Filed Pursuant to Rule 433
Registration No. 333-180289
May 24, 2012
FREE WRITING PROSPECTUS
(To Prospectus dated March 22, 2012,
Prospectus Supplement dated March 22, 2012
and Equity Index Underlying Supplement dated March 22, 2012)

HSBC

Structured Investments

HSBC USA Inc.
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Notes Linked to the MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index due June 14, 2013 (the "Notes")

General

- Terms used in this free writing prospectus are described or defined herein, in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus. The Notes offered will have the terms described in the Equity Index Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus as supplemented by this free writing prospectus. **The Notes do not guarantee return of principal and you may lose up to 100.00% of your initial investment. The Notes will not bear interest.**
- This free writing prospectus relates to a single note offering. The purchaser of a Note will acquire a security linked to the Reference Asset described below.
- Although the offering relates to the Reference Asset, you should not construe that fact as a recommendation as to the merits of acquiring an investment linked to the Reference Asset or any component security included in the Reference Asset or as to the suitability of an investment in the related Notes.
- Senior unsecured debt obligations of HSBC USA Inc. maturing June 14, 2013.
- Minimum denominations of $10,000 and integral multiples of $1,000 in excess thereof.
- **If the terms of the Notes set forth below are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, the terms set forth below will supersede.**
- Any payment on the Notes is subject to the Issuer's credit risk, and you have no ability to pursue the Reference Asset or the stocks underlying it for payment. The Issuer has not undertaken any independent review of, or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to, publicly available information regarding the Reference Asset provided herein.

Key Terms

Issuer:	HSBC USA Inc.
Issuer Rating:	A+ (S&P), A1 (Moody's), AA (Fitch)*
Reference Asset:	The MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index ("NDDUWI")
Principal Amount:	$1,000 per Note.
Trade Date:	May 25, 2012
Pricing Date:	May 25, 2012
Original Issue Date:	May 31, 2012
Final Valuation Date:	June 11, 2013, subject to adjustment as described under "Valuation Dates" in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement.
Maturity Date:	3 business days after the Final Valuation Date and is expected to be June 14, 2013. The Maturity Date is subject to adjustment as described under "Coupon Payment Dates, Call Payment Dates and Maturity Date" in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement.
Payment at Maturity:	For each Note, the Cash Settlement Value.
Cash Settlement Value:	For each Note, you will receive a cash payment on the Maturity Date that is based on the Reference Return (as described below) and calculated as follows: $1,000 × (1 + Reference Return) × Reference Asset Adjustment Factor *If the Final Level is less than the Initial Level you would lose some or all of your investment at maturity.*
Reference Asset Adjustment Factor:	100.00%
Reference Return:	The quotient, expressed as a percentage, calculated as follows: $\frac{\text{Final Level} - \text{Initial Level}}{\text{Initial Level}}$
Initial Level:	The Official Closing Level of the Reference Asset on the Pricing Date.
Final Level:	The Official Closing Level of the Reference Asset on the Final Valuation Date.
Official Closing Level:	The closing level of the Reference Asset on any scheduled trading day as determined by the calculation agent based on the value displayed on Bloomberg Professional® service page "NDDUWI <INDEX>" or any successor page on Bloomberg Professional® service or any successor service, as applicable.
Calculation Agent:	HSBC USA Inc. or one of its affiliates
CUSIP/ISIN:	4042K1P49 /
Form of Notes:	Book-Entry
Listing:	The Notes will not be listed on any U.S. securities exchange or quotation system.

* A credit rating reflects the creditworthiness of HSBC USA Inc. and is not indicative of the market risk associated with the Notes or the Reference Asset nor is it a recommendation to buy, sell or hold the Notes, and it may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization. The Notes themselves have not been independently rated. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

Investment in the Notes involves certain risks. You should refer to "Selected Risk Considerations" beginning on page 3 of this document and "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-1 of the Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-3 of the prospectus supplement.

