

**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 ("ABC")**

 $\bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar \bigstar$ Morningstar Overall Rating<sup>1</sup>

## Asian High Yield Bonds Spread Tighten



Highlights:

- 1. Asian high yield bonds spread tighten due to riskon sentiment
- 2. The Fund takes partial profit from bonds with tight valuations
- 3. Indonesian local currency government bonds benefit from dovish tone of the central bank

## **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. Treasury yields plummeted following the FOMC meeting, which signaled the pause for a further rate hike. The dovish stance of the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) shift mainly occurred in the context of downside risk to growth and muted inflation.
- The 10-year U.S. Treasury yield dropped 31 basis points to 2.405% at the end of March, the lowest level since December 2017.

#### Asian High Yield Bonds

- In March, overall Asian high yield bonds spread continued to tighten, supported by the risk on sentiment, limited supply and inflows. Chinese high yield property bonds were supported by muted new issuance due to reporting season. Corporate bond yields in Indonesia and India tightened as a result of higher oil price and laggard chasing.

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- Chinese high yield industrial bonds underperformed in March due to weak full-year results announced by certain issuers and their tight valuations.

#### Asian Local Currency Bonds

 Asian local currency bond markets performed reasonably well in March. Asian government bond yields were lower in general, along with falling yields curve globally on the back of a weaker economic outlook in Eurozone and more dovish FOMC statement in March.

#### Market Outlook

- We expect the U.S. Treasury yields to remain at low levels, largely hinges on the trade talk outcome and economic data. The dovish stance of the global and Asian central banks should continue to support the Asian local bond markets in the near term.
- In terms of Asian high yield bonds, we expect names with an exceptionally attractive yield and material fundamental improvement will continue to outperform the market.
- In the Southeast Asia markets, we expect Indonesian and Indian commodity names to continue benefit from favourable commodity prices while the sector may be impacted by new supply for funding their CapEx plans.

## Investment Strategy

- The Fund took partial profit from bonds with tight valuations. We will turn slightly defensive and trim names with tight valuations and long duration due to the supply pressure, particularly on the Chinese property sector.
- At the same time, the Fund continues to look for opportunities to pick up some higher yield names with decent valuation and better credit quality.
- We remain constructive on Indonesian local currency government bonds given their attractive carry and more dovish tone of the Bank of Indonesia.

## **Fund Performance and Dividend**

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



Dividend

March 2019	Dividend per Unit	Annualised Dividend Yield <sup>3</sup>
A USD (Distributing)	US\$ 0.07156	6.3%
H HKD (Distributing)	HK\$ 0.05786	6.3%
A AUD Hedged (Distributing)	AU\$ 0.05208	6.3%
A RMB Hedged (Distributing)	RMB 0.61699	7.0%

A USD (Distributing) launched on 28 August 2008.



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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

#### **Recent Awards**





One of the Top Investment Houses in Asian G3 Bonds (Hong Kong)<sup>4</sup>

One of the Top Investment Houses in Asian Local Currency Bonds (Hong Kong)<sup>5</sup>



Best-In-Class, Asia Pacific Fixed Income Hard Currency<sup>6</sup>



(10 Years) 7

Winner, Asian Bonds



Platinum Winner, Regional Bond <sup>8</sup>

## **Fund Code**

	ISIN	Bloomberg
A USD (Accumulating)	HK0000065208	BEABCAA HK
A RMB Hedged (Accumulating)	HK0000272531	BEARMHA HK
A EUR Hedged (Accumulating)	HK0000405735	BEABCAE HK
I USD (Accumulating)	HK0000081379	BEABCIA 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 March 2019.

- 1. ©2019 Morningstar. All Rights Reserved. Data as of 31 March 2019. The rating is for A USD (Distributing).
- 2. Source: Lipper, as at 31 March 2019. 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 March 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 G3 Bonds, October 2018.
- 5. Source: The Asset, 2018 Research for Asian Local Currency Bonds, June 2018.
- 6. Source: BENCHMARK, November 2018.
- 7. Source: Asia Asset Management, performance as at 30 September 2018.
- 8. Source: Fund Selector Asia, performance as at 30 June 2018.

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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