



October 2024

MONTHLY FUND PERFORMANCE UPDATE AIA STRATEGIC FIXED INCOME FUND

Investment Objective

The Fund aims to provide a steady stream of income returns through investments in both domestic and USD-denominated fixed income securities and money market instruments. The secondary goal of the Fund is to provide medium to long-term capital appreciation whilst preserving the capital invested.

While the Fund predominantly focuses on domestic fixed income securities, it may invest up to 50% of its NAV in USD-denominated fixed income securities.

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

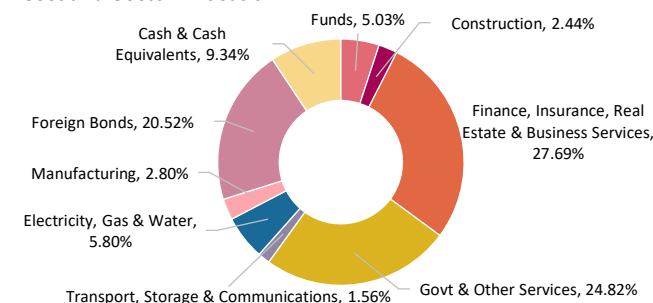
Fund Details

Unit NAV (31 October 2024)	: RM 1.08638
Fund Size (31 October 2024)	: RM 443.075 million
Fund Currency	: Ringgit Malaysia
Fund Inception	: 6 May 2020
Offer Price at Inception	: RM1.00
Fund Management Charge	: 1.00% p.a.
Investment Manager	: AIA Bhd.
Basis of Unit Valuation	: Net Asset Value
Frequency of Unit Valuation	: Daily

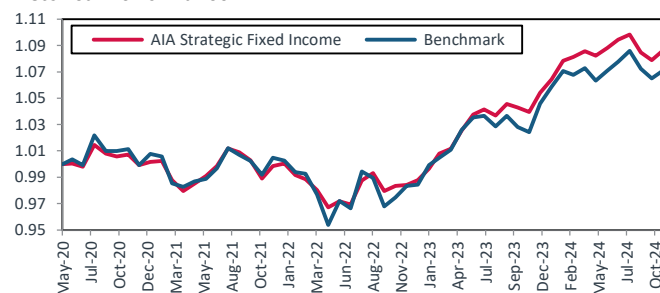
Top Holdings

1	MALAYSIA GOVERNMENT SECURITIES	23.88%
2	DANAINFRA NASIONAL BHD	5.45%
3	GENM CAPITAL BHD	3.93%
4	ALLIANCE BANK MALAYSIA BHD	3.59%
5	AMBANK (M) BHD	3.41%

Asset and Sector Allocation



Historical Performance



Cumulative Performance	1-Mth	6-Mth	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Fund ^a	0.70%	0.37%	4.49%	9.84%	N/A	8.64%
Benchmark ^a	0.59%	0.74%	4.59%	7.97%	N/A	7.12%
Excess	0.12%	-0.37%	-0.09%	1.87%	N/A	1.52%

^a 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.

* 70% MGS ALL Index (Source: RAM QuantShop @ www.quantshop.com) + 30% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate USD Total Return Index Unhedged (Source: Bloomberg)

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

Market Review

Local Market Review

Malaysian Government Securities ("MGS") yields surged in October 2024, tracking the move in US treasury ("UST") yields. Stronger-than-expected US economics and labour market data, as well as hawkish comments from US Federal Reserve ("Fed") chairman Jerome Powell at the start of the month led to some repricing of Fed rate cut expectations. The market then shifted focus from US economic data to the increasing odds of not just a Trump presidency, but also a Republican sweep of the Congress in the upcoming US election. This led to another round of sell-off in UST on concerns of higher fiscal deficit and reduced scope of US rate cuts going forward due to the likelihood of inflationary pressures from the imposition of tariffs and reduction in taxes, among others. The US dollar index ("DXY") hit 103.98 from 100.78 at end September 2024, while the Malaysian Ringgit ("MYR") depreciated 6.2% against the US Dollar ("USD") to close at 4.3780. MGS levels as at end October 2024 were: 3Y at 3.52% (+19 bps), 5Y at 3.65% (+15 bps), 7Y at 3.90% (+22 bps), 10Y at 3.93% (+22 bps), 15Y at 4.02% (+12 bps), 20Y at 4.15% (+11 bps) and 30Y at 4.24% (+5 bps).

Fixed income foreign flows registered a net inflow of MYR1.0 billion in September 2024 (August 2024: MYR9.0 billion), bringing Year-to-Date ("YTD") net foreign inflows to MYR18.7 billion. Foreign holdings in MGS and Government Investment Issue ("GII") dipped slightly to 22.6% in September 2024 (August 2024: 22.7%).

