

# FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund

- The Fund invests primarily in equity securities or equity-related securities in Asian Region (excluding Australia, New Zealand and Japan).
- The Fund's investments may be concentrated in a single sector, country, specific region or small numbers of countries/companies which may have higher volatility or greater loss of capital than more diversified portfolios.
- The Fund invests in emerging markets which may have increased risks than developed markets including liquidity risk, currency risk/control, political and economic uncertainties, high degree of volatility, settlement risk and custody risk.
- The Fund may expose to China market risk including repatriation risk, uncertainties to PRC taxation policies and risks associated with StockConnects, QFI, the ChiNext market and/or the STAR board. The Fund may also expose to RMB currency and conversion risk.
- Investing in securities of small/mid-capitalisation companies may have lower liquidity and more volatile prices to adverse economic developments.
- The Fund may use FDIs for hedging and efficient portfolio management purposes, which may subject the Fund to additional liquidity, valuation, counterparty and over the counter transaction risks.
- It is possible that a part or entire value of your investment could be lost. You should not base your investment decision solely on this document. Please read the offering document including risk factors for details.

## Investment objective and strategy

The Fund aims to achieve long term capital appreciation and invests primarily in equity or equity-related securities of companies that are listed, or have their registered offices in, or conduct a majority of their economic activity in the Asian Region (excluding Australia, New Zealand and Japan).

## Fund information

Fund size (US\$m)	27.1
Benchmark	MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net Index
Number of holdings	42

## Available share classes

Share class <sup>†</sup>	Inception date	Nav/per share	ISIN code
Class I (USD - Acc)	18 October 2002	US\$56.93	IE0009570106

\* Acc represents share class with dividends accumulated.

## About FSSA Investment Managers

FSSA Investment Managers is an autonomous investment management team within First Sentier Investors, with dedicated investment professionals based in Hong Kong and Singapore. We are specialists in Asia Pacific and Global Emerging Markets equity strategies, managing assets on behalf of clients globally.

We are bottom-up investors, using fundamental research and analysis to construct high-conviction portfolios. We conduct more than a thousand direct company meetings a year, seeking to identify high quality companies to invest in. We look for founders and management teams that act with integrity and risk awareness; and dominant franchises that have the ability to deliver sustainable and predictable returns over the long term. As responsible, long-term shareholders, we have integrated ESG analysis into our investment process and engage extensively on environmental, labour and governance issues.

### Annual performance (% in USD) to 31 March 2025

	12 mths to 31/03/25	12 mths to 31/03/24	12 mths to 31/03/23	12 mths to 31/03/22	12 mths to 31/03/21
FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund Class I (USD - Acc)	13.7	-2.2	-7.2	-5.8	53.0
MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net Index	11.3	4.0	-8.9	-14.6	57.3

### Cumulative performance (% in USD) to 31 March 2025

	Since Inception	10 yrs	5 yrs	3 yrs	1 yr	YTD	6 mths	3 mths
FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund Class I (USD - Acc)	469.3	42.8	48.7	3.2	13.7	3.6	-3.4	3.6
MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net Index	331.2	52.0	41.6	5.5	11.3	1.8	-5.9	1.8

