



ASCENDERCAPITAL

FUND STRATEGY

The Fund seeks to invest in a balanced portfolio of high quality businesses across the Asian equity markets not accessible through passive and larger funds.

We focus exclusively on companies with a track record of profitability, capital efficiency and good corporate governance.

The Fund invests with a margin of safety by demanding attractive valuations and a strong financial position.

FUND OVERVIEW

Inception	December 1, 2021
Portfolio Manager	Edouard Mercier & Jean-Charles Tisserand
Management Fee	1.5%
Performance Fee	20% of net alpha vs. MSCI AC Asia Small Cap
Asset Classes	Equities & Cash
Minimum Investment	US\$1,000,000
Investing	Monthly Liquidity
Redemption	Monthly Liquidity Early redemption fee for first 3 years
Legal Entity	Open ended investment fund incorporated in Cayman Islands
Administrator	Bolder Group
Custodian	DBS
Auditors	Grant Thornton
Legal Advisors	Ogier Global

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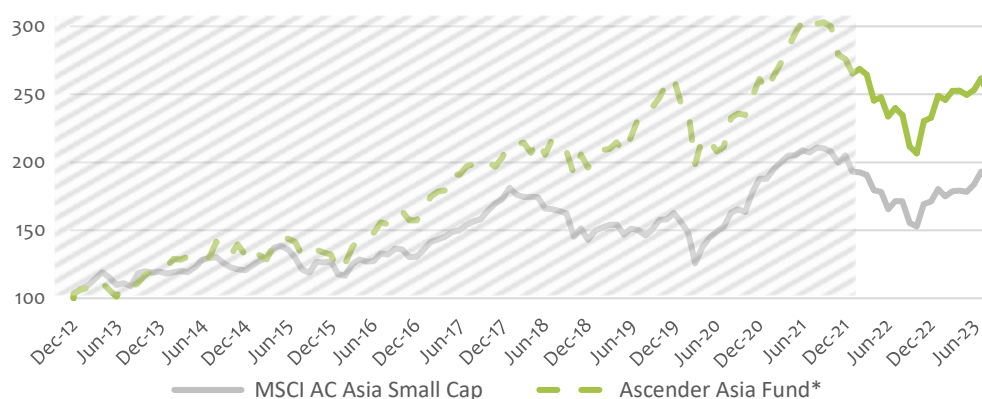
ASCENDER ASIA FUND

August 2023 FACTSHEET – NAV 89.43

PERFORMANCE AS OF 31 August 2023

Class	1 month	YTD	1 Year	Annualized		
				3 Year	5 Year	Since Launch
Lead Series - Class A (Gross)	-4.3%	9.2%	9.0%	4.8%*	6.9%*	12.3%*
Lead Series - Class A (Net)	-4.6%	7.3%	6.4%	2.4%**	3.3%**	8.9%**
MSCI Asia Small Cap	-1.0%	11.7%	11.5%	5.5%	3.1%	6.2%

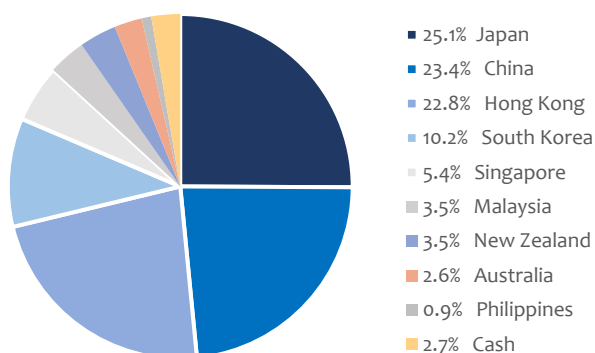
PERFORMANCE CHART (TOTAL NET RETURN)



* This has been calculated by removing cash and short positions from the Ascender Global Value Fund. Performance shown assumes investment of 95% and 5% in cash. Calculated before fund's costs and fees

**Note the shaded area and dotted line reflects AAF performance estimates, net of costs & fees. This has been calculated by removing cash and short positions from the Ascender Global Value Fund. Performance shown assumes investment of 95% and 5% in cash. Calculated after fund's costs and fees

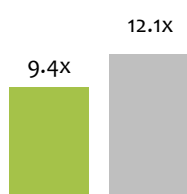
GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN



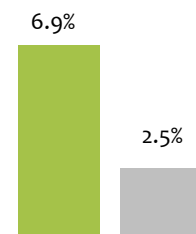
PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

P/E Ratio (TTM)	9.4x
EV/EBIT Ratio (TTM)	4.9x
Dividend Yield	6.9%
Return on Equity	18.6%
Net Cash to Mkt Cap	24.2%
7 Year EBIT Growth	13.4%
Median Mkt Cap	\$535m
# of Holdings	31
Gross Long	97.3%

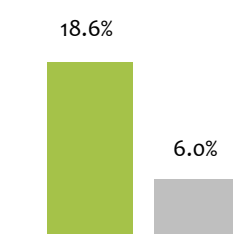
PRICE/EARNINGS



DIVIDEND YIELD



RETURN ON EQUITY





ASCENDER ASIA FUND

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TOP 3 MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS AND DETRACTORS FOR EQUITY POSITIONS

Contributors	Contribution (bps)	Detractors	Contribution (bps)
Afreecatv	0.3%	JNBY	-0.7%
China Mobile	0.3%	Binjiang	-0.6%
CNOOC	0.3%	Yamaichi	-0.6%

LONG CONTRIBUTION YTD 2023

Asset Class	YTD Contribution
Equity (Long)	15.0%
Equity (Unrealized FX)	-4.3%

MONTHLY COMMENTARY

The portfolio experienced a pullback in August. This was mainly caused by our increasing exposure to Chinese equities.

