

# Sun Life Malaysia

## Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund

December 2021



### FUND OBJECTIVE

To achieve capital appreciation over the medium to long-term by investing in Asia (ex Japan) equities.

### FUND DETAILS

Launch Date	20 May 2014	Domicile	Malaysia
Currency	Ringgit Malaysia	Launch Price	RM1.0000
Units in Circulation	20.18 million units (31 December 2021)	Fund Size	RM35.19 million (31 December 2021)
Unit NAV	RM1.7436 (31 December 2021)	Dealing	Daily (as per Bursa Malaysia trading day)
Fund Manager	Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad	Target Fund	Affin Hwang Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund
Benchmark	MSCI AC Asia (ex-Japan) Small Cap Index	Taxation	8% of annual investment income
Risk Profile	<p>Suitable for investors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a medium to long term investment horizon</li> <li>Are risk tolerance</li> <li>Are seeking higher returns for their investments compared to the performance benchmark</li> </ul>	Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sun Life Malaysia does not impose any fund management charge on Sun Life Malaysia Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund</li> <li>Up to 1.5% p.a. of fund management charge is applied on the target fund's NAV by Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad</li> </ul>

### ASSET ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND

Equities	Cash
Minimum 70%; Max 100%	Remaining Balance

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## SECTOR ALLOCATION OF THE TARGET FUND

Industrials	21.7%
Technology	18.9%
Consumer Discretionary	16.4%
Financials	14.6%
Consumer Staples	9.3%
Basic Materials	5.2%
Health Care	1.6%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	12.2%
Total	100.0%

## TOP HOLDINGS OF THE TARGET FUND (EQUITIES)

Guan Chong Bhd	3.9%
Grand Venture Technology Ltd	3.6%
Pentamaster International Ltd	3.6%
D&L Industries Inc	3.3%
Ascendas India Trust	3.0%
Ciputra Development Tbk PT	3.0%
Yinson Holdings Berhad	2.9%
Fusheng Precision Co. Ltd	2.9%
Solus Advanced Materials	2.8%
Greatech Technology Bhd	2.8%
Total	31.8%

## PERFORMANCE RECORD

The Fund feeds into Affin Hwang Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund (“target fund”) with the objective of achieving capital appreciation over the medium to long-term by investing in Asia (ex Japan) equities with market capitalization of not more than USD1.5 billion at the time of investment. However, the target fund would also have an option to invest into companies with a market capitalization of not more than USD3.0 billion at the time of investment, which will be capped at no more than 30% of the Net Asset Value (NAV) of the target fund.

Table below shows the investment returns of Sun Life Malaysia Select Asia (ex Japan) Quantum Fund versus its benchmark as at 31 December 2021:

%	YTD	1M	6M	1-Year	3-Years	5-Years	Since Inception
<b>Fund*</b>	6.56	-1.57	-9.41	6.56	66.25	45.20	74.36
<b>Benchmark</b>	22.60	2.08	-0.24	22.60	53.70	46.90	77.26

\* Calculation of past performance is based on NAV-to-NAV

**Notice: Past performance of the fund is not an indication of its future performance which may differ. The fund performance is not guaranteed.**

#### FUND MANAGER'S COMMENTS

- Global equities charted higher gains in December as investors recalibrated their portfolios for the year even as the number of Omicron cases continue to rise. The MSCI AC World index rose 4.0% in December, with the US stock market hitting new highs.
- The MSCI Asia ex-Japan index edged 1.2% higher but ended the year down by 6.4%. The region was dragged down by Hong Kong which was the worst performing stock market in Asia with the Hang Seng index losing 14.1%.
- Latest data reading illustrated that China's factory output grew faster than expected in November; however, the rise in new cases and pandemic curbs affected retail sales and fixed asset investment growth.
- Geopolitical tensions continue as the US added 8 more Chinese companies, to an investment blacklist over alleged involvement in Xinjiang. This also intensified risk in the Chinese ADR market with Chinese stocks facing possible delisting from the US stock exchange.
- Japan's industrial production jumped by a record in November, adding to evidence that a manufacturing recovery from supply chain snags was solidly underway before the omicron variant started to spread around the globe. A bounce back in the auto industry helped production climb 7.2% from October, the biggest gain going back to 1978.

