

MSCI Barra to Launch Asia-Pacific Investable Hedge Fund Index

New MSCI Asia-Pacific Hedge Fund OPTIX Index Licensed to Natixis Alternative Investments

London - February 19, 2008 - MSCI Barra (NYSE:MXB), a leading provider of investment decision support tools worldwide, including indices and portfolio risk and performance analytics, announced today that it is to launch the MSCI Asia-Pacific Hedge Fund OPTIX Index, a new investable hedge fund index designed to reflect the overall structure and composition of the Asia-Pacific hedge fund universe. The index has been licensed to Natixis Alternative Investments, Limited (NAI), to form the basis of index-linked products.

Index constituents will be selected from the NAI hedge fund platform where the day-to-day investment management of the funds is performed by external hedge fund managers. The index will comprise only funds open to new subscriptions. NAI, working with SPARX International (Hong Kong) Limited will be responsible for selecting and conducting due diligence on the hedge fund managers. NAI will also monitor the investment mandate of each managed fund.

Henry Fernandez, Chairman and CEO of MSCI Barra, said, "The forthcoming launch of the MSCI Asia-Pacific Hedge Fund OPTIX Index responds to investor demand for a liquid and representative investable hedge fund index that reflects the overall Asia-Pacific hedge fund opportunity set. The index is designed to serve as the basis of index-linked financial products, such as funds, derivatives, and structured products. In developing this index, we are pleased to have worked with Natixis Alternative Investments and SPARX, leading industry participants in the region."

Sophie Souliac Deschamps, CEO of NAI, commented, "The expansion of investable hedge fund indices to cover the Asia-Pacific marketplace is a natural evolution that investors are seeking. We are excited to work with MSCI Barra, whose pedigree and reputation for calculating quality indices provides the robust framework investors desire."

Shuhei Abe, CEO and President of the SPARX Group, said, "We are enthusiastic about the prospect of leveraging our local knowledge and expertise to secure the representative constituent funds needed to construct the index and to deliver the quality product that the clients of our respective firms have come to expect."

The MSCI Asia-Pacific Hedge Fund OPTIX Index will comprise a diverse sample of hedge fund strategies focused on the Asia-Pacific region and will contain funds that have at least monthly liquidity. Calculation of the index is expected to begin in March 2008, and it is expected to launch with around 20 constituent funds.

The index will be constructed and maintained by MSCI Barra according to the MSCI Investable Hedge Fund Index Methodology (available at www.mscibarra.com).

###

About MSCI Barra

MSCI Barra is a leading provider of investment decision support tools to investment institutions worldwide. MSCI Barra products include indices and portfolio risk and performance analytics for use in managing equity, fixed income and multi-asset class portfolios.

The company's flagship products are the MSCI International Equity Indices, which are estimated to have over USD 3 trillion benchmarked to them, and the Barra risk models and portfolio analytics, which cover 56 equity and 46 fixed income markets. MSCI Barra is headquartered in New York, with research and commercial offices around the world. Morgan Stanley, a global financial services firm, is the majority shareholder of MSCI Barra.

For further information on MSCI Barra, please visit our web site at www.ms cibarra.com

For media enquiries please contact:

Sally Todd Clare Milton, Penrose Financial, London	+ 44.20.7786.4888
Pen Pendleton Ann Taylor Reed, Abernathy MacGregor, New York	+ 1.212.371.5999

MSCI Barra Global Client Service:

Joe Pivarunas, MSCI Barra, London	+ 44.20.7618.2222
Vanessa Henderson, MSCI Barra, New York	+ 1.212.762.5790
Jackson Wang, MSCI Barra, San Francisco	+ 1.415.576.2323
Jane Xu, MSCI Barra, Hong Kong	+ 852.2848.7333
Pavithra Ramasubban, MSCI Barra, Sydney	+ 61.2.9033.9333
Masao Ikeda, MSCI Barra, Tokyo	+ 813.5424.5470

-
- This document and all of the information contained in it, including without limitation all text, data, graphs, charts (collectively, the "Information") is the property of MSCI Inc. (which is registered to do business in New York under the name NY MSCI) ("MSCI"), Barra, Inc. ("Barra"), or their affiliates (including without limitation Financial Engineering Associates, Inc.) (alone or with one or more of them, "MSCI Barra"), or their direct or indirect suppliers or any third party involved in the making or compiling of the Information (collectively, the "MSCI Barra Parties"), as applicable, and is provided for informational purposes only. The Information may not be reproduced or redisseminated in whole or in part without prior written permission from MSCI or Barra, as applicable.
 - The Information may not be used to verify or correct other data, to create indices, risk models or analytics, or in connection with issuing, offering, sponsoring, managing or marketing any securities, portfolios, financial products or other investment vehicles based on, linked to, tracking or otherwise derived from any MSCI or Barra product or data.
 - **Historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance, analysis, forecast or prediction.**
 - **None of the Information constitutes an offer to sell (or a solicitation of an offer to buy), or a promotion or recommendation of, any security, financial product or other investment vehicle or any trading strategy, and none of the MSCI Barra Parties endorses, approves or otherwise expresses any opinion regarding any issuer, securities, financial products or instruments or trading strategies. None of the Information, MSCI Barra indices, models or other products or services is intended to constitute investment advice or a recommendation to make (or refrain from making) any kind of investment decision and may not be relied on as such.**
 - The user of the Information assumes the entire risk of any use it may make or permit to be made of the Information.
 - In particular, historical data and analysis should not be taken as an indication or guarantee of any future performance, analysis or prediction.
 - **NONE OF THE MSCI BARRA PARTIES MAKES ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES OR REPRESENTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION (OR THE RESULTS TO BE OBTAINED BY THE USE THEREOF), AND TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, MSCI AND BARRA, EACH ON THEIR BEHALF AND ON THE BEHALF OF EACH MSCI BARRA PARTY, HEREBY EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF ORIGINALITY, ACCURACY, TIMELINESS, NON-INFRINGEMENT, COMPLETENESS, MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE) WITH RESPECT TO ANY OF THE INFORMATION.**
 - Without limiting any of the foregoing and to the maximum extent permitted by law, in no event shall any of the MSCI Barra Parties have any liability regarding any of the Information for any direct, indirect, special, punitive, consequential (including lost profits) or any other damages even if notified of the possibility of such damages. The foregoing shall not exclude or limit any liability that may not by applicable law be excluded or limited.
 - Any use of or access to products, services or information of MSCI or Barra or their subsidiaries requires a license from MSCI or Barra, or their subsidiaries, as applicable. MSCI, Barra, MSCI Barra, EAFE, Aegis, Cosmos, BarraOne, and all other MSCI and Barra product names are the trademarks, registered trademarks, or service marks of MSCI, Barra or their affiliates, in the United States and other jurisdictions. The Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) was developed by and is the exclusive property of MSCI and Standard & Poor's. "Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS)" is a service mark of MSCI and Standard & Poor's.
 - The governing law applicable to these provisions is the substantive law of the State of New York without regard to its conflict or choice of law principles.
-