Meranti Asia Equity

31 January 2025

Our Strategy

For investors who believe in the Asia growth story but are worried about a potential United States (US) market crisis affecting it, the **Meranti Asia Fund (MAF)** offers a solution. MAF invests in a basket of Asia companies demonstrating strong potential to maximize returns for shareholders in the next five years, with a proven track record of resilience in past economic downturns and positioning to capture future trends in a drastically changing world. With a fixed budget to hedge against a potential US market crash, investors can be assured of capturing the opportunities of the next decade without worrying about the big "reset".

Who is this suitable for

The strategy is suitable for clients looking for Asia Equity strategy with US market crash protection

100% Equity

Equity holding to maximize returns

>8%

Capital Appreciation **compounded at 8% target return**

Dynamic Risk Management (DRM)
Fixed budget
Keep investors calm

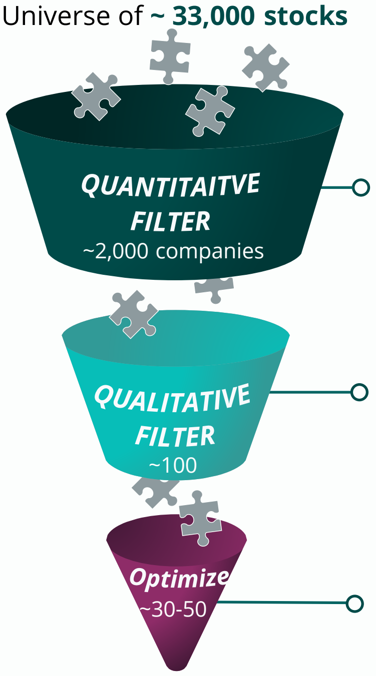
Asia: embracing volatility in a continent rich with opportunities

Asia offers investors access to a wealth of investment opportunities with its 33,000 listed companies. However, uncovering hidden gems takes more than just data. While data serves as an essential filter through which stocks are assessed, the manager's depth and breadth of understanding of Asia companies, alongside the experience of seeing the companies through different cycles, are essential skill to construct an effective portfolio.

Winning formula to uncover hidden gems in Asia

Illustration of how we select stocks within pockets of growth in Asia:

Universe of **~ 33,000 stocks**



Quantitative filter: Apply a combination of fundamental metrics and rules to the universe of stocks and continuously assess and filter out interesting opportunities which form the foundation for our stock selection and analysis.

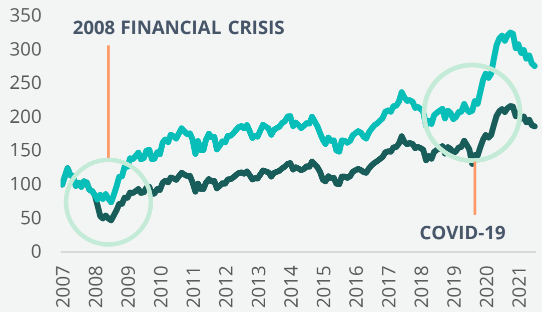
Qualitative filter: On the selected names, we assess the company's business strategy and financial data to identify companies that have strong economic moats to ward off competition and the ability to innovate to overcome challenges and drive growth.

Optimizer: We view the portfolio holdings as a whole, continuously optimized with names that are well positioned in respect of the current trends and the economic environment, to optimize the risk-adjusted return.

How does Dynamic Risk Mitigation (DRM) Help?

Black swan events are unexpected and potentially catastrophic for an investment portfolio i.e. 2008 Great Financial Crisis where the price of global equity markets declined sharply by -60%.

DRM addresses the urge of investors to exit the market in anticipation of market crashes so that investors can stay invested for the long-term. Through the use of a series of option positions, investors are shielded against such extreme market declines, enjoying lower drawdowns and faster portfolio recovery.



		Without DRM	With DRM
Largest Drawdown	2008 FC	-62.09%	-40.53%
	Covid-19	-20.71%	-5.34%
Months to Recover	2008 FC	63	7
	Covid-19	4	2
Total Return		**85.97%**	**175.59%**

For illustration purposes only for the period from August 2007 to February 2022. The reference benchmark is the MSCI AC Asia Ex Japan Index.

