投資衍生產品涉及高風險,在決定買入衍生產品前,客戶應確保自己了解衍生產品的性質,參閱上市文件及有關發行商發出之招股章程及有關文件的詳細資料,包括所涉及之風險,並諮詢客戶自己的專業顧問,以決定參與該等投資是否適合自己,並是否與自己的投資目的、經驗、財務狀況及所有有關情況一致。

結構性產品的一般相關風險

1. 發行商失責風險

倘若結構性產品發行商破產而未能履行其對所發行證券的責任,投資者只被視為無抵押債權人,對發行商任何資產 均無優先索償權。因此,投資者須特別留意結構性產品發行商的財力及信用。

2. 非抵押產品風險

非抵押結構性產品並沒有資產擔保。倘若發行商破產,投資者可以損失其全數投資。要確定產品是否非抵押,投資者須細閱上市文件。

3. 槓桿風險

結構性產品如衍生權證及牛熊證均是槓桿產品,其價值可按相對相關資產的槓桿比率而快速改變。投資者須留意, 結構性產品的價值可以跌至零,屆時當初投資的資金將會盡失。

4. 有效期的考慮

結構性產品設有到期日,到期後的產品即一文不值。投資者須留意產品的到期時間,確保所選產品尚餘的有效期能 配合其交易策略。

5 特殊價格移動

結構性產品的價格或會因為外來因素(如市場供求)而有別於其理論價,因此實際成交價可以高過亦可以低過理論價。 6 外匯風險

若投資者所買賣結構性產品的相關資產並非以港幣為單位,其尚要面對外匯風險。貨幣兌換率的波動可對相關資產的價值造成負面影響,連帶影響結構性產品的價格。

7. 流涌量風險

交易所規定所有結構性產品發行商要為每一隻個別產品委任一名流通量提供者。流通量提供者的職責在為產品提供 兩邊開盤方便買賣。若有流通量提供者失責或停止履行職責,有關產品的投資者或就不能進行買賣,直至有新的流 通量提供者委任出來為止。

買賣衍生權證的重要相關風險

1. 時間損耗風險

假若其他情況不變,衍生權證愈接近到期日,價值會愈低,因此不能視為長線投資。

2. 波幅風險

衍生權證的價格可隨相關資產價格的引申波幅而升跌,投資者須注意相關資產的波幅。

買賣牛熊證的重要相關風險

1. 強制收回風險

投資者買賣牛熊證,須留意牛熊證可以即日「取消」或強制收回的特色。若牛熊證的相關資產值等同上市文件 所述的強制收回價/水平,牛熊證即停止買賣。屆時,投資者只能收回已停止買賣的牛熊證由產品發行商按上市 文件所述計算出來的剩餘價值(注意:剩餘價值可以是零)。

2. 融資成本

牛熊證的發行價已包括融資成本。融資成本會隨牛熊證接近到期日而逐漸減少。牛熊證的年期愈長,總融資成本愈高。若一旦牛熊證被收回,投資者即損失牛熊證整個有效期的融資成本。融資成本的計算程式載於牛熊證的上市文件。

3. 相關資產的走勢

牛熊證的價格變動雖然趨向緊貼相關資產的價格變動,但在某些情況下未必與相關資產價格的變動同步(即對沖值不一定等於一)。牛熊證的價格受多個因素所影響,包括其本身的供求、財務費用及距離到期的時限。此外,個別牛熊證的對沖值亦不會經常接近一,特別是當相關資產的價格接近收回價時。

4. 接近收回價時的交易

相關資產價格接近收回價時,牛熊證的價格可能會變得更加波動,買賣差價可能會較闊,流通量亦可能較低。牛熊證隨時會被收回而交易終止。

由於強制收回事件發生的時間與停止牛熊證買賣之間可能會有一些時差。有一些交易在強制收回事件發生後才達成及被交易所參與者確認,但任何在強制收回事件後始執行的交易將不被承認並會被取消。因此投資者買賣接近收回價的牛熊證時需額外小心。

5. 海外資產發行的牛熊證

以海外資產發行的牛熊證,其價格及結算價均由外幣兌換港元計算,投資者買賣這類牛熊證需承擔有關的外匯 風險。外匯價格也市場供求釐定,其中牽涉的因素頗多。

若屬海外資產發行的牛熊證,強制收回事件可能會於香港交易所交易持段以外的時間發生。

交易所買賣基金的重要相關風險

1. 市場風險

交易所買賣基金主要為追蹤某些指數、行業/領域又或資產組別(如股票、債券或商品)的表現。交易所買賣基金經理可用不同策略達至目標,但通常也不能在跌市中酌情採取防守策略。投資者必須要有因為相關指數/資產的波動而蒙受損失的準備。

2. 追蹤誤差

這是指交易所買賣基金的表現與相關指數/資產的表現脫節,原因可以來自交易所買賣基金的交易費及其他費用、相關指數/資產改變組合、交易所買賣基金經理的複製策略等等因素。