#### STRATEGY:

- As we enter 2022, the high-growth post-Covid recovery phase is transitioning towards a slower growth phase. We are also transitioning from a monetary easing environment into a monetary tightening one. As a result, equity markets are expected to face increased volatility as it adjusts to these transitions.
- The set-up that we have this year is indeed challenging but may not be outright negative. While 2022 global economic growth will be weaker than in 2021, it is still expected to be at a healthy level. The potential ramp up of monetary easing in China could help offset slower global growth. This would have spill over benefits to other Asian countries.
- We would continue to seek and hold stocks with the Quality Growth at Reasonable Price characteristic. These stocks offer an ideal balance of long term growth prospects, thematic relevance and digestible valuations, though there may be short-term headwinds from the transitions mentioned above.
- The fund's invested level is now at 88%, as we exited selected names in Taiwan, China and India. We have also added to selected Malaysia holdings in the tech and energy sector.
- Structural growth names and economic reopening themes make up bulk of the fund, while cyclicals exposure has been increased to close to 15% of the fund.

## RISKS

All investment carries some form of risks. The potential key risks include but are not limited to the following:

<b>Market risk</b>	Market risk refers to the possibility that an investment will lose value because of a general decline in financial markets, due to economic, political and/or other factors, which will result in a decline in the target fund's NAV.
<b>Stock specific risk</b>	Prices of a particular stock may fluctuate in response to the circumstances affecting individual companies such as adverse financial performance, news of a possible merger or loss of key personnel of a company. Any adverse price movements of such stock will adversely affect the target fund's NAV.
<b>Credit and default risk</b>	Credit risk relates to the creditworthiness of the issuers of the debentures or money market instruments (hereinafter referred to as "investment") and their expected ability to make timely payment of interest and/or principal. Any adverse situations faced by the issuers may impact the value as well as liquidity of the investment. In the case of rated investment, this may lead to a credit downgrade. Default risk relates to the risk of an issuer of the investment either defaulting on payments or failing to make payments in a timely manner which will in turn adversely affect the value of the investment. This could adversely affect the value of the target fund.
<b>Interest rate risk</b>	This risk refers to the impact of interest rate changes on the valuation of debentures or money market instruments (hereinafter referred to as "investment"). When interest rates rise, the investment prices generally decline and this may lower the market value of the investment. The reverse may apply when interest rates fall.
<b>Warrants investment risk</b>	The value of the warrants will depend on the pricing of the underlying security, whereby the growth and performance prospect of the underlying security would consequentially affect the value of the warrants. In addition, the value of the warrants may decrease exponentially as the warrants approach its maturity date and the potential gains from a favourable price movement of the underlying security may be offset by aggressive time decay. We may consider unwinding these warrants if there are material adverse changes to its value with the aim to mitigate the risk.
<b>Country risk</b>	Investments of the target fund in any country may be affected by changes in the economic and political climate, restriction on currency repatriation or other developments in the law or regulations of the countries in which the target fund invests. For example, the deteriorating economic condition of such countries may adversely affect the value of the investments undertaken by the target fund in those affected countries. This in turn may cause the NAV of the target fund or prices of units to fall.

## RISKS (CONTINUED)

All investment carries some form of risks. The potential key risks include but are not limited to the following:

### Currency risk

As the investments of the target fund may be denominated in currencies other than the base currency, any fluctuation in the exchange rate between the base currency and the currencies in which the investments are denominated may have an impact on the value of these investments. You should note that any gains or losses arising from the fluctuation in the exchange rate may further increase or decrease the returns of the investment.

#### Currency risk at the target fund level

The impact of the exchange rate movement between the base currency of the target fund and the currency of the underlying investments (other than in MYR) may result in a depreciation of the value of the investments as expressed in the base currency of the target fund.

### Regulatory risk

The investments of the target fund would be exposed to changes in the laws and regulations in the countries the target fund is invested in. These regulatory changes pose a risk to the target fund as it may materially impact the investments of the target fund. In an effort to manage and mitigate such risk, the fund manager seeks to continuously keep abreast of regulatory developments (for example, by closely monitoring announcements on regulators' website and mainstream media) in that country. The fund manager may dispose its investments in that particular country should the regulatory changes adversely impact the policy owners' interest or diminish returns of the target fund.

Source : *Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad*

Date : *31 December 2021*

#### **Disclaimer:**

The benchmark performance is not a guide to future performances which may differ. The performance of the fund is not guaranteed. The value of the fund will fluctuate and may fall below the amount of premiums paid and the fund value depends on the actual performance of the underlying investment. This material is for information purposes only and is subject to change at any time without notice. Sun Life Malaysia does not guarantee its accuracy, completeness, correctness or timeliness for any purpose or reason. This information should not be considered as advice or recommendation in relation to your account or particular investment objectives, financial situation or needs. You may not revise, transform, or build upon this material without prior written consent of Sun Life Malaysia. Before acting on any information you should seek independent financial advice. Sun Life Malaysia may suspend the unit pricing and defer the payment of benefits, other than death and total and permanent disability benefits, subscription or redemption of units, switching of funds, under this contract for a reasonable period in exceptional circumstances, such as and including intervening events resulting in temporary closure of any stock exchange.