

MEDIA RELEASE

18 November 2009

First State Investments to offer income share class to investors

First State Investments (UK) Limited ("First State") announced today that it has introduced a new income share class for its First State Asia Pacific and First State Asia Pacific Leaders Funds.

With immediate effect, investors will be given the added benefit of being able to select an income share class in these two funds. Following the recent decline in UK interest rates, First State has responded to client demand for the introduction of this new share class for these specific funds, which allows investors to physically receive the income component of their investments. Investors will have the opportunity to receive income on a semi-annual basis through both of these funds.

Launched over two decades ago, the First State Asia Pacific Fund, managed by Angus Tulloch and Martin Lau has produced an annualised net return over the last ten years of 15.1%* (31 October 1999 to 31 October 2009). Since inception**, the fund has risen 1797.5%* net against peer group and benchmark returns of 934.2%* net and 467.8%* respectively. The Fund has been soft-closed to additional investors since 2003.

The First State Asia Pacific Leaders Fund, launched in late 2003 is managed by Angus Tulloch and Alistair Thompson. Since inception*** the fund has increased 166.2%* net against respective peer group and benchmark returns of 122.8%* net and 125.3%*.

Gary Withers, Regional Managing Director EMEA, First State Investments said:

'We believe that the launch of an income share class is a logical step that allows us to address client demand for additional choice when investing in our Asia Pacific and Asia Pacific Leaders Funds. The launch of formal income share classes in these funds will provide existing investors with added flexibility to suit their individual circumstances.'

-Ends-

*Source: Fund and peer group data - Lipper, net of fees with income reinvested net of tax. Benchmark data – RIMES, income reinvested net of tax. Benchmark index for both funds is MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan.

**Since launch performance figures for the First State Asia Pacific Fund have been calculated from 30 June 1988.

*** Since launch performance figures for the First State Asia Pacific Leaders Fund have been calculated from 31 December 2003.

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Notes to editors:

Please see the information below for more detailed information on the First State funds which will have launched an income share class. To view a list of UK OEIC funds for purchase in specific regions, please refer to our website – www.firststate.co.uk

Fund	From 10 November 2009
First State Asia Pacific Leaders Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New income shareclass launched on 10 November 2009 ➤ Subscriptions and redemptions in GBP and EUR ➤ Class A Income (retail) – ISIN code GB00B54S3722 ➤ Class A Income (Euro) – ISIN code GB00B54KZJ47 ➤ Class B Income (institutional) – ISIN code GB00B57S0V20
First State Asia Pacific Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New income shareclass launched on 10 November 2009 ➤ Subscriptions and redemptions in GBP ➤ Class A Income (retail) – ISIN code GB00B50G1435 ➤ Class B Income (institutional) – ISIN code GB00B57XX416

About First State Investments

First State Investments provides specialist asset management services to wholesale and institutional investors across a diverse range of asset classes, including Asia Pacific and global emerging market equities, property securities, infrastructure and global natural resources. First State has more than 190 staff in London and Edinburgh and provides a range of specialist investment products in long only and long-short strategies.

First State is part of Colonial First State Global Asset Management, the consolidated asset management business of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Colonial First State Global Asset Management is Australia's largest fund manager. It employs 190 investment professionals in Sydney, London, Edinburgh, Hong Kong, Singapore and Jakarta. Colonial First State Global Asset Management is also represented in Shenzhen and Beijing as First State Cinda Fund Management Company Ltd, a joint venture with China Cinda Asset Management Corporation. Colonial First State Global Asset Management is a signatory to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment, a voluntary program which encourages best practice in environmental, social and corporate governance issues.

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