Neither the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of the Notes or determined that this free writing prospectus, or the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement and prospectus, is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or another of our affiliates or agents may use the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates in market-making transactions in any Notes after their initial sale. **Unless we or our agent informs you otherwise in the confirmation of sale, the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates will be used in a market-making transaction.** HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of ours, will purchase the Notes from us for distribution to the placement agent. See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)" on the last page of this free writing prospectus.

J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and certain of its registered broker-dealer affiliates are purchasing the Notes for resale. JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. may purchase the Notes on behalf of certain fiduciary accounts. J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, certain of its registered broker-dealer affiliates and JPMorgan Chase Bank N.A. will not receive fees from us for sales to fiduciary accounts.

	Price to Public[1]	Fees and Commissions	Proceeds to Issuer
Per Note	$1,000	$10	$990
Total			

[1] Certain fiduciary accounts will pay a purchase price of $990 per Note, and the placement agents with respect to sales made to such accounts will forgo any fees.

The Notes:

Are Not FDIC Insured	Are Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value

JPMorgan
Placement Agent
May 24, 2012

Additional Terms Specific to the Notes

This free writing prospectus relates to a single Note offering linked to the Reference Asset identified on the cover page. The purchaser of a Note will acquire a senior unsecured debt security linked to the Reference Asset. We reserve the right to withdraw, cancel or modify any offering and to reject orders in whole or in part. Although the Note offering relates only to the Reference Asset identified on the cover page, you should not construe that fact as a recommendation as to the merits of acquiring an investment linked to the Reference Asset or any securities derivative of or relating to the Reference Asset or as to the suitability of an investment in the Notes.

You should read this document together with the prospectus dated March 22, 2012, the prospectus supplement dated March 22, 2012 and the Equity Index Underlying Supplement dated March 22, 2012. If the terms of the Notes offered hereby are inconsistent with those described in the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement, prospectus supplement or prospectus, the terms described in this free writing prospectus shall control. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters set forth in "Selected Risk Considerations" beginning on page 3 of this free writing prospectus and "Risk Factors" beginning on page S-1 of the Equity Index Underlying Supplement and page S-3 of the prospectus supplement, as the Notes involve risks not associated with conventional debt securities. We urge you to consult your investment, legal, tax, accounting and other advisors before you invest in the Notes. As used herein, references to the "Issuer", "HSBC", "we", "us" and "our" are to HSBC USA Inc.

HSBC has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus, prospectus supplement and Equity Index Underlying Supplement) with the SEC for the offering to which this free writing prospectus relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus, prospectus supplement and Equity Index Underlying Supplement in that registration statement and other documents HSBC has filed with the SEC for more complete information about HSBC and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or any dealer participating in this offering will arrange to send you the prospectus, prospectus supplement and Equity Index Underlying Supplement if you request them by calling toll-free 1-866-811-8049.

You may also obtain:

- The Equity Index Underlying Supplement at: www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000114420412016693/v306691_424b2.htm
- The prospectus supplement at: www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000104746912003151/a2208335z424b2.htm
- The prospectus at: www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/83246/000104746912003148/a2208395z424b2.htm

We are using this free writing prospectus to solicit from you an offer to purchase the Notes. You may revoke your offer to purchase the Notes at any time prior to the time at which we accept your offer by notifying HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. We reserve the right to change the terms of, or reject any offer to purchase, the Notes prior to their issuance. In the event of any material changes to the terms of the Notes, we will notify you.

Selected Purchase Considerations

- **THE NOTES DO NOT GUARANTEE THE RETURN OF YOUR PRINCIPAL** — If the Final Level is less than the Initial Level, you will lose 1% of the Principal Amount of your notes for every 1% that the Final Level decreases compared to the Initial Level. You may lose some or all of your initial investment at maturity.

- **DIVERSIFICATION OF THE MSCI DAILY TOTAL RETURN NET WORLD INDEX** — The return on the Notes is linked to the MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index. The MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index consists of the following 24 developed market country indices: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. For additional information about the Reference Asset, see the information set forth under "Description of the Reference Asset" herein.