The MSCI China Small Cap index is now down by ~20% year to date. The Hang Seng China Enterprise Index, a good proxy for the larger State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), has fallen a more modest 2.8%.

About 46% of our Chinese portfolio is composed of SOEs active in the Communications (**China Mobile and CITIC Telecom International**), Education (**Winshare**) and Energy (**CNOOC**) sectors among others. They provide vital services and their earnings have continued to grow even as the economy growth sputtered. Our selection of SOEs has outperformed the market this year, as it has been doing since their inclusion in the portfolio.

Hong Kong-based and managed companies make another 23% of our Chinese portfolio. Our two additions this year, **Crystal International** and **Vtech**, are two exporters which have a long-term track record of profitability and should see their earnings grow over the next few years.

The final 31% of our exposure to China are our investments in smaller private companies operating in China. We have added **Yongda Automobiles**, **Binjiang Services** and **Zengame Technology** since May. All three additions were bought at low valuation which became even more attractive since then.

JNBY, which we continue to rate highly, just reported its June year-end annual results. Revenues were up 10% and net income grew 11%. After a 9% share price slide year to date, its valuation is an undemanding 5x EV/EBIT and 6x P/E. The company pays a 12% dividend while it keeps compounding its earnings at a steady 10% rate.

JNBY is a good example from our bottom-up approach to our portfolio composition. Our Chinese portfolio yields a strong 8% dividend by now. They are led by management teams we can trust. While elevated geopolitical tensions and weak sentiment has been a hit to our performance this year, our contrarian incremental exposure to China should lead to future higher returns.



ASCENDER ASIA FUND

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August is the busiest month of the year for earnings announcement as interim results for our HK and Chinese holdings collide with quarterly results from our Japanese investments. We were pleased with the results with only minor adjustments to the latter.

We sold one of our technology investments in the country following lower visibility on demand from Apple and a logistics forwarding portfolio company on their plans to expand in a more competitive segment of their market with little synergy with their existing operations. They were replaced with a local IT equipment retailer and with a System Integrator (SI) which will join **ITFOR** in our basket of Japanese SIs and software outsourcers, a business sector where we have developed some good insights over the years.

MONTHLY PERFORMANCE (%)*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	FY
2023	6.9	-1.2	2.7	0.0	-1.2	1.5	3.3	-4.6					7.3
2022	-3.8	1.2	-1.5	-7.2	1.0	-5.7	2.7	-2.2	-9.8	-2.4	11.5	1.1	-15.6
2021	-3.5	4.6	3.5	4.2	3.7	3.0	-1.6	0.9	0.4	-1.0	-7.1	-1.2*	5.4*
2020	7.0	-2.0	-16.7	9.5	-0.7	-3.8	1.6	10.1	1.4	-0.5	5.8	5.2	-0.2
2019	3.9	2.6	0.3	2.3	-3.5	5.5	6.3	1.3	2.2	3.0	4.4	1.3	33.6
2018	4.8	0.0	0.6	-3.6	4.5	-4.9	5.7	-2.3	-2.1	-8.1	7.8	-4.7	-3.6
2017	5.6	5.1	2.1	0.5	7.0	-0.6	3.4	0.8	-1.0	1.8	-1.6	3.3	29.3
2016	-8.6	3.6	10.1	4.2	0.7	2.7	5.1	-0.9	4.8	1.2	-4.0	0.0	19.1
2015	-4.3	4.5	-2.6	8.3	4.0	-0.6	-1.7	-7.2	3.1	0.1	-1.3	-1.2	0.1
2014	1.5	4.9	-0.5	1.8	-1.0	0.0	0.5	8.9	-2.0	-4.8	5.9	-5.6	8.8
2013	2.8	1.4	-1.5	4.9	-4.7	-4.5	8.3	-1.5	3.	5.1	2.9	0.8	17.3
2012												3.4	3.4

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The past performance information of the market, manager and investments and any forecasts on the economy, stock market, bond market or the economic trends of the markets which are targeted by the fund(s) are not indicative of future performance. The value of an investment in the Fund may go down or up. The Fund does not offer any performance or capital guarantee. The Prospectus should be read for further details including the risk factors. The Fund may invest in derivatives for hedging purpose only. Investment in derivatives is subject to additional risks, including credit risk of the issuer, liquidity risk, counterparty risk and valuation risk. In adverse situation, the Fund's use of derivatives may become ineffective in hedging and the Fund may suffer losses. Additional risk factors are described in the prospectus. Investors are advised to be aware of any new risks that may have emerged in the prevailing market circumstances before subscribing in the Fund.