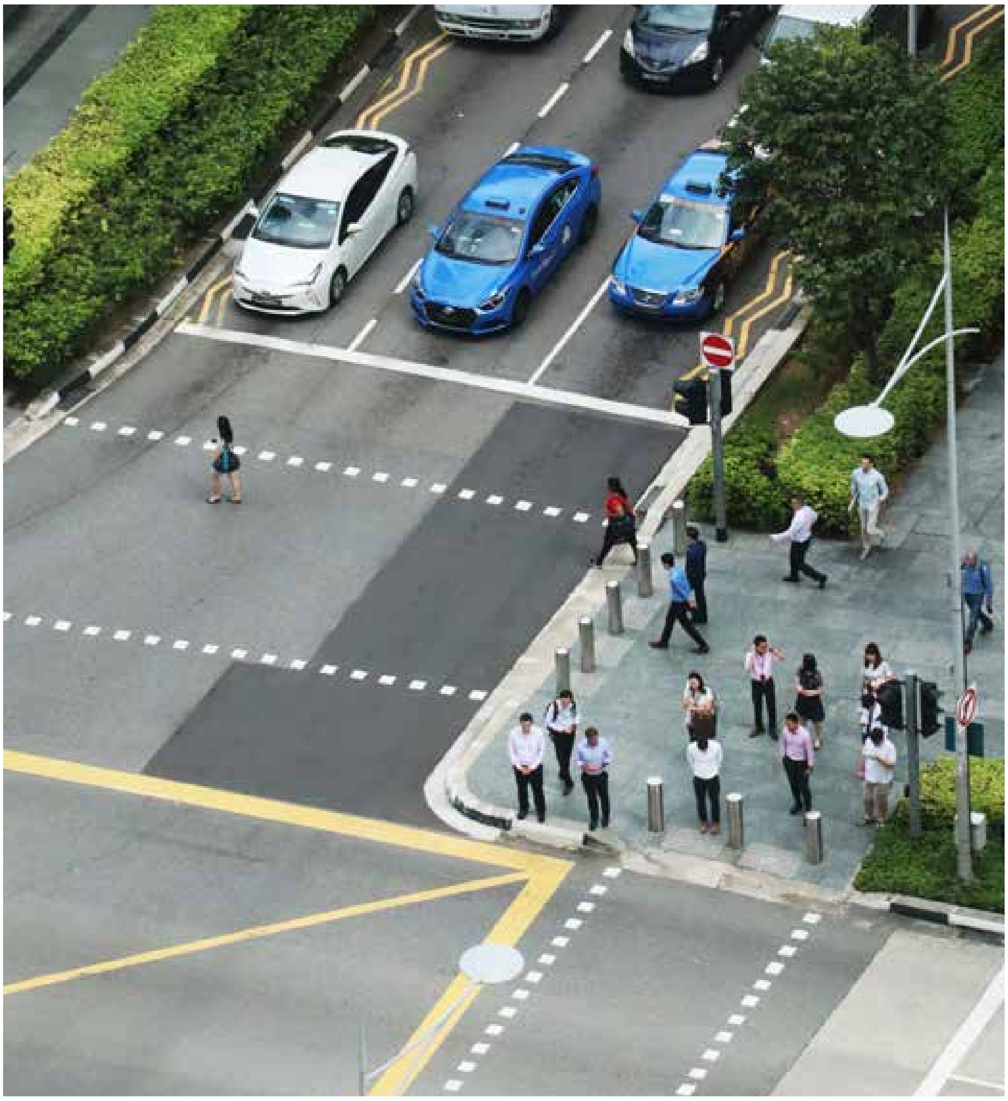
Equity capital markets watch

Singapore: 2018 year in review

December 2018



pwc

"The IPO pipeline remains optimistic in 2019 given Singapore's pro-business environment. SGX has in recent years also stepped up efforts to lure a greater number of IPOs. We can look forward to more fund raising activities in niche sectors such as REITs and BTs, Healthcare and F&B sectors."

- Tham Tuck Seng, Capital Markets Leader, PwC Singapore

Contents

2018 Initial Public Offerings (IPOs): Singapore

Overview

Singapore IPOs in 2018

As of 19 December 2018, Singapore saw a total of 15 IPOs during the year with 3 listings on the Mainboard and 12 on the Catalist Board. Total funds raised approximate S$0.73 billion (Figure 1) including S$0.56 billion and S$0.17 billion raised on the Mainboard and the Catalist Board respectively.

With the exception of 2015 – a year marred by declining global oil prices and increased competition from other Southeast Asian bourses, 2018 raised the lowest IPO funds in the past 10 years.

