

Sun Life Malaysia

Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund

October 2022



FUND OBJECTIVE

To achieve capital appreciation over the medium to long-term by investing in Asia (ex Japan) equities.

FUND DETAILS

Launch Date	20 May 2014	Domicile	Malaysia
Currency	Ringgit Malaysia	Launch Price	RM1.0000
Units in Circulation	19.18 million units (31 October 2022)	Fund Size	RM29.25 million (31 October 2022)
Unit NAV	RM1.5253 (31 October 2022)	Dealing	Daily (as per Bursa Malaysia trading day)
Fund Manager	Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad	Target Fund	Affin Hwang Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund
Benchmark	MSCI AC Asia (ex-Japan) Small Cap Index	Taxation	8% of annual investment income
Risk Profile	<p>Suitable for investors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a medium to long term investment horizon Are risk tolerance Are seeking higher returns for their investments compared to the performance benchmark 	Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun Life Malaysia does not impose any fund management charge on Sun Life Malaysia Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund Up to 1.5% p.a. of fund management charge is applied on the target fund's NAV by Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad

ASSET ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND

Equities	Cash
Minimum 70%; Max 100%	Remaining Balance

Sun Life Malaysia Assurance Berhad 199001005930 (197499-U)

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SECTOR ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND

Financials	25.9%
Industrials	23.0%
Consumer Discretionary	15.0%
Health Care	10.8%
Technology	7.0%
Consumer Staples	4.4%
Energy	2.2%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	11.7%
Total	100.0%

TOP HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND (EQUITIES)

CSOP Hang Seng TECH Index ETF	7.3%
Mitra Adiperkasa Tbk PT	6.6%
Shriram City Union Finance Ltd	5.6%
Ciputra Development Tbk PT	3.9%
Novo Tellus Alpha Acquisition	3.7%
Hugel Inc	3.7%
Yinson Holdings Berhad	3.6%
Security Bank Corp	3.4%
Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings	3.1%
Finolex Cables Ltd	2.9%
Total	43.8%

PERFORMANCE RECORD

The Fund feeds into Affin Hwang Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund (“target fund”) with the objective of achieving capital appreciation over the medium to long-term by investing in Asia (ex Japan) equities with market capitalization of not more than USD1.5 billion at the time of investment. However, the target fund would also have an option to invest into companies with a market capitalization of not more than USD3.0 billion at the time of investment, which will be capped at no more than 30% of the Net Asset Value (NAV) of the target fund.

Table below shows the investment returns of Sun Life Malaysia Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund versus its benchmark as at 31 October 2022:

%	YTD	1M	6M	1-Year	3-Years	5-Years	Since Inception
Fund*	-12.52	-1.98	-8.24	-17.74	25.70	10.54	52.53
Benchmark	-20.88	-0.99	-14.12	-19.70	18.73	-1.36	40.24

* Calculation of past performance is based on NAV-to-NAV

Notice: Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance which may differ. The fund performance is not guaranteed.

FUND MANAGER'S COMMENTS

- US equities notched higher gains in October on optimism that the US Federal Reserve is considering easing monetary policy. The S&P 500 climbed 8.0% higher as souring consumer confidence and falling home prices raised expectations that the Fed could start to hit the brakes on tightening. The Nasdaq index similarly closed 3.9% higher last month.
- The broader MSCI Asia ex-Japan index fell 6.1% dragged down by losses in China. The MSCI China index plunged by over 16.8% as COVID flare-ups and policy uncertainty post-Congress weigh on risk sentiment.
- In China's 20th Party Congress Xi Jinping was elected as its general secretary for an unprecedented third term, further cementing his leadership. Markets were jittery as President Xi's further consolidation of power together with his close allies fueled risk that disruptive past policies like Beijing's tech regulatory crackdown and its strict zero COVID strategy would continue.
- The US-China tech war escalated further after the Biden administration announced further restrictions on the sale of advanced computing and semiconductor manufacturing equipment to China. The latest curbs are seen as an expansion of the government's ban as it moves up the supply chain to restrain China's tech ambitions.

