

# **THE RISE OF DOMESTIC CAPITAL MARKETS**

## **FOR CORPORATE FINANCING**





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**CAPITAL**  
**MARKETS**  
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**WORLD BANK GROUP**  
Global Knowledge & Research Hub  
in Malaysia

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## Abbreviations

BIS	Bank of International Settlements
FSD	Firm size distribution
GDP	Gross domestic product
GEM	Growth Enterprise Market
IT	Information technology
NEEQ	National Equities Exchange And Quotations
OLS	Ordinary least squares
SDC	Thomson Reuters' Security Data Corporation
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprises
SOE	State-owned enterprise
TPE <sub>x</sub>	Taipei Exchange
WLS	Weighted least squares

## Executive Summary

During the past decades, firms from emerging economies have significantly increased the amount of financing obtained in capital markets. Whereas the literature argues that international markets have been an important contributor to this process, the role of domestic markets is mostly unknown. By examining the case of East Asia, this paper shows that domestic markets have been a key driver of the observed trends in capital market financing since the early 2000s. As domestic markets developed, more and smaller firms gained access to equity and corporate bond financing.

Domestic markets also helped some corporations to diversify funding sources and obtain domestic currency financing. Policy reforms following the Asian Financial Crisis accompanied the growth of domestic markets. Part of the reforms were aimed at developing domestic capital markets for small and medium-size enterprises. Although these markets have developed significantly, they still serve relatively few corporations, albeit from new sectors.





## CHAPTER 1

## Introduction

Firms from emerging economies have significantly increased the amount of financing raised in capital markets since the early 1990s. An important driver of this rise has been the participation of firms in international markets. As governments liberalized financial markets in the 1990s and globalization deepened, emerging economy firms have significantly increased their equity and bond issuances abroad (Henderson et al., 2006; Gozzi et al., 2010; Doidge et al., 2013). Moreover, after the 2008-09 Global Financial Crisis, low interest rates in advanced economies have led to a boom in international bond issuances by emerging economy firms (Shin, 2013; Chui et al., 2014; Turner, 2014; Acharya et al., 2015; McCauley et al., 2015; Caballero et al., 2016; Bruno and Shin, 2017; Chang et al., 2017).

Whereas the literature has systematically documented the importance of international capital markets for emerging economy firms, the role of domestic markets has been largely overlooked. In this paper, we study (i) whether domestic activity can also explain the boom in capital market financing in emerging economies, and (ii) whether domestic and international markets act as complements or substitutes for firms in emerging economies. These issues are relevant

because, although financial markets have become increasingly globalized, some degree of market segmentation might persist over time, and domestic and international markets could serve different types of firms.

We address these questions by analyzing the equity and bond issuance activity of East Asian firms since the early 1990s. We focus on this region because its corporate issuances account for most of the capital market activity in emerging regions. The amount of equity and bonds raised by East Asian firms during the 1990-2016 period accounted for about 70 percent of the total amount raised by firms from emerging regions in domestic and international markets. Furthermore, following the 1997-98 Asian Financial Crisis, policy makers in the region have made a conscious effort to develop domestic markets, among other initiatives, to decrease the reliance on financing from abroad and foreign currency instruments. Although our focus is on East Asia, we systematically compare the patterns in this region with those in other emerging and advanced economies.

To conduct the analysis, we use transaction-level data on equity and corporate bonds issued in domestic and international (cross-border) markets over the

period 1990-2016. The data include 124,390 security issuances conducted by 22,945 firms from East Asian economies. The analysis focuses on the largest 10 economies in the region in terms of gross domestic product (GDP). The data comprise firms listed in stock exchanges and unlisted firms. Including both types of firms is important because most of the existing research on firms' issuance activity focuses only on listed firms, limiting the scope of the analysis. Whereas all equity issuers in our sample are listed firms, the latter account for only 40 percent of bond issuers. By excluding unlisted firms, other papers are not only disregarding most of the corporate bond issuers, but also are likely omitting relatively smaller firms.

**Our analysis yields the following interrelated findings.**

First, driven by domestic rather than international issuances, the amount of financing raised in capital markets by East Asian firms has greatly increased since the 1990s. The total amount of equity and bond financing raised per year (relative to GDP) in the median East Asian economy doubled between the periods 1990-98 and 2008-16. As a result, the relative size of capital market financing in East Asia has become similar to that in advanced economies. The share of equity raised domestically per year in the median East Asian economy increased from 85 to 97 percent between 1990-99 and 2008-16; that of domestic bonds rose from 36 to 80 percent between the same periods. Because of the high correlation between issuance market and currency denomination, the share of domestic currency bond financing also increased significantly. The larger reliance on domestic markets occurred both at the economy-industry level and within firms. The patterns in East Asia are similar to those in other emerging regions, where domestic equity and bond activity has grown relatively faster than international activity. However, the growth of domestic markets was more subdued in other regions, which still conducted most of their bond issuances abroad during 2008-16.

Second, along with the growth in the amount raised, the extensive margin increased as more and smaller firms in East Asia gained access to equity and bond markets. Driven by a higher participation of firms in domestic markets, the average number of issuing firms per year in the median East Asian economy more than tripled, from 60 issuers in 1990-98 to 185 issuers in 2008-16. Because domestic markets cater to smaller firms than international ones, the size of the typical capital market issuer in East Asia declined 38 percent between 1990-98 and 2008-16. These patterns stand in contrast to those in other regions. In advanced and other emerging economies, the number of issuers has remained fairly constant and the size of the typical issuer has increased over time.

Third, the relatively larger firms with access to international markets have also benefited from the development of domestic markets in East Asia. Whereas the relatively smaller issuing firms rely almost exclusively on domestic capital markets, the largest firms raise funds in multiple markets: domestic capital markets, international capital markets, and syndicated loan markets. Access to different markets allows firms to mitigate negative shocks in one market by raising more funds in other markets. When international debt markets collapsed during the Global Financial Crisis, firms in East Asia moved from international to domestic bond markets. This "spare tire" function was not present during the Asian Financial Crisis, when domestic capital markets were less developed.

Fourth, the growth in domestic financing occurred while policy makers implemented a set of reforms to develop domestic capital markets after the Asian Financial Crisis. Aware that relatively large corporations are typically the main users of traditional capital markets, policy makers complemented these reforms with policies aimed at developing domestic capital markets for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Compared to those in other regions, including advanced ones, SME markets have become large in East Asia. By 2016, SME markets



in the region were the largest in the world in terms of market capitalization. However, the experience of China (mainland); Hong Kong SAR, China; and Taiwan, China suggests that SME markets tend to serve few firms that, in some cases, are not SMEs, but rather larger corporations. On the positive side, these markets seem to be providing financing to new sectors that are not adequately served by traditional markets.

**Our paper contributes to different strands of the literature.**

First, consistent with the literature on corporate financing mentioned in the first paragraph, our paper shows that bond issuance activity by emerging economy firms accelerated after the Global Financial Crisis. This literature associates the increasing corporate debt levels in emerging economies post-Global Financial Crisis with a surge in international

bond issuances and, potentially, foreign currency risk. Our paper complements that literature by showing that domestic issuance activity by East Asian firms (the most active users of capital markets among emerging economies) outpaced that in international markets. As a result, most bond issuances during 2008-16, across and within firms, took place in domestic markets. These trends hold for different criteria used in the literature to define international issuances: residence of issuing firms, nationality of issuing firms, and currency denomination. Thus, these findings also show a greater reliance of East Asian firms on domestic currency financing.

Second, our paper relates to research that tries to understand whether domestic and international financial markets are substitutes or complements. The literature has argued that financial frictions can lead to market segmentation, preventing some firms and investors to participate in international financial

markets. For instance, information asymmetries, tax treatment, fixed transaction costs, and regulations can inhibit some firms from using certain markets and/or result in certain investors and financial intermediaries (with specific preferences, time horizons, or abilities to diversify risk) dominating specific markets (La Porta et al., 1997; Karolyi and Stulz, 2003; Pirinsky and Wang, 2006; Japelli and Pagano, 2008; Bekaert et al., 2011). Thus, even in an increasingly globalized world in which financial transactions can take place anywhere, domestic intermediaries could play a meaningful role for emerging economy firms. For example, a large literature finds that domestic and foreign banks complement each other by specializing in different financial products and clients (Claessens, 2016).

But not much is known about whether domestic and international capital markets behave in a complementary manner. Earlier studies argue that, as internationalization advances, trading activity for large firms can shift away from domestic markets and into international markets (Claessens et al., 2002; Levine and Schmukler, 2006), whereas others find that internationalization has no effect on domestic markets (Karolyi, 2004). Other papers argue that internationalization might indeed strengthen domestic capital markets, for example, by incentivizing them to become more efficient or by enhancing transparency (Smith and Sofianos, 1997; Hargis and Ramanlal, 1998; Hargis, 2000; Moel, 2001). Research also shows that domestic and international markets complement each other by providing different types of bonds (Gozzi et al., 2015). As firms switch across markets, the aggregate and firm-level amount of financing, debt maturity, and currency denomination change, as witnessed during the Global Financial Crisis and during domestic banking crises (Cortina et al., 2019). Our paper contributes to this literature by offering evidence that relatively developed domestic capital markets can complement international ones, expanding access to financing for smaller firms and completing markets for relatively larger corporations.

Third, our paper adds to the literature that examines how financial development affects firms of different sizes. Research shows that relatively smaller firms benefit more from financial development than larger ones (Guiso et al., 2004; Beck and Dermirguc-Kunt, 2006; Cetorelli and Strahan, 2006; Beck et al., 2008; Ayyagari et al., 2016). The rationale behind this finding is that financial development is typically associated with a reduction in financial frictions (such as high transaction costs, lack of information sharing, or weak enforcement institutions), which are particularly important for small firms. In line with these arguments, our findings are consistent with the fact that more developed domestic capital markets improve access to finance for smaller firms relatively more than for larger corporations.

Fourth, our paper complements a strand of literature that analyzes aggregate trends in East Asian financial markets. These studies find that financial markets have expanded significantly after the Asian Financial Crisis and have become more diversified, as capital markets have grown faster than the banking sector (Gosh, 2006; Estrada et al., 2010; Park, 2011; Mizen et al., 2012; Cline, 2015; Dekle and Pundit, 2015; Kang et al., 2015). Nevertheless, none of these studies has distinguished the use of domestic vis-à-vis international markets nor the number and types of issuers behind the expanding markets.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Chapter 2 describes the data and methodology. Chapter 3 documents the growth of domestic and international equity and bond financing by East Asian firms. Chapter 4 analyzes three aspects of firm financing associated with the growth in capital markets: the extensive margin, issuer size, and financial market diversification. Chapter 5 discusses the possible role of the capital market reforms implemented after the Asian Financial Crisis and the role of SME capital markets. Chapter 6 concludes.

## CHAPTER 2

# Data and Methodology

## Data Sources and Sample

To analyze the issuance activity in East Asia, we use comprehensive, transaction-level data on equity and corporate bonds issued in domestic and international markets over the period 1990-2016. The data come from Thomson Reuters' Security Data Corporation (SDC) Platinum, which provides transaction-level information on new issuances of common and preferred equity, as well as publicly and privately placed bonds.<sup>1</sup> Because the analysis focuses on corporate financing, we exclude all public-sector issuances, comprising issuances by national, local, and regional governments, government agencies, regional agencies, and multilateral organizations. We also exclude mortgage-backed securities and other asset-backed securities.

In this paper, we cover the 10 largest economies in East Asia (in terms of GDP): China, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam. The data set contains 22,945 unique firms issuing in capital markets and 124,390 security issuances, consisting of 43,196 equity issuances and

81,194 bond issuances over the sample period. To benchmark against other regions of the world, we also analyze data from other emerging economies (in Eastern Europe and other Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East and Africa) and advanced economies (in North America, Western Europe, and Japan). Appendix Table 1 provides the list of economies included in each group. We focus the analysis on three periods, 1990-98, 1999-2007, and 2008-16, so we can compare trends before and after the Asian Financial Crisis and the Global Financial Crisis. All values are reported in millions of constant 2011 U.S. dollars.

To account for the fact that our sample of countries is heterogenous, we focus the analysis on the median economy. For the regressions we collapse data at the economy-industry-year level and include economy-industry fixed effects.<sup>2</sup> In this way, we make sure that we are not simply capturing the trends in the largest economy (China) or in the most financially developed economies in the sample (Hong Kong SAR, Korea, and Singapore). Instead, our results show average trends across equally-weighted East Asian economies. For robustness, we repeated the whole analysis in the

1 Thomson Reuters' Security Data Corporation is one of the most widely used databases on transaction-level research. Some prominent studies such as Henderson et al. (2006), Kim and Weisbach (2008), and Bruno and Shin (2017) use the same database. An alternative transaction-level database is Dealogic, which yields similar estimates of issuance activity.

2 This level of aggregation creates an unbalanced panel over 1990-2016. Only economy-industry-year observations with reported issuance activity (of any type) are included in the analysis. We divide industries across nine main categories by using the first digit of the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: agriculture, forestry, and finishing; mining; construction; manufacturing; transportation and utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and other services.





paper excluding China, Hong Kong SAR, Korea, and Singapore.<sup>3</sup> The results are qualitatively similar to the ones reported in the paper.

We classify equity and corporate bond issuances as domestic or international using the residence-based approach followed by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS). We compare the location of the issuance with the residence of the issuing firm (Gruić and Wooldridge, 2012). Domestic securities are, thus, those issued by residents in their local markets. International issuances are those issued by residents abroad. Using this methodology, the data set includes 38,386 (71,489) equity (bond) issuances in domestic markets and 4,810 (9,703) equity (bond) issuances in international markets.

Besides the residence-based approach, the literature uses two alternative criteria to classify international and domestic corporate bond issuances: the nationality-based and currency-based approaches (Gruić and Wooldridge, 2012; Shin, 2013; Avdjiev et al., 2014; McCauley et al., 2015). The nationality-based approach considers the nationality of a firm instead of its residence. Therefore, issuances by a subsidiary of a foreign-owned firm in the domestic market are considered international, as the parent company resides outside the domestic market. Under the currency-based approach, debt issuances denominated in foreign currency are considered international, and those in local currency as domestic. Because our paper focuses on the role of domestic markets for firms located in East Asia, we use the classification of issuances by the residence approach as our main results. But for robustness, we also use the nationality-based and currency-based approaches to estimate the growth of domestic vis-à-vis international bond issuances. The results are robust to using these two alternative measures.

Following the literature, we also repeated the analysis for (i) non-financial sector issuers (residence and

currency basis) and (ii) firms whose ultimate parent is a non-financial sector firm (nationality basis). The results for non-financial firms are very similar to the ones reported in the paper. Furthermore, the main results of this paper are robust to excluding firms with some degree of government ownership, which include stated-owned enterprises (SOEs). These firms accounted for 18 percent of the total issuance activity by East Asian firms during the sample period. The results also hold for firms with some degree of government ownership, excluding the rest.