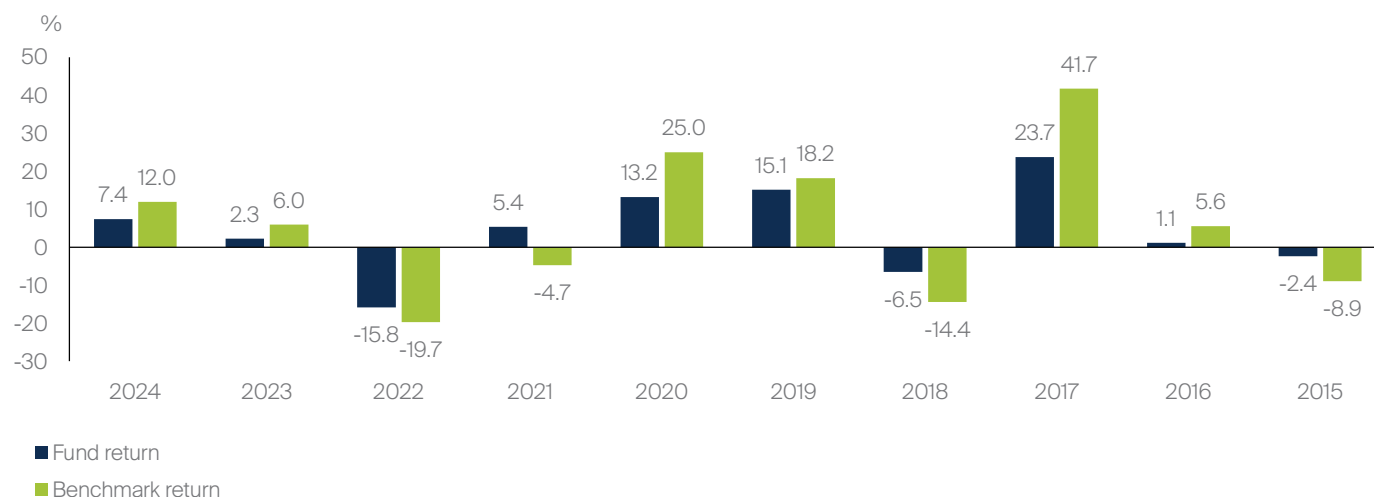
### Performance review

Over the past 12 months, key contributors to performance included **Tencent**, amid a rebound in its core gaming business and improved regulatory conditions in China. Meanwhile the company's profitability has improved, driven by the shift in its business mix with newer businesses (such as video account ads and e-commerce) contributing higher gross margins. **Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp (OCBC)** reported better-than-expected earnings growth, driven by non-interest income and increased activity in

wealth management.

On the negative side, **Universal Robina** reported worse-than-expected profits, driven by weak demand for branded foods and operating losses in the sugar segment. **Unilever Indonesia** also fell amid consumer down-trading and increased competition. Progress on the group's turnaround has been slower than expected, and underlying sales are still decidedly weak.

### Calendar year performance (% in USD) to 31 March 2025



Source: Lipper and First Sentier Investors, Nav-Nav (USD total return) data as at 31 March 2025. This Fund is a sub fund of Ireland domiciled First Sentier Investors Global Umbrella Fund Plc. As at 6 September 2016, the investment policy has been clarified and the name of the fund has been changed from First State Asia Innovation Fund to First State Asia Opportunities Fund to reflect the change. Class I (USD-Acc) is the non-dividend distributing class of the fund, the performance quoted are based on USD total return (non-dividend distributing). Gross of tax benchmark performance is shown before 1 July 2016 and net of tax benchmark performance is shown after the aforementioned date. Unless otherwise specified, all information contained in this document is as at 31 March 2025. Investment involves risks, past performance is not a guide to future performance. On 22 September 2020, First State Asia Opportunities Fund was rebranded as FSSA Asia Opportunities Fund.

## Portfolio review

New purchases over the quarter included **Netease**, the second-largest gaming company in China. The company has a portfolio of games with loyal users and a strong pipeline of new games that should support decent growth prospects. With a long track record and impressive returns over the past 20 years, we like the company's strong alignment and mind-set for returning value to shareholders.

We also bought **Kasikornbank**, the second-largest bank in Thailand. After years of poor performance, the Thai banking industry and Kasikornbank are moving towards prioritising profitability over growth. We expect provisions will decline after a decade of clean-up and returns on equity should improve from here.

We sold **FILA** and **DBS** to consolidate into more attractive opportunities.