3. 以折讓或溢價交易

交易所買賣基金的價格可能會高於或低於其資產淨值,當中主要是供求因素的問題,在市場大幅波動兼變化不定期間尤其多見,專門追蹤一些對直接投資設限的市場/行業的交易所買賣基金亦可能會有此情況。

4. 外匯風險

若投資者所買賣結構性產品的相關資產並非以港幣為單位,其尚要面對外匯風險。貨幣兌換率的波動可對相關資產的價值造成負面影響,連帶影響結構性產品的價格。

5. 流通量風險

證券莊家是負責提供流通量、方便買賣交易所買賣基金的交易所參與者。儘管交易所買賣基金多有一個或以上的證券莊家,但若有證券莊家失責或停止履行職責,投資者或就不能進行買賣。

6. 交易所買賣基金的不同複製策略涉及對手風險

(a) 完全複製及選具代表性樣本策略

採用完全被製策略的交易所買賣基金,通常是按基準的相同比重投資於所有的成份股/資產。採取選具代表性樣本策略的,則只投資於其中部分(而不是全部)的相關成份股/資產。直接投資相關資產而不經第三者所發行合成複製工具的交易所買賣基金,其交易對手風險通常不是太大問題。

(b) 綜合複製策略

採用綜合複製策略的交易所買賣基金,主要透過掉期或其他衍生工具去追蹤基準的表現。現時,採取綜合複製策略的交易所買賣基金可再分為兩種:

1.以掉期合約構成

總回報掉期(total return swaps)讓交易所買賣基金經理可以複製基金基準的表現而不用購買其相關資產。以掉期合約構成的交易所買賣基金需承受源自掉期交易商的交易對手風險。若掉期交易商失責或不能履行其合約承諾,基金或要蒙受損失。

ii.以衍生工具構成

交易所買賣基金經理也可以用其他衍生工具,綜合複製相關基準的經濟利益。有關衍生工具可由一個或多個發行 商發行。以衍生工具構成的交易所買賣基金需承受源自發行商的交易對手風險。若發行商失責或不能履行其合約 承諾,基金或要蒙受損失。

交易所買賣基金即使取得抵押品,也需依靠抵押品提供者履行責任。此外,申索抵押品的權利一旦行使,抵押品的市值可以遠低於當初所得之數,令交易所買賣基金損失嚴重。

投資者是否了解並能審慎評估不同的交易所買賣基金結構及特色會有何影響極為重要。

Derivative investment involves high risks. Before you purchase any derivative products, you should ensure you understand the nature of the derivative products and refer to the full details, including the risk factors, of the relevant listing document or the prospectuses and other documents issued by the issuers and consult your own professional advisers to determine that the products are appropriate for you and in line with your investment objectives, experience, financial situation and all relevant circumstances.

General Risks Associated with Structured Products

Issuer default risk

In the event that a structured product issuer becomes insolvent and defaults on their listed securities, investors will be considered as unsecured creditors and will have no preferential claims to any assets held by the issuer. Investors should therefore pay close attention to the financial strength and credit worthiness of structured product issuers.

2. Uncollateralized product risk

Uncollateralized structured products are not asset backed. In the event of issuer bankruptcy, investors can lose their entire investment. Investors should read the listing documents to determine if a product is uncollateralized.

3. Gearing risk

Structured products such as derivative warrants and callable bull/bear contracts (CBBCs) are leveraged and can change in value rapidly according to the gearing ratio relative to the underlying assets. Investors should be aware that the value of a structured product may fall to zero resulting in a total loss of the initial investment.

4. Expiry considerations

Structured products have an expiry date after which the issue may become worthless. Investors should be aware of the expiry time horizon and choose a product with an appropriate lifespan for their trading strategy.

5. Extraordinary price movements

The price of a structured product may not match its theoretical price due to outside influences such as market supply and demand factors. As a result, actual traded prices can be higher or lower than the theoretical price.

6. Foreign exchange risk

Investors trading structured products with underlying assets not denominated in Hong Kong dollar are also exposed to exchange rate risk. Currency rate fluctuations can adversely affect the underlying asset value, also affecting the structured product price.

7. Liquidity risk

The Exchange requires all structured product issuers to appoint a liquidity provider for each individual issue. The role of liquidity providers is to provide two way quotes to facilitate trading of their products. In the event that a liquidity provider defaults or ceases to fulfill its role, investors may not be able to buy or sell the product until a new liquidity provider has been assigned.

Key Specific Risks Involved in Trading Derivative Warrants

1. Time decay risk

All things being equal, the value of a derivative warrant will decay over time as it approaches its expiry date. Derivative warrants should therefore not be viewed as long term investments.

2. Volatility risk

Prices of derivative warrants can increase or decrease in line with the implied volatility of underlying asset price. Investors should be aware of the underlying asset volatility.

Key Specific Risks Involved in Trading CBBCs

1. Mandatory call risk

Investors trading CBBCs should be aware of their intraday "knockout" or mandatory call feature. A CBBC will cease trading when the underlying asset value equals the mandatory call price/level as stated in the listing documents. Investors will only be entitled to the residual value of the terminated CBBC as calculated by the product issuer in accordance with the listing documents. Investors should also note that the residual value can be zero.

