

IMPORTANT:

THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. IF IN DOUBT, PLEASE SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.

The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “SEHK”), Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited and the Securities and Futures Commission (the “SFC”), take no responsibility for the contents of this Announcement, make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaim any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this Announcement.

The Manager accepts full responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in this Announcement and confirms, having made all reasonable enquiries, that to the best of its knowledge and belief there are no other acts the omission of which would make any statement misleading and that opinions expressed in this Announcement have been arrived at after due and careful consideration.

Investments involve risks, including the loss of principal. You are advised to consider your investment objectives and circumstances in determining the suitability of an investment in the Trust. An investment in the Trust may not be suitable for everyone.

SFC authorisation is not a recommendation or endorsement of a scheme nor does it guarantee the commercial merits of a scheme or its performance. It does not mean the scheme is suitable for all investors nor is it an endorsement of its suitability for any particular investor or class of investors.

iShares Asia Trust

*a Hong Kong unit trust authorized under
Section 104 of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong*

**iShares Core CSI 300 ETF (the “CSI 300 ETF”)
(HKD Counter Stock Code: 02846)
(RMB Counter Stock Code: 82846)
(USD Counter Stock Code: 09846)**

**iShares Core Hang Seng Index ETF (the “HSI ETF”)
(HKD Counter Stock Code: 03115)
(RMB Counter Stock Code: 83115)
(USD Counter Stock Code: 09115)**

**iShares Hang Seng TECH ETF (the “HST ETF”)
(HKD Counter Stock Code: 03067)
(USD Counter Stock Code: 09067)**

**sub-funds of the iShares Asia Trust (the “Trust”)
(each a “Sub-Fund” and collectively, the “Sub-Funds”)**

Announcement

BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited (the “**Manager**”) hereby announces the following in respect of the Sub-Funds.

Reference is made to the Announcement published by the Manager on 8 June 2021 in relation to the Executive Order titled “Addressing the Threat from Securities Investments that Finance Certain Companies of the People’s Republic of China” (the “**Executive Order**”) and its implications to the Sub-Funds and Unitholders of the Sub-Funds (the “**Previous Announcement**”). Unless specified otherwise, capitalised terms have the same meaning as stated in the Prospectus of each Sub-Fund and the Previous Announcement.

As announced in the Previous Announcement, to implement the Executive Order, The Office of Foreign Assets Control (the “**OFAC**”) of the US Department of the Treasury has published a list on its website containing the names of entities identified in or pursuant to the Executive Order, titled the Non-SDN Chinese Military-Industrial Complex Companies List (the “**NS-CMIC List**”). The NS-CMIC List can be accessed at OFAC’s website: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20210603>¹. The prohibitions under the Executive Order with respect to the entities in the NS-CMIC List will take effect on 2 August 2021, or in respect of any entity not already on the NS-CMIC List, 60 days after such entity is listed on the NS-CMIC List.

Since the publication of the Previous Announcement, the Manager has obtained further guidance from OFAC on the scope of the Executive Order. Pursuant to such guidance, the Manager understands that the Executive Order will not be applicable to the Sub-Funds if, amongst others, the Sub-Funds are not offered to US Persons (as defined in the Executive Order). The Manager has therefore put in place relevant processes following OFAC’s guidance such that the Executive Order will not be applicable to the Sub-Funds.

Given the foregoing, in order for the Manager to continue to achieve the investment objective of each Sub-Fund and to track the performance of each Sub-Fund’s Underlying Index, each Sub-Fund will continue to invest in the constituent companies of its Underlying Index, including the entities listed in the NS-CMIC List (if any), from 2 August 2021 (the “**Effective Date**”).

As a result of the above, the Manager hereby informs you that the Sub-Funds will not be appropriate or suitable for US Persons (as defined in the Executive Order) to invest with effect from the Effective Date.

As disclosed in the Prospectus of each Sub-Fund, the Trust Deed allows the Manager to impose such restrictions as it may think necessary for the purpose of ensuring that no Units are acquired or held which would result in such holding being a breach of the law or requirements of any country or governmental authority in circumstances which, in the Manager’s opinion, might result in a Sub-Fund being adversely affected or suffer any pecuniary disadvantage which the Sub-Fund might not otherwise have suffered.

In accordance with Clause 7.21 of the Trust Deed, the Manager hereby requires US Persons (as defined in the Executive Order) who are holding or owning Units in a Sub-Fund either to redeem such Units in accordance with the Trust Deed, sell such Units on the secondary market, or to transfer such Units to a person whose holding would be permissible under the Prospectus and the Trust Deed **by the Effective Date**. Under the Executive Order, the term “**US Persons**” means any United States citizen, lawful permanent resident, entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States. Investors should also refer to the frequently asked questions published by OFAC for more information on who should comply with OFAC regulations: <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20210603>¹.

For the avoidance of doubt, there is no change to the investment objective and strategy as disclosed in the Prospectus of each Sub-Fund as a result of the Executive Order. As disclosed in the Prospectus, each Sub-Fund’s investment objective is to provide investment results that, before fees and expenses, closely correspond to the performance of its respective Underlying Index. The Manager will seek to achieve this investment objective by investing primarily in securities included in the relevant Underlying Index.

Investors should consider whether the Sub-Funds are an appropriate investment, in particular based on their interpretation and applicability of the Executive Order. If in doubt, please seek professional advice.

Investors should exercise caution before making any investment decisions.

The Prospectus of each Sub-Fund will be updated on the Effective Date to reflect the restriction as described above.

¹ This website has not been reviewed by the Securities and Futures Commission

If you have any questions concerning this announcement, please contact us on +852 3903 2823 or at 16th Floor Champion Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong.

BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited

貝萊德資產管理北亞有限公司

as Manager of the Trust and the Sub-Funds

Hong Kong, 2 July 2021