# **Strategy Description**

Meranti Asia Fund 'MAF' seeks long-term high growth of the portfolio by investing across Asia Padific ex. Japan equity markets, while looking to mitigate risks during significant downturns. Instead of investing in flavour of the day concepts, the strategy focuses on structural characteristics that make sense and are backed by empirical research.

# **Key Features**

# **Dynamic Risk Mitigation**

Financial crises are infrequent but inevitable. By managing risks in significant downtums, the strategy is designed to help investors endure systemic market shocks and continue to invest with confidence.

# **Asia Equities**

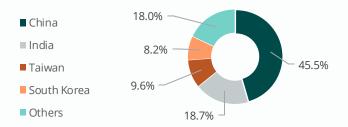
Invest into secular opportunities arising from the global shift of economic power to Asia.

# **Active Strategy**

Index funds tend to focus on less than 5% of the 33,000+ listed companies in Asia. By investing across the universe using Fundamental, Valuation, and Technical principles; the ability to be different provides outperformance potential.

# Asia Equities Fertile ground for investing into compelling growth opportunities Dynamic Risk Mitigation Risk management to mitigate risk of negative compounding

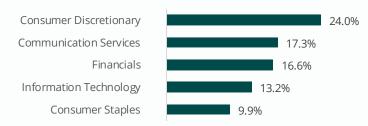
# Geographical Breakdown



# **Top Equity Holdings**

| • •         |   |
|-------------|---|
| Tencent     | World-leading internet and technology company offering    |
| Holdings    | high-quality digital content and services.                |
| Alibaba     | China's biggest e-commerce company for online and         |
| Group       | mobile marketplaces in retail and wholesale trade.        |
| Ping An     | World-leading retail financial services provider for      |
| Insurance   | integrated finance and healthcare.                        |
| China Tower | China's largest telecommunications infrastructure service |
|             | provider.   |
| TSMC        | World's largest contract manufacturer of semiconductor.   |

# Sector Allocation



| Port | :folic | ) Stati | stics* |
|------|--------|---------|--------|
|      |        |         |        |

| 1 or cromo statistics              | Portfolio | Benchmark |
|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Current Price-Earnings (P/E) Ratio | 13.78     | 12.75     |
| Earnings-Per-Share (EPS) Growth    | 16.63     | 13.09     |

\*Current Price-Earnings (P/E) ratio and Earnings-Per-Share (EPS) Growth figures retrieved from Bloomberg. Reference benchmark is the MSCI AC Asia Ex Japan Index.

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# **Market & Portfolio Developments**

### **Market Review**

Our Asia fund declined in August. Two things come to mind based on this one-month observation.

- 1. The fund is volatile. A monthly move of 8.60% means that the fund is expected to swing about 30% per annum as it goes about its long-term compounding.
- **2. The fund is more volatile than Asian markets.** The fund underperformed an Asian index fund. Last month, the fund was up 7.20%, outperforming the index fund.

Such swings are not for everyone. But let's step back and remember why one wants to invest in Asia in the first place. Investors in Asia are not, and should not be expecting a boring ride. If they wanted boring, there is no point considering Asia.

To paraphrase Howard Marks, if you take more risk, you can get higher return; but if you don't take risk, you are assured of lower return. For investors who want higher return, they need to focus on investments that are more volatile.

In general, we expect the fund to be more volatile than a typical Asia fund. If we look back at the months when Asia markets were up, the fund tended to have higher return. Hence, this fund is suitable for those who believe that Asian markets will go up more than they will go down.

However higher risk itself is insufficient to provide higher return. The fund has two other ingredients to give us confidence that the risk being taken is worthwhile. These ingredients are the main sources of long-term return for equity investors: growth in earnings and valuations.

It is now evident that investments with higher growth and better margin of safety are not less volatile, which can be counterintuitive. But think about it, a stock needs to be volatile in order to get to a price that offers margin of safety, and needs to be volatile in order to rise to its intrinsic value.

Having said that, while investors in Asia need to have stronger stomachs, there is the once in a blue moon crash that is part and parcel of markets. Such crashes test the risk tolerance of even the most seasoned investors, which is why we have Dynamic Risk Mitigation to 1. mitigate the effect of negative compounding, 2. provide much needed dry powder to invest during market crashes.