- **TAX TREATMENT** — There is no direct legal authority as to the proper tax treatment of the Notes, and therefore significant aspects of the tax treatment of the Notes are uncertain as to both the timing and character of any inclusion in income in respect of the Notes. Under one approach, the Notes should be treated as pre-paid forward or other executory contracts with respect to the Reference Asset. We intend to treat the Notes consistent with this approach. Pursuant to the terms of the Notes, you agree to treat the Notes under this approach for all U.S. federal income tax purposes. Subject to the limitations described therein, and based on certain factual representations received from us, in the opinion of our special U.S. tax counsel, Sidley Austin LLP, it is reasonable to treat the Notes as pre-paid forward or other executory contracts with respect to the Reference Asset. Pursuant to this approach, we do not intend to report any income or gain with respect to the Notes prior to their maturity or an earlier sale or exchange and we generally intend to treat any gain or loss upon maturity or an earlier sale or exchange as long-term capital gain or loss, provided that you have held the Note for more than one year at such time for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

  Non-U.S. holders should note that recently proposed Treasury regulations, if finalized in their current form, could impose a withholding tax at a rate of 30% (subject to reduction under an applicable income tax treaty) on amounts attributable to U.S.-source dividends (including, potentially, adjustments to account for extraordinary dividends) that are paid or "deemed paid" after December 31, 2012 under certain financial instruments, if certain other conditions are met. While significant aspects of the application of these proposed regulations to the Notes are uncertain, if these proposed regulations were finalized in their current form, we (or other withholding agents) might determine that withholding is required with respect to Notes held by a non-U.S. holder or that the non-U.S. holder must provide information to establish that withholding is not required. Non-U.S. holders should consult their tax advisers regarding the potential application of these proposed regulations. If withholding is so required, we will not be required to pay any additional amounts with respect to amounts so withheld.

For a further discussion of the U.S. federal income tax consequences related to the Notes, see the section "U.S. Federal Income Tax Considerations" in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

Selected Risk Considerations

An investment in the Notes involves significant risks. Investing in the Notes is not equivalent to investing directly in the Reference Asset. These risks are explained in more detail in the "Risk Factors" sections of the accompanying Equity Index Underlying Supplement and prospectus supplement.

- **YOUR INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES MAY RESULT IN A LOSS** — The Notes do not guarantee any return of principal. The return on the Notes at maturity is linked to the performance of the Reference Asset and will depend on whether, and the extent to which, the Reference Return is positive or negative. Your investment will be exposed to any decline in the Final Level of the Reference Asset as compared to the Initial Level. **You may lose up to 100.00% of your investment**.

- **CREDIT RISK OF HSBC USA INC.** — The Notes are senior unsecured debt obligations of the Issuer, HSBC, and are not, either directly or indirectly, an obligation of any third party. As further described in the accompanying prospectus supplement and prospectus, the Notes will rank on par with all of the other unsecured and unsubordinated debt obligations of HSBC, except such obligations as may be preferred by operation of law. Any payment to be made on the Notes, including any return of principal at maturity, depends on the ability of HSBC to satisfy its obligations as they come due. As a result, the actual and perceived creditworthiness of HSBC may affect the market value of the Notes and, in the event HSBC were to default on its obligations, you may not receive the amounts owed to you under the terms of the Notes.

- **SUITABILITY OF NOTES FOR INVESTMENT** – You should only reach a decision to invest in the Notes after carefully considering, with your advisors, the suitability of the Notes in light of your investment objectives and the information set out in this free writing prospectus. Neither HSBC nor any dealer participating in the offering makes any recommendation as to the suitability of the Notes for investment.

- **AN INVESTMENT IN THE NOTES IS SUBJECT TO CURRENCY EXCHANGE RISK** — Because the Reference Asset is denominated in U.S. Dollars, the prices of the component stocks comprising such index will be converted into U.S. Dollars for the purposes of calculating the value of the index and, thus, noteholders will be exposed to currency exchange rate risk with respect to each of the currencies in which the component stocks comprising the Reference Asset trade. A noteholder's net exposure will depend on the extent to which the currencies in which the component stocks comprising the Reference Asset trade strengthens or weakens against the U.S. Dollar. If the U.S. Dollar strengthens against the currencies in which the component stocks comprising the Reference Asset trade, the value of the Reference Asset may be adversely affected, and the principal payment at maturity of the notes may be reduced.

