

## **Fund Monthly Report**

#### Important note:

- 1. BEA Union Investment Asian Bond and Currency Fund (the "Fund") seeks regular interest income, capital gains and currency appreciation from an actively managed portfolio of debt securities denominated in Asian or other currencies and primarily issued by Asian government or corporate entities.
- 2. The Fund invests in emerging markets, which are subject to higher liquidity and volatility risks.
- 3. The Fund may invest in lower-rated fixed income instruments, including below investment grade and non-rated debt securities, which are subject to greater credit and liquidity risks than higher-rated securities.
- 4. The manager may at its discretion make distributions from income and/or capital in respect of the distributing classes of the Fund. Investors should note that the distributions paid out of capital amount to a return or withdrawal of part of the unitholder's original investment or from any capital gains attributable to that original investment. Such distribution may result in an immediate reduction of the net asset value per unit.
- 5. In terms of currency hedged class units, adverse exchange rate fluctuations between the base currency of the Fund and the class currency of the currency hedged class units may result in a decrease in return and/or loss of capital for unitholders. Over-hedged or under-hedged positions may arise and there can be no assurance that these currency hedged class units will be hedged at all times or that the manager will be successful in employing the hedge.
- 6. Investors may invest in RMB (Hedged) units. It should be noted that the RMB is currently not a freely convertible currency as it is subject to foreign exchange control policies of the Chinese government. There is also no assurance that the RMB will not be subject to devaluation. Any devaluation of the RMB could adversely affect the value of investors' investments. There is no guarantee that the hedging strategy will be effective and investors may still be subject to the RMB currency exchange risk.
- 7. The Fund may enter into futures contracts and currency forward contracts for hedging and investment purposes. Given the leverage effect embedded in futures and currency forward contracts, the Fund may be exposed to significant losses.
- 8. Investors should not make an investment decision based solely on this material.

# **BEA Union Investment Asian Bond and Currency Fund**

★★★★ Morningstar Overall Rating<sup>1</sup>

## Positive Factors on Asian Bond Market Persist in 2018



## Highlights:

- 1. Consistent investment flows into Asian bond markets while corporate credit improves
- 2. Asian local bond market has performed well as a result of the weaker U.S. dollar
- 3. The Fund has achieved 8.3% growth in 2017

## **Fund Features**

- The Fund adopts unconstrained strategy, with maximum flexibility allowed in allocating assets among corporate bonds, government bonds, high yield bonds and investment grade bonds, actively hunting for alpha opportunities.
- Seeks stable dividends and exploits appreciation potential of Asian bonds.

## **Market Review and Outlook**

## Review of Interest Rate Market

- The U.S. Federal Reserve raised the interest rate by 0.25% in December, in line with market expectation. After the rate hike had become fully reflected in the market, U.S. Treasuries trading remained range-bound, with bond yields closing at around 2.4% at the end of 2017.

#### Asian High Yield Bonds

- Asian high-yield bonds performed well last year due to strong liquidity flows and corporates' improving fundamentals.
- Indonesian and Indian high yield bonds outperformed due to a lower supply of bond issuance and scarcity value, as well as the strong recovery in commodity prices.



#### Asian Local Currency Bonds

Asian local currency bond markets recorded a decent performance last year, with low double-digit growth, as a result of
Asian currencies strengthening against the U.S. dollar and lower local yields for some Asian economies. Southeast
Asian bond markets such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore outperformed north Asian bond markets.
Yields of renminbi and Hong Kong dollar bonds compressed at a higher rate.

## **Investment Strategy**

- Although economic improvement in the U.S. and Europe continues, the pace of rate hikes should be gradual and will only cause short-term volatility to global bond markets.
- Positive factors impacting Asian bonds are expected to persist in 2018, including consistent investment flows, high-yield bonds' low correlation with interest rates, and improving corporate credit.
- The Fund continues to reduce its holdings of long-dated bonds and higher beta bonds, switching the investment into more defensive short-dated Chinese property bonds.