# **Fund Details**

| •   |                                  | _                              |  |  |  |  |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| ltem  | Class A                          | Class B                        |  |  |  |  |
| Currency                                    | SGD,                             |                                |  |  |  |  |
| ISIN (SGD Class)                            | SGXZ64383987<br>(Distribution)   | SGXZ78636883<br>(Accumulation) |  |  |  |  |
| ISIN (USD Class)                            | SGXZ99381758<br>(Distribution)   | SGXZ76017904<br>(Accumulation) |  |  |  |  |
| Projected Distribution <sup>2</sup>         | 4% p.a.                          | -                              |  |  |  |  |
| Min. Subscription                           | SGD 500,000<br>USD 400,000       | SGD 50,000<br>USD 40,000       |  |  |  |  |
| Account Opening Fee <sup>3</sup> (One-time) | SGD 4,000<br>USD 3,000           | SGD 4,000<br>USD 3,000         |  |  |  |  |
| Min.<br>Subsequent<br>Subscription          | SGD 15,000<br>USD 10,000         | SGD 15,000<br>USD 10,000       |  |  |  |  |
| Redemption Fees                             |                                  |                                |  |  |  |  |
| 1st Year of Investment                      | -                                | 3%                             |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd Year of Investment                      | -                                | 2%                             |  |  |  |  |
| 3rd Year of Investment                      | -                                | 1%                             |  |  |  |  |
| 4th Year Onwards                            | -                                | 0%                             |  |  |  |  |
| Management Fee                              | 1.78%                            | 0%                             |  |  |  |  |
| Performance Fee <sup>4</sup>                | 0%                               | 20%                            |  |  |  |  |
| Fund Name                                   | Meranti Capital VCC<br>Asia Fund |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Dealing Frequency                           | Monthly                          |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Base Currency                               | USD                              |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Inception Date                              | 2 November 2020                  |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Fund Domicile                               | Singapore                        |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Investment Manager                          | Finexis Asset Management         |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Fund Administrator                          | ASCENT Fund Services (Singapore) |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Custodian                                   | Standard Chartered Bank          |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Auditor                                     | KPMG LLP                         |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Broker                                      | Goldman Sachs (Asia) L.L.C.      |                                |  |  |  |  |
| Legal Advisors BTPLaw LLC                   |                                  |                                |  |  |  |  |
| 2 Diagramata that the distributions         | (if any) may be declared         |                                |  |  |  |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Please note that the distributions (if any) may be declared semi-annually based on the Investment Manager's discretion. If distributions are made, such distributions are not a forecast, indication or projection of the future performance of the Fund. <sup>3</sup> Waiver of account opening fees for investors through the platforms. <sup>4</sup> Charged on high water mark basis, with zero hurdle rate.

**About Meranti**: The Meranti fund series is named after the Meranti tree, which is native to Singapore and the region. It is a canopy and emergent tree; providing shade from its place at the top layer of a rainforest where sunlight is plentiful. To reach such great heights, the trees have a strong and wide system of roots to help provide stability while also gathering more nutrients. Likewise, Meranti funds were developed around a Dynamic Risk Mitigation process so that investors can invest with confidence and harvest the full potential of capital growth through market cycles.

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# **Share Class Performance History**

| USD B <sup>1</sup> | Jan    | Feb    | Mar    | Apr    | May    | Jun    | Jul    | Aug     | Sep     | Oct     | Nov    | Dec    | YTD      |
|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|--------|----------|
| 2020               | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -       | -       | -       | 8.15%  | 3.38%  | 11.81%2  |
| 2021               | 2.40%  | 0.94%  | -1.34% | 2.05%  | 0.08%  | 0.02%  | -5.55% | 3.13%   | -4.36%  | 1.81%   | -3.76% | -1.84% | -6.65%   |
| 2022               | -4.57% | -0.74% | -2.00% | -1.84% | -1.88% | -4.04% | -2.76% | 0.20%   | -11.43% | -10.21% | 19.68% | 1.11%  | -19.55%  |
| 2023               | 8.69%  | -8.48% | 4.05%  | -2.86% | -4.10% | 3.60%  | 7.36%  | -8.45%5 |         |         |        |        | -1.82%5  |
| SGD A              | Jan    | Feb    | Mar    | Apr    | May    | Jun    | Jul    | Aug     | Sep     | Oct     | Nov    | Dec    | YTD      |
| 2021               | -      | -      | -      | -      | 0.45%  | -0.29% | -5.71% | 3.00%   | -4.63%  | 1.51%   | -3.90% | -2.10% | -11.40%³ |
| 2022               | -4.70% | -0.93% | -2.21% | -1.99% | -2.04% | -4.31% | -2.95% | 0.03%   | -11.98% | -10.20% | 18.85% | 0.81%  | -22.03%  |
| 2023               | 8.29%  | -9.00% | 3.68%  | -3.08% | -4.45% | 3.19%  | 7.00%  | -8.60%5 |         |         |        |        | -4.51%5  |
| USD A              | Jan    | Feb    | Mar    | Apr    | May    | Jun    | Jul    | Aug     | Sep     | Oct     | Nov    | Dec    | YTD      |
| 2021               | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | 2.98%   | -4.50%  | 1.66%   | -3.90% | -1.99% | -5.83%4  |
| 2022               | -4.71% | -0.89% | -2.14% | -1.99% | -2.02% | -4.18% | -2.95% | 0.05%   | -11.56% | -10.34% | 19.50% | 0.96%  | -21.00%  |
| 2023               | 8.53%  | -8.61% | 3.89%  | -3.00% | -4.24% | 3.44%  | 7.20%  | -8.60%5 |         |         |        |        | -2.99%5  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Performance based on the Lead Series. <sup>2</sup> Since inception of 2 Nov 2020. <sup>3</sup> Since inception of 3 May 2021. <sup>4</sup> Since inception of 2 August 2021. <sup>5</sup> Manager's estimated return. Actual return will be updated in the following month.

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