- **RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH FOREIGN SECURITIES MARKETS** — The return on your Notes is linked to the Reference Asset. Because stocks of companies included in the Reference Asset are publicly traded in foreign countries and are denominated in currencies other than U.S. dollars, investments in the Notes involve particular risks. For example, the foreign securities markets may be more volatile than the United States securities markets, and market developments may affect these markets differently from the United States or other securities markets. Direct or indirect government intervention to stabilize the securities markets outside the United States, as well as cross-shareholdings in certain companies, may affect trading prices and trading volumes in those markets. Also, the public availability of information concerning foreign issuers may vary depending on their home jurisdiction and the reporting requirements imposed by their respective regulators. In addition, the foreign issuers may be subject to accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and requirements that differ from those applicable to United States reporting companies.

  Securities prices generally are subject to political, economic, financial and social factors that apply to the markets in which they trade and, to a lesser extent, foreign markets. Securities prices outside the United States are subject to political, economic, financial and social factors that apply in foreign countries. These factors, which could negatively affect foreign securities markets, include the possibility of changes in a foreign government's economic and fiscal policies, the possible imposition of, or changes in, currency exchange laws or other laws or restrictions applicable to foreign companies or investments in foreign equity securities and the possibility of fluctuations in the rate of exchange between currencies. Moreover, foreign economies may differ favorably or unfavorably from the United States economy in important respects such as growth of gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resources and self-sufficiency.

- **THE NOTES ARE SUBJECT TO EMERGING MARKETS' POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RISKS** — The Reference Asset contains component stocks from several emerging market countries. Emerging market countries are more exposed to the risk of swift political change and economic downturns than their industrialized counterparts. In recent years, emerging markets have undergone significant political, economic and social change. Such far-reaching political changes have resulted in constitutional and social tensions, and, in some cases, instability and reaction against market reforms have occurred. With respect to any emerging or developing nation, there is the possibility of nationalization, expropriation or confiscation, political changes, government regulation and social instability. There can be no assurance that future political changes will not adversely affect the economic conditions of an emerging or developing-market nation. Political or economic instability is likely to have an adverse effect on the performance of the Reference Asset, and, consequently, the return on the Notes.

- **CERTAIN BUILT-IN COSTS ARE LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT THE VALUE OF THE NOTES PRIOR TO MATURITY** — While the Payment at Maturity described in this free writing prospectus is based on the full Principal Amount of your Notes, the original issue price of the Notes includes the placement agent's commission and the estimated cost of hedging our obligations under the Notes through one or more of our affiliates. As a result, the price, if any, at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. will be willing to purchase Notes from you in secondary market transactions, if at all, will likely be lower than the original issue price, and any sale of Notes by you prior to the Maturity Date could result in a substantial loss to you. The Notes are not designed to be short-term trading instruments. Accordingly, you should be able and willing to hold your Notes to maturity.

- **NO INTEREST OR DIVIDEND PAYMENTS OR VOTING RIGHTS** — As a holder of the Notes, you will not receive interest payments, and you will not have voting rights or rights to receive cash dividends or other distributions or other rights that holders of securities composing the Reference Asset would have.

- **LACK OF LIQUIDITY** — The Notes will not be listed on any securities exchange. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. may offer to purchase the Notes in the secondary market but is not required to do so and may cease making such offers at any time if at all. Because other dealers are not likely to make a secondary market for the Notes, the price at which you may be able to trade your Notes is likely to depend on the price, if any, at which HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is willing to buy the Notes. Even if there is a secondary market, it may not provide enough liquidity to allow you to trade or sell the Notes easily.

- **POTENTIAL CONFLICTS** — HSBC and its affiliates play a variety of roles in connection with the issuance of the Notes, including acting as calculation agent and hedging its obligations under the Notes. In performing these duties, the economic interests of the calculation agent and other affiliates of HSBC are potentially adverse to your interests as an investor in the Notes. HSBC will not have any obligation to consider your interests as a holder of the Notes in taking any corporate action that might affect the level of the Reference Asset and the value of the Notes.

