

## March 2022

# MONTHLY FUND PERFORMANCE UPDATE AIA GLOBAL BOND FUND

### **Investment Objective**

The AIA Global Bond Fund ("the Fund") will invest fully in a Singapore Dollar denominated underlying fund, namely Franklin Templeton Investment Funds Templeton Global Bond Fund A (Mdis) SGD-H1 (the "Underlying Fund"). The Underlying Fund aims to maximise total investment return consisting of a combination of interest income, capital appreciation and currency gains by investing principally in a portfolio of fixed or floating rate debt securities and debt obligations issued by government or government-related issuers worldwide.

The Fund intends to make payouts on a quarterly basis. For the first 5 years from the Fund's inception date, the Fund will pay a fixed payout of 5 sen per unit per annum. In the event that payouts received from the Underlying Fund is insufficient to support the fixed payouts, we have the discretion to liquidate a portion of the Fund's investment in the Underlying Fund in order to meet that distribution requirement.

In the subsequent years, payout will be made annually if the Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV) exceeds RM1. The amount of payout declared, if any, may vary from year to

If payout is distributed to the policy owner, the NAV of the Fund will be reduced accordingly

Notice: The Fund will mature on 15 May 2022 and the respective policy holders have been notified.

#### **Fund Details**

Unit NAV (31 Mar 2022)	:	RM 0.91962	
Fund Size (31 Mar 2022)	:	RM 0.789 million	
Fund Currency	:	Ringgit Malaysia	
Fund Inception	:	15 May 2012	
Offer Price at Inception	:	RM0.950	
Fund Management Charge	e :	1% p.a. of NAV	
Investment Manager	:	AIA Bhd.	
Basis of Unit Valuation	:	Net Asset Value	
Frequency of Unit Valuation	on :	Daily	

### **Underlying Fund Details**

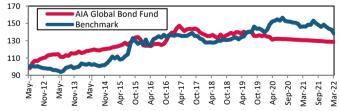
Name	:	Templeton Global Bond Fund Class A (Mdis) SGD-H1
Туре	:	Global Bond Fund
Investment Manager	:	Franklin Advisers, Inc.

### Ton Holdings

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1	Korea Monetary Stabilization Bond, Sr Unsecured, 2304, .905%, 4/02/23	8.08%
2	Government of Sweden, 3.50%, 6/01/22	6.53%
3	Government of Norway, 144A, Reg S, 2.00%, 5/24/23	5.35%
4	Government of Norway, 144A, Reg S, 3.00%, 3/14/24	5.07%
5	Korea Treasury Bond, senior note, .875%, 12/10/23	5.01%

<sup>\*</sup>Underlying fund data

### **Historical Performance**



Cumulative Performance	1-Mth	6-Mth	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
Fund^	-0.13%	-0.82%	-1.62%	-7.04%	-12.77%	28.51%
Benchmark*	-3.32%	-6.65%	-5.77%	3.12%	1.34%	38.10%
Excess	3.19%	5.83%	4.15%	-10.16%	-14.11%	-9.59%
Underlying (~)	1.13%	1.25%	-0.74%	-8.57%	-8.68%	48.12%

<sup>^</sup> 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.

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

#### Manager's Comments

This Fund is subject to exchange rate fluctuations, mainly against the Singapore dollar ("SGD") and therefore, Malaysian ringgit ("MYR") movements against foreign currencies will affect the performance of the Fund. MYR weakened against the SGD by 0.19% in March.

#### Market Review

Sovereign bond yields rose sharply across much of the world in March as the global monetary cycle continued to power ahead. Inflation remained at multi-decade highs in multiple regions during the month and continued to trend higher in several countries as energy prices and other underlying price pressures persisted, further exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and the West's economic isolation of Russia. Global economic momentum largely remained on course in March, though the war in Ukraine has had a regional impact on areas of Europe due to disruptions in the flow of energy, food, commodities and goods, as well as broad geo-political instability and the social and economic strains of refugee flight. Ripple effects have impacted other parts of the world to varying degrees, particularly for major importers of food and energy. US Treasury ("UST") yields climbed to their highest levels since the spring of 2019, with the yield on the 10Y UST note rising 51bps and the yield on the 2Y UST note rising 91bps during the month, each finishing March at 2.34%.