2. Funding costs

The issue price of a CBBC includes funding costs. Funding costs are gradually reduced over time as the CBBC moves towards expiry. The longer the duration of the CBBC is, the higher the total funding costs will be incurred. In the event that a CBBC is called, investors will lose the funding costs for the entire lifespan of the CBBC. The formula for calculating the funding costs are stated in the listing documents.

3. Movement with underlying asset

Although the price of CBBC tends to follow closely the price of its underlying asset, but in some situations it may not (i.e. delta may not always be close to one). Prices of CBBC are affected by a number of factors, including its own demand and supply, funding costs and time to expiry. Moreover, the delta for a particular CBBC may not always be close to one, in particular when the price of the underlying asset is close to the Call Price.

4. Trading of CBBC close to Call Price

When the underlying asset is trading close to the Call Price, the price of a CBBC may be more volatile with wider spreads and uncertain liquidity. CBBC may be called at any time and trading will terminate as a result. However, the trade inputted by the investor may still be executed and confirmed by the investors after the MCE since there may be some lapse between the MCE time and suspension of the CBBC trading. Any trades executed after the MCE (i.e. Post MCE Trades) will not be recognized and will be cancelled. Therefore, investors should be aware of the risk and ought to apply special caution when the CBBC is trading close to the Call Price.

5. CBBC with overseas underlying assets

Investors trading CBBC with overseas underlying assets are exposed to an exchange rate risk as the price and cash settlement amount of the CBBC are converted from a foreign currency into Hong Kong dollars. Exchange rates between currencies are determined by forces of supply and demand in the foreign exchange markets which are affected by various factors.

Besides, CBBC issued on overseas underlying assets may be called outside the Exchange's trading hours.

Key Specific Risks Associated with Exchange Traded Funds CETFs)

Market risk

ETFs are typically designed to track the performance of certain indices, market sectors, or groups of assets such as stocks, bonds, or commodities. ETF managers may use different strategies to achieve this goal, but in general they do not have the discretion to take defensive positions in declining markets. Investors must be prepared to bear the risk of loss and volatility associated with the underlying index/assets.

2. Tracking errors

Tracking errors refer to the disparity in performance between an ETF and its underlying index/assets. Tracking errors can arise due to factors such as the impact of transaction fees and expenses incurred to the ETF, changes in composition of the underlying index/assets, and the ETF manager's replication strategy. (The common replication strategies include full replication/representative sampling and synthetic replication which are discussed in more detail below.)

3. Trading at discount or premium

An ETF may be traded at a discount or premium to its Net Asset Value (NAV). This price discrepancy is caused by supply and demand factors, and may be particularly likely to emerge during periods of high market volatility and uncertainty. This phenomenon may also be observed for ETFs tracking specific markets or sectors that are subject to direct investment restrictions.

4. Foreign exchange risk

Investors trading ETFs with underlying assets not denominated in Hong Kong dollars are also exposed to exchange rate risk. Currency rate fluctuations can adversely affect the underlying asset value, also affecting the ETF price.

5. Liquidity risk

Securities Market Makers (SMMs) are Exchange Participants that provide liquidity to facilitate trading in ETFs. Although most ETFs are supported by one or more SMMs, there is no assurance that active trading will be maintained. In the event that the SMMs default or cease to fulfill their role, investors may not be able to buy or sell the product.

6. Counterparty risk involved in ETFs with different replication strategies

(a) Full replication and representative sampling strategies

An ETF using a full replication strategy generally aims to invest in all constituent stocks/assets in the same weightings as its benchmark. ETFs adopting a representative sampling strategy will invest in some, but not all of the relevant constituent stocks/assets. For ETFs that invest directly in the underlying assets rather than through synthetic instruments issued by third parties, counterparty risk tends to be less of concern.

(b) Synthetic replication strategies

ETFs utilising a synthetic replication strategy use swaps or other derivative instruments to gain exposure to a benchmark. Currently, synthetic replication ETFs can be further categorized into two forms:

i. Swap-based ETFs

Total return swaps allow ETF managers to replicate the benchmark performance of ETFs without purchasing the underlying assets. Swap-based ETFs are exposed to counterparty risk of the swap dealers and may suffer losses if such dealers default or fail to honor their contractual commitments.

ii. Derivative embedded ETFs

ETF managers may also use other derivative instruments to synthetically replicate the economic benefit of the relevant benchmark. The derivative instruments may be issued by one or multiple issuers. Derivative embedded ETFs are subject to counterparty risk of the derivative instruments' issuers and may suffer losses if such issuers default or fail to honour their contractual commitments.

Even where collateral is obtained by an ETF, it is subject to the collateral provider fulfilling its obligations. There is a further risk that when the right against the collateral is exercised, the market value of the collateral could be substantially less than the amount secured resulting in significant loss to the ETF.

It is important that investors understand and critically assess the implications arising due to different ETF structures and characteristics.