- **THE NOTES ARE NOT INSURED BY ANY GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY OF THE UNITED STATES OR ANY OTHER JURISDICTION** — The Notes are not deposit liabilities or other obligations of a bank and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency or program of the United States or any other jurisdiction. An investment in the Notes is subject to the credit risk of HSBC, and in the event that HSBC is unable to pay its obligations as they become due, you may not receive the full Payment at Maturity of the Notes.

- **MANY ECONOMIC AND MARKET FACTORS WILL IMPACT THE VALUE OF THE NOTES** — In addition to the level of the Reference Asset on any day, the value of the Notes will be affected by a number of economic and market factors that may either offset or magnify each other, including:
  - the expected volatility of the Reference Asset;
  - the time to maturity of the Notes;
  - the dividend rate on the equity securities underlying the Reference Asset;
  - interest and yield rates in the market generally;
  - a variety of economic, financial, political, regulatory or judicial events that affect the Reference Asset or the stock markets generally; and
  - our creditworthiness, including actual or anticipated downgrades in our credit ratings.

What Is the Total Return on the Notes at Maturity Assuming a Range of Performances for the Reference Asset?

The following table illustrates the hypothetical total return at maturity on the Notes. The “total return” as used in this free writing prospectus is the number, expressed as a percentage, that results from comparing the Payment at Maturity per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes to $1,000. The hypothetical total returns set forth below reflect the Reference Asset Adjustment Factor of 100.00% and assume an Initial Level of 3,000.00. The actual Initial Level will be determined on the Pricing Date. The hypothetical total returns set forth below are for illustrative purposes only and may not be the actual total returns applicable to a purchaser of the Notes. The numbers appearing in the following table and examples have been rounded for ease of analysis.

Hypothetical Final Level	Hypothetical Reference Return	Hypothetical Total Return on the Notes
6,000.00	100.00%	100.00%
5,400.00	80.00%	80.00%
5,100.00	70.00%	70.00%
4,800.00	60.00%	60.00%
4,500.00	50.00%	50.00%
4,200.00	40.00%	40.00%
3,900.00	30.00%	30.00%
3,600.00	20.00%	20.00%
3,300.00	10.00%	10.00%
3,150.00	5.00%	5.00%
3,075.00	2.50%	2.50%
3,030.00	1.00%	1.00%
3,000.00	**0.00%**	**0.000%**
2,970.00	-1.00%	-1.00%
2,850.00	-5.00%	-5.00%
2,700.00	-10.00%	-10.00%
2,400.00	-20.00%	-20.00%
2,100.00	-30.00%	-30.00%
1,800.00	-40.00%	-40.00%
1,500.00	-50.00%	-50.00%
1,200.00	-60.00%	-60.00%
900.00	-70.00%	-70.00%
600.00	-80.00%	-80.00%
300.00	-90.00%	-90.00%
0.00	-100.00%	-100.00%

Hypothetical Examples of Amounts Payable at Maturity

The following examples illustrate how the total returns set forth in the table above are calculated.

Example 1: The level of the Reference Asset increases from the Initial Level of 3,000.00 to a Final Level of 3,150.00. Because the Final Level of 3,150.00 is greater than the Initial Level of 3,000.00, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of $1,050.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 \times (1 + 5.00\%) \times 100\% = \$1,050.00$$

Example 2: The level of the Reference Asset decreases from the Initial Level of 3,000.00 to a Final Level of 2,100.00. Because the Final Level of 2,100.00 is less than the Initial Level of 3,000.00, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of $700.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 \times (1 + -30.00\%) \times 100\% = \$700.00$$