To compare the evolution of capital markets with bank financing, some of the analysis uses syndicated loan data, which also come from SDC. Unlike typical bank loans, transaction-level syndicated loans are available for all economies. Moreover, syndicated loan markets capture a sizable share of bank financing and are the most relevant comparison to capital markets in terms of transaction size (amount raised per issuance) and terms of financing such as debt maturity (Ivashina and Scharfstein, 2010; Cerutti et al., 2015). The syndicated loan data include 9,606 issuing firms and 25,493 issuances. To distinguish between domestic and international (cross-border) syndicated loans, we compare the nationality of the lead bank that arranges the deal with the residence of issuing firms. Domestic loans are those in which only domestic banks lead the syndication, whereas international syndicated loans entail the participation of at least one foreign bank acting as a lead arranger.

## Measure of Firm Size

To study the types of firms issuing in domestic and international markets over time, we focus on size. We follow the literature that typically uses firm size or collateral to measure financial access across firms or over time (Beck and Dermirguc-Kunt, 2006; Beck et al., 2008; Campello and Larrain, 2016; de la Torre et al., 2017). In addition, we are interested in size

3 Data for Korea seem to have poor coverage before 1994 because the reported data on bond issuances increases 57-fold during 1993-94. Therefore, we also repeated the whole analysis of the paper after excluding all issuance activity from Korea during 1990-93. The results are almost identical.

because there is evidence that, due to large fixed costs, only large firms have access to international markets (Pagano et al., 2002; Claessens and Schmukler, 2007).

The literature on firms' issuance activity tends to study the size of issuers through balance sheet data, using for example firm assets.<sup>4</sup> The downside of this approach is that balance sheet data are usually available for firms listed in stock exchanges, but not for unlisted firms that conduct issuances. This issue is not trivial because most corporate debt issuers are unlisted (Table 1).<sup>5</sup> We thus use an alternative measure of size that is comparable across firms and covers the whole universe of issuers. We proxy firm size by the average amount raised per issuance, measured over all issuances per firm during the entire 1990-2016 period.

To make sure that the average amount raised is a good proxy for issuer size, we plot the average amount raised and the average assets (also from SDC) for listed firms. The scatter plot shows a high correlation between the two size variables (Appendix Figure 1, Panel A). Regressions of the log of average assets on the log of the average amount raised per issuance yield a point estimate of 0.99, not statistically different from one but statistically different from zero. To the extent that a similar correlation exists for unlisted firms, the average amount raised should be a good proxy for the analysis of issuer size.

A comparison of the firm size distribution (FSD) of listed and unlisted bond issuers illustrates the importance of using a comprehensive and complete measure of firm size. The FSD of unlisted bond issuers lies to the left of that of listed issuers across the bottom quantiles, indicating that the smallest firms tapping bond markets are unlisted (Appendix Figure 1, Panel B). This confirms that if we were to use assets to measure firm size and only cover listed firms, we would be disregarding the smallest users of bond markets.

To check that our results on firm size are not specific to the proxy we use, we also explored two alternative measures of firm size from Worldscope data for listed firms. In particular, we used total assets and net sales, taking the values reported by firms in their end-of-year balance sheets. Both sets of results with the alternative measures are qualitatively and quantitatively similar to the ones reported in the paper. That is, the size of listed firms issuing in capital markets, in terms of assets and sales, follows the same trend as the size of firms based on issuance volume.

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, Pagano et al. (2002), Kim and Segal (2009), Adrian et al. (2013), Didier et al. (2015), Becker and Ivashina (2014), and Bruno and Shin (2017).

<sup>5</sup> This statement holds when considering as "listed firms" subsidiaries owned by listed parent companies.

## CHAPTER 3

# Capital Market Financing

## The Rise of Equity and Bond Financing

Since the early 1990s, firms in East Asia have significantly increased the amount of funds raised in capital markets. In the median East Asian economy, the average amount of capital raised per year through equity and bonds increased by factors of 2 and 5, respectively, between the periods 1990-98 and 2008-16.

Although East Asian economies grew fast over the sample period, capital market financing increased even faster, especially in bond markets. The amount raised in equity per year increased from 1.3 percent to 1.6 percent of GDP between the periods 1990-98 and 2008-16 (Figure 1, Panel A). The annual amount raised in equity to GDP in East Asia was the highest among advanced and emerging regions for every period in our sample. The amount raised through bond issuances has grown significantly faster. The total amount raised in bonds per year increased from 1.6 percent to 4.5 percent of GDP between 1990-98 and 2008-16. In other words, bond financing was about three times equity financing in 2008-16, whereas in 1990-98 both values were roughly the same. The ratio of the amount raised in bonds to GDP is also significantly larger than in other

emerging economies. However, the value still lags that in advanced economies. The patterns in capital market financing in East Asia contrast with those in syndicated loan financing, where the annual amount raised as a ratio to GDP has fallen over time.<sup>6</sup>

The expansion of capital market activity by East Asian firms is also evident when analyzing the more widely used indicator of market capitalization (Figure 1, Panel B). Stock and corporate bond market capitalization (as a ratio of GDP) have significantly expanded in the region since the 1990s and, as a result, amounts outstanding have become similar to those in advanced economies. In addition, East Asian corporate capital markets have grown relatively faster than corporate bank credit, suggesting a trend toward more diversified financing sources. Note, however, that market capitalization can be driven not only by growth in issuances but also by revaluation of asset prices.

## Domestic vs. International Markets

To formally assess the growth in equity and bond issuance activity in East Asia and examine to what

6 Although there is considerable heterogeneity in the levels of issuance activity across economies in East Asia, the reported trends tend to hold across them (Appendix Figure 2).

extent domestic and international issuances have driven this growth, we estimate panel ordinary least squares (OLS) regressions of the log (1+the annual amount raised) by each industry in each East Asian economy during 1990–2016 on dummy variables for the periods 1999–2007 and 2008–16.<sup>7</sup> We use the period 1990–98 as the base, so we omit the dummy for these years. The regressions include economy-industry fixed effects to control for differences across economies and industries that are constant over time. We cluster standard errors at the economy-industry level, as we do for other regressions in the paper. We estimate separate models for total, domestic, and international issuances.

The estimated coefficients imply that the total amount raised in equity and bonds by East Asian firms at the economy-industry level has increased over time (Table 2, Panel A). In the period 2008–16, the annual amount raised per economy-industry in equity and bonds was about 180 percent and 277 percent higher than in 1990–98, respectively. The expansion of domestic issuance activity has been the main driver of this growth. Between the periods 1990–98 and 2008–16, the annual amount raised domestically per economy-industry increased 187 percent in equity and 381 percent in bonds. International issuances have also grown during the last sample period, which is consistent with the literature, but this growth was much slower than the growth of domestic issuances. The annual amount raised per economy-industry in international equity and bond markets increased 73 percent and 58 percent, respectively, between 1990–98 and 2008–16.

For corporate bonds, we repeat the analysis using the two alternative definitions of international bond issuances described in the data section: by nationality of issuers and by currency denomination (Table 2, Panel B). The estimates are fairly robust. The alternative estimates show that domestic issuances have been the main driver of the growth in corporate bond raising activity. Our results also indicate that

the reliance on domestic currency bond financing by East Asian firms at the economy-industry level has increased significantly over time.

As the amount issued in domestic markets grew faster than the amount issued internationally, the share of capital market financing obtained domestically increased (Figure 2). In particular, the share of equity raised domestically per year by the median East Asian economy increased from 85 percent of the total during 1990–98 to 97 percent during 2008–16. In bond markets, international issuances dominated during the pre-crisis period. However, this trend reversed in the 2000s and bond raising activity by East Asian firms now takes place predominantly in domestic markets. The share of bond financing raised in domestic markets was 36 percent in 1990–98, 65 percent in 1999–07, and 80 percent in 2008–16.<sup>8</sup>

The patterns of equity financing in East Asia are similar to those in other regions, where equity is also predominantly raised in domestic markets and the share of domestic equity financing has increased over time. The evidence also suggests that domestic bond activity has grown relatively faster than the international activity in other emerging economies. However, in contrast to East Asia, other regions still conducted most of their bond issuances in international markets during 2008–16.

To formally show the shift in the composition from international to domestic markets in East Asia at the economy-industry level, we estimate panel OLS regressions of the share of the total amount raised in domestic markets per economy, industry, and year during 1990–2016 on dummy variables for the periods 1999–2007 and 2008–2016 (Table 3, Panel A). We analyze separately equity and bonds, including economy-industry fixed effects. In the period 1990–98, the average share of equity and bonds raised per year in domestic markets across economy-industries was 72 percent and 21 percent, respectively. The estimates for equity issuances imply that this share

7 The dummies take value one for each year in the corresponding period and zero otherwise.

8 The trend of a growing share of equity and bonds raised in domestic markets tends to hold for every East Asian economy (Appendix Figure 3).







experienced no growth in 1999-2007; but it increased to 91 percent in 2008-16. For bond issuances, the share of domestic issuances increased to 49 percent in 1999-2007 and to 69 percent in 2008-16.

We then examine whether the switch toward domestic capital markets not only occurred within industries but also within firms (Table 3, Panel B). Namely, we estimate panel regressions of the share of the total raised in domestic markets per firm and year during 1990-2016 on dummy variables for the periods 1999-2007 and 2008-2016. We estimate separate models for equity and bonds, including firm fixed effects. In this way, we focus on within firm changes over time, disregarding the compositional changes in the set of firms raising new capital, that is, different firms issuing in different markets at different points in time.

A relevant issue when running regressions at the firm level is that the number of issuers varies significantly across economies. For example, China and Korea accounted for 75 percent of the total number of East Asian issuers during 2008-16. Thus, the estimation results could be driven by the trends in those economies with relatively more issuers. We address this issue by estimating weighted least squares (WLS) regressions. In particular, we assign each firm-year observation a weight equal to  $1/N_{it}$ , with  $N_{it}$  being the total number of issuers per economy-industry  $i$  and period  $t$  (1990-98, 1999-2007, and 2008-16). The sum of the weights of all observations per economy, industry, and period equals one, which means that every economy-industry has the same weight in the regressions. Using this method, economies with relatively more issuers do not have relatively more weight and, instead, our results show average trends across equally-weighted East Asian economies.

The regression results imply that part of the overall switch toward domestic markets occurred within firms (Table 3, Panel B). The average share of equity issued domestically (rather than internationally) per firm slightly increased over time, although it

was already high in 1990-98. In that period, this share was 89 percent and increased to 92 percent in 2008-16. In contrast, the average fraction of bonds issued domestically per firm greatly increased over time. This share increased by 28 percentage points, from 39 percent in 1990-98 to 67 percent in 2008-16. For robustness, we also run non-weighted OLS regressions. Although these regressions yield similar results to the ones reported, the coefficient estimates are slightly smaller (Appendix Table 2). This means that the within-firm switch from international to domestic markets was less prominent in relatively larger economies, such as China and Korea.

## CHAPTER 4

## Firms Using Capital Markets

Next, we examine three aspects through which the expansion of domestic capital markets might have impacted firm financing: the extensive margin, issuer size, and financial market diversification.

### Extensive Margin

The growth in the amount raised in East Asian capital markets has been accompanied by an expansion in the extensive margin. In other words, an increasing number of firms have been using capital markets to obtain financing over the years. In the median East Asian economy, the average number of yearly issuers per period has more than tripled from 60 to 185 issuers between 1990-98 and 2008-16 (Figure 3, Panel A). This overall pattern holds for equity and bond markets, and contrasts with that in other emerging and advanced economies, where the level of yearly issuers and its growth over time were significantly lower.

A broader use of domestic rather than international markets seems to be behind the overall increase in the number of issuing firms in East Asia. Whereas the number of international issuers did not increase

much over time, the number of domestic issuers has substantially expanded (Figure 3, Panel B). The number of issuers per year in domestic equity and bond markets increased almost three-fold and six-fold, respectively, between 1990-98 and 2008-16. The number of international issuers per year increased for equity (though the level is still relatively small) and declined for bonds.

Regressions at the economy-industry level provide robust evidence of the reported growth in the extensive margin. We estimate panel OLS regressions of the log (1+the number of issuers) per economy, industry, and year during 1990-2016 on dummy variables for the periods 1999-2007 and 2008-16, in addition to economy-industry fixed effects. The estimates imply that, on average, the number of yearly issuers expanded considerably within industries. In particular, the number of equity and corporate bond issuers per year more than doubled between 1990-98 and 2008-16 (Table 4). For equity, the number of domestic and international issuers increased over time, with the former growing significantly faster. Regarding bonds, only domestic markets show a statistically significant growth in the number of yearly issuers, fully driving the aggregate patterns within this instrument.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Although not reported, the intensive margin (changes in the amount raised within firms) yields a more nuanced picture. For equity, we do not find a change in the amount raised per firm, either domestically or internationally. For bonds, the amount raised per firm increased over time in both domestic and international markets.



## Issuer Size

As the extensive margin expanded over time, smaller firms have accessed capital markets to raise funds (Figure 4). The size of the median issuer in the median East Asian economy has consistently declined over time within equity and corporate bond markets. Specifically, the size of the typical equity and bond issuer declined by 60 percent and 30 percent, respectively, between 1990-98 and 2008-16. This pattern contrasts with other emerging and advanced economies, where the median issuer size has tended to increase over time.

Because domestic markets attract relatively smaller firms than international markets, the fall in the size of issuers could be a consequence of the broader use of domestic markets. In particular, firms issuing domestic equity and bonds are about 30 percent the size of those issuing international securities (Figure 5).<sup>10</sup> Thus, the FSD of domestic issuers is more left skewed than that of international issuers.

To formally assess the changes in issuer size over time, we estimate panel OLS regressions of the size of equity and corporate bond issuers in East Asia during 1990-2016 on dummy variables for the periods 1999-2007 and 2008-16. These regressions also include economy-industry fixed effects. The dependent variable is the log of size of the median issuer per economy, industry, and year. Therefore, we make sure that each economy-industry-year observation has the same weight in the regression and that industries in countries with more issuing firms do not drive the results.

The estimates show that the median size of issuing firms declined in equity and bond markets relative to the 1990-98 period (Table 5). Mirroring the overall statistics presented above, the size of the typical issuer per economy-industry declined by around 59 percent in equity markets and by 33 percent in bond markets between 1990-98 and 2008-16. For bonds, the use

of domestic markets is clearly driving this pattern: the size of domestic issuers has fallen over time whereas the size of international issuers, if anything, has increased. In the case of equity, the issuer size declined for both domestic and international issuers. However, it is important to consider that international equity issuers account for a very small fraction of the total number of equity issuers. In the last period of our sample (2008-16), firms issuing international equity accounted for about 9 percent of the total equity issuers in the median East Asian economy. Thus, changes in the size of domestic issuers are most likely driving the trends in equity markets. For robustness, we run regressions using total assets of listed firms (instead of our proxy based on issuance size), which show an even larger decline in the size of equity and bond issuers between 1990-98 and 2008-16 (Appendix Table 3).

## Financial Market Diversification

So far, the analysis has shown how an increasing number of relatively smaller firms seem to have benefited from the development of domestic capital markets in East Asia. But we are also interested in determining whether the larger corporations already using capital markets have benefited from this development as well. On the one hand, these firms have access to international markets and might not rely much on domestic capital markets. On the other hand, even if these firms use international markets, they might still use domestic capital markets to diversify their sources of financing and mitigate shocks in other markets.