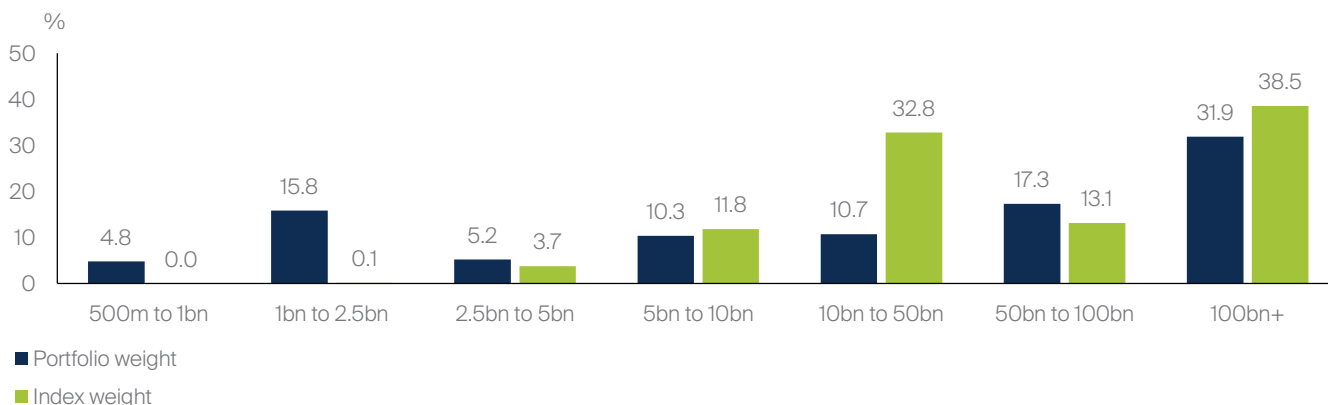
## Stock spotlight

**Netease Cloud Music** is China's second-largest music streaming platform and has around 20% market share by revenue. It was launched in 2013 by online gaming company Netease, which is still a majority shareholder. From our experience investing in Netease, we believe founder William Ding has a good track record of capital allocation and treatment of minority shareholders. China's online music industry is a duopoly. While it is smaller than the leader Tencent Music, Netease Cloud Music has stronger user engagement and growth. It caters to younger users and has a higher share of independent musicians on its platform, accounting for around 40% of total music streams. The users at Netease Cloud Music are more open to discovering new music, and the platform encourages this by focusing on recommendations and social interactions.

The company is still in the early stages of growth, and the focus is currently on growing the subscriber base and gaining market share. We expect competition will remain benign as Tencent Music is focusing on increasing profitability. Recent regulations have clamped down on music content being exclusive, which has helped the distribution platforms by reducing their upstream content cost. In addition, platforms are moving from a fixed cost, minimum guarantee model to revenue sharing with catalogue owners, which should further improve profitability.

We see significant scope to increase monetisation over the long term. Global music platform Spotify has twice the ratio of paying users (40% vs 20%) and 4-5x average revenue per user (ARPU) compared to the Chinese platforms. Besides converting more free users into paid subscribers, other paths to monetisation include digital song purchases, live-streaming, advertising and long-form content such as podcasts and audiobooks.

## Market capitalisation breakdown (USD)



Data source: First Sentier Investors. For illustration purposes only. Portfolio weights may not add up to 100% as cash holdings are excluded and full coverage of stocks is not always available. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Reference to specific securities (if any) is included for the purpose of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell the same. All securities mentioned herein may or may not form part of the holdings of First Sentier Investors' portfolios at a certain point in time, and the holdings may change over time. The index refers to MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net Index.

## Outlook

News about US reciprocal tariffs have rocked global markets, as President Trump announced sweeping import taxes that were far higher and affected a much broader swathe of countries than expected. The situation is still fluid, but our broad take is that the tariffs are being used primarily as a negotiation tool – an attempt to drive more manufacturing back into the US. If high tariffs do remain in place, it's clearly negative for the global economy.

From a portfolio perspective, even in a more adverse scenario, we remain confident in our holdings' ability to navigate the environment, as they have done in the past. Our companies are characterised by strong competitive advantages – whether in brand strength, distribution, or cost leadership – and have historically managed to preserve margins and profitability across cycles, despite headwinds. Most of our portfolio holdings have strong balance sheets (net-cash) which should allow them to weather a difficult period and invest counter-cyclically to gain market share.

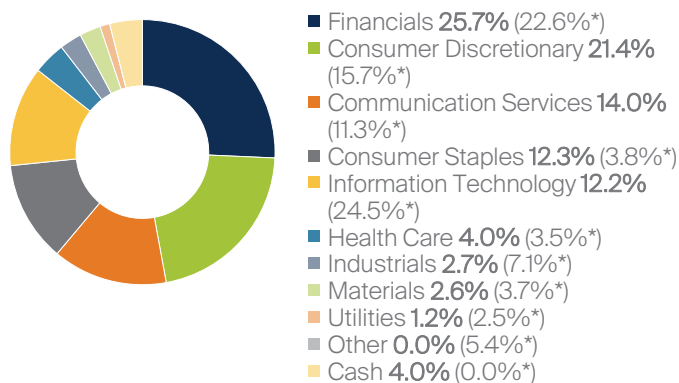
## Our long-term investment themes:

- Dominant consumer franchises which have an edge in brand, distribution and innovation.
- High quality financials, supported by a strong deposit franchise or a specific loan niche.
- The rise in healthcare spending, due to increasing incomes and healthy consumer choices.
- Beneficiaries of a smarter, more connected world.
- An ageing population and the growing trend of automation.