Example 3: The level of the Reference Asset decreases from the Initial Level of 3,000.00 to a Final Level of 0.00. Because the Final Level of 0.00 is less than the Initial Level of 3,000.00, the investor receives a Payment at Maturity of $0.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes, calculated as follows:

$$\$1,000 \times (1 + -100.00\%) \times 100\% = \$0.00$$

Description of the Reference Asset

General

This free writing prospectus is not an offer to sell and it is not an offer to buy interests in the Reference Asset or any of the securities comprising the Reference Asset. All disclosures contained in this free writing prospectus regarding the Reference Asset, including its make-up, performance, method of calculation and changes in its components, where applicable, are derived from publicly available information. Neither HSBC nor any of its affiliates assumes any responsibilities for the adequacy or accuracy of information about the Reference Asset or any constituent included in the Reference Asset contained in this free writing prospectus. You should make your own investigation into each Reference Asset.

We urge you to read the section "Sponsors or Issuers and Reference Asset" on page S-37 in the accompanying prospectus supplement.

MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index

We have derived all information contained in this document regarding the MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index (the "NDDUWI"), including, without limitation, its make-up, method of calculation and changes in its components, from publicly available information. Such information reflects the policies of and is subject to change by, MSCI Inc. MSCI Inc. is under no obligation to continue to publish, and may discontinue or suspend the publication of the NDDUWI at any time.

The MSCI Indices were founded in 1969 by Capital International as the first international performance benchmarks constructed to facilitate accurate comparison of world markets. Morgan Stanley acquired the rights to license the MSCI Indices in 1986. In November 1998, Morgan Stanley transferred all rights to the MSCI Indices to MSCI Inc., a Delaware corporation formed and operated jointly by Morgan Stanley and Capital. In 2004, MSCI acquired Barra, Inc., a provider of risk analytics, and firm-wide investment risk management systems and services and merged this with MSCI. In 2007, MSCI completed an initial public offering and was listed on the New York Stock Exchange, with Morgan Stanley retaining a controlling interest. In 2009, MSCI and Morgan Stanley fully separated. The MSCI single country standard equity indices have covered the world's developed markets since 1969, and in 1988, MSCI commenced coverage of the emerging markets.

All information regarding the MSCI Indices reflect the policies of, and is subject to change by, MSCI.

Description of the Index

The MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index is a net daily return index that is designed to measure the equity market performance of developed markets. As of May 2012, the MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index consisted of the following 24 developed market country indices: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index in USD is reported by Bloomberg under the ticker symbol "NDDUWI <Index>".

Daily Total Return Methodology

The MSCI Daily Total Return Net World Index is a net daily total return net index. A daily total return index measures the market performance, including price performance and income from regular cash distributions (cash dividend payments or capital repayments). MSCI's net daily total return methodology reinvests cash dividends in indices the day the security is quoted ex-dividend, or on the ex date. Regular cash distributions are not considered in price indices, except for special dividends and capital repayments deemed extraordinary in certain circumstances.

Maintenance of and changes to the MSCI Indices

MSCI maintains the MSCI Indices with the objective of reflecting, on a timely basis, the evolution of the underlying equity markets and segments. In maintaining the MSCI Indices, emphasis is also placed on continuity, continuous investability of constituents, replicability, index stability and minimizing turnover in the indices.

As part of the changes to MSCI's methodology which became effective in May 2008, maintenance of the indices falls into three broad categories:

- semi-annual reviews, which will occur each May and November and will involve a comprehensive reevaluation of the market, the universe of eligible securities and other factors involved in composing the indices;
- quarterly reviews, which will occur each February and August and will focus on significant changes in the market since the last semi-annual review; and
- ongoing event-related changes, which will generally be reflected in the indices at the time of the event and will include changes resulting from mergers, acquisitions, spin-offs, bankruptcies, reorganizations, issuances and other extraordinary transactions, corporate actions and events.

Based on these reviews, additional components may be added, and current components may be removed, at any time. MSCI generally announces all changes resulting from semi-annual reviews, quarterly reviews and ongoing events in advance of their implementation, although in exceptional cases they may be announced during market hours for same or next day implementation.

Prices and exchange rates

Prices

The prices used to calculate the MSCI Indices are the official exchange closing prices or those figures accepted as such. MSCI reserves the right to use an alternative pricing source on any given day.