To better understand the role of domestic capital markets in East Asia, we study how these markets are used vis-à-vis other markets across two different dimensions: (i) the cross-sectional size distribution of issuers and (ii) during normal vs. crisis periods. To do this, we compare the funding in capital markets with that in syndicated loans markets. These types

10 We define domestic issuers as firms that issue equity or debt in domestic markets only. International issuers are firms that issue capital in international markets at least once over the sample period.

of loans pool funds from several banks to lend large amounts of credit and are the main alternative to corporate bond financing in terms of issuance size and debt maturity. With syndicated loans included into the sample, we have six different markets that can be simultaneously analyzed: domestic equity, international equity, domestic bonds, international bonds, domestic syndicated loans, and international syndicated loans.

Market access varies significantly across firm size. Whereas the relatively smaller issuers depend almost entirely on domestic equity and bond markets, larger firms tend to use a wider set of instruments, issued in different locations. We classify issuers into ten deciles by firm size and examine the share of firms, per decile, issuing in different markets (Figure 6). In the first decile (the smallest issuers), 97 percent of the firms are domestic equity and/or domestic bond issuers, whereas only 7 percent of those firms issue in other markets. Relatively larger firms also use domestic capital markets, but they seem to raise capital across markets in a more balanced manner. For instance, 46 percent of firms in the tenth decile (the largest firms) use domestic capital markets, 21 percent use domestic syndicated loans, 7 percent use international equity, 17 percent use international bonds, and 34 percent use international syndicated loans. The fact that the sum of different types issuers is close to 100 percent in the first decile means that most of the smallest issuing firms stick to only one (domestic) market.<sup>11</sup> Because smaller firms are typically younger, this pattern of financing across firm size is consistent with a pecking order that suggests that firms use domestic markets first and, then, access international and syndicated loan markets at a later stage, when they are larger.<sup>12</sup>

Access to various markets can be beneficial because, when the supply of funds from specific markets declines, firms can compensate by raising more funds in less affected markets. Adrian et al. (2013) and Becker and Ivashina (2014) provide evidence that firms in the United States switch from syndicated loan

to bond markets to withstand credit supply shocks on the banking sector. Taking a more global perspective, Cortina et al. (2019) show how firms also switch between international and domestic debt markets during periods of financial crises. This behavior is consistent with the view that capital markets can act as a spare tire, providing financing when the banking sector is in crisis (Greenspan, 1999; Levine et al., 2016).

Following this research, we study changes in debt issuance composition across markets for East Asian firms around the 1997-98 Asian Financial Crisis and the 2008-09 Global Financial Crisis. The spare tire function of alternative debt markets was not observed during the Asian Financial Crisis, perhaps because domestic capital markets were not as developed then (Figure 7, Panel A). However, a broader access to domestic markets over time seems to have allowed firms to move across different markets during the Global Financial Crisis. As the crisis hit syndicated loan and international bond markets, East Asian firms turned to domestic bond markets (Figure 7, Panel B). While the number of total syndicated loan and international bond issuances declined by 20 percent and 30 percent, respectively, during 2008-09, domestic corporate bond issuances expanded by 110 percent. Because of this movement toward domestic bond markets, the total number of debt issuances (bonds plus syndicated loans) did not decline. The movement toward domestic bond markets is even larger when focusing only on those firms issuing debt in international markets before the crisis (Figure 7, Panel C).<sup>13</sup> These firms increased their domestic bond issuances by 150 percent, while declining issuances in all the other markets. That is, international debt issuers, which are the relatively larger corporations, shifted toward domestic bond markets during the Global Financial Crisis.

11 The sum of these percentages does not need to be 100 percent because some firms in each decile can issue in more than one market at the same time and thus belong to more than one group of issuers.

12 There is a very high correlation between firm size (in terms of assets) and age. Using the Worldscope data on listed East Asian firms, a 1 percent increase in age is associated with a 0.5 percent increase in size.

13 To compute this panel, we only keep firms that issued international debt at least once before 2008.



## CHAPTER 5

# The Role of Policies

## Capital Market Reforms

The observed expansion of domestic equity and bond markets in East Asia occurred while economies in the region implemented several policies to develop their capital markets in the aftermath of the Asian Financial Crisis. The goal of these policies was to diversify financial markets and reduce their dependence on bank lending, which was an important factor leading to the crisis.<sup>14</sup>

To get a sense of the numerous and different types of capital market reforms implemented in East Asia, we gather information on the policies issued by authorities in Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.<sup>15</sup> Overall, we compile 68 capital market reforms which we classify into three categories based on their goal: (i) expansion of the investors base (e.g., allowing the entry of foreign investors or creating new types of investors, such as pension or mutual funds), (ii) improvement of market infrastructure (e.g., introducing new instruments or launching new exchanges), and (iii) enhancement of investors protection (e.g., enacting new regulations or improving corporate governance practices).

The implementation of these reforms over time does not show a clear pattern. These reforms were not concentrated in a specific period, but instead were implemented throughout the entire period following the Asian Financial Crisis. In addition, the different categories of reforms were not implemented in a sequential manner. In other words, economies did not follow a path in which they put in place reforms of a certain type first and then moved on to other types of reforms.

As a result, credibly estimating the effect of reforms on domestic capital market growth constitutes a challenge. Because policy reforms are dispersed throughout the entire 1997-2016 period, it is not possible to establish pre- and post- reform periods and compare the trends of issuance activity between the two. For the same reason, evaluating the impact of individual policies is difficult, because an increase in issuance activity after a policy was implemented could be explained by other policies implemented around the same years. Reverse causality is another potential problem. We do not know whether issuance activity increased as a result of exogenous policies being implemented, or policy makers reacted by

<sup>14</sup> Kawai (1998), Corsetti et al. (1999), Radelet and Sachs (2000), Geithner (2007), and Park et al. (2017), among others, discuss the role of banks during the Asian Financial Crisis.

<sup>15</sup> Appendix Tables 4 to 8 include the list of reforms in each economy for which we were able to obtain information. To compile these reforms, we received help from the World Bank Office of the Chief Economist for East Asia and Pacific and financial sector experts in the region.

introducing reforms in anticipation to an expansion in issuance activity by firms.

Although we cannot formally identify the causal impact of policy reforms in East Asia due to the nature of the data, there seems to be a link between the implementation period of these reforms and the rise of domestic capital markets. The security market reforms index constructed by Abiad et al. (2010) shows improvements in capital markets after the Asian Financial Crisis, but not before. In general, there is a strong and positive correlation between the implementation of reforms and domestic capital market development (La Porta et al., 2000; Henry and Lorentzen, 2003; Burger and Warnock, 2012). Reforms such as the ones implemented in East Asia are usually needed for capital markets to flourish and for firms to raise funds in those markets. It is likely that they have made capital markets in the region more attractive to firms as well as investors and, as a result, have promoted their use.

## SME Capital Markets

Our analysis so far has covered developments in the traditional capital markets in East Asia, which only large corporates tend to use even though the size of firms has declined over time. Thus, policy makers in the region have complemented the above-mentioned reforms with efforts to expand access by developing alternative capital markets targeted at SMEs. These SME markets try to attract smaller firms by, for example, reducing fees, offering less stringent listing and disclosure requirements, and appointing advisors that help firms navigate the listing process, among other measures.

In most East Asian economies, SME markets were established after the Asian Financial Crisis. For example, China established its first SME market in 2004, Hong Kong SAR in 1999, the Philippines

in 2013, Singapore in 2007, Thailand in 1999, and Vietnam in 2009. Even in those economies where SME markets were already in place before the crisis (Korea, Malaysia, and Taiwan), policy makers introduced new reforms in the post-crisis period. The efforts to promote SME markets were in line with similar initiatives in other regions. For example, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, India, Nigeria, Poland, South Africa, Turkey, and the United Kingdom, among many others, have established SME capital markets since the 1990s. The European Union also established its own SME regional market in 2005 (WFE, 2015).

Capital markets for SMEs in East Asia are relatively large when compared to SME markets in other regions (Figure 8, Panel A). The median SME market in East Asia has a market capitalization equivalent to 4.2 percent of GDP, compared to 1.4 percent in advanced economies and less than 1 percent in other emerging regions. However, there is wide heterogeneity in size across East Asian economies. The size of SME markets as a ratio of GDP ranges from 15.9 percent in Taiwan to only 0.1 percent in the Philippines (Figure 8, Panel B).

To analyze financing patterns in East Asian SME capital markets, we gather data on SME markets in China (SME Board, ChiNext, and NEEQ), Hong Kong SAR (GEM), and Taiwan (TPEx). We focus on these markets because they have become large relative to other SME markets in the region and around the world. Furthermore, because we have data at the firm level, we can examine the characteristics of issuers and compare issuers in traditional and SME markets. The SME Board (established in 2004) and ChiNext (established in 2009) in China function as part of the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, which along with Shanghai is one of the largest exchanges in the economy. The SME Board is targeted at mature SMEs, whereas ChiNext is aimed at emerging start-ups, particularly high-tech firms. Like ChiNext,





NEEQ is oriented toward small, high-tech firms. This exchange, which started as a pilot project in 2006 and became nationwide in 2013, operates as an independent over-the-counter market. GEM was established in 1999 as part of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and is directed toward firms with high growth potential that do not satisfy the profitability or track record requirements to be listed in the main market. In Taiwan, TPEx was created in 1994 as an independent over-the-counter market dedicated to promoting SMEs and microenterprises as well as emerging and high-tech industries.

The final data set contains annual data on the volume of equity issuances and the number of equity issuers over 2004-16. We choose 2004 as the first year in our sample to adequately compare trends in China's SME markets with those in Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan. We omit from the analysis the few bond issuances that occur in SME markets because they take place sparsely and only in specific markets. In addition, we use balance sheet data for 5,914 issuing firms: 810 firms in the SME Board, 570 firms in ChiNext, 3,971 firms in NEEQ, 188 firms in GEM, and 375 firms in TPEx. Data come from Wind Data Feed Service (Wind) and the official website of each exchange.

These data show that few firms are participating in SME markets (Table 6). The number of issuing firms per year in the SME Board, ChiNext, and GEM is around 100, about one-third of the number of issuers in traditional markets. The number of issuers is relatively larger in NEEQ (1,217 issuers) and TPEx (395). However, even for these two markets, the number of issuers is very small when compared to the total universe of SMEs in China (11.7 million in 2013) and Taiwan (1.4 million in 2016).

Whereas in some cases these markets are effectively serving SMEs, in others they are serving rather large corporations (Table 6). The median issuer in GEM, NEEQ, and TPEx has \$13 million, \$25 million, and \$40 million in assets, respectively. Moreover,

the median firm issuing in GEM and NEEQ has around 100 employees, which according to standard definitions, can be classified as an SME.<sup>16</sup> On the other hand, although firms issuing in ChiNext have less assets than those in China's traditional markets, they are still very large corporations. With a median firm size of \$124 million and 673 employees, firms accessing ChiNext are significantly above the usual thresholds to define SMEs. With a median size of \$234 million and 1,502 employees, firms accessing the SME Board tend to be even larger than those accessing traditional markets.

Capital markets for SMEs in China, Hong Kong SAR, and Taiwan are financing different sectors than traditional markets do (Figure 9). In traditional markets, the manufacturing sector and the finance, insurance, and real estate sector dominate. These two sectors combined account for 71 percent, 73 percent, and 89 percent of the amount raised in the traditional markets of China, Hong Kong SAR, and Taiwan, respectively. In SME markets, the manufacturing sector is also relevant, but the finance, insurance, and real estate sector is significantly smaller. In turn, SME markets are characterized by a large presence of issuers dedicated to "other services," which together with manufacturing are the largest sectors in terms of amounts issued. The other services sector accounts for 48 percent of the amount raised in GEM, 33 percent in ChiNext, 32 percent in NEEQ, 16 percent in the SME Board, and 14 percent in TPEx. This sector is mostly composed of information technology (IT) firms, which is probably related to the fact that SME markets are particularly targeted toward high-tech firms. In contrast to SME markets, issuance activity by firms dedicated to other services is relatively low in traditional markets, accounting for 6 percent or less of the total amount raised.

16 For example, the World Bank defines SMEs as firms with fewer than 300 employees. For the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), SMEs are firms with fewer than 250 employees. In general, the threshold for a firm to be defined as an SME ranges between 100 and 500 employees across economies (Ayyagari et al., 2007).

## CHAPTER 6

# Conclusions

Since the 1990s, East Asian firms have increased their issuance activity in capital markets, most notably, in domestic markets during the 2000s. As the amount raised has grown faster domestically than internationally, domestic markets have become the predominant place where equity and bonds are issued and local currencies the predominant denomination of bond contracts. In addition, the number of East Asian firms issuing in domestic markets has significantly increased over time, whereas the number of international issuers has remained stagnant.

These findings bring new insights to the literature on corporate financing in emerging economies. Whereas international capital markets have indeed been an important contributor to the corporate finance boom that started in the 1990s, domestic markets have played an even more important role in the new millennium. Although the evidence used in this paper focuses extensively on East Asia, the region accounts for the bulk of the capital raising activity in emerging economies. Moreover, the data indicate that domestic issuance activity has also grown relatively faster than international activity in other emerging economies. However, the relative importance of domestic

issuances is much lower in emerging economies outside East Asia.

The significant expansion and large size of domestic capital markets in East Asia seem to provide several benefits. We find that domestic capital markets attract more and smaller firms than international markets. Thus, as domestic markets grew, the size of issuing firms declined and the extensive margin expanded. In addition, domestic capital markets diversify the financing sources for larger corporations and can act as a spare tire, helping to mitigate shocks in international markets. Furthermore, because of the high correlation between the currency denomination of bonds and the market of issuance, these findings imply a shift toward domestic currency financing in emerging economies. This shift could mitigate, at least in relative terms, the existing concerns that currency risk in the corporate sector of emerging economies has expanded in recent years (Chui et al., 2014; IMF, 2015). On the other hand, the boom in corporate bond financing over the last decade is driving the increasing level of debt, which is growing faster than GDP. This credit growth is raising concerns related to declines in lending standards and increasing risk taking (IMF, 2018; McKinsey, 2018).



**Our analysis raises some relevant questions about domestic capital markets that could be explored in future research.**

First, an interesting question is why domestic capital markets in East Asia have developed so much. Domestic capital market growth in East Asia occurred while policy makers implemented a series of capital market reforms. But identifying whether specific policy reforms helped to jump start this process is not an easy task. East Asian economies implemented reforms of diverse kinds over an extended period. It might be the case that no single reform was more relevant than others. Instead, the whole reform process might have acted as a signal to the market that policy makers were committed to developing domestic capital markets. This commitment, in turn, could have encouraged more firms and investors to use these markets. A related question is what types of investors are behind this development. It might be the case that as savings increased in the region and domestic institutional investors were established, more domestic funds became available in domestic markets. Another possibility is that, following the reforms aimed at liberalizing markets and lowering the restrictions to foreign investors, the foreign participation in East Asian stock and bond markets increased. In sum, further analysis on the impact of capital market reforms in East Asia is needed.

Second, the evidence presented in this paper shows that, although the expansion of domestic capital markets seems to bring new financing to more firms over time, the direct benefits appear to be directly accrued by relatively few firms. Most SMEs do not use capital market financing even when SME markets are in place. Thus, it would be worth examining the reasons why SME markets seem to fail to attract

many small firms and whether these reasons lie on the supply or the demand side of funds. Answers to these questions might provide insights on how these markets could be improved. Alternative instruments, such as securitization or mini-bonds, might be more effective at promoting capital market financing for SMEs.