The year's performance has fallen from 2017's stellar showing, which was mainly driven by real estate investment trusts (REIT) and business trusts (BT) sectors. Four REITs and BTs had contributed a total of approximately S$4.1 billion in proceeds in 2017, as compared to 1 REIT in 2018 which raised approximately S$0.4 billion.

Figure 1 | IPO activity value and volume in the Singapore Exchange (SGX) – past 10 years to 2018

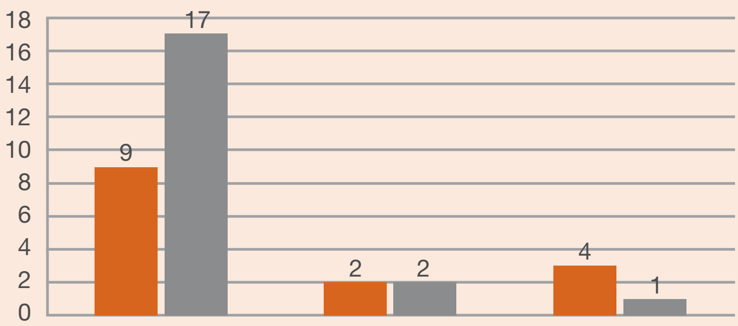
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of IPOs	22	30	24	21	26	28	13	16	20	15
Total funds raised (S$ billion)	3.2	7.1	10.1	4.9	6.9	3.5	0.51	2.3	4.7	0.73

Source: SGX, December 2018

Notes: Data as of 19 December 2018, exclude RTO and secondary listing.

The performance of IPOs on day 1 closing pales in comparison to 2017 (Figure 2), with 40% of the IPOs closing lower or at the same level as their offer price, as compared to 15% in 2017.

Figure 2 | Day 1 IPO closing performance



	Above IPO Price	At IPO Price	Below IPO Price
2018	9 (60%)	2 (13%)	4 (27%)
2017	17 (85%)	2 (10%)	1 (5%)

Source: SGX and PwC Analysis, 19 December 2018

Note: Data as of 1st IPO closing

Global IPOs in 2018

Globally, IPOs declined to 870 for year-to-date (YTD) 30 September 2018 from a total of 1,081 for YTD 30 September 2017 due to factors including challenging market conditions propelled by escalating trade war between the US and China, rising interest rates and continued tightening of monetary conditions.

Despite this, total proceeds raised had increased to US$160.6 billion for YTD 30 September 2018 from US$141.4 billion in the previous year. The higher IPO proceeds can be attributed to robust IPO activities in both the Americas as well as Hong Kong. Out of the global top ten IPOs in terms of proceeds for YTD 30 September 2018, four were listed in America – AXA Equitable (US$3.2 billion) and PagSeguro Digital (US$2.6 billion) on New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), iQIYI (US$2.4 billion) and Pinduoduo (US$1.7 billion) on NASDAQ. Three of the global top ten IPOs were listed in Hong Kong raising a total of US$17.1 billion – China Tower Corporation (US$7.5 billion), Xiaomi Corporation (US$5.4 billion) and Meituan Dianping (US$4.2 billion)[1].

