

# FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund

## Fund snapshot

- High-conviction portfolio with bottom-up stock selection
- Aims to provide regular distribution and long-term capital appreciation
- Managed by a team of Asia and Global Emerging Markets specialists with a long track record



**Minimum market cap**  
> US\$1.5bn



**Geographical sector**  
Asia Pacific ex-Japan

- The Fund invests primarily in equity securities or equity-related securities of companies that are listed, or have their registered offices in, or conduct a majority of their economic activity in the Asia Pacific region excluding Japan.
- The Fund's investments may be concentrated in a single sector, country, specific region or small numbers of companies/countries which may have higher volatility or greater loss of capital than more diversified portfolios.
- Investing in securities of small/mid-capitalisation companies may have lower liquidity and more volatile prices to adverse economic developments.
- The Fund invests in emerging markets which may have increased risks than developed markets including liquidity risk, currency risk/control, political and economic uncertainties, high degree of volatility, settlement risk and custody risk.
- The Fund may expose to China market risk including repatriation risk, uncertainties to PRC taxation policies and risks associated with StockConnects, QFI, the ChiNext market and/or the STAR board. The Fund may also expose to RMB currency and conversion risk.
- The Fund may use FDIs for hedging and efficient portfolio management purposes, which may subject the Fund to additional liquidity, valuation, counterparty and over the counter transaction risks.
- For certain share classes, the Fund may at its discretion pay dividend out of capital or pay fees and expenses out of capital to increase distributable income and effectively a distribution out of capital. This amounts to a return or withdrawal of your original investment or from any capital gains attributable to that, and may result in an immediate decrease of NAV per share.
- It is possible that a part or entire value of your investment could be lost. You should not base your investment decision solely on this document. Please read the offering document including risk factors for details.

Lead portfolio manager	Approx. no. of stocks	Benchmark	Maximum cash	Minimum market cap
Martin Lau	50 - 70	MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Net Index	10%	> US\$1.5bn

Minimum initial investment	US\$1,000	Initial charge	5.0%
Minimum subsequent investment	US\$500	Management fee	1.5% p.a.
Share class	Class I (USD - H-Dist)	NAV/share	US\$56.34
Inception date	14 July 2003	ISIN code	IE0032834883

Source: First Sentier Investors, as at 31 December 2024. The Fund is a sub fund of Ireland domiciled First Sentier Investors Global Umbrella Fund Plc.

## Why invest in the FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund?

### 1. Capture the multi-decade growth story of Asia

- More than half of the world's 4 billion middle class live in Asia, with projections adding another 1.5 billion members by 2030<sup>1</sup>
- Ride Asia's growth story with these long-term investment themes:



**Dominant consumer franchises**



**Beneficiaries of the rise in healthcare spending**



**High-quality financials**



**A more connected and automated world**

### 2. A differentiated, high-conviction portfolio constructed from the bottom up

- High-conviction portfolio built from the bottom up with a focus on quality management, strong financials and sustainable growth drivers

#### Portfolio characteristics

Differentiated (high active share)	79.4%
High conviction (# holdings)	42
Concentrated (top 20 holdings)	72.9%
Cash generative, asset light companies (ROCE <sup>#</sup> )	33.5%
Profitability (ROE <sup>*</sup> )	18.3%
P/E ratio (next 24 month) <sup>†</sup>	15.0x

Source: First Sentier Investors, FactSet, MSCI as at 31 December 2024.

<sup>#</sup> Weighted Average Post-Tax ROCE run excluding values below zero or above 200% (GICS financial companies are excluded).

<sup>\*</sup> Weighted Average Return on Equity run excluding values below zero.

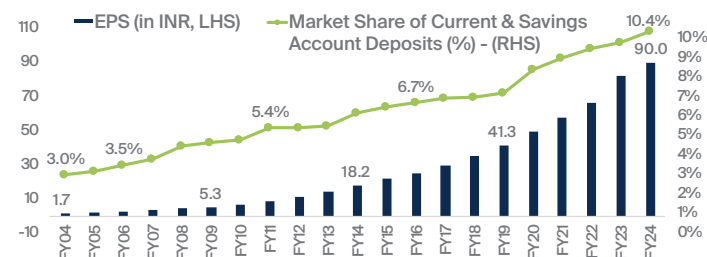
<sup>†</sup> Weighted Harmonic Average P/E ratio.

<sup>1</sup> Brookings Institution, World Economic Forum, as at 13 July 2020.

### 3. HDFC Bank: India's largest private sector bank

- Nearly 60% of loans and deposits in India are still controlled by inefficient state-owned banks. Well run private banks like HDFC Bank have been gaining market share rapidly. This is expected to continue
- Management has a track record of managing risks prudently. It has maintained industry leading Return on Assets (ROAs) across economic cycles and periods of disruption
- Its loan book has grown at 28% CAGR and EPS by 22% CAGR\* over 20 years. The merger with HDFC Limited improves the long-term growth potential of the bank as it can now address the large mortgage opportunity directly. It has led to a short-term increase in funding costs, which should normalise in the coming periods

### Steadily increasing market share and earnings per share



EPS means Earnings Per Share.

Source: HDFC Bank Annual Reports, Indian Banks Association and Bloomberg as at 31 May 2024.

\*CAGR of loan book and EPS are in the reporting currency (INR)

### Cumulative performance in USD %

	3 months	YTD	1 year	3 years	5 years	10 years	Since inception
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund	-5.7	8.8	8.8	-11.7	7.6	63.8	793.3
MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Net Index	-8.2	10.2	10.2	-2.4	16.0	58.4	487.3

### Calendar year performance in USD %

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund	8.8	-3.6	-15.9	1.0	20.7
MSCI AC Asia Pacific ex Japan Net Index	10.2	7.4	-17.5	-2.9	22.4

Source: Lipper, Nav-Nav (USD total return, non-dividend distributing), as at 31 December 2024. Since inception: 14 July 2003. FSSA Asian Equity Plus Fund refers to Class I (USD -H-Dist), the semi-annually dividend distribution share class. The fund aims to pay dividend on a semi-annual basis every February & August. Dividends are not guaranteed and may be paid out from capital. Gross of tax benchmark performance is shown before 1 July 2016 and net of tax benchmark performance is shown after the aforementioned date.

## Why FSSA Investment Managers?

FSSA Investment Managers are specialists in Asia and Global Emerging Markets. Operating as an autonomous investment team within First Sentier Investors Group, we are a team of dedicated investment professionals based in Hong Kong, Singapore and London. Established in 1988, we are bottom-up investors with a different perspective, using fundamental research and analysis to construct high-conviction portfolios.



Quality focused



Absolute return mind-set



Benchmark indifference



ESG fully integrated

### Important information

Investment involves risks, past performance is not a guide to future performance. Refer to the offering documents of the respective funds for details, including risk factors. The information contained within this document has been obtained from sources that First Sentier Investors ("FSI") believes to be reliable and accurate at the time of issue but no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the fairness, accuracy or completeness of the information. To the extent permitted by law, neither FSI, nor any of its associates, nor any director, officer or employee accepts any liability whatsoever for any loss arising directly or indirectly from any use of this. It does not constitute investment advice and should not be used as the basis of any investment decision, nor should it be treated as a recommendation for any investment. The information in this document may not be edited and/or reproduced in whole or in part without the prior consent of FSI.

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