Third, even if only relatively few firms use domestic capital markets, their actions can produce positive spillovers for non-issuing firms. For example, as more firms turn to capital markets for funds, the demand for bank financing from these firms might drop, freeing funds that can be channeled toward other (arguably smaller) corporations. Moreover, there is evidence that firms issuing in capital markets can act as financial intermediaries, raising funds at low interest rates in these markets and then on-lending the proceeds at higher rates, perhaps “crowding in” smaller firms (Caballero et al., 2016; Bruno and Shin, 2017). It would be useful to examine to what extent these spillovers to non-issuers and smaller firms are present.

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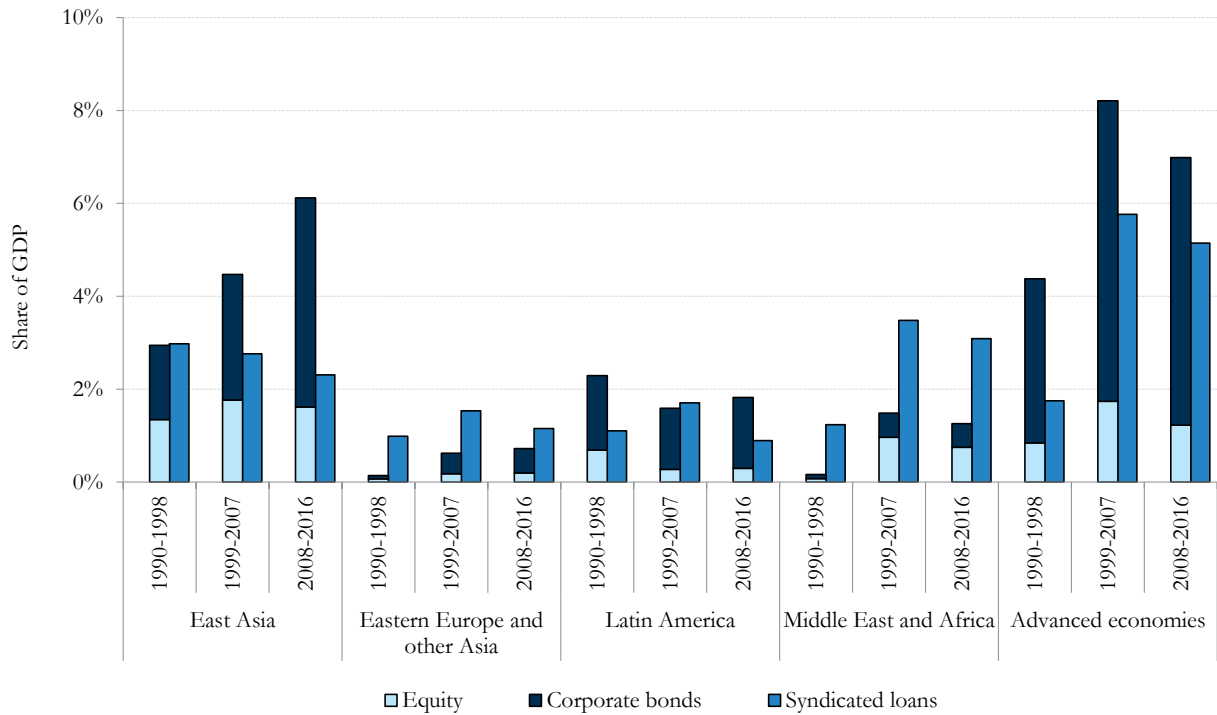
## APPENDIX

# Figures and Tables

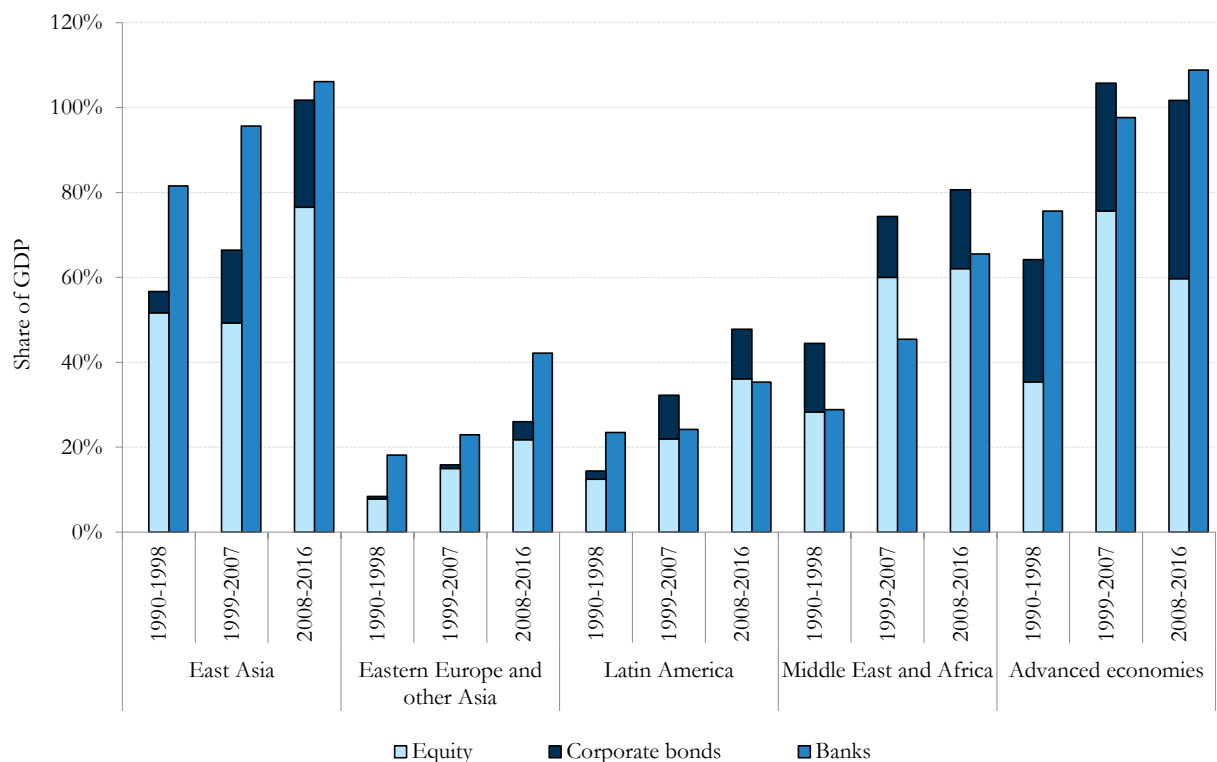
## Figure 1. Growth in Equity and Corporate Bond Financing

This figure shows the evolution of capital markets and banks over 1990-2016. Panel A shows, for the median economy in each region and period, the amount of equity, corporate bonds, and syndicated loans raised per year as a percentage of GDP. Panel B shows, for the median economy in each region and period, the average size of financial markets as a percentage of GDP. In Panel B, “equity” refers to stock market capitalization, “corporate bonds” to the amount outstanding of domestic private bonds, and “banks” to the amount outstanding of private credit granted by domestic banks. The market capitalization data come from the World Bank Financial Development and Structure Dataset (version June 2017).

### A. Total Amount Raised



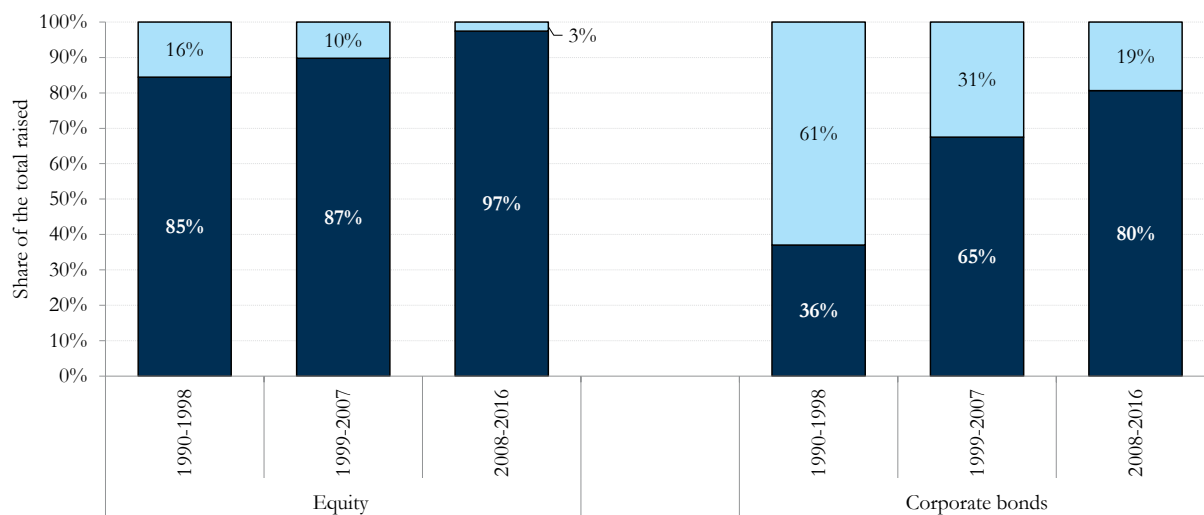
### B. Market Capitalization



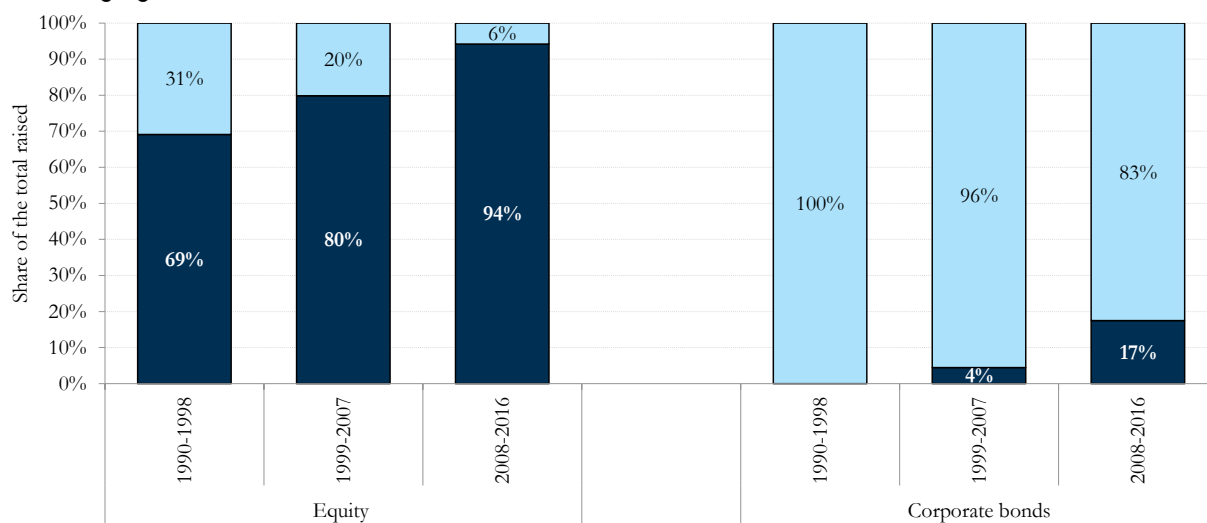
## Figure 2. Share of Domestic and International Issuances

This figure shows, for the median economy in each region and period, the share of the total amount raised per year in domestic and international markets. Domestic issuances are those conducted by firms in their home economy. International issuances are those conducted by firms outside their home economy.