1 PwC Global IPO watch Q3 2018

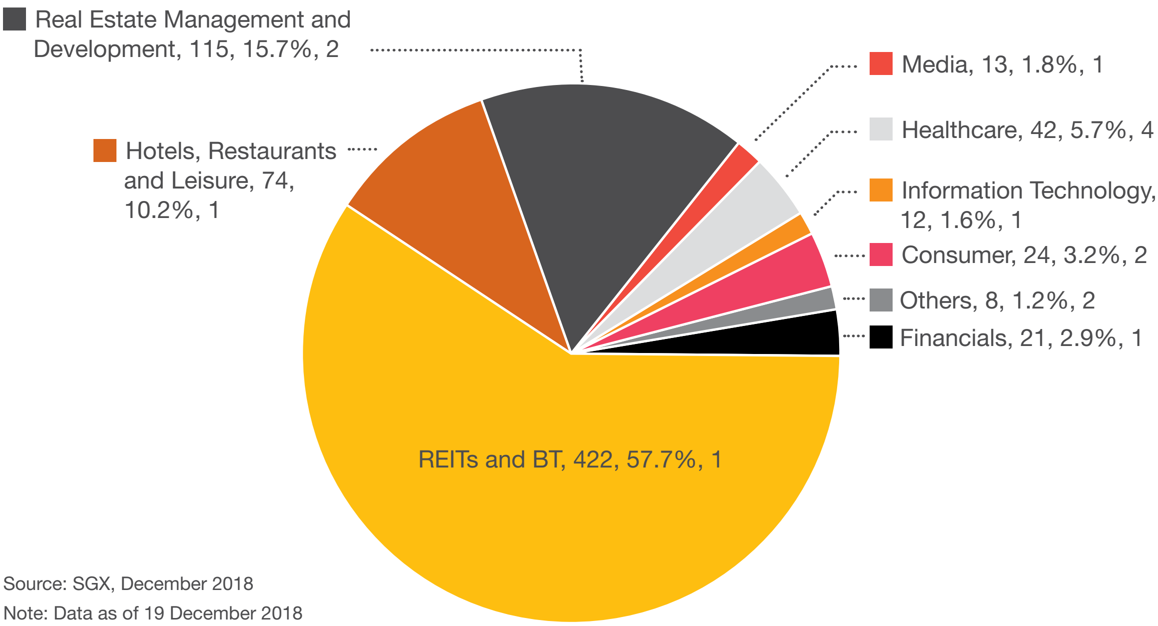
Globally, three of the top ten IPOs for YTD 30 September 2018 in terms of proceeds are technology companies – China Tower Corporation, Xiaomi Corporation and Foxconn Industrial Internet (US$4.3billion, listed on Shanghai Stock Exchange), contributing 44.7% of the total global top ten IPO proceeds (US$38.5 billion). Technology is a key sector that has gained traction in 2018.

Singapore IPOs: Industry wise top performers

In line with the trend in 2017, real estate investment trusts (REITs) and business trusts (BTs) continue to lead the pack in terms of capital raised (Figure 3). All of the S$422 million raised in this sector for the year was by Mainboard-lister Sasseur REIT – the first outlet mall REIT listed in Asia. Sasseur REIT offers investors exposure to the Chinese retail outlet mall sector through its portfolio of four malls in China, namely Chongqing, Bishan, Hefei and Kunming. Key pull factors of REITs include the diversification it offers investors in purchasing assets (such as property) indirectly rather than directly and income stability due to the stipulation regarding minimum amount of earnings the REIT should pay out to qualify for tax incentives.

Real estate management and development sector is the next top performing industry, garnering approximately S$115 million led by PropNex Limited and SLB Development Ltd. While the real estate agency PropNex Limited raised S$60.1 million on 2 July 2018, property developer SLB Development Ltd secured S$54.7 million on 20 April 2018. These listings were done on the back of a generally positive outlook in the property market then, with expectation of rising property prices[2]. However, on 5 July 2018, the Singapore government unexpectedly tightened property curbs such as higher stamp duty rates and higher loan-to-value limits for buyers.

Figure 3 | IPO fund raised by sectors in 2018 (S$ million, % of market share, No. of listings)



Source: SGX, December 2018
Note: Data as of 19 December 2018

2 New peak in Singapore private home prices expected by the end of 2018, The Business Times, July 2018

Performance of newly listed companies in Singapore

As of 19 December 2018, with the exception of Asian Healthcare Specialists and Medinex Limited, the remaining 13 newly listed companies within the year saw their shares close below IPO price.

A number of factors including rising interest rates and trade tensions between the US and China has contributed to the fall in performance of the benchmark index for Singapore – the Straits Times Index (STI). It fell by 10% for YTD 19 December 2018. Asian Healthcare Specialists, a growing private healthcare provider offering highly subspecialised orthopaedic services, showed strong performance in 2018 with 13% growth in its share price since its IPO in April 2018 (Figure 4). The company is looking at growing its business inorganically. Post-listing, Asian Healthcare Specialists secured further support from Vanda 1 Investments, an entity managed and controlled by Temasek Holdings unit Heliconia Capital Management. The company issued zero-coupon convertible bonds to Vanda 1 Investments in the aggregate principal amount of S$5 million due in 2021 and proposed granting of non-listed share options for an aggregate consideration of S$5 million[3]. These positive developments of this Singapore company affirm investors' views of Singapore's reputation as a medical hub.

The biggest dip in share price amongst the 2018 new listings is Ayondo Ltd. Since 2016, the Singapore government had placed initiatives to spur innovation and create an environment where fintech companies could experiment with new technology in a safe space[4]. SGX welcomed the listing of its first fintech company, Ayondo Ltd, a company specialising in social trading. However, faced with the continuing pressure of negative operating cash flows resulting in a redirection of IPO proceeds from platform enhancement and marketing to general working capital purposes[5], it has seen a dip in its share price of 74% since its debut trading price.