Exchange rates

MSCI uses the foreign exchange rates published by WM / Reuters at 4:00 p.m., London time. MSCI uses WM / Reuters rates for all developed and emerging markets.

In case WM/Reuters does not provide rates for specific markets on given days (for example Christmas Day and New Year Day), the previous business day's rates are normally used.

MSCI continues to monitor exchange rates independently and may, under exceptional circumstances, elect to use an alternative exchange rate if the WM / Reuters rates are not available, or if MSCI determines that the WM / Reuters rates are not reflective of market circumstances for a given currency on a particular day. In such circumstances, an announcement would be sent to clients with the related information. If appropriate, MSCI may conduct a consultation with the investment community to gather feedback on the most relevant exchange rate.

License Agreement

HSBC or one of its affiliates has entered into a non-exclusive license agreement with MSCI whereby HSBC and certain of its affiliates, in exchange for a fee, are permitted to use the MSCI Indices in connection with certain securities, including the notes. We are not affiliated with MSCI, the only relationship between MSCI and us is any licensing of the use of MSCI's indices and trademarks relating to them.

The license agreement provides that the following language must be set forth herein:

> THE NOTES ARE NOT SPONSORED, ENDORSED, SOLD OR PROMOTED BY MSCI, ANY AFFILIATE OF MSCI OR ANY OTHER PARTY INVOLVED IN, OR RELATED TO, MAKING OR COMPILING ANY MSCI INDEX. THE MSCI INDEXES ARE THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF MSCI. MSCI AND THE MSCI INDEX NAMES ARE SERVICE MARK(S) OF MSCI OR ITS AFFILIATES AND HAVE BEEN LICENSED FOR USE FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES BY HSBC. NEITHER MSCI, ANY OF ITS AFFILIATES NOR ANY OTHER PARTY INVOLVED IN, OR RELATED TO, MAKING OR COMPILING ANY MSCI INDEX MAKES ANY REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, TO THE OWNERS OF THE NOTES OR ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE ADVISABILITY OF INVESTING IN THE NOTES GENERALLY OR IN THE NOTES PARTICULARLY OR THE ABILITY OF ANY MSCI INDEX TO TRACK CORRESPONDING STOCK MARKET PERFORMANCE. MSCI OR ITS AFFILIATES ARE THE LICENSORS OF CERTAIN TRADEMARKS, SERVICE MARKS AND TRADE NAMES AND OF THE MSCI INDEXES WHICH ARE DETERMINED, COMPOSED AND CALCULATED BY MSCI WITHOUT REGARD TO THE NOTES OR THE ISSUER OR OWNER OR THE NOTES. NEITHER MSCI, ANY OF ITS AFFILIATES NOR ANY OTHER PARTY INVOLVED IN, OR RELATED TO, MAKING OR COMPILING ANY MSCI INDEX HAS ANY OBLIGATION TO TAKE THE NEEDS OF THE ISSUERS OR OWNERS OF THE NOTES INTO CONSIDERATION IN DETERMINING, COMPOSING OR CALCULATING THE MSCI INDEXES. NEITHER MSCI, ITS AFFILIATES NOR ANY OTHER PARTY INVOLVED IN, OR RELATED TO, MAKING OR COMPILING ANY MSCI INDEX IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OR HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE DETERMINATION OF THE TIMING OF, PRICES AT, OR QUANTITIES OF THE NOTES TO BE ISSUED OR IN THE DETERMINATION OR CALCULATION OF THE EQUATION BY WHICH THE NOTES ARE REDEEMABLE FOR CASH. NEITHER MSCI, ANY OF ITS AFFILIATES NOR ANY OTHER PARTY INVOLVED IN, OR RELATED TO, THE MAKING OR COMPILING ANY MSCI INDEX HAS ANY OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY TO THE OWNERS OF THE NOTES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION, MARKETING OR OFFERING OF THE NOTES.
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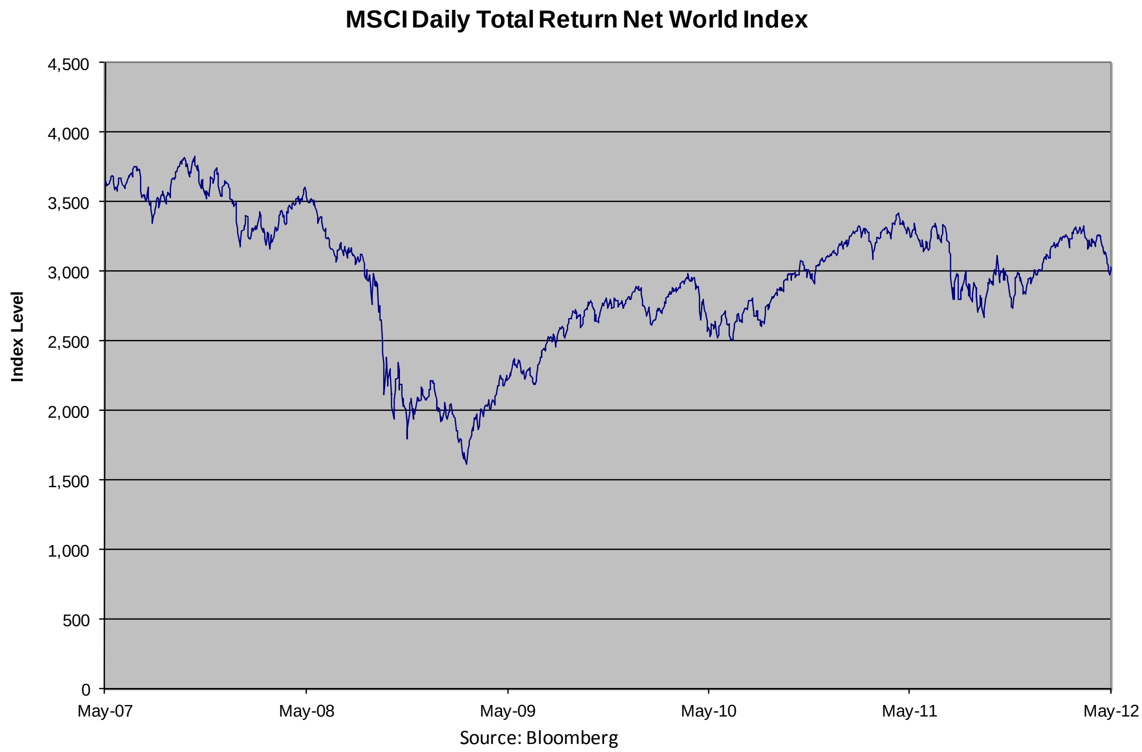
Historical Performance of Reference Asset