On the monetary front, the US Federal Reserve ("Fed") raised the Fed funds target rate by 25bps to an upper bound of 0.50% at its 16 March meeting, its first rate hike since Dec 2018. Fed Chairman Jay Powell signalled that additional rate hikes should be expected at each of the Fed's next six policy meetings in 2022, and that the Fed would likely begin reducing its balance sheet at the upcoming meeting in May. The possibilities for larger rate hikes of 50bps were also put in play in comments Powell delivered at a subsequent Congressional hearing. The Fed's policy statement in March notably removed its prior focus on the economic impacts of the pandemic and the corresponding accommodative measures, replacing those comments with views on elevated inflation, higher energy prices, strength in the labour market and the broader impacts of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The statement changes appeared to formally mark the end of the Fed's pandemic-era run of extraordinary monetary accommodation and the dawn of a new era of inflation-fighting.

The European Central Bank ("ECB") kept monetary policy largely unchanged at its 10 March meeting, leaving the main refinancing operations rate at 0.0% and the main deposit facility rate at -0.5%. The policy bias notably shifted towards higher rates, albeit with a lack of urgency as the committee indicated it wants to remain data dependent, not time dependent, and that it still holds concerns about choking off the recovery prematurely. The ongoing accommodative policy stance from the ECB appears likely to diverge substantially from the tightening trajectory of the Fed in 2022. The Bank of Japan ("BOJ") kept monetary policy largely unchanged at its policy meeting on 17 March, leaving the overnight interest rate at 0.1% and the yield target on the 10Y Japanese government bond at 0.0%. BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda has indicated that long- and short-term rates are likely to remain at current levels or lower until the 2% inflation target is reached.

# Performance Review

For the month, the Fund's A (Mdis) USD shares returned 1.13%, and its benchmark, the JP Morgan Global Government Bond Index, returned -3,46%.

The Fund's positions in the Brazilian real ("BRL"), Argentine peso ("ARS") and Colombian peso ("COP") against the USD contributed to absolute performance, as did its position in the Norwegian krone ("NOK"), Canadian dollar ("CAD") and Swedish krona ("SEK") against the euro ("EUR"). Positions in the Ghanaian cedi ("GHS"), Japanese yen ("JPY") and South Korean won ("KRW") detracted from absolute performance, as did the fund's net-negative exposure to the Australian dollar ("AUD"). Meanwhile, duration exposures in Argentina and Brazil contributed to absolute fund return during the month.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has added a layer of uncertainty to global financial markets. The Underlying Manager's assessment on many of the broad fundamentals in other regions of the world remain largely intact. Beyond the war in Ukraine, the Underlying Manager expects the recovery in global economic activity to largely continue in 2022, albeit with new headwinds emanating from the conflict in Europe. Several regions across the globe continue to benefit from high vaccination rates and public policy shifts towards living with the Coronavirus ("COVID-19"). Many countries appear committed to moving beyond the oscillating cycles of lockdowns and reopenings that profoundly damage economic activity. Broader global economic momentum remains resilient with COVID-19 variants posing a tail risk for intermittently stifled economic activity. The Underlying Manager expects inflation to remain above historical averages in 2022 due to differing factors in individual regions. Disruptions to commodity markets and trade from the conflict in Ukraine should continue to add price pressures globally that were not previously anticipated. The Underlying Manager expects widening divergence on the monetary policy front given that inflation drivers are not uniform around the world. These divergences should create relative valuation opportunities between countries as certain central banks tighten policy ahead of others. On a regional basis, areas of Asia continue to stand out from the Emerging Market ("EM") pack. Asia is projected to have some of the strongest growth rates in the world in 2022. Several countries have large current account surpluses, low fiscal deficits, low levels of debt and relatively normalised interest rates compared with the low-to-negative rates across advanced economies. Looking ahead, the Underlying Manager believes that 2022 is likely to predominantly be a pan-Asian story.

<sup>\*</sup>JP Morgan Global Government Bond Index (MYR Term) (Source: Bloomberg)

<sup>-</sup>Underlving fund performance (SGD Term)

Note: The total fund returns are inclusive of the payout, if applicable.