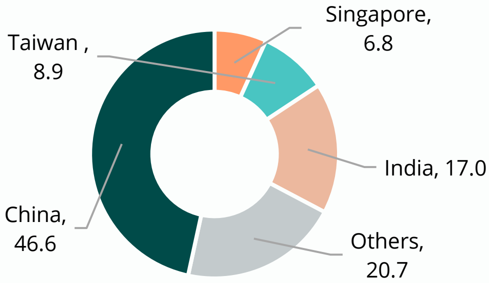
Calendar Return, %

Class	Jan[1]	YTD[1]	2024[1, 2]	Since Strategy Launch[1, 2]
USD B	-3.40	-3.40	14.56	10.67
SGD A	-3.72	-3.72	10.41	6.30
USD A	-3.54	-3.54	12.67	8.68

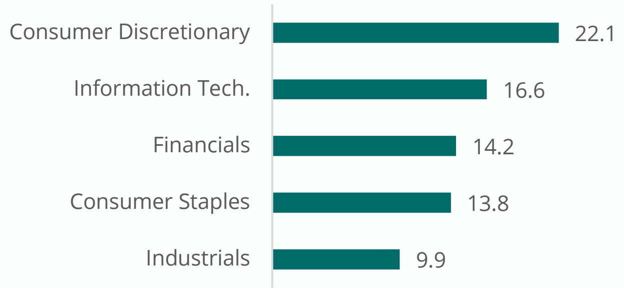
[1] Manager's estimated return. Actual return will be updated in the following month. [2]Strategy was launched in February 2024.

Strategy Characteristics

Geography Allocation, %



Top 5 Sector Allocation, %



Portfolio Statistics

	Portfolio	Benchmark
Free Cash Flow Yield	8.77	4.51
Sales Growth	3.45	4.39
Return on Equity	10.81	10.80
Operating Margin	13.34	12.03
Debt/EBITDA	2.17	2.86

Reference benchmark is the MSCI AC Asia Ex Japan Index. Holdings are subject to change. Fund holdings and allocations shown are subject to change and may not be representative of current or future investment. Holdings shown should not be deemed as a recommendation to buy to sell securities.

Position Highlights

China Resources Beer	A major player in the global beer industry and the maker of one of the world's bestselling beers by volume, Snow beer
Hundsun Technologies	Financial technology company offering integrated solution and services to the institutions and wealth management tools to individual investors
Tencent Holdings	World-leading internet and technology company offering high-quality digital content and services.
Alibaba Group	China's biggest e-commerce company for online and mobile marketplaces in retail and wholesale trade.
Shandong Weigao	A leading manufacturer of single-use medical devices for blood tests and sterilization, creating resilience even in a low growth economy

Discerning The Signals From The Noise

A three-pronged research process to identify signals that point us to **sustainable trends** which are underappreciated by the market, which come with **good fundamentals** and **attractive valuation**, with a higher likelihood of outperforming over the long term.

Fundamental Study financial and economic data (e.g. GDP, unemployment rate, and inflation rate etc.) that may drive market movement to find opportunities with **good fundamentals** that are underappreciated.

Valuation Picking the right valuation metrics (e.g. price-to-earnings, price-to-book, EV/EBITDA etc.) to spot **undervalued opportunities** and avoid overpaying for any investment with only good stories.

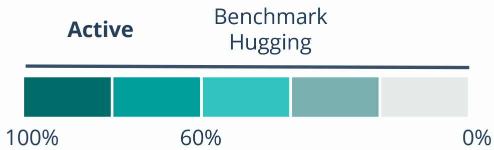
Trend Seek inflection points in **sustainable trends** to capture overlooked opportunities and avoid less recognised risks (such as the end of a bond supercycle).