Figure 4 | Share price performance of 2018 newly listed companies

Issuer name	Sector	Listing date	Offer Price (S$)	Last Close* (S$)	% Change
Asian Healthcare Specialists	Healthcare	20 Apr 2018	**0.23**	**0.26**	13%
Medinex Limited	Healthcare	7 Dec 2018	**0.25**	**0.275**	10%
Koufu Group Limited	Hotels, restaurants and leisure	18 Jul 2018	**0.63**	**0.615**	-2%
LY Corporation Limited	Consumer	31 Jan 2018	**0.26**	**0.24**	-8%
MeGroup Ltd	Consumer	31 Oct 2018	**0.23**	**0.205**	-11%
Biolidics Limited	Healthcare	19 Dec 2018	**0.28**	**0.235**	-16%
Sasseur REIT	RITs and BT	28 Mar 2018	**0.80**	**0.655**	-18%
Vividthree Holdings Ltd	Media/ Communication Services	25 Sep 2018	**0.25**	**0.20**	-20%
PropNex Limited	Real Estate	2 Jul 2018	**0.65**	**0.51**	-22%
Hyphens Pharma Intl Limited	Healthcare	18 May 2018	**0.26**	**0.195**	-25%
Jawala Inc.	Materials	1 Jun 2018	**0.25**	**0.178**	-29%
SLB Development Ltd	Real Estate	20 Apr 2018	**0.23**	**0.16**	-30%
DLF Holdings Limited	Industrials	25 Jul 2018	**0.23**	**0.158**	-31%
Synagie Corporation Ltd	Information Technology	8 Aug 2018	**0.27**	**0.161**	-40%
Ayondo Ltd	Financials	26 Mar 2018	**0.26**	**0.067**	-74%

Source: SGX and Sginvestors, December 2018

Note: • Latest available data as of 19 December 2018

3 Asian Healthcare Specialists inks investment agreement with Temasek unit, The Business Times, October 2018
4 Fintech in Singapore: The future of our money, The Straits Times, July 2018
5 Ayondo reallocates IPO proceeds as Q2 losses double, The Business Times, August 2018

Focus Industries: REITs & BTs | Healthcare | Food & Beverage

REITs & BTs: Anchoring Singapore Capital Markets

REITs and BTs continue to anchor Singapore's capital market, with new listings accounting for the majority of total IPO funds raised over the past 4 years, including 2018. The listing of Sasseur REIT in March 2018 contributed 58% of the total IPO proceeds this year.

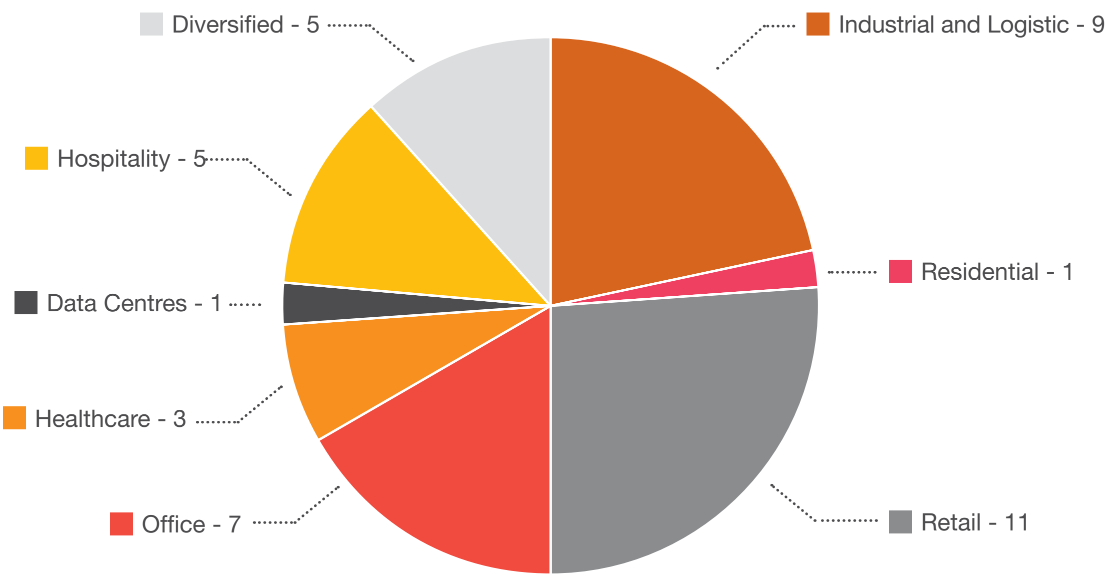
Figure 5 | REITs and BTs listed over the past 4 years

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total
Fund raise (S$' million)	276	1,906	4,123	422	6,727
% of total proceeds raised	54%	85%	88%	58%	82%

Source: SGX, December 2018

As of 19 December 2018, there are a total of 48 REITs and BTs listed in Singapore[6] with a combined market capitalisation of S$91.7 billion[7]. Forty-two out of the 48 listed REITS and BTs are property trusts[8]. Figure 6 breaks down of the types of asset classes of these listed property trusts.