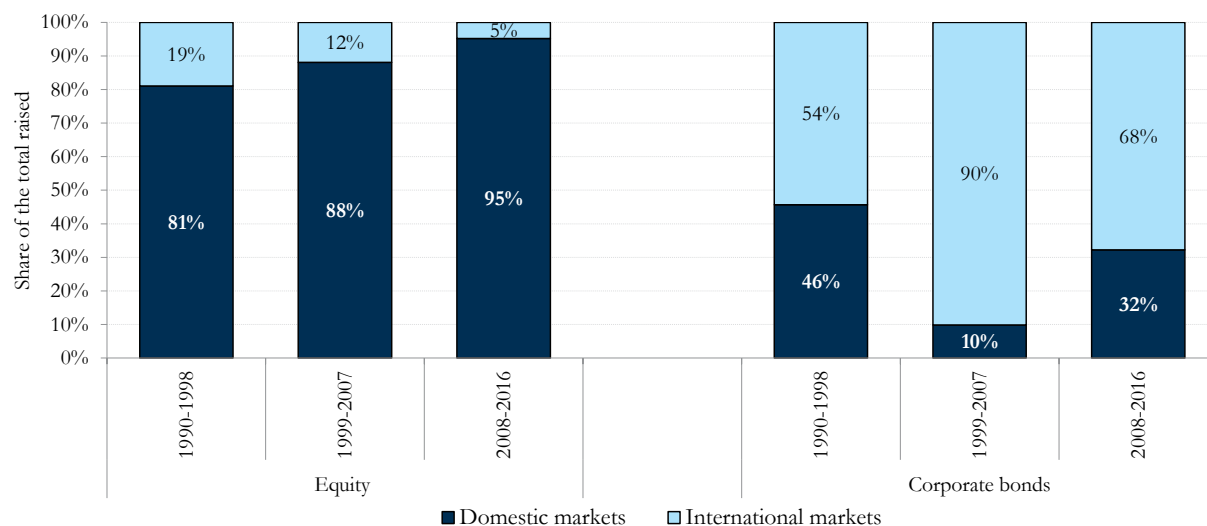
### A. East Asia



### B. Emerging Economies



### C. Advanced Economies

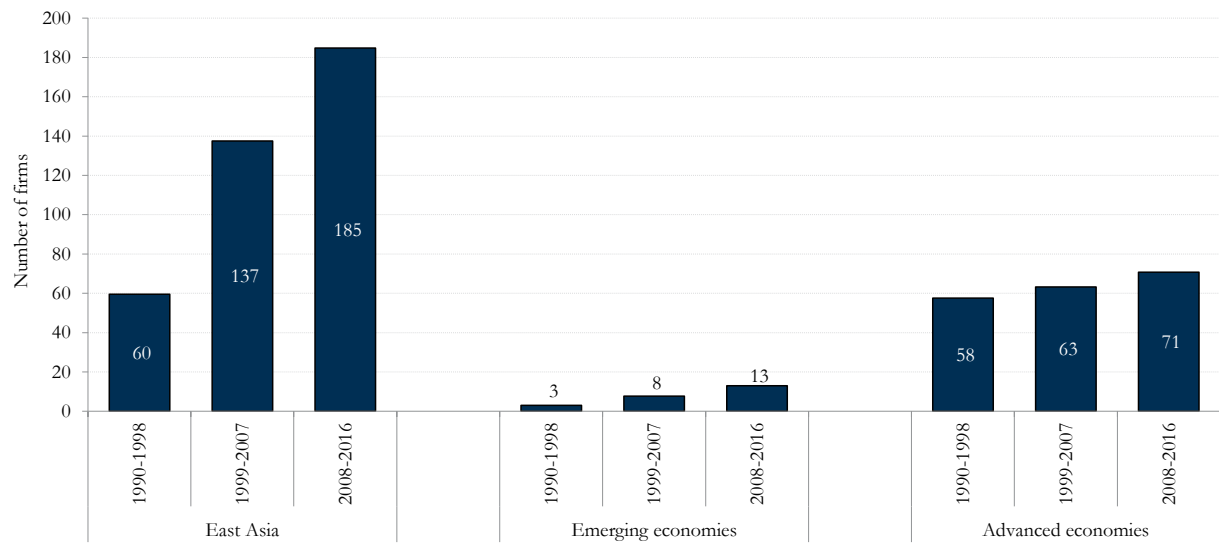


■ Domestic markets    □ International markets

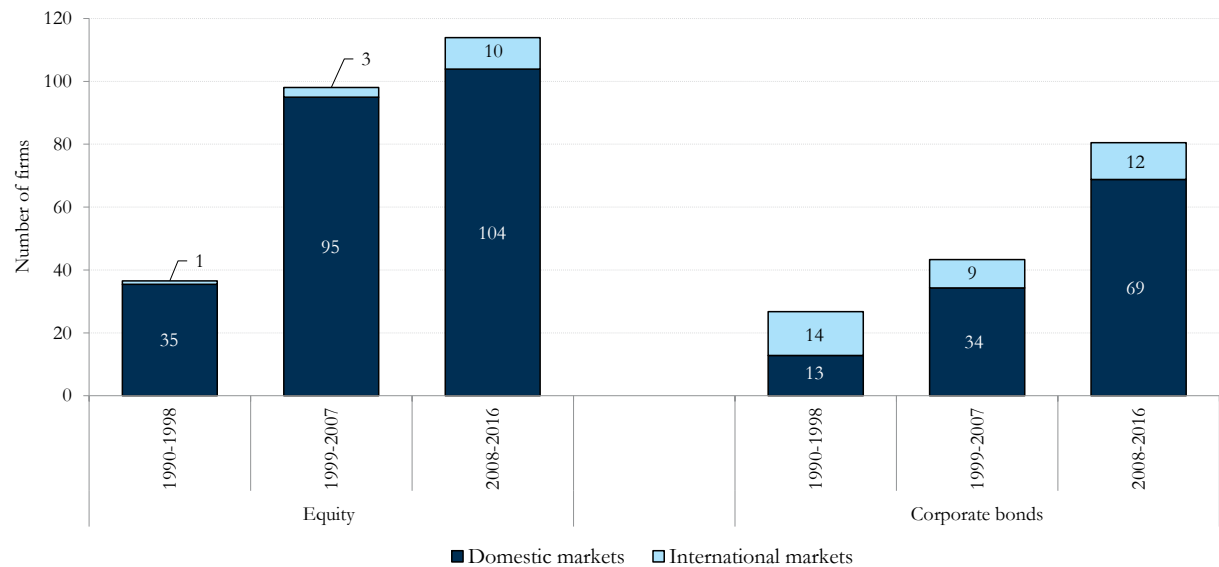
### Figure 3. Number of Issuing Firms

This figure shows the growth in the number of issuing firms over 1990-2016. Panel A shows, for the median economy in each region and period, the average number of firms issuing equity and/or corporate bonds per year. Panel B shows, for the median East Asian economy in each period, the average number of firms issuing equity and corporate bonds per year in domestic and international markets.

#### A. Number of Issuing Firms

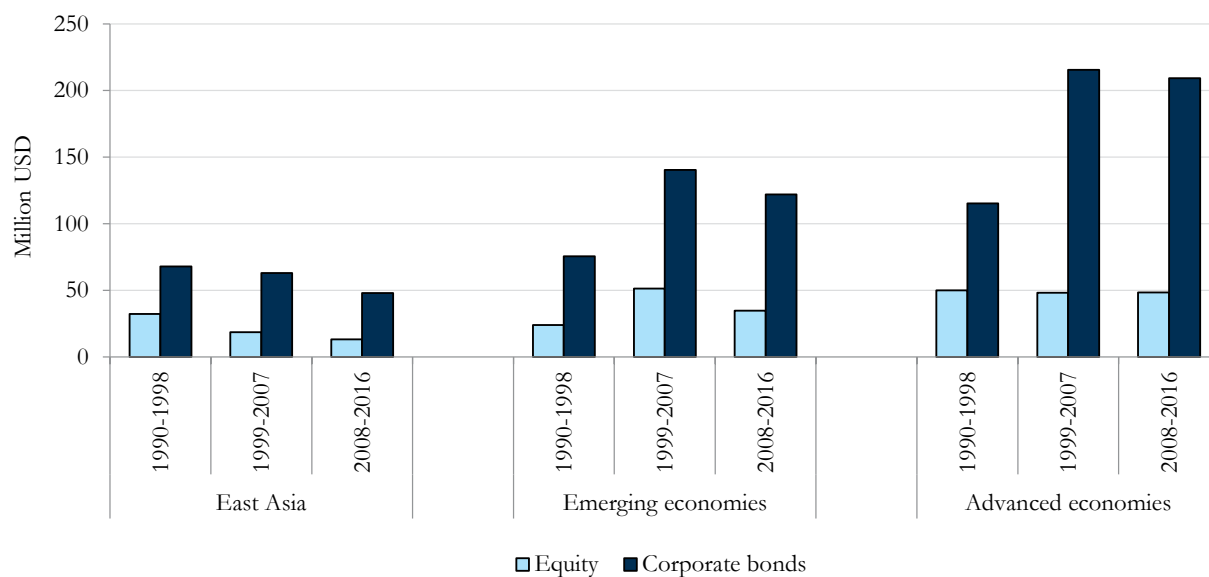


#### B. Number of Issuing Firms in East Asia: Domestic and International Markets



**Figure 4. Size of Issuing Firms**

This figure shows, for the median economy in each region and period, the size of the median firm issuing equity and corporate bonds. Firm size is measured as the average amount raised per issuance over the whole sample period, 1990-2016. Values are reported in millions of constant 2011 U.S. dollars (USD).

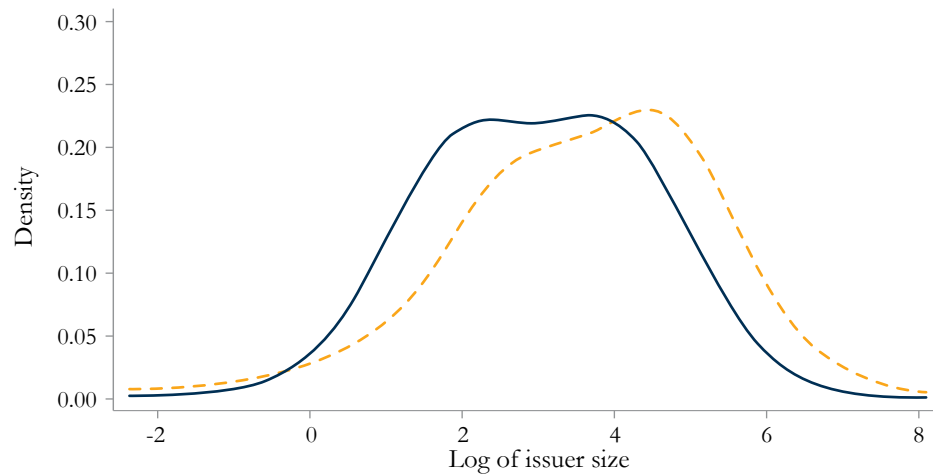




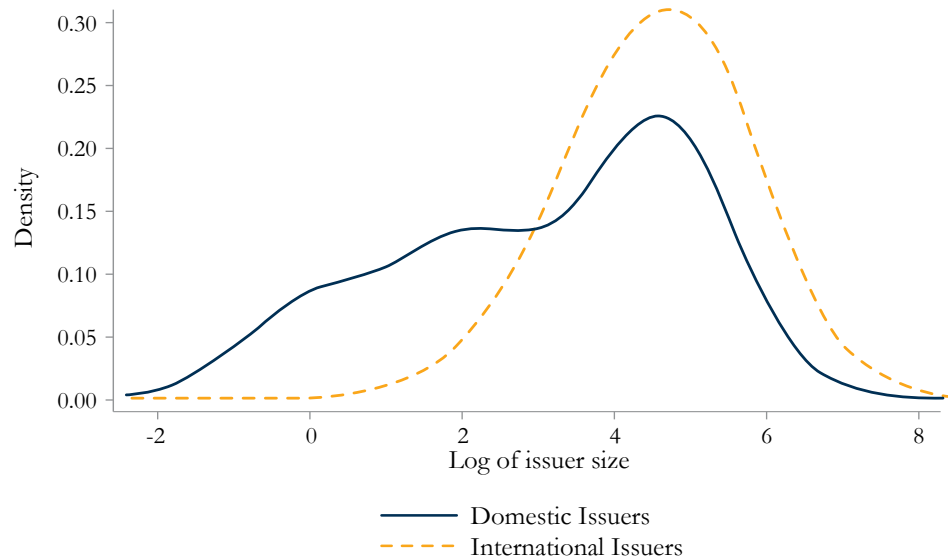
## Figure 5. Firm Size Distribution: Domestic and International Issuers

This figure compares the size of East Asian firms issuing in domestic and international markets. Panels A and B show the firm size distribution of domestic and international equity and corporate bond issuers. Densities are estimated using the Epanechnikov kernel function. Panel C shows, for the median East Asian economy, the size of the median firm issuing in domestic and international markets. Firm size is measured as the average amount raised per issuance over the whole sample period, 1990-2016. Firm size values are reported in millions of constant 2011 U.S. dollars (USD).

### A. Equity Issuers



### B. Corporate Bond Issuers

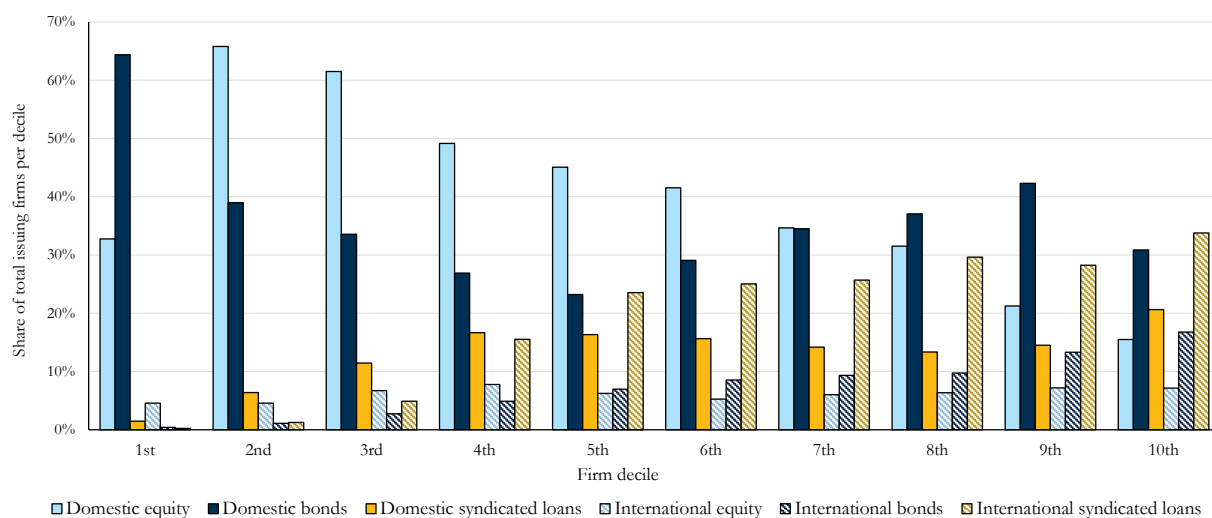


### C. Median Firm Size per Market (Million USD)

Equity market		Corporate bond market	
Domestic	International	Domestic	International
\$16	\$59	\$32	\$95

**Figure 6. Use of Different Markets by Firm Size**

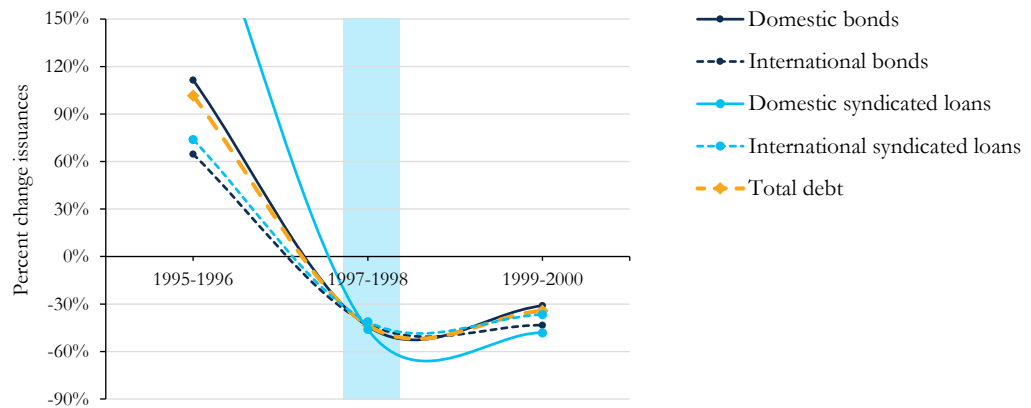
This figure shows the share of East Asian firms issuing in different markets: domestic equity, domestic bonds, domestic syndicated loans, international equity, international bonds, and international syndicated loans. Issuing firms are classified into ten deciles according to their size. The first decile contains the smallest issuers and the tenth decile the largest issuers. Firm size is measured as the average amount raised per issuance over the whole sample period, 1990-2016.



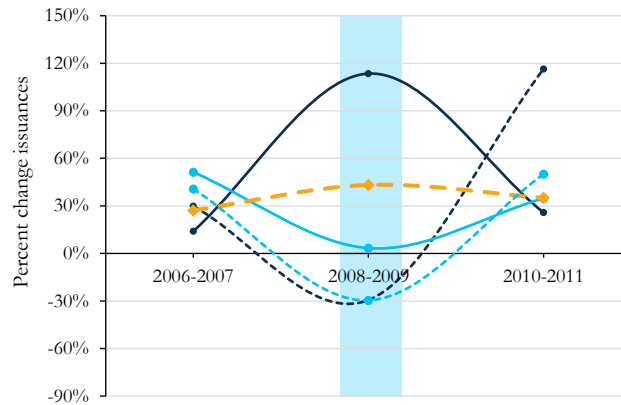
## Figure 7. Issuance Activity during Crises

This figure shows the percent change in the number of corporate bond and syndicated loan issuances by East Asian firms in domestic and international markets around the Asian Financial Crisis (1997-98) and the Global Financial Crisis (2008-09). Issuance data are aggregated in two-year periods around the Asian Financial Crisis (1995-96, 1997-98, 1999-2000) and the Global Financial Crisis (2006-2007, 2008-09, 2010-11). Panel A and Panel B use data on all issuers around crises. Panel C only keeps firms that issued international debt at least once before 2008.