High Level of Active Management

Many actively managed funds underperform because they have a low active share. This happens when a portfolio's holdings are very similar to the referenced benchmark, a practice commonly referred to as 'benchmark hugging'. In contrast, **funds with a high level of active management may have greater potential for outperformance in the long run**, as there is no way any fund can outperform the market if they are investing like the market.

By investing in areas where we have the greatest conviction and applying it to our whole portfolio, we aim to provide better returns over risk through a full market cycle.

Target active share > 80%



Fund Details

Item	Class A	Class B
Currency	SGD, USD	
ISIN (SGD Class)	SGXZ64383987 (Distribution)	SGXZ78636883 (Accumulation)
ISIN (USD Class)	SGXZ99381758 (Distribution)	SGXZ76017904 (Accumulation)
Projected Distribution[2]	4% p.a.	-
Min. Subscription	SGD 500,000 USD 400,000	SGD 50,000 USD 40,000
Account Opening Fee[3] (One-time)	SGD 4,000 USD 3,000	SGD 4,000 USD 3,000
Min. Subsequent Subscription	SGD 15,000 USD 10,000	SGD 15,000 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[4]	0%	20%
Fund Name	Meranti Capital VCC Asia Fund	
Dealing Frequency	Monthly	
Base Currency	USD	
Strategy Change Date	1 February 2024	
Fund Domicile	Singapore	
Investment Manager	Finexis Asset Management	
Fund Administrator	ASCENT Fund Services (Singapore)	
Custodian	Standard Chartered Bank	
Auditor	PwC LLP	
Broker	Goldman Sachs (Asia) L.L.C.	
Legal Advisors	BTPLaw LLC	

Market & Portfolio Developments

Commentary

January could pass for just another volatile month in Asia, testing investors' patience in a wild ride that seemingly goes nowhere. Yet years on, January 2025 may be remembered in market history as the turning point for Asian markets.

Correction in India, Capitulation in China

First there was a correction in India equities, with the Nifty index having a peak to trough decline of 13% since its peak in September 2024. In China, stocks sold off and revisited their Sep 2024 lows on news that the Pentagon added companies such as Tencent and CATL (world's largest and most innovative EV battery maker) to a blacklist.

The Asia fund was impacted as its India holdings that are very much geared to India's growth story corrected with this cyclical slowdown. In China, holdings such as Tencent and Ping An Insurance declined over 10% at their worst. But it is what will happen after that makes it interesting for Asia investors.

Asian "puts" benefitting investors

There is often talk about the Fed put in US markets. Now it seems like there is a similar put that supports Asian markets, albeit with more volatility.

Investors may ask what to do with India exposures after this correction. Is this a buying opportunity, or should one sell to preempt further declines? The last time India had a similar correction was about 2 years ago in March 2023, after which it went on to hit new highs. Indian markets had similar corrections 6 times over the past 10 years, each providing an opportunity for investors to accumulate at lower prices. The tailwind for this is continued economic growth in India and continued buying of Indian stocks through the domestic Systematic Investment Plans (SIP).

Chinese markets also have their own put, one underwritten by the Chinese government. Policy makers have realized that confidence in markets is one of the ingredients for a turnaround in China. Hence, they have mobilized resources such as the China national team to put a floor on stock market declines. But limiting the downside will only bring confidence back partially in terms of stemming exits.

What about the upside? Recently, a word not heard in China markets for a long time was mentioned: hope. DeepSeek emerged out of nowhere, changing global investors' thinking on AI and China, with the ongoing rally benefitting the fund. ***Is this the turning point for Asia that investors have been waiting for?***

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-02-10/deepseek-sparks-hope-for-renaissance-in-china-s-tech-megacaps

About FAM: Finexis Asset Management is a Capital Markets Services (CMS) licensed fund management company established in Singapore, focusing on bringing institutional capabilities to private clients. The boutique set-up ensures that we are flexible, responsive and proactive. We embrace the latest technology and constantly improve our processes to complement our investment solutions. Constant evolution to fulfil our investor's needs is ingrained in our beliefs.

For professional and accredited investors only. For fund and sales related enquires please reach out to your finexis financial advisor representative or email us at customer.service@finexisam.com

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