Figure 6 | Number of property trusts by asset classes



Source: SGinvestors, REITDATA, December 2018

6 REITDATA, December 2018
7 Sector Heatmap, SGX, December 2018
8 REITDATA, December 2018

More than 75% of these property trusts invest in assets outside of Singapore, which reaffirms Singapore as an attractive listing destination for overseas real estate players and further reinforces SGX's reputation as an international exchange. The attractive and relatively stable dividend yields offered by locally listed property trusts is their key appeal to investors, with average projected yields of 5% to 9%. For the first nine months of 2018, the S&P REIT Index lost 1.2% in local currency terms, however, compared to the wider Singapore equity market (the main STI index returned -10% in the same period), S-REIT performance has been positive[9].

In addition, Singapore was awarded second place in the Asia Pacific 2019 city investment prospects[9]. This reflects the optimistic real estate outlook which can be attributed to the resilience of Singapore's residential market despite the ongoing cooling measures as well as the positive performance of the office rental sector. With higher offshore yields, the continued trend of locally listed property trusts investing in assets outside of Singapore is likely to sustain, if not, advance, the attractiveness of the yields offered by these property trusts. Accordingly, we expect Singapore to maintain its foothold in the REITs and BTs sectors in the upcoming year.

Healthcare: Boosting Singapore Capital Markets

Singapore's reputation as a medical centre of excellence in the region and its relatively high price-earnings ratios has attracted healthcare players to list on SGX. Four healthcare companies have made their trading debut on SGX Catalist market in 2018 – Asian Healthcare Specialists, Hyphens Pharma Intl Limited, Medinex Limited and Biolidics Limited. These stocks closed on Day One above their IPO price by 48%, 6%, 12% respectively, while Biolidics closed below IPO price by 16%.

Singapore's listed healthcare sector, as measured by the SGX All Healthcare Index, fared better than the STI performance by recording a smaller decline of 6% for YTD 19 December 2018. Further, the positive outlook on the healthcare sector is also reflected through the fact that Asian Healthcare Specialists and Medinex Limited are the only newly listed companies that ended the year on a positive note since its listing date.

IHH Healthcare Bhd, the largest healthcare service provider by market capitalisation (S$15.0 billion) listed on both SGX and Bursa Malaysia, ending the year with a decrease of 8% in its share price. Raffles Medical group, among the biggest healthcare providers in Singapore with a market capitalisation (S$2.0 billion), ended the year with its share price down by 1% since the beginning of the year. These groups have established themselves outside Singapore: IHH has established itself in Malaysia, India and Turkey while Raffles Medical group has established presence in Japan, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Cambodia and China.

Increasing competition from Malaysia and Thailand in healthcare services could potentially place pressure on the local healthcare market in the upcoming years. As part of the efforts to develop Malaysia's medical tourism industry, the Malaysian government allocated RM 29 billion for healthcare in its 2019 budget (up 7.8% over previous budget)[10]. Thailand's largest private hospital operator, Bangkok Dusit Medical Group with a market capitalisation of approximately S$17.1 billion (THB407.3 billion^), has grown their revenue from foreign patients by 10% in the first half of 2018 from a year ago, with approximately one-third of its revenue in 1H2018 from foreign patients[11]. The strong Singapore dollar against these regional currencies could make medical tourism in Singapore more costly, thus reducing demand from foreign patients.

Some Singapore-brand hospital groups have taken their operations overseas to counter the migration of medical tourists. For instance, Singapore-listed Health Medical International has established Mahkota Medical Centre in Malacca and Regency Specialist Hospital in Johor while Raffles Medical group has taken its brand to China.

Despite the competition from our ASEAN counterparts, we expect continued growth in Singapore's healthcare sector given the reputation of the Republic's healthcare system, increasing demand led by its aging population as well as the growing affluence in the region.

^: Data as at 15 December 2018

9 Emerging Trends in Real Estate® Asia Pacific 2019, PwC and ULI, November 2018
10 Key highlights of 2019 budget, New Straits Times, November 2018
11 Medical tourism: Aging Thais create 13 billion hospital empire, Bloomberg, August 2018

Food and Beverage (F&B): Building momentum in Singapore Capital Markets

Riding on the success of recently listed F&B companies including Jumbo Group (in 2015), Kimly Limited, RE&S Holdings Limited and No Signboard Seafood (in 2017), SGX saw the listing of Koufu Group Limited (Figure 7) on the Mainboard, which raised approximately S$74.3 million.

