

# Fullerton Lux Funds - Asia Focus Equities - Class A (SGD)

October 2018

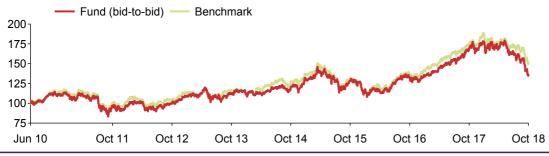
## **Investment Objective**

The investment objective of the Fund is to achieve competitive risk adjusted returns on a relative basis.

### **Investment Focus and Approach**

The Fund seeks to achieve its objective by investing primarily in equities and equities related securities of companies in Asia (excluding Australia, New Zealand and Japan). These countries include, but are not limited to China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. The Investment Manager may also make indirect investments in equities via participatory notes (where the underlying assets would comprise equities defined above). Typically, the Fund will concentrate its investments in a limited number of holdings. While the performance of the Fund is measured relative to the benchmark, the Investment Manager's approach towards stock-picking is benchmark agnostic. The Fund may utilize financial derivative instruments (FDIs) for hedging and effective portfolio management (EPM) purposes.

#### Performance (%)



|                     | 1 mth  | 3 mths | 6 mths | 1 yr   | 3 yrs | 5 yrs | SI. Ann.<br>Ret. | SI. Ann.<br>Vol. |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|------------------|------------------|
| Fund (bid-to-bid)   | -12.16 | -15.95 | -19.54 | -18.55 | 2.29  | 4.06  | 3.86             | 12.90            |
| Fund (offer-to-bid) | -16.34 | -19.96 | -23.37 | -22.42 | 0.64  | 3.05  | 3.26             | NA               |
| Benchmark           | -9.68  | -11.44 | -13.70 | -12.12 | 5.94  | 5.68  | 5.23             | 12.25            |

Returns of more than 1 year are annualised. Returns are calculated on a single pricing basis in SGD with net dividends and distributions (if any) reinvested. Offer-to-bid returns include an assumed preliminary charge of 5% which may or may not be charged to investors.

Benchmark: MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net Index.

Source: Fullerton Fund Management Company Ltd, MSCI Inc. and Bloomberg.

# **Market Review**

Financial markets suffered a broad sell-off in October as the overhang from the US-China trade standoff, geopolitics and a hawkish Federal Reserve continued to weigh on investor sentiment; Asian equities ended the turbulent month in negative territory. Volatility continued to grip markets, given rising concerns over corporate profits and the longevity of global economic growth amid rising borrowing costs. Meanwhile, a spike in global yields and a surging US dollar, coupled with soft China macro data and liquidity, soured investment sentiment further. Towards the end of the month, there was a slight relief rally in Asia, thanks to gains eked out by US equities.

Turning to central bank action, policymakers delivered mixed decisions in October. The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) tightened monetary policy as it allowed a slight increase in the slope of the SGD NEER policy band but kept the band width and level at which it was centred unchanged. Bank Indonesia (BI) kept its benchmark rate unchanged at 5.75%, and reiterated its commitment to contain the current account deficit. India and Korea similarly left interest rates steady. The Reserve Bank of India took the decision on the back of expectations for inflation to remain contained, as did the Bank of Korea (BOK), which left its inflation estimate for 2018 unchanged despite an unexpectedly high September inflation print. This said, the BOK cut its 2018 growth estimate from 2.9% to 2.7%.

Against the above, the People's Bank of China (PBOC) relaxed monetary policy and indicated an accommodative stance going forward, following a decision to cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) for the fourth time this year in a bid to encourage lending. The latest cut will release RMB1.2 trillion in liquidity, of which RMB450 billion will be used to repay maturing medium-term lending facility (MLF) loans.

Inception date

14 Jun 2010

Fund size

SGD 415.81 million

**Base Currency** 

USD

Pricing Date

31 Oct 2018

NAV\*

SGD 13.74

Management fee

Up to 1.75% p.a.

**Preliminary Charge** 

Up to 5% of the subscription amount (equivalent to a maximum of 5.26315% of the Net Asset Value per Share)

Dealing day

Daily

Deadline

1pm (CET); 5pm (Singapore time) on each Business Day

**Bloomberg Code** 

HCAASGA LX

ISIN Code

LU0516422366

The Fund is available for SRS subscription.

For additional information on Fullerton and its funds, please contact:

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\* Figures have been truncated to 2 decimal places. The official price is published on Fullerton's website.

### **Investment Strategy**

Asia equity markets remain difficult, as investors grapple with slowing earnings growth, increased market volatility and tightening liquidity in the region. Asian growth, although remaining somewhat resilient, has seen its outlook weaken on the back of the potential for increasing trade tariffs between the US and China. Our base case is for trade tensions to be protracted. As global economic growth continues to moderate, we expect policymakers to become less hawkish and more pro-growth in the coming quarters. Current elevated market volatility regime is likely to persist into year end.

With valuations improving given the recent stock market correction, we have started to focus on stocks that will perform well in 2019. To this end, we have positioned our portfolios accordingly, focusing on growth stocks with better earnings visibility as well as those with improving outlook for next year. It remains sensible adhering to our fundamentally driven approach to bottom-up investing, with minimal deviation from the longer term, structural themes driving Asia's growth.

| Country Breakdown                  |       | Sector Breakdown       |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| China                              | 26.6% | Communication Services | 10.0% |
| Hong Kong                          | 8.5%  | Consumer Discretionary | 8.1%  |
| India                              | 9.9%  | Consumer Staples       | 2.0%  |
| Indonesia                          | 2.1%  | Energy                 | 10.5% |
| Korea                              | 15.9% | Financials             | 25.1% |
| Malaysia                           | 2.1%  | Health Care            | 0.9%  |
| Singapore                          | 8.8%  | Industrial             | 6.4%  |
| Taiwan                             | 11.8% | Information Technology | 19.7% |
| Thailand                           | 6.7%  | Materials              | 5.5%  |
| Cash                               | 7.7%  | Utilities              | 4.2%  |
|                                    |       | Cash                   | 7.7%  |
| Top 5 Holdings                     |       |                        |       |
| Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing | 7.8%  |                        |       |
| UOB                                | 4.1%  |                        |       |
| Tencent Holdings                   | 4.1%  |                        |       |
| Samsung Electronics                | 3.7%  |                        |       |
| China Construction Bank            | 3.7%  |                        |       |

**Disclaimer:** This publication is for information only and your specific investment objectives, financial situation and needs are not considered here. The value of units in the Fund and any accruing income from the units may fall or rise. Any past performance, prediction or forecast is not indicative of future or likely performance. Any past payout yields and payments are not indicative of future payout yields and payments. Distributions (if any) may be declared at the absolute discretion of Fullerton Fund Management Company Ltd (UEN: 200312672W) ("Fullerton") and are not guaranteed. Distribution may be declared out of income and/or capital of the Fund, in accordance with the prospectus. Where distributions (if any) are declared in accordance with the prospectus, this may result in an immediate reduction of the net asset value per unit in the Fund. Applications must be made on the application form accompanying the prospectus, which can be obtained from Fullerton or its approved distributors. You should read the prospectus and seek advice from a financial adviser before investing. If you choose not to seek advice, you should consider whether the Fund is suitable for you. The Fund may use or invest in financial derivative instruments. Please refer to the prospectus of the Fund for more information.