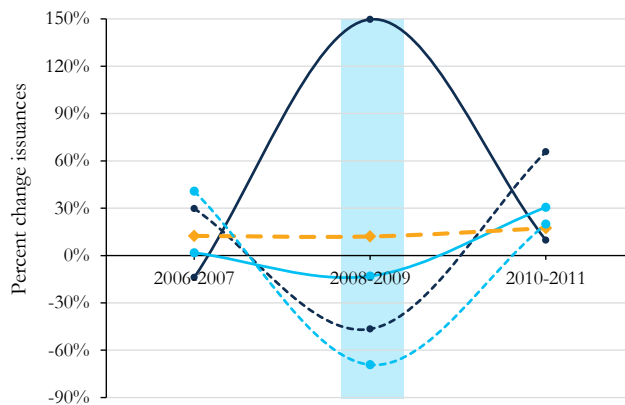
### A. Asian Financial Crisis



### B. Global Financial Crisis



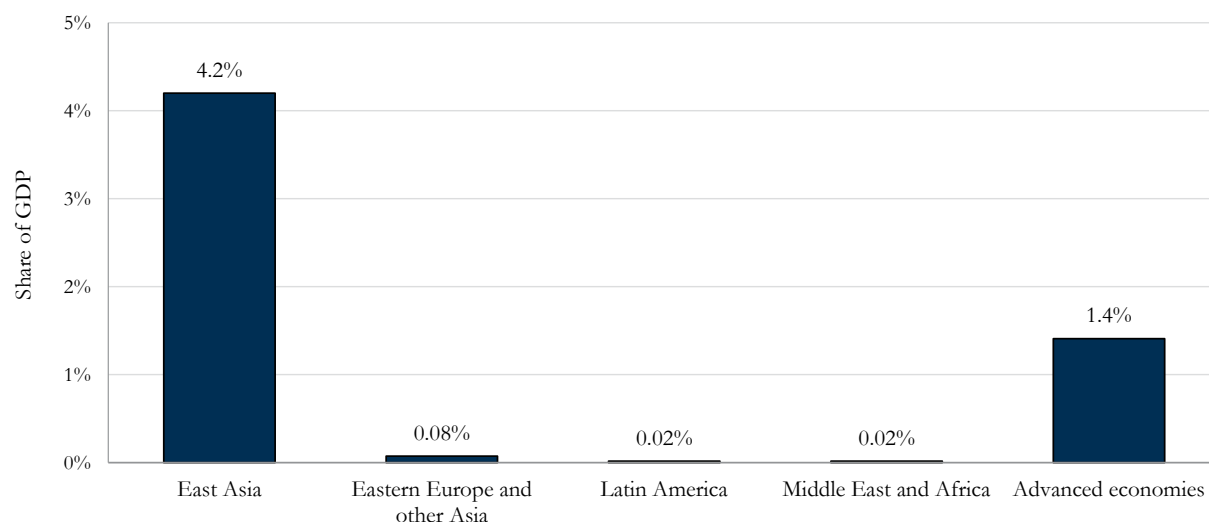
### C. Global Financial Crisis, International Issuers



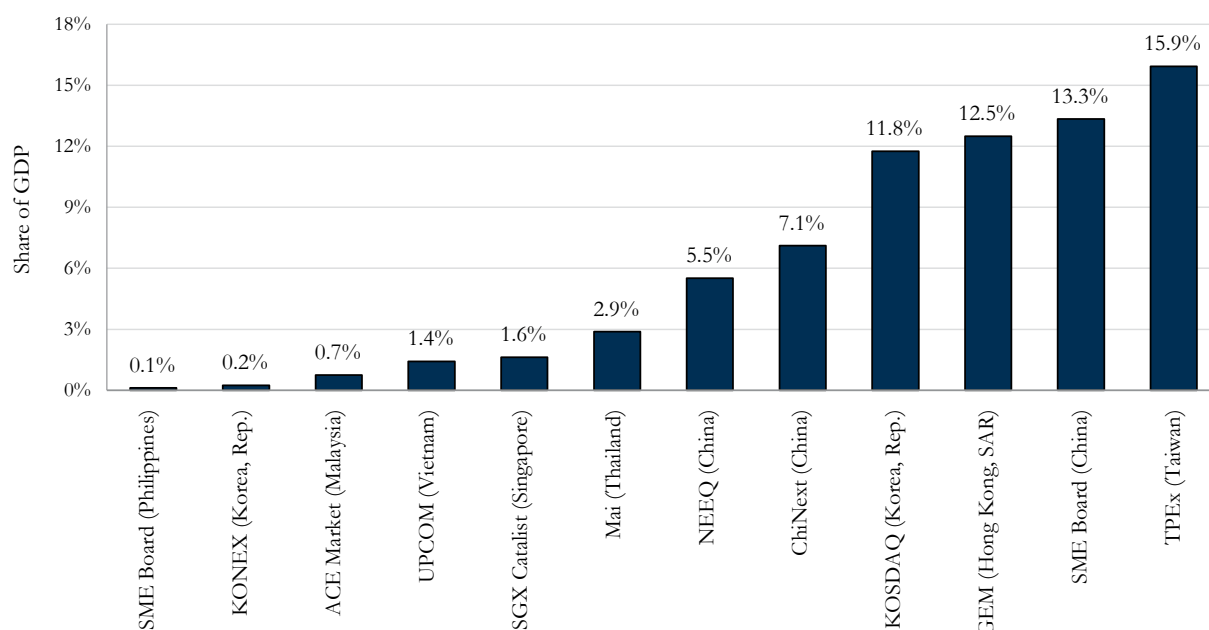
## Figure 8. Size of SME Capital Markets

This figure shows the size of SME markets in different regions. Panel A shows the market capitalization as a ratio of GDP for the median SME market in each region. Eastern Europe and other Asia includes BSE SME (India), SME Emerge (India), Innovations and Investment Market (Russian Fed.), and Second National Market (Turkey). Latin America includes Pyme Board (Argentina) and Bovespa Mais (Brazil). Middle East and Africa includes NILEX (Egypt), Development Market and Growth Market (Morocco), Nigerian Stock Exchange (Nigeria), Alternative Exchange (South Africa), Development Capital Market (South Africa), and Venture Capital Market (South Africa). Advanced economies include TSX Venture (Canada), Emerging Companies Market (Cyprus), Entry Standard (Germany), ATHEX Alternative Market (Greece), Enterprise Securities Market (Ireland), Euro MTF (Luxembourg), JASDAQ (Japan), Mothers (Japan), First North (Norway), Oslo Axess (Norway), MAB Expansion (Spain), AIM (United Kingdom), and NYSE MKT (United States). East Asia includes the SME markets listed in Panel B, which in turn shows each market capitalization as a ratio of GDP. Data are at year-end 2016 or latest available. The market capitalization data come from the own exchanges and the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE).

### A. Market Capitalization in Selected Regions



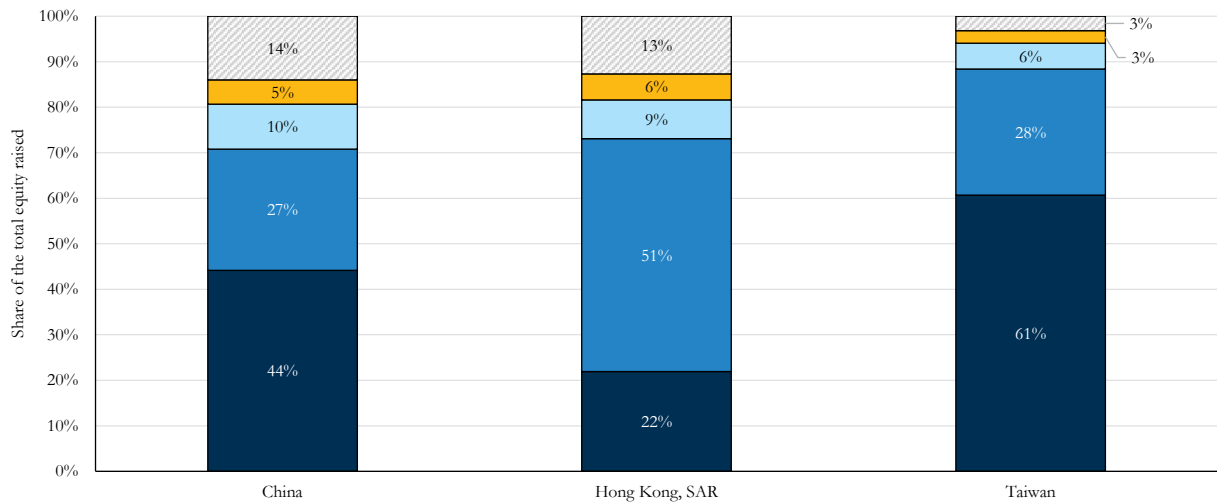
### B. Market Capitalization in East Asian Economies



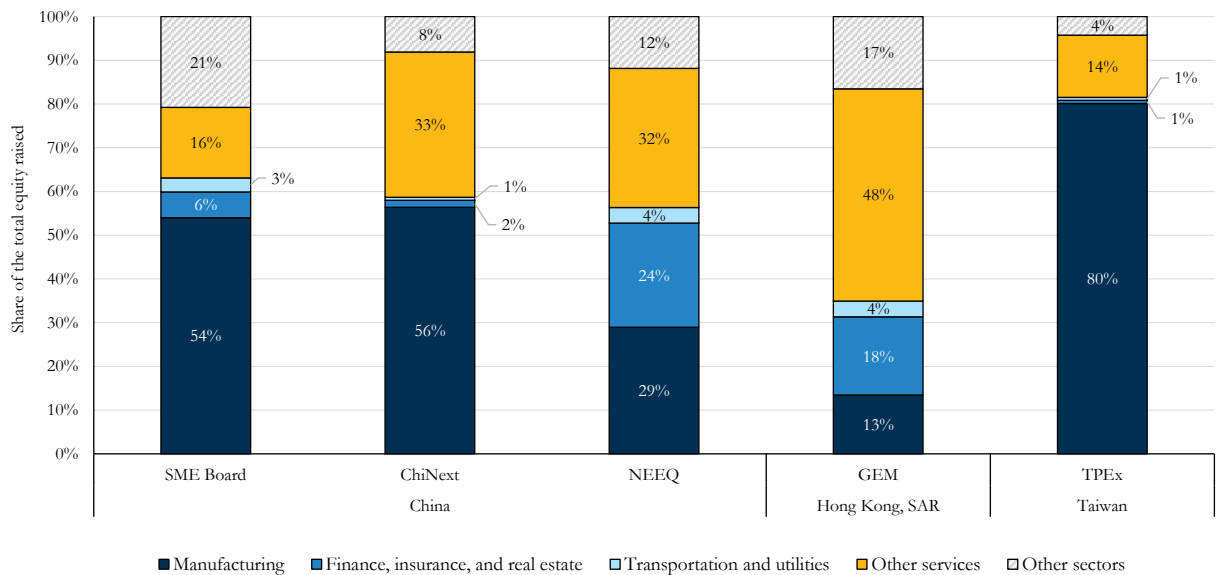
## Figure 9. Amount Raised by Sector: Traditional vs. SME Capital Markets

This figure shows, for each market, the share of the total equity raised by each sector during 2004-16. Only data on IPO issuances are included for TPEX. Other services include: business services, hotels, health services, legal services, and repair services, among other professional services. Other sectors include: agriculture, forestry, and fishing; construction; mining; and wholesale and retail.

### A. Traditional Markets



### B. SME Markets



**Table 1. Summary Statistics**

This table shows the total number of firms, number of issuances, and amount raised per market in East Asia during 1990–2016, as well as the percentages that correspond to listed firms. The latter are those that appear listed in public stock exchanges at least once during the sample period. Unlisted firms are the rest of the firms. Amount raised values are reported in billions of constant 2011 U.S. dollars (USD).

<b>A. Equity</b>						
<b>Type of issuer</b>	<b>Number of firms</b>		<b>Number of issuances</b>		<b>Amount raised (billion USD)</b>	
	Total	% Listed	Total	% Listed	Total	% Listed
Domestic equity	12,000	100%	38,386	100%	\$2,465	100%
International equity	1,860	100%	4,810	100%	\$770	100%
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>13,860</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>43,196</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$3,236</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>B. Corporate Bonds</b>						
<b>Type of issuer</b>	<b>Number of firms</b>		<b>Number of issuances</b>		<b>Amount raised (billion USD)</b>	
	Total	% Listed	Total	% Listed	Total	% Listed
Domestic corporate bonds	10,861	35%	71,489	46%	\$6,595	43%
International corporate bonds	2,223	55%	9,703	42%	\$1,451	49%
<b>Total corporate bonds</b>	<b>13,084</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>81,194</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>\$8,046</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>C. Syndicated Loans</b>						
<b>Type of issuer</b>	<b>Number of firms</b>		<b>Number of issuances</b>		<b>Amount raised (billion USD)</b>	
	Total	% Listed	Total	% Listed	Total	% Listed
Domestic syndicated loans	3,933	14%	10,112	32%	\$1,355	26%
International syndicated loans	5,653	26%	15,316	38%	\$2,705	36%
<b>Total syndicated loans</b>	<b>9,606</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>25,493</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>\$4,075</b>	<b>33%</b>

**Table 2. Issuance Activity**

This table shows OLS (ordinary least squares) regressions of the log of (1+amount raised) through equity and bonds per East Asian economy, industry, and year during 1990-2016 on two period dummies (1998-2007 and 2008-16). The regressions estimate total, domestic, and international issuances separately. Panel A classifies domestic and international equity and bond issuances by the residence of the issuing firm. Panel B classifies domestic and international bond issuances by (i) the nationality of the issuing firm (parent company) and (ii) the currency denomination of the issuance. The regressions include economy-industry fixed effects (FE). Standard errors are reported in brackets and are clustered at the economy-industry level. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* indicate statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

<b>A. Equity and Corporate Bonds</b>									
Dependent variable: log (1+amount raised) per economy, industry, and year									
Type of instrument:	Equity					Corporate bonds			
Base period: 1990-98	Total	Domestic	International			Total	Domestic	International	
Period 1999-07	0.58 *** [0.16]	0.48 *** [0.17]	0.64 *** [0.18]			1.18 *** [0.19]	2.03 *** [0.22]	-0.08 [0.18]	
Period 2008-16	1.80 *** [0.16]	1.87 *** [0.15]	0.73 *** [0.25]			2.77 *** [0.28]	3.81 *** [0.31]	0.58 ** [0.25]	
Economy-industry FE	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	
No. of observations	2,079	2,079	2,079			2,079	2,079	2,079	
No. of clusters	90	90	90			90	90	90	
R-squared	0.58	0.55	0.50			0.60	0.61	0.54	
<b>B. Corporate Bonds: Alternative Definitions of International Issuances</b>									
Dependent variable: log (1+amount raised) per economy, industry, and year									
Alternative definition:	Nationality of issuer					Currency denomination			
Base period: 1990-98	Total	Domestic	International			Total	Domestic	International	
Period 1999-07	0.23 [0.14]	1.68 *** [0.24]	-0.79 *** [0.26]			1.18 *** [0.19]	2.05 *** [0.21]	-0.10 [0.19]	
Period 2008-16	1.25 *** [0.18]	3.13 *** [0.29]	-0.24 [0.29]			2.77 *** [0.28]	3.73 *** [0.30]	0.78 *** [0.25]	
Economy-industry FE	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	
No. of observations	1,429	1,429	1,429			2,079	2,079	2,079	
No. of clusters	85	85	85			90	90	90	
R-squared	0.69	0.59	0.52			0.60	0.60	0.54	

**Table 3. Share Raised in Domestic Markets**

This table shows regressions estimating changes in the share of the total amount raised in domestic equity and corporate bond markets in East Asia over time. Column A reports OLS regressions of the share of the total amount raised in domestic markets per economy, industry, and year during 1990–2016 on two period dummies (1998–2007 and 2008–16). The “mean, 1990–98” estimates correspond to the average of the annual share of equity/bonds raised domestically across economy-industry observations during 1990–98. Column B reports WLS (weighted least squares) regressions of the share of the total amount raised in domestic markets per firm and year during 1990–2016 on two period dummies (1998–2007 and 2008–16). The “mean, 1990–98” estimates correspond to the weighted average of the annual share of equity/bonds raised domestically across firms during 1990–98. Each observation is weighted by one over the total number of equity/bond issuers per economy, industry, and period. The sum of the weights of all observations per economy, industry, and period equals one. The regressions include, alternatively, economy-industry fixed effects (FE) and firm fixed effects (FE). Standard errors are reported in brackets and are clustered at the economy-industry level. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denote statistical significance at 10%, 5%, and 1%, respectively.