STRATEGY:

- The US market is in another bear market rally. US earnings expectations still have room to fall and this could eventually take markets lower. Chinese markets have sold off sharply after the Party Congress on concerns surrounding policy directions. Expect the Chinese markets to continue underperforming. Other Asian markets will be more resilient as investors reallocate.
- We would continue to seek and hold stocks with the Quality Growth at Reasonable Price characteristic. These stocks offer an ideal balance of long term growth prospects, thematic relevance and digestible valuations, though there may be short-term headwinds.
- The fund's invested level was increased to 88%, as we added to positions in China and Hong Kong given attractive valuations and government stimulus policy rollouts.
- Over the month, we also added to some of the existing positions in HK/China, Korea and Philippines. We exited holdings in a Korea bank given asset quality concern and regulatory risk, and trimmed holdings in a Korea battery foil maker given their poor execution.
- We maintain some buffer with higher cash levels as the Fund stays defensive. As positioning is bearish, we would continue to look out for inflection signs, which includes a moderating Fed rate hike cycle, a peak in USD, and earnings capitulation

RISKS

All investment carries some form of risks. The potential key risks include but are not limited to the following:

Market risk	Market risk refers to the possibility that an investment will lose value because of a general decline in financial markets, due to economic, political and/or other factors, which will result in a decline in the target fund's NAV.
Stock specific risk	Prices of a particular stock may fluctuate in response to the circumstances affecting individual companies such as adverse financial performance, news of a possible merger or loss of key personnel of a company. Any adverse price movements of such stock will adversely affect the target fund's NAV.
Credit and default risk	Credit risk relates to the creditworthiness of the issuers of the debentures or money market instruments (hereinafter referred to as "investment") and their expected ability to make timely payment of interest and/or principal. Any adverse situations faced by the issuers may impact the value as well as liquidity of the investment. In the case of rated investment, this may lead to a credit downgrade. Default risk relates to the risk of an issuer of the investment either defaulting on payments or failing to make payments in a timely manner which will in turn adversely affect the value of the investment. This could adversely affect the value of the target fund.
Interest rate risk	This risk refers to the impact of interest rate changes on the valuation of debentures or money market instruments (hereinafter referred to as "investment"). When interest rates rise, the investment prices generally decline and this may lower the market value of the investment. The reverse may apply when interest rates fall.
Warrants investment risk	The value of the warrants will depend on the pricing of the underlying security, whereby the growth and performance prospect of the underlying security would consequentially affect the value of the warrants. In addition, the value of the warrants may decrease exponentially as the warrants approach its maturity date and the potential gains from a favourable price movement of the underlying security may be offset by aggressive time decay. We may consider unwinding these warrants if there are material adverse changes to its value with the aim to mitigate the risk.
Country risk	Investments of the target fund in any country may be affected by changes in the economic and political climate, restriction on currency repatriation or other developments in the law or regulations of the countries in which the target fund invests. For example, the deteriorating economic condition of such countries may adversely affect the value of the investments undertaken by the target fund in those affected countries. This in turn may cause the NAV of the target fund or prices of units to fall.

RISKS (CONTINUED)

All investment carries some form of risks. The potential key risks include but are not limited to the following:

Currency risk

As the investments of the target fund may be denominated in currencies other than the base currency, any fluctuation in the exchange rate between the base currency and the currencies in which the investments are denominated may have an impact on the value of these investments. You should note that any gains or losses arising from the fluctuation in the exchange rate may further increase or decrease the returns of the investment.

Currency risk at the target fund level

The impact of the exchange rate movement between the base currency of the target fund and the currency of the underlying investments (other than in MYR) may result in a depreciation of the value of the investments as expressed in the base currency of the target fund.

Regulatory risk

The investments of the target fund would be exposed to changes in the laws and regulations in the countries the target fund is invested in. These regulatory changes pose a risk to the target fund as it may materially impact the investments of the target fund. In an effort to manage and mitigate such risk, the fund manager seeks to continuously keep abreast of regulatory developments (for example, by closely monitoring announcements on regulators' website and mainstream media) in that country. The fund manager may dispose its investments in that particular country should the regulatory changes adversely impact the policy owners' interest or diminish returns of the target fund.

Source : *Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad*

Date : *31 October 2022*

Disclaimer:

The benchmark performance is not a guide to future performances which may differ. The performance of the fund is not guaranteed. The value of the fund will fluctuate and may fall below the amount of premiums paid and the fund value depends on the actual performance of the underlying investment. This material is for information purposes only and is subject to change at any time without notice. Sun Life Malaysia does not guarantee its accuracy, completeness, correctness or timeliness for any purpose or reason. This information should not be considered as advice or recommendation in relation to your account or particular investment objectives, financial situation or needs. You may not revise, transform, or build upon this material without prior written consent of Sun Life Malaysia. Before acting on any information you should seek independent financial advice. Sun Life Malaysia may suspend the unit pricing and defer the payment of benefits, other than death and total and permanent disability benefits, subscription or redemption of units, switching of funds, under this contract for a reasonable period in exceptional circumstances, such as and including intervening events resulting in temporary closure of any stock exchange.