



December 2024

## MONTHLY FUND PERFORMANCE UPDATE AIA ASIA OPPORTUNITY FUND

### Investment Objective

AIA Asia Opportunity Fund aims to provide capital appreciation over the medium to long term by investing primarily in equities and equity related instruments in companies with significant business operations in the Asian excluding Japan region.

**Notice:** Please refer to the Fund Fact Sheet for more information about the Fund.

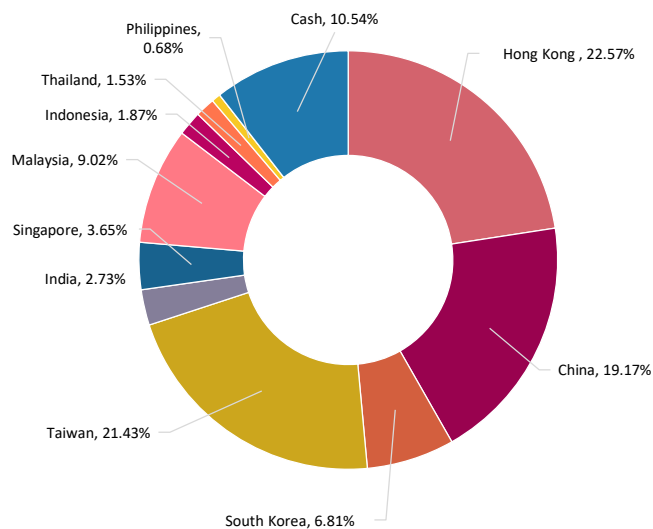
### Fund Details

Unit NAV (31 December 2024)	: RM 0.96548
Fund Size (31 December 2024)	: RM 274.288 million
Fund Currency	: Ringgit Malaysia
Fund Inception	: 30 April 2009
Offer Price at Inception	: RM 0.50
Fund Management Charge	: 1.50% p.a.
Investment Manager	: AIA Bhd.
Basis of Unit Valuation	: Net Asset Value
Frequency of Unit Valuation	: Daily

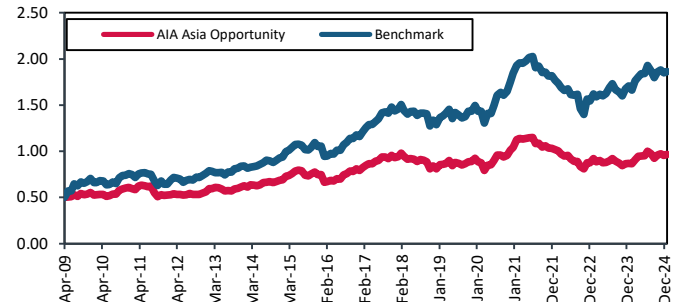
### Top Holdings

1	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	9.60%
2	Tencent Holdings Ltd	7.27%
3	iShares Core Sensex India ETF	6.73%
4	Alibaba Group Holding Ltd	4.28%
5	Meituan-Class B	3.19%

### Geographical Allocation



### Historical Performance



Cumulative Performance	1-Mth	6-Mth	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Fund~	1.06%	-3.32%	10.94%	-6.27%	4.50%	93.10%
Benchmark*	0.74%	-3.30%	8.95%	2.30%	24.54%	272.33%
Excess	0.32%	-0.02%	1.99%	-8.57%	-20.05%	-179.23%

~ Calculation of past performance is based on NAV-to-NAV. This is strictly the performance of the investment fund, and not the returns earned on the actual premiums/contributions paid of the investment-linked product.

\* 100% MSCI AC Asia ex Japan DTR Net Index (Source: Bloomberg)

**Notice:** Past performance of the Fund is not an indication of its future performance.

### Market Review

The United States ("US") equity market closed lower in December 2024 following the Federal Reserve's decision to cut interest rates by 25 basis points but with a more cautious tone in cutting rates in the coming year. Some of the post-election excitement has subsided and investors are now awaiting potential policy announcements following Trump inauguration on 20 January 2025. MSCI Asia ex Japan inched up 0.08% Month-on-Month ("MoM"), in US Dollar ("USD") terms in December 2024. Taiwan was the best performing amid optimism on AI thematic play. China market closed higher with large-cap high yielders well bid as the 10-year China government bond yield hit historical low at 1.7%. China marked a historic pivot by loosening its monetary policy stance for the first time in 14 years, addressing the challenges in the economy. Hong Kong market closed lower as its retail and property markets stayed soft although IPO issuance picked up in 2H24. The South Korean market fell on political turmoil, following President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration of martial law and triggering of political uncertainty and widespread protest.

### Market Outlook

We are cautiously optimistic about the equity market, though volatility is expected in the near term due to uncertainties around geopolitics, Trump's policies, and macroeconomic conditions. Investors are closely monitoring global tariff policies for signs of inflationary pressure and its impact on global growth. We also expect performance divergence between developed and emerging markets, including currencies, whilst maintaining a positive outlook for the US market, post US-election, due to pro-domestic growth policies. In Asia, geopolitical tensions and a strong dollar may weigh on Asian equities. Rate cut cycle in a non-recessionary environment is typically positive for equity markets and most currencies. The Chinese government continues to roll out fiscal stimulus, with a focus on supporting capital markets, consumer consumption and stabilizing the property prices. Its outlook remains challenging structurally. For Malaysian equities, although our optimism on equities has moderated, we remain positive due to strong corporate earnings, government initiatives, and rising foreign direct investment. The successful implementation of key initiatives, such as the National Energy Transformation Roadmap ("NETR"), Malaysia My Second Home ("MM2H"), and infrastructure projects, will be imperative for continuous Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") growth. We expect a brighter outlook given the lower political risk premium amidst a more stable unity government coupled with stronger corporate earnings upside arising from the implementation of the government's growth initiatives and a rising foreign direct investment. The execution of National Semiconductor Strategy ("NSS"), infrastructure projects rollout and the much-anticipated petrol subsidies rationalization will be watched closely. Downside risks to the market could stem from a hard landing US recession, worsening geopolitical tension, weaker than expected China's stimulus measures, and poor execution of domestic growth initiatives.