

# **Fund Monthly Report**

#### Important note:

- 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**

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Morningstar Overall Rating<sup>1</sup>

# **Asian High Yield Bonds Look Attractive after Correction**



# Highlights:

- 1. Current valuation of Asian high yield bonds looks attractive given their solid fundamentals
- 2. Declining leverage of Asian corporates leads to increasing credit rating upgrades
- 3. Continued to hold more defensive short-dated bonds and retained a higher level of cash

## **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

- 10-year U.S. Treasury yields remained largely range-bound at around 2.85% to 3% in June and were still flat at 2.86% at the end of June. This was largely due to risk-off sentiment and a halt in hawkish statements from the Federal Reserve.

## Asian High Yield Bonds

- Overall, Asian high yield bond markets continued to experience some correction in June because of risk-off sentiment, but current valuation looks attractive given their fundamentals remain solid.
- Default rates for Asian corporate have been relatively low historically compared to high yield bonds in other emerging markets. Currently, the default rate of Asian U.S. dollar bonds is just 2%. The leverage of many Asian corporate borrowers is declining, credit rating agencies respond with a growing number of rating upgrades.





## Asian Local Currency Bonds

- Asian local bond markets continued to decline in June as a result of strong U.S. dollar and rising local bond yields.
- China, Indonesia and the Philippines have underperformed other local bond markets due to fears of a China-U.S. trade war, three rate hikes and a further decline of the local currency in Indonesia, and a rising current account deficit and high inflation in the Philippines.

# **Investment Strategy**

- The Fund remained strategically defensive in June. It continued to reduce its holdings in some higher beta names and long-dated bonds across various sectors.
- The Fund continued to hold more defensive short-dated bonds and retained a higher level of cash in view of market volatility.
- The Fund kept its duration relatively short using floating-rate notes issued by Asian banks and financial institutions.

#### **Fund Performance and Dividend**

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

#### Cumulative Calendar Year Performance Performance 14.0% 8.3% 5.5% 4.8% 2.5% 0.5% -3.3% 2015 2014 2013 YTD 1 Year 2017 2016

A USD (Distributing) launched on 28 August 2008.

#### Dividend

June 2018	Dividend per Unit	Annualised Dividend Yield <sup>3</sup>
A USD (Distributing)	US\$ 0.06029	5.3%
H HKD (Distributing)	HK\$ 0.04874	5.3%
A AUD Hedged (Distributing)	AU\$ 0.05732	6.8%
A RMB Hedged (Distributing)	RMB 0.64869	7.2%

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**



(Hong Kong)





House Award, Best-In-Class, Asia Fixed Income



Best Bond Fund, Asia Pacific, Hard Currency (3 & 5 years)<sup>6</sup>



Gold Winner, Regional Bond



Best-In-Class, Asia High Yield Fixed Income<sup>8</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
I USD (Accumulating)	HK0000081379	BEABCIA HK

Source of the fund data: BEA Union Investment Management Limited, as at 30 June 2018.

- 1. ©2018 Morningstar. All Rights Reserved. Data as of 30 June 2018. The rating is for A USD (Distributing).
- 2. Source: Lipper, as at 30 June 2018. 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 June 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: The Asset, 2018 Research for Asian Local Currency Bonds, June 2018.
- 5. Source: BENCHMARK, November 2017.
- 6. Source: Lipper, performance for A USD (Accumulating) as at 29 December 2017. Award logo from Thomson Reuters Lipper Awards, ©2018 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.
- 7. Source: Fund Selector Asia, performance as at 30 June 2017.
- 8. Source: BENCHMARK, performance for A USD (Accumulating) as at 29 September 2017.

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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