Level of aggregation:	A. Economy-Industry		B. Firm	
Dependent variable:	Share of the total raised in domestic markets per economy, industry, and year		Share of the total raised in domestic markets per firm and year	
Type of instrument:	Equity	Corporate bonds	Equity	Corporate bonds
Mean, 1990-98:	0.72	0.21	0.89	0.39
Period 1999-07	0.04 [0.03]	0.28 *** [0.03]	0.02 [0.01]	0.22 *** [0.04]
Period 2008-16	0.19 *** [0.03]	0.48 *** [0.03]	0.03 ** [0.01]	0.28 *** [0.05]
Economy-industry FE	Yes	Yes	No	No
Firm FE	No	No	Yes	Yes
No. of observations	2,079	2,079	22,594	21,827
No. of clusters	90	90	87	80
R-squared	0.23	0.41	0.86	0.73



**Table 4. Extensive Margin: Number of Firms Issuing**

This table shows OLS regressions of the log of (1+the number of issuers) in equity and corporate bond markets per East Asian economy, industry, and year during 1990–2016 on two period dummies (1998–2007 and 2008–16). The regressions estimate total, domestic, and international issuers separately. The regressions include economy–industry fixed effects (FE). Standard errors are reported in brackets and are clustered at the economy–industry level. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* indicate statistical significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% levels, respectively.

Dependent variable: log (1+number of issuers) per economy, industry, and year									
Type of instrument:	Equity						Corporate bonds		
Base period: 1990–98	Total		Domestic		International		Total	Domestic	International
Period 1999–07	0.51 ***		0.47 ***		0.19 ***		0.34 ***	0.53 ***	–0.06
	[0.08]		[0.09]		[0.05]		[0.06]	[0.07]	[0.05]
Period 2008–16	1.06 ***		1.02 ***		0.35 ***		1.03 ***	1.25 ***	0.11 *
	[0.09]		[0.09]		[0.09]		[0.11]	[0.13]	[0.06]
Economy–industry FE	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
No. of observations	2,079		2,079		2,079		2,079	2,079	2,079
No. of clusters	90		90		90		90	90	90
R-squared	0.71		0.69		0.59		0.68	0.64	0.65

**Table 5. Size of Equity and Corporate Bond Issuers**

This table shows OLS regressions of the size of East Asian equity and corporate bond issuers during 1990-2016 on two period dummies (1999-07 and 2008-16). The dependent variable is the median issuer size (in logs) per economy, industry, and period. Firm size is measured as the average amount raised per issuance over the whole sample period, 1990-2016. The regressions include economy-industry fixed effects (FE). Standard errors are reported in brackets and are clustered at the economy-industry level. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denote statistical significance at 10%, 5%, and 1%, respectively.

Dependent variable: size (in logs) of the median issuing firm per economy, industry, and period						
Type of instrument:	Equity			Corporate bonds		
Base period: 1990-98	Total	Domestic	International	Total	Domestic	International
Period 1999-07	-0.43 *** [0.09]	-0.44 *** [0.09]	-0.18 [0.23]	0.06 [0.10]	0.03 [0.11]	0.23 * [0.12]
Period 2008-16	-0.59 *** [0.11]	-0.56 *** [0.11]	-0.70 *** [0.25]	-0.33 *** [0.12]	-0.30 *** [0.11]	0.14 [0.15]
Economy-industry FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No. of observations	253	252	175	246	234	217
No. of clusters	88	88	70	88	87	80
R-squared	0.86	0.84	0.71	0.80	0.79	0.69

**Table 6. Traditional vs. SME Capital Markets**

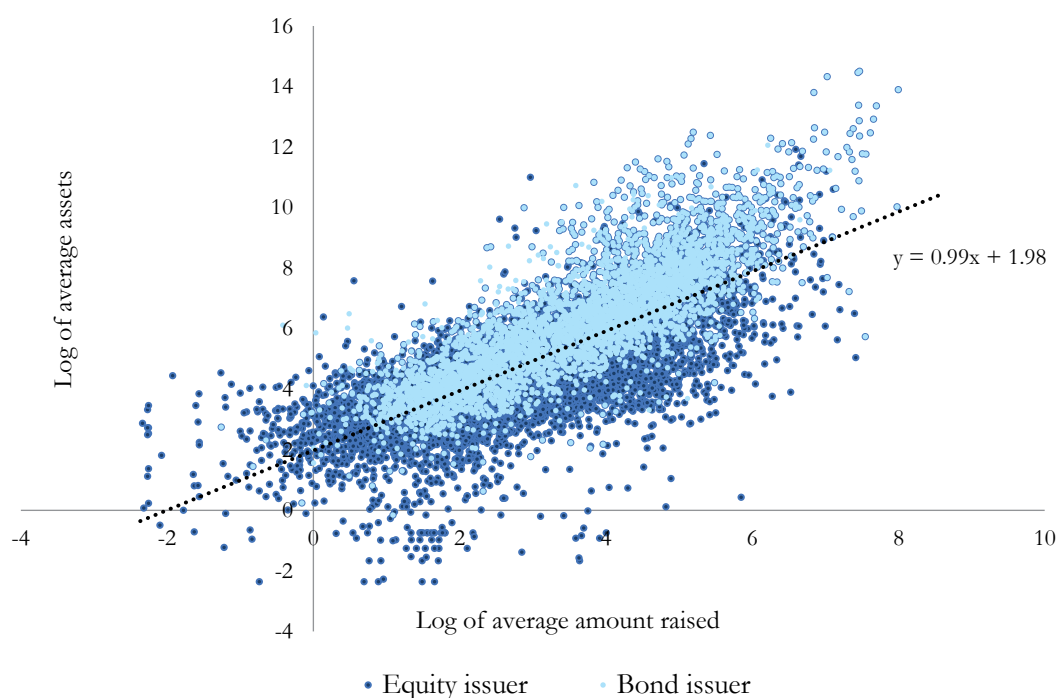
This table shows indicators on equity issuers in traditional and SME capital markets in China, Hong Kong SAR, and Taiwan. Assets and the number of employees of issuing firms correspond to the median equity issuer. Firm-level data are averages across all years per firm. Values for the traditional markets, SME Board, GEM, and TPEX are for the period 2004-16. Values for ChiNext are for the period 2009-16 and values for NEEQ are for the period 2013-16. Only data on IPO issuances are included for TPEX. Amount raised and asset values are reported in millions of constant 2011 U.S. dollars (USD).

Market	Number of firms issuing per year	Amount raised per year (million USD)	Assets of issuing firms (million USD)	Number of employees of issuing firms
<b>Traditional markets</b>				
China	317	72,095	214	1,359
Hong Kong SAR	362	61,763	116	643
Taiwan	158	5,945	68	448
<b>SME markets</b>				
SME Board (China)	124	18,355	238	1,502
ChiNext (China)	116	12,070	124	673
NEEQ (China)	1,217	10,169	13	135
GEM (Hong Kong SAR)	101	1,094	25	104
TPEX (Taiwan)	395	655	40	n/a

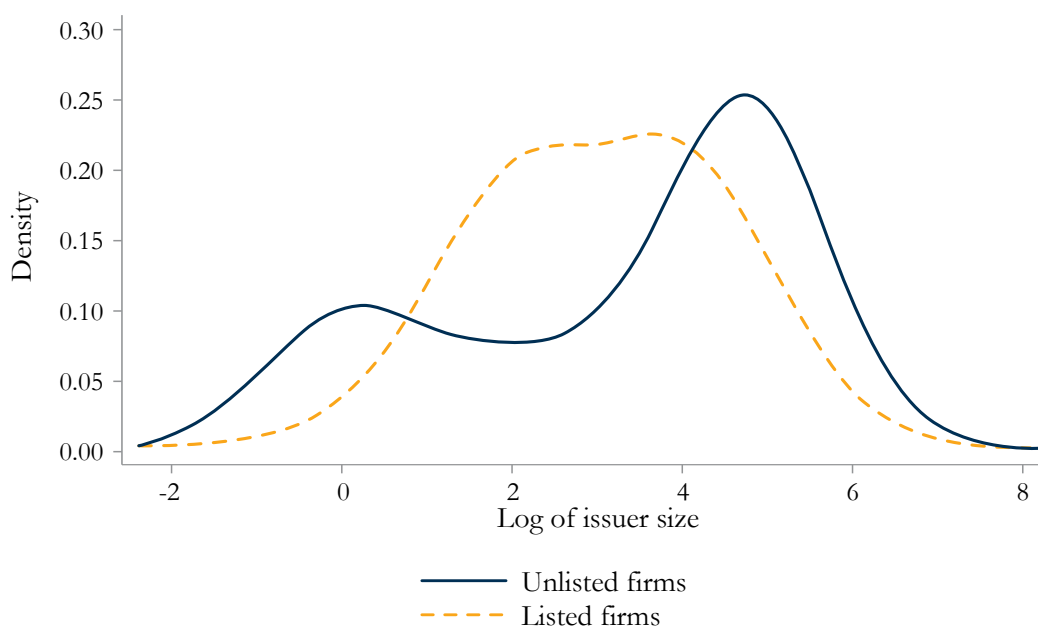
## Appendix Figure 1. Firm Size Proxy

Panel A shows, for publicly listed East Asian firms, the correlation between asset size and issuance size. Assets (in logs) and amount raised (in logs) are the average within firms over the whole sample period, 1990-2016. Panel B shows the firm size distribution of listed and unlisted corporate bond issuers in East Asia. Firm size (in logs) is the average amount raised per issuance over the whole sample period, 1990-2016. Densities are estimated using the Epanechnikov kernel function. Listed firms are those that appear as listed in public stock exchanges at least once during the sample period. Unlisted firms are the rest of the firms.

### A. Average Assets vs. Average Amount Raised



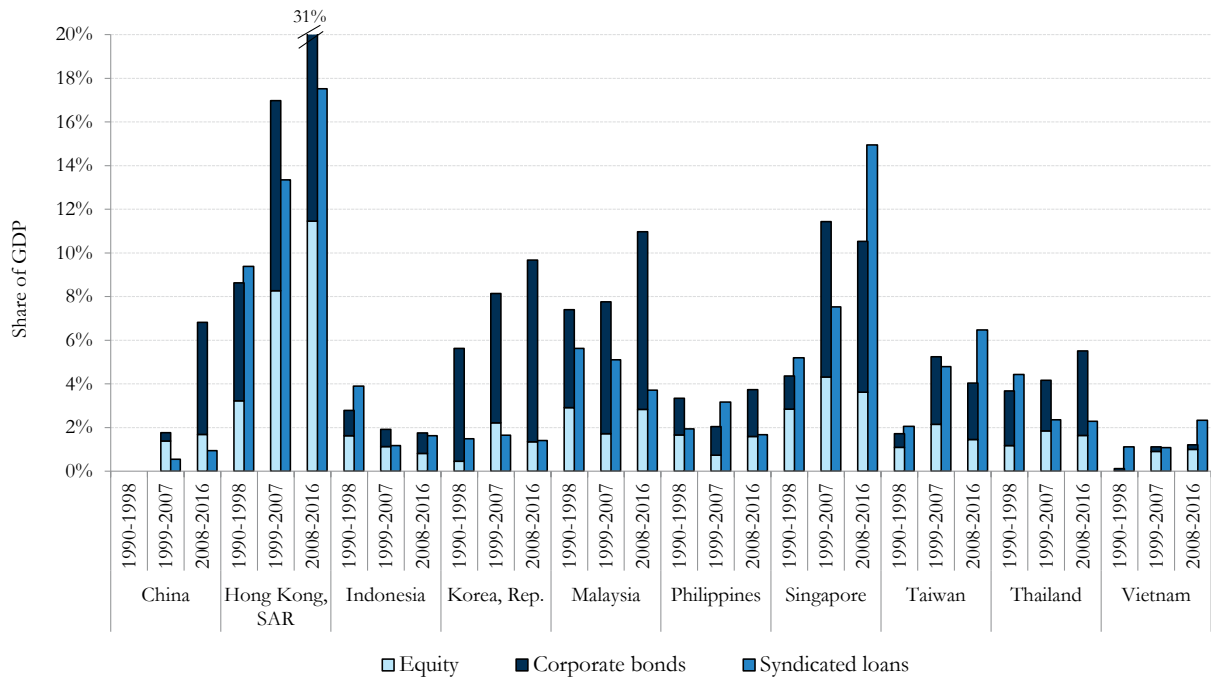
### B. Firm Size Distribution of Listed and Unlisted Bond Issuers



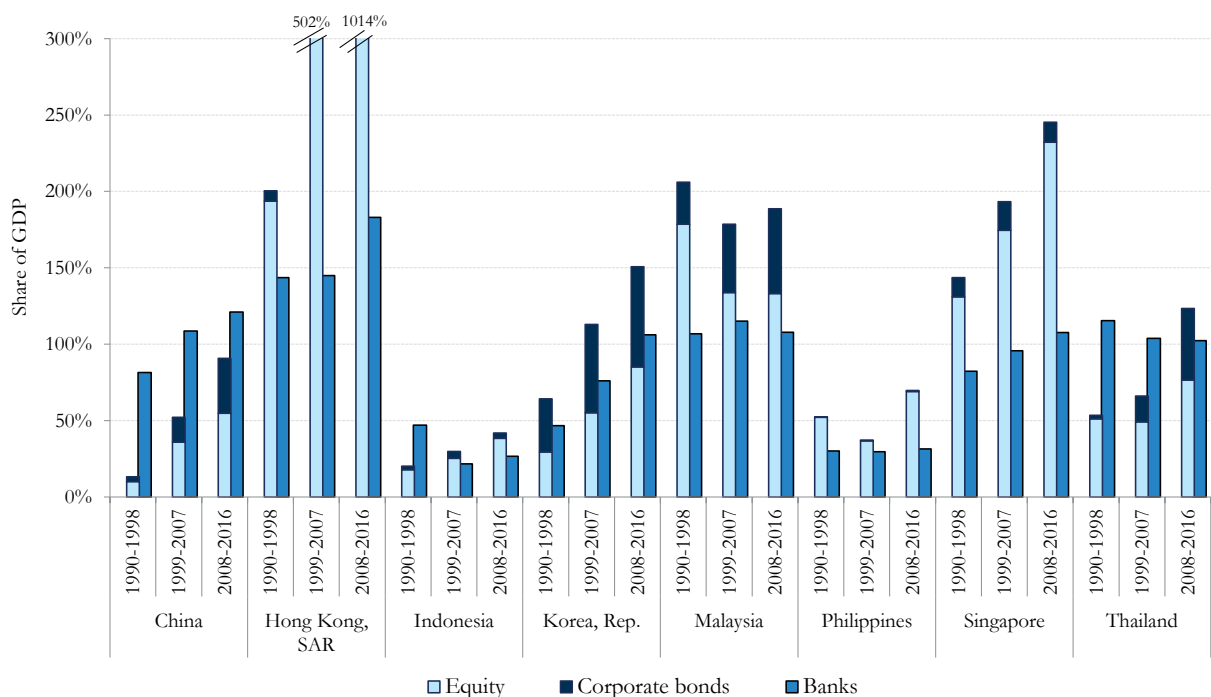
## Appendix Figure 2. Growth in Equity and Bond Financing: East Asian Economies

This figure shows the evolution of capital markets and banks over 1990-2016. Panel A shows, for each East Asian economy and period, the amount of equity, corporate bonds, and syndicated loans raised per year as a percentage of GDP. Panel B shows, for each East Asian economy and period, the average size of financial markets as a percentage of GDP. In Panel B, “equity” refers to stock market capitalization, “corporate bonds” to the amount outstanding of domestic private bonds, and “banks” to the outstanding amount of private credit granted by domestic banks. The market capitalization data come from the World Bank Financial Development and Structure Dataset (version June 2017).