## **Fund Performance and Dividend**

Performance<sup>2</sup>: A USD (Distributing)

#### Cumulative **Calendar Year Performance Performance** 24.7% 14.0% 8.3% 8.3% 5.5% 4.8% 2.5% YTD 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012 1 Year

A USD (Distributing) launched on 28 August 2008.

#### Dividend

December 2017	Dividend per Unit	Annualised Dividend Yield <sup>3</sup>
A USD (Distributing)	US\$ 0.06595	5.5%
H HKD (Distributing)	HK\$ 0.05307	5.5%
A AUD Hedged (Distributing)	AU\$ 0.06282	7.0%
A RMB Hedged (Distributing)	RMB 0.74940	8.0%

Throughout most of the past 12 months, 100% of the Fund's dividends came from net distributable income.





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If you would like to stay informed of the market development and our latest investment strategy, please feel free to register as a member of BEA Union Investment through the link below:

http://www.bea-union-investment.com/member-registration

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#### **Recent Awards**



Best Bond Fund, Asia Pacific, Local Currency (3 & 5 years)<sup>4</sup>



Platinum, Regional Bond⁵



Best-In-Class, Asia High Yield Bond<sup>6</sup>



Winner of Asian Bonds (3 years)<sup>7</sup>

#### **Fund Code**

	ISIN	Bloomberg
A USD (Accumulating)	HK0000065208	BEABCAA HK
A USD (Distributing)	HK0000065216	BEABCAI HK
H HKD (Distributing)	HK0000081361	BEABCHD HK
A AUD Hedged (Distributing)	HK0000162856	BEAAUHD HK
A RMB Hedged (Distributing)	HK0000194263	BEARMHD HK

Source of the fund data: BEA Union Investment Management Limited, as at 31 December 2017.

- 1. Source: ©2017 Morningstar. All Rights Reserved. Data as of 31 December 2017. The rating is for A USD (Distributing).
- 2. Source: Lipper, as at 31 December 2017. The quoted return is for A USD (Distributing) launched on 28 August 2008. Performance is calculated in the respective class of denominated currencies on a NAV to NAV basis. Gross income is re-invested.
- 3. Annualised dividend yield = (dividend of December x 12) / last month end NAV x 100%. The manager may at its discretion make distributions from income and/or capital in respect of the distributing classes of the Fund. Such distribution may result in an immediate reduction of the net asset value per unit. Dividend only applies to distributing classes and is not guaranteed. Past dividend record is not indicative of future dividend likely to be achieved. Please note that a positive distribution yield does not imply a positive return. Investors should not make any investment decision solely based on information contained above. You should read the relevant offering document (including the key facts statement) of the Fund for further details including the risk factors.
- 4. Source: Lipper, performance for A USD (Accumulating) as at 31 December 2016. Award logo from Thomson Reuters Lipper Awards, ©2017 Thomson Reuters. All rights reserved. Used by permission and protected by the Copyright Laws of the United States. The printing, copying, redistribution, or retransmission of this Content without express written permission is prohibited.
- 5. Source: Fund Selector Asia, performance as at 30 June 2016.
- 6. Source: BENCHMARK, performance for A USD (Accumulating) as at 30 September 2016.
- 7. Source: Asia Asset Management, performance as at 30 September 2015.

Investments in the Fund are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. For full details and risk factors of the Fund, please refer to the explanatory memorandum of the Fund. Investors should also read the explanatory memorandum of the Fund for detailed information prior to any subscription. The information contained herein is only a brief introduction to the Fund. Investors should be aware that the price of units may go down as well as up as the investments of the Fund are subject to market fluctuations and to the risks inherent in all investments. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. The information contained in this document is based upon information which BEA Union Investment Management Limited considers reliable and is provided on an "as is" basis. This document does not constitute an offer, recommendation or solicitation to buy or sell any securities or financial instruments. The Fund has been authorised by the Securities and Futures Commission ("SFC") in Hong Kong. SFC authorisation is not a recommendation or endorsement of a scheme nor does it guarantee the commercial merits of a scheme or its performance. It does not mean the scheme is suitable for all investors nor is it an endorsement of its suitability for any particular investor or class of investors. This material and the website have not been reviewed by the SFC in Hong Kong.

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