Figure 7 | Data of Selected F&B listed companies

Companies	IPO date	IPO Price ($)	Last Close Price ($)^	% Changes in share price since IPO
Jumbo Group	9 Nov 2015	0.25	0.375	50%
Kimly Limited	20 Mar 2017	0.25	0.245	-2%
RE&S Holdings Limited	22 Nov 2017	0.22	0.183	-17%
No Signboard Holdings Ltd	30 Nov 2017	0.28	0.148	-47%
Koufu Group Limited	18 Jul 2018	0.63	0.615	-2%

Source: SGX, December 2018
Note: ^Latest available data as of 19 December 2018

The continued demand of the F&B industry in Singapore is supported by its growing population size and increased usage of online food ordering and delivery services. A point worth mentioning is the majority of the 13 SGX-listed restaurant stocks either have businesses outside Singapore or have plans for overseas expansion[12], thereby extending their geographical reach for a wider customer base. Privately-owned local restaurants such as Crystal Jade, Imperial Treasure and Paradise Group have expanded overseas and established a strong branding associated with Singapore's reputation as a food paradise with trusted food quality. Further, given the relatively attractive valuation of F&B counters in 2018, we expect to see more F&B listings in 2019.

Keen focus on technology

2017 saw SGX entering into partnerships with Singapore's Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and A*ccelerate (previously known as ETPL) under the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) to assist technology companies and start-ups with easier and efficient access to capital markets. SGX also collaborated with NASDAQ to enable companies to list on both venues. Collaborative partnerships by SGX continued in 2018 where SGX teamed up with the Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) to allow technology and healthcare companies to list and raise money on both markets simultaneously[13]. This would potentially facilitate the listing of Israeli technology and biomedical companies seeking to enter Asian markets on SGX. Further, financing platform CapBridge, in which SGX has invested, has announced the deployment of blockchain technology for an upcoming Singapore-based platform named 1exchange[14]. This will facilitate the trading of private securities, pumping in liquidity through the capital market. SGX has also partnered Third500, an affiliate of American investment bank Heathios Capital Markets LLC, to build a pre-IPO and an IPO market for emerging growth companies. Companies with market capitalisations grown beyond US$500 million may have cross-listing opportunities on the NASDAQ.[15]

12 SGX's 10 largest restaurants stocks offer local and overseas exposure, Yahoo Finance, Singapore, July 2018
13 SGX and Tel Aviv stock exchange partner to attract tech companies, Business Insider Singapore, May 2018
14 Capbridge, ConsenSys to deploy blockchain technology for upcoming private exchange, The Straits Times, June 2018
15 SGX, Third500 to build IPO market in Singapore for emerging growth companies, The Straits Times, August 2018

Further, the introduction of dual-class shares (DCS) structure listing by SGX in June 2018 supports high-growth companies including startups and technology firms looking at raising funds for business growth while retaining their independence and flexibility in strategic and operational business decision making.

With an array of strategic partnerships entered into by SGX to facilitate access to the market and the change in listing rules to accommodate companies with DCS structure, we are hopeful that we would see more local capital market activities pertaining to technology companies over the next few years.

Delisting trend continues

In 2018, 24 companies delisted[16] from SGX following the same number of companies in 2017. This could be attributed to a number of reasons, including where privatisation is likely a continuation of the parent company's restructuring to streamline group operations besides market pessimism which may have carried over from 2017 led by declining trading volume in the local equity market.

In November 2018, SGX launched a public consultation on rule changes to two aspects of voluntary delistings – the voluntary delisting resolution and the exit offer, with the intent to align the interest of the offeror and the shareholders, in particular the minorities. Two of the key proposed changes are as follows:

- Offerors and parties acting in concert will be disallowed from voting on voluntary delistings offer and approval threshold is to be reduced from 75% to a simple majority of 50% of independent shareholders. The 10% block provision (which allows holders of more than 10% present and voting to veto the deal) will be scrapped.
- An exit offer must be both reasonable and fair for a voluntary delisting, as compared to current listing rules, which require an exit offer to be reasonable but does not require it to be fair.

Subject to feedback, SGX expects to implement the new rules in 2019.