### A. Total Amount Raised



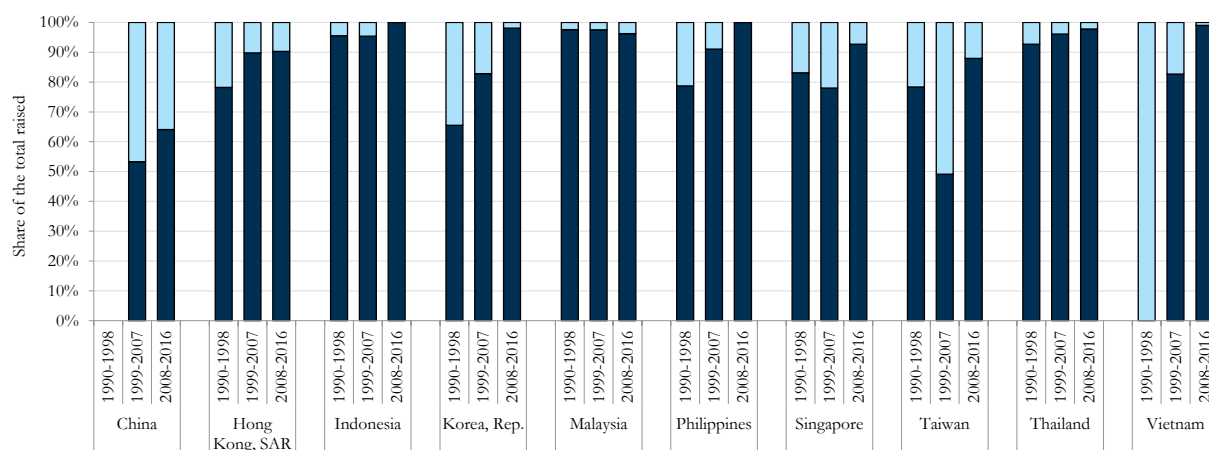
### B. Market Capitalization



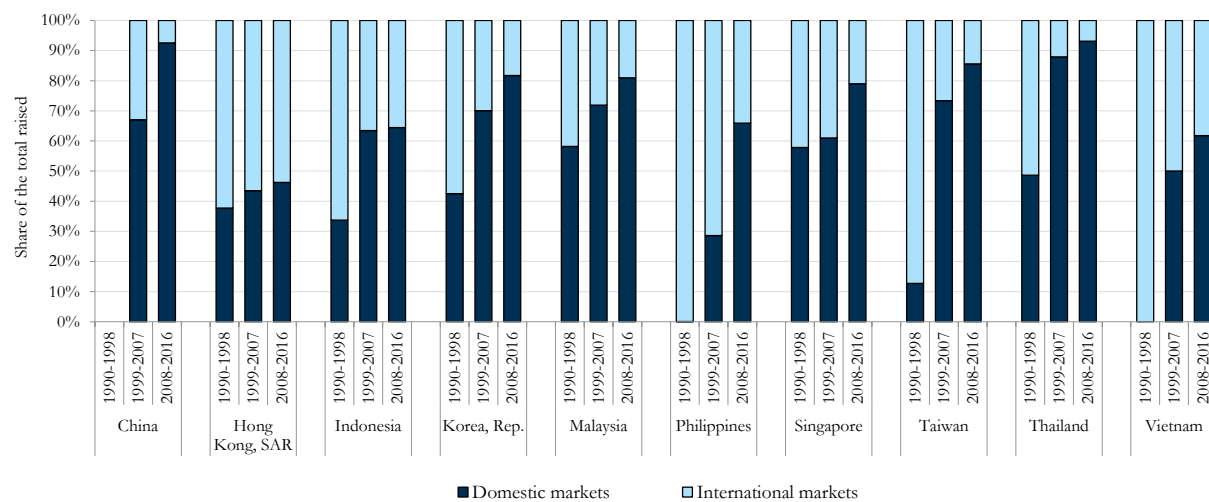
## Appendix Figure 3. Share of Domestic and International Issuances: East Asian Economies

This figure shows, for each East Asian economy and period, the share of the total amount raised per year in domestic and international markets. Domestic issuances are those conducted by firms in their home economy. International issuances are those conducted by firms outside their home economy.

### A. Equity



### B. Corporate Bonds



■ Domestic markets    □ International markets



## Appendix Table 1. Economy Classification

This table shows the list of economies that are included in the different regions.

East Asia	Emerging economies			Advanced economies
	Eastern Europe and other Asia	Latin America	Middle East and Africa	
China	Bangladesh	Argentina	Bahrain	Austria
Hong Kong SAR	Bulgaria	Brazil	Egypt, Arab Rep.	Belgium
Indonesia	India	Chile	Jordan	Canada
Korea, Rep.	Kazakhstan	Colombia	Kuwait	Cyprus
Malaysia	Pakistan	Costa Rica	Morocco	Denmark
Philippines	Romania	Mexico	Nigeria	Finland
Singapore	Russian Federation	Panama	Oman	France
Taiwan	Sri Lanka	Peru	Qatar	Germany
Thailand	Turkey	Venezuela, RB	Saudi Arabia	Greece
Vietnam	Ukraine		South Africa	Ireland, Rep.
			Tunisia	Italy
			United Arab Emirates	Japan
				Luxembourg
				Netherlands
				Norway
				Portugal
				Spain
				Sweden
				Switzerland
				United Kingdom
				United States

## Appendix Table 2. Share Raised in Domestic Markets

This table shows OLS regressions of the share of the total amount raised in domestic markets per East Asian firm and year during 1990-2016 on two period dummies (1998-2007 and 2008-16). The regressions include firm fixed effects (FE). Standard errors are reported in brackets and are clustered at the economy-industry level. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denote statistical significance at 10%, 5%, and 1%, respectively.

Dependent variable:		Share of the total raised in domestic markets per firm and year	
Type of instrument:		Equity	Corporate bonds
Period 1999-07		0.02 ** [0.01]	0.11 ** [0.05]
Period 2008-16		0.02 ** [0.01]	0.17 *** [0.06]
Firm FE		Yes	Yes
No. of observations		22,594	21,827
No. of clusters		87	80
R-squared		0.87	0.69

### Appendix Table 3. Size (Assets) of Equity and Corporate Bond Issuers

This table shows OLS regressions of the size of East Asian equity and corporate bond issuers during 1990-2016 on two period dummies (1999-07 and 2008-16). The dependent variable is the median issuer size (in logs) per economy, industry, and period. Firm size is measured as the average assets size of firms at issuance over the whole sample period, 1990-2016. The firm size variable is winsorized at the 5% level to remove outliers, as the difference in size across firms in terms of assets is very large. The regressions include economy-industry fixed effects (FE). Standard errors are reported in brackets and are clustered at the economy-industry level. \*, \*\*, and \*\*\* denote statistical significance at 10%, 5%, and 1%, respectively.

Dependent variable: size (in logs) of the median issuing firm per economy, industry, and period						
Type of instrument:	Equity			Corporate bonds		
Base period: 1990-98	Total	Domestic	International	Total	Domestic	International
Period 1999-07	-0.64*** [0.12]	-0.51*** [0.11]	-0.71*** [0.24]	-0.27** [0.11]	-0.24* [0.13]	0.01 [0.13]
Period 2008-16	-0.93*** [0.13]	-0.80*** [0.13]	-0.87*** [0.28]	-0.50*** [0.14]	-0.33** [0.14]	0.04 [0.14]
Economy-industry FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No. of observations	250	249	161	233	219	192
No. of clusters	87	87	64	82	80	72
R-squared	0.79	0.76	0.82	0.81	0.79	0.86

## Appendix Table 4. Capital Market Reforms – Indonesia

This table shows the capital market reforms in Indonesia since the 1997-98 Asian Financial Crisis. To compile these reforms we received help from the World Bank Office of the Chief Economist for East Asia and Pacific and financial sector experts in the region.

Year	Type of policy			Policy description
	Expansion of investor base	Improvement of market infrastructure	Enhancement of investor protection	
1997	✓			Revocation of stock purchase limit by foreign investors
1997		✓		Regulation of assets-backed securities
2006			✓	Regulation of existing sharia capital market
2007		✓		Merge of Jakarta Stock Exchange and Surabaya Stock Exchange
2008			✓	Establishment of Indonesia Bond Pricing Agency
2011			✓	Enactment of law on Financial Services Authority (OJK)
2012			✓	Establishment of OJK
2013		✓		Development of capital market data warehouse system
2013		✓		Enactment of regulation to facilitate share buybacks under fluctuating market conditions
2013		✓		Facilitation of settlement of transactions using custodian banks
2013			✓	Launch of investor protection fund
2013			✓	Establishment of single investor identity
2014		✓		Implementation of new lot sizes and price fractions
2014			✓	Enactment of OJK regulation on sustainable public offering
2014			✓	Launch of roadmap to good corporate governance for issuers and public companies
2015	✓			Regulation of exchange-traded funds
2015			✓	New regulation of the sharia capital market
2015			✓	Launch of issuers reporting system through extensible business reporting language
2016		✓		Launch of electronic licensing and registration system
2016		✓		Launch of integrated investment management system
2016		✓		Establishment of Indonesia securities financing
2016			✓	Launch of investor alert portal

## Appendix Table 5. Capital Market Reforms – Korea, Rep.

This table shows the capital market reforms in Korea, Rep. since the 1997-98 Asian Financial Crisis. To compile these reforms we received help from the World Bank Office of the Chief Economist for East Asia and Pacific and financial sector experts in the region.

Year	Type of policy			Policy description
	Expansion of investor base	Improvement of market infrastructure	Enhancement of investor protection	
1998	✓			Elimination of restrictions on investments by foreign investors
1998	✓			Introduction of mutual funds
1998		✓		Introduction of asset-backed securities
1998			✓	Enhancement of corporate governance practices
1999		✓		Introduction of mark-to-market system
2000		✓		Approval of inter-dealer brokers to act as intermediaries
2004			✓	Enactment of Indirect Investment Asset Management Business Act
2005	✓			Introduction of retirement pension system
2005		✓		Launch of Korea Exchange (KRX)
2007			✓	Enactment of Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act
2012	✓			Launch of Korean hedge funds
2012		✓		Removal of limit on corporate bond issuances amounts
2015	✓			Adoption of individual savings account (ISA), allowing individuals to invest in various financial products through a single account

## Appendix Table 6. Capital Market Reforms – Malaysia

This table shows the capital market reforms in Malaysia since the 1997-98 Asian Financial Crisis. To compile these reforms we received help from the World Bank Office of the Chief Economist for East Asia and Pacific and financial sector experts in the region.

Year	Type of policy			Policy description
	Expansion of investor base	Improvement of market infrastructure	Enhancement of investor protection	
2000			✓	Release of Malaysian code on corporate governance
2003		✓		Streamline of IPO approval process
2003		✓		Standardization of lot sizes
2003		✓		Demutualisation of Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE)
2004		✓		Enactment of revised guidelines on the offering of private debt securities
2004		✓		Immediate approval of bond issues for selected issuers
2004			✓	Enhancement of corporate disclosure
2006		✓		Facilitation of foreign-owned firms listings on domestic markets
2007			✓	Enhancement of corporate governance provisions
2007			✓	Enactment of Capital Markets and Services Act 2007
2008		✓		Introduction of greenshoe mechanism
2009		✓		Reduction of cost of regulatory compliance
2009		✓		Establishment of credit guarantees for lower-rated firms issuing bonds
2009		✓		Comprehensive revamp of Malaysia exchange structure
2012	✓			Introduction of retail investors to corporate bond market



## Appendix Table 7. Capital Market Reforms – Philippines

This table shows the capital market reforms in the Philippines since the 1997-98 Asian Financial Crisis. To compile these reforms we received help from the World Bank Office of the Chief Economist for East Asia and Pacific and financial sector experts in the region.

Year	Type of policy			Policy description
	Expansion of investor base	Improvement of market infrastructure	Enhancement of investor protection	
1998			✓	Provision of self-regulatory organization status to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE)
2000			✓	Enactment of securities regulation code
2002			✓	Issuance of circulars promulgating the code of corporate governance
2004			✓	Obligation of compliance with international financial reporting standards (IFRS)
2006		✓		Introduction of bond exchange/swaps
2007		✓		Introduction of corporate securities in Philippine Dealing and Exchange (PDeX) trading board
2008	✓			Enactment of Personal Equity and Retirement Account (PERA) Law
2008		✓		Authorization of corporate bond trading for public through accredited brokers on PDeX
2008		✓		Removal of documentary stamp taxes on securities trading
2010		✓		Enactment of regulation requiring listed companies to maintain a ten percent public float
2013	✓			Enactment of rules and regulations on exchange-traded funds
2015			✓	Implementation of rules and regulations of the securities regulation code
2016		✓		Approval of public-private partnership (PPP) listing rules
2016			✓	Launch of corporate governance code for publicly listed companies

## Appendix Table 8. Capital Market Reforms – Vietnam

This table shows the capital market reforms in Vietnam since the 1997-98 Asian Financial Crisis. To compile these reforms we received help from the World Bank Office of the Chief Economist for East Asia and Pacific and financial sector experts in the region.

Year	Type of policy			Policy description
	Expansion of investor base	Improvement of market infrastructure	Enhancement of investor protection	
2000		✓		Launch of Ho Chi Minh City Stock Exchange (HOSE)
2005		✓		Launch of Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX)
2006		✓		Authorization of domestic bond issuances for companies
2007			✓	Enactment of Securities Law



