**July 2025**

# 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.**

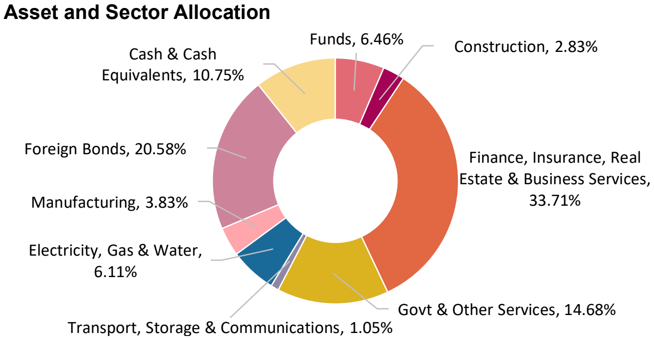
## Fund Details

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Unit NAV (31 July 2025) | : | RM 1.12611 |
| Fund Size (31 July 2025) | : | RM 602.676 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 |

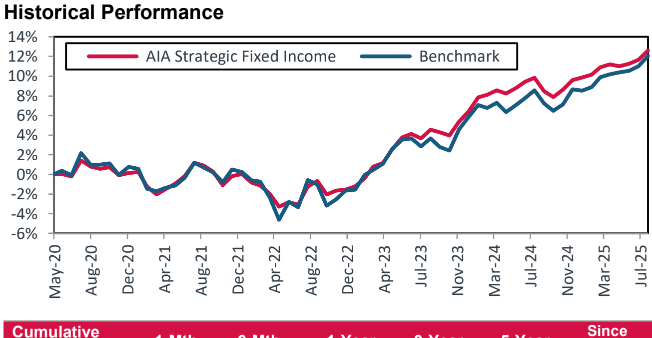
## Top Holdings

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | MALAYSIA GOVERNMENT SECURITIES | 13.97% |
| 2 | DANAINFRA NASIONAL BHD | 6.08% |
| 3 | AIA DIVERSIFIED FIXED INCOME FUND | 3.63% |
| 4 | GENM CAPITAL BHD | 2.99% |
| 5 | AMBANK (M) BHD | 2.97% |

## Asset and Sector Allocation




## Historical Performance




| Cumulative Performance | 1-Mth | 6-Mth | 1-Year | 3-Year | 5-Year | Since Inception |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fund^ | 0.88% | 2.20% | 2.53% | 14.02% | 11.02% | 12.61% |
| Benchmark* | 0.93% | 2.91% | 3.19% | 12.70% | 9.66% | 12.05% |
| Excess | -0.06% | -0.71% | -0.66% | 1.32% | 1.36% | 0.56% |

*^ 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") yield curve shifted lower, driven by offshore and onshore buying interest. The demand started off at the short-to-belly of the curve but later extended to the long-end segments as well. Market sentiment was driven by expectations and the eventual delivery of a 25-basis points ("bps") overnight policy rate ("OPR") cut by Bank Negara Malaysia ("BNM") earlier in the month. Trading sentiment turned cautious towards month-end, with defensive positioning ahead of key events like the US federal open market committee ("FOMC") meeting, key labour market data in the US as well as the much-anticipated 1 August 2025 deadline for the trade negotiations with the US. On the currency front, Malaysian Ringgit ("MYR") strengthened against the US dollar ("USD") by 1.30% to MYR4.2650. MGS levels as at end July 2025 were: 3Y at 3.05% (-9 bps), 5Y at 3.15% (-5 bps), 7Y at 3.34% (-7 bps), 10Y at 3.37% (-11 bps), 15Y at 3.61% (-9 bps), 20Y at 3.76% (-2 bps) and 30Y at 3.91% (-9 bps).

Fixed income foreign flows registered a marginal net outflow of MYR5.3 billion in June 2025 (May 2025: +MYR14.3 billion). Foreign holdings in MGS and Government Investment Issue ("GII") slipped to 21.8% in June 2025 (May 2025: 22.5%).

There were 3 government security auctions during the month: The 7Y GII 10/31 reopening auction with a tender size of MYR5.0 billion drew a bid-to-cover ("BTC") ratio of 2.922x at an average yield of 3.367%; the 30Y MGS 7/55 new issue with a tender size of MYR3.0 billion and private placement of MYR2.0 billion drew a BTC ratio of 2.0x at an average yield of 3.917%; and the 10Y GII 4/35 reopening auction with a tender size of MYR5.0 billion drew a BTC ratio of 2.728x at an average yield of 3.468%.