Between 2014 and August 2018, 30% of privatisation exercises were done through voluntary delisting, with 50% through general offers and buyouts and 20% through a scheme of arrangement[17]. Assuming these intended rule changes are implemented in 2019, shifting the voting power from offerors and concert parties to independent and minority shareholders and potentially compelling a better exit offer, may make it more challenging for companies to undergo voluntary delisting.

Competition from Asian bourses

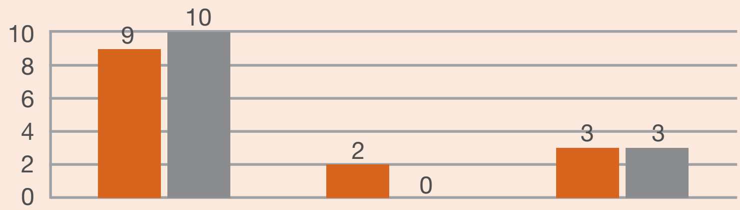
The performance of the benchmark index for Singapore and Hong Kong – Straits Times Index (STI) and Hang Seng Index (HSI) has fallen since the beginning of 2018 by 10% and 13% respectively (Yahoo Finance, 15 December 2018).

Despite the dip in market performance, a total of 207 companies were listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKEx) from 1 January to 15 December 2018, approximately 19% more than 2017 when HKEx saw the listing of 174 companies[18]. HKEx welcomed the world's largest IPO in August 2018 as telecoms tower operator China Tower Corporation Ltd raised US$7.5 billion in IPO proceeds[19]. Further, in consideration of the expanding number of growth companies in internet, high-tech and biomedical research and development industries, HKEx introduced a listing regime for weighted voting rights on 30 April 2018[20], which is largely similar to the DCS listing introduced by SGX. This resulted in Xiaomi Corporation being the first IPO applicant with a DCS structure[21], raising US$5.4 billion in IPO funds in July 2018. Not to fall behind, SGX introduced changes to its listing rules to accommodate companies with DCS structure, who may seek listing on SGX with effect from 26 June 2018.

16 SGX monthly statistics reports, January to November 2018
17 Voluntary delisting offer: SGX RegCo proposing shift of voting power to minorities, Business Times, Nov 2018
18 PwC Hong Kong analysis, 2018
19 PwC Global IPO Watch Q3, 2018
20 Hong Kong approves dual class shares paving way for tech titans, Bloomberg Markets, April 2018
21 Xiaomi announced oversubscribed IPO, China Daily, July 2018.

Singapore-based companies continue to be attracted to HKEx with 15 listings on the HKEx (including 2 listed by introduction) raising S$0.2 billion in 2018 as compared to 15 listings garnering S$1.0 billion in 2017[22]. These companies are mainly small to medium enterprises (SMEs) with traditional businesses in the consumer and industrial sectors. Key considerations attracting companies to list on HKEx observed are perceptions of higher valuations and liquidity, as well as hopes of building brand visibility and growing their presence in North Asia (China, Hong Kong, etc). The buoyancy of the Hong Kong's capital market is reflected in the performance of IPOs on Day One closing for these 13 listings in 2018, where 10 were trading above IPO offer price, with the remaining 3 trading lower than their IPO offer price (Figure 8). However, SMEs considering listing on HKEx should be aware that HKEx is a large exchange with market capitalization approximating 4 to 8 times of SGX. Liquidity and price sustainability may be a concern post-listing as these SMEs may not obtain as much attention from investors as they would in a comparatively smaller exchange. As of 15 December 2018, 8 out of these 13 companies were trading below IPO offer price.

Figure 8 | Day 1 IPO closing performance



	Above IPO Price	At IPO Price	Below IPO Price
SGX	9	2	3
HKEx	10	0	3

Source: SGX and PwC Analysis, 15 December 2018
Note: Data as of 1st IPO closing

In 2018, we note that there has been relatively sizeable capital market activities in other ASEAN countries such as Thailand and Vietnam, which bagged 2018's top three listings in terms of proceeds in Southeast Asia[23] including Thailand Future Fund (US$1.3 billion), Vinhomes Joint Stock Company (US$1.3 billion)[24] and Vietnam Technological and Commercial Joint Stock Bank (US$0.9 billion).

Thailand IPO market recorded 21 listings as at 15 December 2018, raising a total of US$2.4 billion. This was largely attributed to two large IPOs in October 2018 – Osotspa, a Thai conglomerate in F&B (US$0.4 billion) and Thailand Future Fund, an infrastructure trust (US$1.3 billion). The confidence of investors in Thailand market may be a result of the growth of Thailand's economy and strength of the currency[25].