The following graph sets forth the historical performance of the Reference Asset based on the daily historical closing levels from May 22, 2007 through May 22, 2012. The closing level for the Reference Asset on May 22, 2012 was 3,028.20. We obtained the closing levels below from Bloomberg Professional® service. We have not undertaken any independent review of, or made any due diligence inquiry with respect to, the information obtained from Bloomberg Professional® service.

The historical Official Closing Levels of the Reference Asset should not be taken as an indication of future performance, and no assurance can be given as to the Official Closing Level on the Final Valuation Date. We cannot give you assurance that the performance of the Reference Asset will result in the return of any of your initial investment.



Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)

Pursuant to the terms of a distribution agreement, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc., an affiliate of HSBC, will purchase the Notes from HSBC for distribution to J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and certain of its registered broker-dealer affiliates, at the price indicated on the cover of the pricing supplement, the document that will be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2) containing the final pricing terms of the Notes J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and certain of its registered broker-dealer affiliates will act as placement agent for the Notes and will receive a fee that will not exceed $10.00 per $1,000 Principal Amount of Notes.

In addition, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. or another of its affiliates or agents may use the pricing supplement to which this free writing prospectus relates in market-making transactions after the initial sale of the Notes, but is under no obligation to make a market in the Notes and may discontinue any market-making activities at any time without notice.

See "Supplemental Plan of Distribution (Conflicts of Interest)" on page S-49 in the prospectus supplement.