On the economic data front, Malaysia's foreign reserves grew to USD120.6 billion as at end-June 2025 from USD119.6 billion as at end-May 2025. The reserves position is sufficient to finance 4.8 months of imports of goods and services and is 0.9x of total short-term external debt. Malaysia's headline inflation edged lower to 1.1% Year-on-Year ("YoY") in June 2025 (May 2025: 1.2% YoY), the lowest level since February 2021. Core inflation, which excludes volatile fresh food prices and price-administered goods, remained at 1.8% YoY (May 2025: 1.8% YoY) for the second straight month after easing from a peak of 2.0% in April 2025. The moderation in headline inflation came from softer transport, recreation services & culture, and restaurant and accommodation services prices amid stable food prices. This helped to fully cushioned the larger rise in prices of healthcare and personal care, social protection & miscellaneous goods & services. June 2025 exports shrank 3.5% YoY (May 2025: -1.1% YoY) while imports growth moderated to 1.2% YoY (May 2025: +6.6% YoY). As a result, trade surplus widened to MYR8.6 billion from MYR0.8 billion in May 2025. Malaysia's industrial production rose 0.3% YoY in May 2025 (April 2025: +2.7% YoY), well below consensus expectations of a 2.1% growth. The drag came from a steeper decline in the mining sector to -10.2% YoY (April 2025: -6.3% YoY) and a slowdown in manufacturing activities to 2.8% YoY (Apr 2025: +5.6% YoY), which outweighed the rebound in electricity production of 0.4% YoY (April 2025: -1.7% YoY). The key development in July 2025 was BNM's monetary policy committee ("MPC") meeting where it delivered the highly anticipated 25 bps OPR cut to 2.75% in what it described as a pre-emptive move to support growth amid rising downside risks from trade uncertainties. The monetary policy statement struck a cautious tone, with BNM highlighting that while the domestic economy is on a strong footing, uncertainties surrounding external developments could affect Malaysia's growth prospects and that the balance of risks to the growth outlook remains tilted to the downside.

On the primary corporate bond space, notable issuances included MYR1.6 billion Public Bank MTN, MYR1 billion Bank Islam IMTN and MYR750 million UOB Malaysia MTN. On rating actions, MARC Ratings has revised its ratings outlook on Tropicana Corporation Berhad's MYR1.5 billion IMTN and MYR2.0 billion perpetual sukuk programmes to positive from stable. The ratings on the programmes have been affirmed at AIS and A-IS. Separately, RAM Ratings has upgraded the financial institution ratings of Alliance Bank Malaysia and Alliance Islamic Bank to AA3/Stable/P1 from A1/Positive/P1. The long-term ratings of the entities' sukuk and debt facilities have also been upgraded with a stable outlook.

### Foreign Market Review

In July 2025, financial markets were mixed as sovereign bond yields broadly rose while most equity markets rallied. The month began with Congress passing and President Trump signing the "One Big Beautiful Bill" into law, while uncertainty remained elevated regarding trade policy. While the U.S. government extended the original 90-day deadline for the start of reciprocal tariffs to 1 August 2025, President Trump also sent letters to key trading partners indicating higher tariffs if no trade deal is made. By the end of the month, several new trade agreements between the U.S. and other trading partners were announced, including with Japan, the EU, and South Korea. The U.S. Treasury 2Y yield rose 24 bps to 3.96%, while the U.S. Treasury 10y yield rose 15 bps to 4.37%. Risk assets posted positive performance, signaling improved risk sentiment. Within credit spreads, USD investment grade tightened 7 bps to 79 bps, while USD high yield spreads tightened 10 bps to 286 bps.

During the month, major central banks kept policy rates unchanged, reflecting the economic uncertainties arising from evolving tariff policies. In the U.S., the US Federal Reserve ("Fed") maintained its target range for the federal funds rate at 4.25% to 4.50% for the 5th consecutive meeting, citing balanced risks on both sides of the dual mandate. Similarly, the European Central Bank ("ECB") also maintained the deposit facility rate at 2%, pausing its easing cycle after delivering 8 rate cuts since June 2024. Meanwhile, the Bank of Japan ("BoJ") kept its policy rate at 0.5%, while slightly revising upwards its inflation and growth forecasts. In China, the People's Bank of China ("PBoC") held the 1Y prime rate at 3.0% and the 5Y prime rate at 3.5%, supported by resilient economic data despite U.S tariffs. Regarding macro prints, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that nonfarm payrolls rose by 147,000 in June 2025, which exceeded expectations of a 110,000 gain and slightly above May 2025's increase of 144,000 jobs. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate fell to 4.1%. On inflation, U.S. core Consumer Price Index ("CPI") rose to 2.9% YoY while headline CPI rose at 2.7% YoY.

## Market Outlook

Although there is clarity now in terms of the quantum of reciprocal tariffs on Malaysian goods from the US at 19%, uncertainties remain on the imposition of tariffs on specific sectors such as semiconductors and pharmaceutical products which pose risks to external trade. Against the backdrop of trade policy uncertainties, BNM has proceeded to cut policy rate by 25 bps in its recent July 2025 MPC meeting as a pre-emptive move to support growth, which should be supportive of the local bond market. Our view is for BNM to stand pat for now as it awaits further economic data releases to guide its next policy action. But there is room for further easing beyond 2025 if growth weakens meaningfully. As such, volatility will still likely persist in the near term as markets react to further developments in trade negotiations and key economic data releases both domestically and in the US.