



## 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

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

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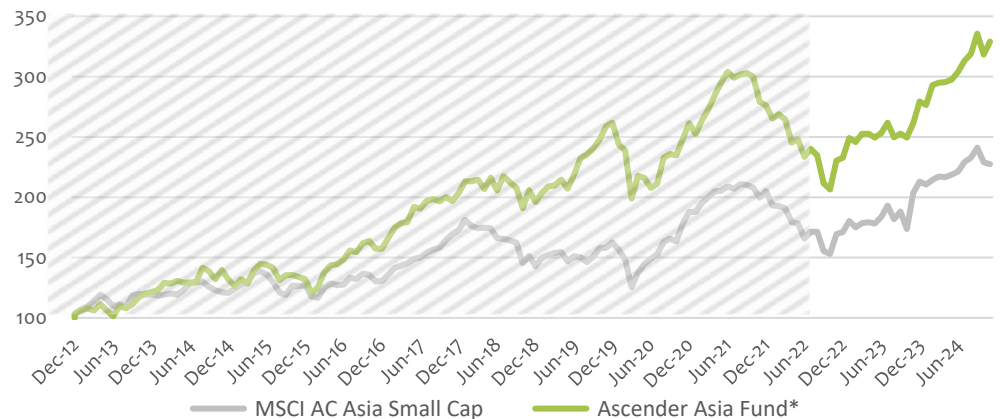
# ASCENDER ASIA FUND

November 2024 FACTSHEET – NAV 118.07

### PERFORMANCE AS OF 29 November 2024

Class	1 month	YTD	1 Year	Annualized		
				3 Year	5 Year	Since Launch
<b>Lead Series - Class A (Gross)</b>	4.2%	21.5%	30.1%	8.7%*	8.4%*	13.9%*
<b>Lead Series - Class A (Net)</b>	3.4%	17.8%	25.9%	5.6%**	4.9%**	10.4%**
<b>MSCI Asia Small Cap</b>	-0.7%	6.8%	11.7%	2.5%	6.4%	6.6%

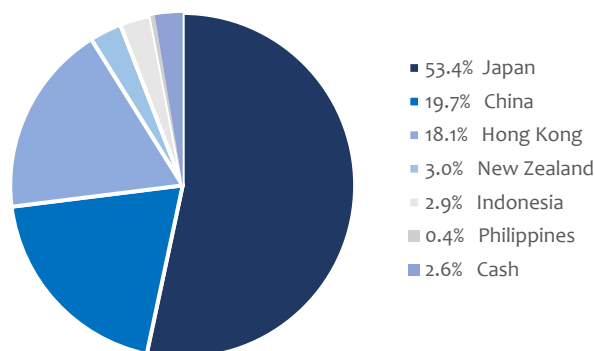
### PERFORMANCE CHART (TOTAL NET RETURN)



\* 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

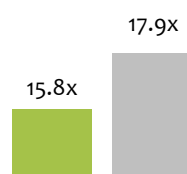
### GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN



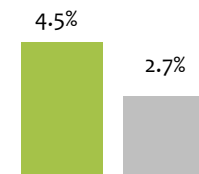
### PORTFOLIO CHARACTERISTICS

P/E Ratio (TTM)	15.8x
EV/EBIT Ratio (TTM)	8.4x
Dividend Yield	4.5%
Return on Equity	17.4%
Net Cash to Mkt Cap	27.3%
7 Year EBIT Growth*	12.8%
Median Mkt Cap	\$630m
# of Holdings	25
Gross Long	97.4%

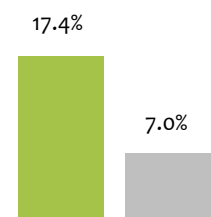
### PRICE/EARNINGS



### DIVIDEND YIELD



### RETURN ON EQUITY



— Ascender — MSCI AC Asia SC

\*Beenos non-recurring incubation business excluded from calculation.



# ASCENDER ASIA FUND

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## TOP 3 MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS AND DETRACTORS FOR EQUITY POSITIONS

Contributors	Contribution (bps)	Detractors	Contribution (bps)
Beenos	4.4%	China Overseas Property	-0.4%
Digital Arts	0.5%	Sky Network	-0.4%
Computer Engineering	0.3%	Alibaba	-0.4%

## LONG CONTRIBUTION YTD 2024

Asset Class	YTD Contribution
Equity (Long)	25.9%
Equity (Unrealized FX)	-2.1%

## MONTHLY COMMENTARY

Our recent trip to China highlighted that management teams and contacts we met are pragmatic about the ongoing economic challenges and adapting swiftly. Despite fierce sectorial competition, entrepreneurial energy remains high and the modernization of infrastructures and the move to higher-value products continue unabated. Contrary to bearish narratives, we see resilience in China and remain confident in our investments here, which currently yield 7.2% and have registered a 7-year annual earnings growth of 14%.

Our visit to Japan proved timely, given the rising wave of shareholder activism there. Our largest position, **Beenos**, exemplifies this trend. Activist and engagement fund involvement has grown from less than 10% at the start of the year to what we estimate nearly 50% today. We anticipate positive outcomes from shareholder proposals by the December 20, 2024 AGM, potentially resulting in a more focused business with enhanced corporate governance and much better capital allocation.

We met a few more companies active in the cross-border e-commerce market, all benefiting from strong demand with minimal customer acquisition costs. The weak Yen plays a role, but the enduring appeal of unique, high-quality Japanese products acquired from trusted platforms is a structural demand driver. Outside Amazon Japan, which notably lacks package consolidation, Beenos is the leading player in this attractive market.

With the Japanese Government's **Cliff 2025** campaign deadline approaching, companies are accelerating the replacement of their aging IT systems and their adoption of Digital Transformation (DX) solutions. This momentum has bolstered around 30% of our portfolio invested in software and system integrators, which are experiencing as a result robust demand and are benefitting from growing maintenance and cloud-based recurring revenues.



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November 2024– NAV 118.07

We also observed two significant trends in our 20 meetings in Japan.

1. Wage and pricing pressure: salaries are increasing at an average of 4% annually, leading to selective price increases. We encourage portfolio companies to leverage their pricing power more aggressively, leveraging the wide IT talent supply/demand imbalance in Japan.
2. Share buybacks: share buybacks activity has increased as management teams recognize how cheap their own valuation is. We are urging companies to cancel these treasury shares promptly rather than retain them on their balance sheet, as is still often the case,

These recommendations complement our broader push for improved disclosure and deeper dialogue with shareholders.

## MONTHLY PERFORMANCE (%)\*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	FY
2024	-1.0	5.9	0.7	0.2	0.7	2.2	3.0	1.8	5.3	-5.1	3.4		17.8
2023	6.9	-1.2	2.7	0.0	-1.2	1.5	3.3	-4.6	1.2	-1.2	4.7	6.9	20.0
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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