Investors have been drawn to Vietnam's strong growth prospects, a privatisation drive by the government and successful private sector IPOs over the past two years[26]. Vinhomes Joint Stock Company, the residential property arm of Vietnamese conglomerate VinGroup and took the sixth spot in the top 10 largest IPOs in Asia-Pacific[27], raising US$1.3 billion on the Ho Chi Minh stock exchange in May 2018. Another noteworthy 2018 listing pertains to Vietnam Technological and Commercial Joint Stock Bank, one of Vietnam's largest private-sector banks, which raised US$0.9 billion on the Ho Chi Minh stock exchange.

Malaysia saw 21 listings as at 15 December 2018, raising a total of US$0.2 billion, comprising 6 technology and 4 healthcare companies. This affirms our view that increased competition from regional bourses could be expected, particularly in healthcare sector.

As the capital markets for other ASEAN countries continue to develop and stabilise, these bourses may progressively attract new listings, particularly of domestic companies. We forsee this trend to forge ahead in 2019, bringing about increased regional competition which may very well increase the overall capital market activity in the region.

22 PwC HK analysis, as at 15 December 2018
23 Vietnam ranks top in total funds raised via IPOs across SE Asia, Business Times, November 2018
24 PwC Global IPO watch Q3 2018
25 Thailand's listing environment defies emerging markets' pessimism, Financial Times, October 2018
26 Vinhomes share sale raises US$1.35billion in Vietnam's biggest issue, Business Times, May 2018
27 PwC Global IPO watch Q3 2018

Going forward – 2019

Besides the various activities undertaken by SGX as highlighted above, SGX continues to pursue several other initiatives[28] to maintain its competitive position in the region and improve the attractiveness of its bourse. Some of these initiatives include:

- Potential reduction in compliance costs for certain listed companies through proposed changes in quarterly reporting requirements
- Introduction of rules to support listing of companies with dual class shares structure aimed at backing high-growth companies by empowering their management with the flexibility in strategic and operational decision making
- Partnerships with Tel-Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) as well as with New Zealand, extending geographical reach and connectivity
- Streamlining communication between SGX listed companies and shareholders through initiatives such as the collaboration with fintech firm Smartkarma to roll out C-Suite Pilot Program and launch of SGX Fast Track Programme
- Simultaneous settlement of money and securities through the development of Delivery versus Payment (DvP) capabilities for settlement of tokenized assets together with Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and through the launch of the new securities settlement and depository system, which would also result in shorter settlement period
- Launch of new FTSE ST Singapore Shariah Index, serving as a benchmark for Shariah-compliant funds looking to invest in Singapore

Market volatility compounded by trade tensions between the US and China, rising dollar and emerging market contagion may adversely impact global capital market activities. However, we foresee that SGX will continue to attract listings in its niche sectors such as REITs & BTs, Healthcare and F&B given the pro-business environment in Singapore pillared by strong Government support besides the various initiatives undertaken by SGX. Further, as SGX's partnerships with TASE, NASDAQ and Third500 come to fruition, we are hopeful that technology sector listings will make their presence felt in 2019. In a nutshell, we foresee challenges ahead in the global capital markets, but, expect continued listings on the SGX coming in from niche sectors.

28 SGX news and updates, SGX, November 2018
All international data is as of 15 December 2018, unless otherwise specified.

Our IPO solutions

At PwC, we have a team of specialists who provide a broad range of services to companies in connection with capital markets transactions.

As advisors, we can advise you from the beginning to the end of the IPO process in order to maximise the value, including:

- Advising on and assessing your company's readiness for becoming a public company
- Assisting in the evaluation, preparation and execution of the IPO
- Advising on the restructuring and re-organisation to effectuate the IPO
- Advising on establishment or assessment of internal audit and corporate governance for a listed company
- Assisting and advising on accounting conversion projects and assisting in drafting any required financial reporting procedures
- Facilitating and assisting in strategic business planning
- Assisting in securing pre-IPO investor funding
- Assisting in finance function transformation including related technology infrastructure
- Conducting market study

As reporting auditors, PwC will provide assurance on the historical financial statements and provide due diligence for the underwriters by means of comfort letter procedures on the historical financial information included in the prospectus.

Our experts

Marcus Lam
Assurance Leader,
PwC Singapore
marcus.hc.lam@sg.pwc.com

Rebekah Khan
Capital Markets Partner,
PwC Singapore
rebekah.khan@sg.pwc.com

Tham Tuck Seng
Capital Markets Leader,
PwC Singapore
tuck.seng.tham@sg.pwc.com

Alex Toh
Capital Markets Partner,
PwC Singapore
alex.wk.toh@sg.pwc.com

PwC Singapore | @PwC_Singapore