China's move to lift the ban on IPOs in its domestic markets, will not badly affect Singapore's attraction as a listing venue for China companies.

The China Security Regulatory Commission yesterday said it'll again start accepting IPO applications for listings on the Shanghai and Shenzhen markets.

The commission stopped accepting IPO applications almost a year ago, because of the weak market conditions.

It also wanted to give time to allow some 200 billion US dollars worth of shares to be converted to tradeable shares, or "A" shares.

Some Singapore observers are worried that China's move to lift the IPO ban will cause more mainland companies to seek listings at home, rather than list in an overseas market like Singapore.

But a veteran in the IPO management scene, Choo Chee Kong, CEO of IPO manager WestComb Financial, says Singapore is still able to fill a niche.

His company has arranged for about 35 China companies to launch IPOs in Singapore since 2000.

For one, he says there's a long list of Chinese companies waiting to launch IPOs in Shanghai and Shenzhen.

And as an unwritten rule, the priority tends to be given to the state-owned enterprises there.

"The IPO market in China is a controlled process. The Chinese authorities control the flow of scrips, the supply of scrips so as not to have too many shares in the A shares market. Therefore only the large companies with the good connections to the state will be able to list. In Singapore, the stock exchange here, we attract the private companies which I think may have problem getting through the hurdles in China."

Assistant Professor Wang Jiwei at Singapore Management University's School of Accountancy agrees.

He also pointed out, state-owned companies are not keen to seek overseas listings as the financial requirements of overseas markets can be stringent.

"State-owned companies in China prefer listing locally. Overseas listings normally require very specific requirements. In China, they can sometimes do some manipulations, but but for overseas listings, I don't believe they can do that."

The Singapore Exchange has managed to attract many Chinese companies to list here.

Recently, MidSouth Holdings became the 100th Chinese company to list on the Singapore bourse.

And the popularity of these stocks amongst Singapore investors has improved since the start of the year, after concerns over corporate governance issues abated.