## Ten largest company holdings as at 31 March 2025

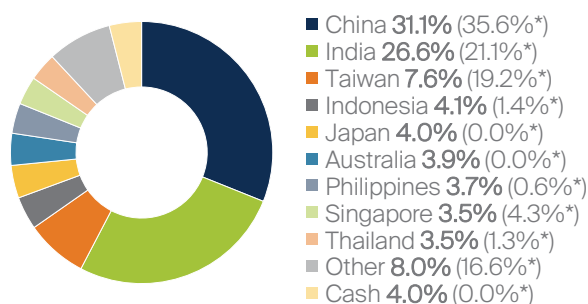
Stock name	Geography	Sector	Portfolio weight (%)
ICICI Bank Limited	India	Financials	8.1
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	China	Communication Services	8.0
China Mengniu Dairy Co., Ltd.	China	Consumer Staples	5.8
HDFC Bank	India	Financials	4.9
Midea Group	China	Consumer Discretionary	4.2
Sony Group Corporation	Japan	Consumer Discretionary	4.0
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation	Singapore	Financials	3.5
Kasikornbank Public Co. Ltd.	Thailand	Financials	3.5
DPC Dash Limited	China	Consumer Discretionary	3.2
NetEase Cloud Music Inc.	China	Communication Services	3.1

## Sector breakdown



\*Index weight

## Geographic breakdown



\*Index weight

Sector and Country classifications provided by Factset and First Sentier Investors. The Fund may hold multiple equity securities in the same company, which have been combined to provide the Fund's total position in that company. Index weights, if any, typically include only the main domestic-listed security. The above Fund weightings may or may not include reference to multiple securities. Allocation percentage is rounded to the nearest one decimal place and the total allocation percentage may not add up to 100%.

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The index refers to MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Net Index.

## Top 5 contributors to absolute performance

### 3 months to 31 March 2025

Stock name	Geography	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	China	Communication Services	168
China Mengniu Dairy Co., Ltd.	China	Consumer Staples	134
NetEase Cloud Music Inc.	China	Communication Services	117
DPC Dash Limited	China	Consumer Discretionary	97
ICICI Bank Limited	India	Financials	63

### 12 months to 31 March 2025

Stock name	Geography	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	China	Communication Services	370
Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.	India	Consumer Discretionary	273
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	Taiwan	Information Technology	152
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited	Singapore	Financials	152
NetEase Cloud Music Inc.	China	Communication Services	124

## Bottom 5 contributors to absolute performance

### 3 months to 31 March 2025

Stock name	Geography	Sector	Value added (bps*)
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	Taiwan	Information Technology	-62
Infosys Limited	India	Information Technology	-33
FPT Corp.	Vietnam	Information Technology	-27
Philippine Seven Corporation	Philippines	Consumer Staples	-27
PT Selamat Sempurna Tbk	Indonesia	Consumer Discretionary	-26

### 12 months to 31 March 2025

Stock name	Geography	Sector	Value added (bps*)
China Resources Beer (Holdings) Co. Ltd.	China	Consumer Staples	-75
Universal Robina Corp.	Philippines	Consumer Staples	-54
PT Unilever Indonesia Tbk	Indonesia	Consumer Staples	-47
CSL	Australia	Health Care	-43
FPT Corp.	Vietnam	Information Technology	-29

Stock contributions show the impact of the individual stock's performance to the total fund performance. These stock contributions show the top 5 and bottom 5 contributors to the fund and are not representative of the performance of the fund as a whole.

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This stock information does not constitute any offer or inducement to enter into investment activity.

Contributions are calculated at the investee company level before the deduction of any fees incurred at fund level (e.g. the management fee and other fund expenses) but after deduction of transactional costs. Stocks held/listed in non-index countries have economic activity > 50% from developing economies.

\* A basis point is a unit of measure used in finance to describe the percentage change in value or rate of a financial instrument. One basis point is equivalent to 0.01% (1/100th of a percent) or 0.0001 in decimal form.

Data source: This information is calculated by First Sentier Investors.

### Important information

Investment involves risks, past performance is not a guide to future performance. Refer to the offering documents of the respective funds for details, including risk factors. The information contained within this document has been obtained from sources that First Sentier Investors ("FSI") believes to be reliable and accurate at the time of issue but no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is made as to the fairness, accuracy or completeness of the information. To the extent permitted by law, neither FSI, nor any of its associates, nor any director, officer or employee accepts any liability whatsoever for any loss arising directly or indirectly from any use of this. It does not constitute investment advice and should not be used as the basis of any investment decision, nor should it be treated as a recommendation for any investment.

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