There were 4 government securities auctions during the month: The 3Y MGS 5/27 reopening auction with a tender size of MYR4.5 billion drew a bid-to-cover ("BTC") ratio of 1.606x at an average yield of 3.426%, 10Y GII 11/34 reopening auction with a tender size of MYR4.5 billion drew a BTC ratio of 1.602x at an average yield of 3.832%, 20Y MGS 5/44 reopening auction with a tender size of MYR5.0 billion and private placement of MYR2.0 billion drew a BTC ratio of 2.039x at an average yield of 4.136%, and 7Y MGII 10/31 reopening auction with a tender size of MYR5 billion drew a BTC of 1.997x at an average yield of 3.914%.

On the economic data front, Malaysia's foreign reserves decrease to USD119.6 billion as of 15 October 2024 (30 September 2024: USD119.7 billion). The reserves are sufficient to finance 4.8 months of retained imports and 0.9x of short-term external debt. Malaysia's September 2024 headline inflation moderated to 1.8% Year-on-Year ("YoY") (August 2024: +1.9% YoY), tempered by cheaper transportation, personal items, alcoholic beverages & tobacco products, information & communication equipment, and household equipment amid stable food prices. On trade data, September 2024 exports contracted 0.3% YoY (August 2024: +12.1% YoY) while imports grew 10.9% YoY (August 2024: +26.2% YoY). The contraction in exports was led by declines in the Manufacturing and Mining sectors, while the growth in imports was led by increases across intermediate, capital and consumption goods. Trade surplus widened to MYR13.2 billion (August 2024: MYR5.7 billion). Malaysia's Industrial Production for August 2024 grew 4.1% YoY (July 2024: +5.3% YoY). The moderation was driven by a growth slowdown in the manufacturing sector to 6.5% YoY (July 2024: +7.7% YoY) and electricity sector to 4.1% YoY (July 2024: +7.0% YoY). The output of the mining sector declined by 6.4% YoY in August 2024 (July 2024: -5.0% YoY) on the back of a decrease in natural gas and crude oil & condensate productions. 3Q24 advanced Gross Domestic Product ("GDP") growth was 5.3% YoY. The slower estimated growth compared to 2Q24's 5.9% YoY growth was due to a more modest expansion in the services and agriculture sectors and weaker mining sector.

On the primary corporate bond space, notable issuances included MYR800 million RHB Bank MTN, MYR700 million YTL Power iMTN and MYR600 million UEM Olive iMTN. On rating actions, RAM placed Sepangar Bay Power's MYR575 million sukuk rating of AA1 on Rating Watch with a negative outlook. Separately, MARC downgraded Tan Chong Motor's iMTN rating to AIS from A+IS with a negative rating outlook. The rating action reflected the negative impact on Tan Chong Motor's credit profile from declining vehicle sales over the years. MARC also revised Kenanga Investment Bank's long-term rating outlook to positive from stable.

Foreign Market Review

In October 2024, both fixed income and equity markets experienced disappointing results. Global bond yields rose on the back of fiscal policy concerns surrounding the upcoming U.S. elections and the UK government's budget. Additionally, stronger than expected macroeconomic data prompted investors to reassess their expectations for interest rate cuts. Markets observed a recalibration in rate cut expectations, as well as multiple policy decisions across central banks.

In the monetary space, the European Central Bank ("ECB") cut its deposit facility rate by 25 bps to 3.25% with ECB President Christine Lagarde reiterated that the next steps in the rate path will continue to be data-dependent and that more recent weakening in economic activity indicated there is probably more downside risk than upside risk for inflation. Moreover, the People's Bank of China initiated its new 500-billion-yuan swap facility aimed at encouraging stock purchases. It also maintained the one-year medium-term lending facility at 2.0% and cut the one-year and five-year loan prime rate each by 25 bps, to 3.1% and 3.6%, respectively. Finally, on the 31st of the month, the Bank of Japan ("BoJ") kept its policy rate unchanged at 0.25%.

On macro prints, the U.S. labour market continues to remain strong, with non-farm payrolls printing at +254k (vs +140k expected), with the unemployment rate at 4.1% (below the 4.2% expected). Additionally, U.S. core Consumer Price Index ("CPI") printed at 3.3% YoY, exceeding expectations while headline CPI fell, printing at 2.4% YoY (vs 2.3% YoY expected).

Market Outlook

Although recent US economic data releases have surprised on the upside, the trend for a moderation in inflation and a softening in the labour market remains intact. As the Fed finally embarked on an easing cycle, Fed Chair Powell has signaled that the outsized move is a recalibration to preserve the currently strong labour market from downside risk and a commitment not to fall behind the curve. We maintain our view that market volatility would persist as the Fed and the market would remain reactive to data releases and developments in key geopolitical events, central banks' monetary policy decisions as well as implications from a Trump presidency.

This document is for informational use only. Investments are subject to investment risks including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. The value of the units may fall as well as rise. Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance. This is not a pure investment product such as unit trust and please evaluate the options carefully and satisfy that the Investment-Linked Insurance / Takaful plan chosen meets your risk appetite. Please refer to the Fund Fact Sheet for more information about the fund.