

# Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund

March 2024

the hedge fund journal
UCITS Hedge
Awards
2023

Long/Short Equity – Asia Pacific Best Performing Fund over 5 years Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund (Dalton Investments)



### I. Dalton Firm & Strategy Overview

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# I. Dalton Firm & Strategy Overview

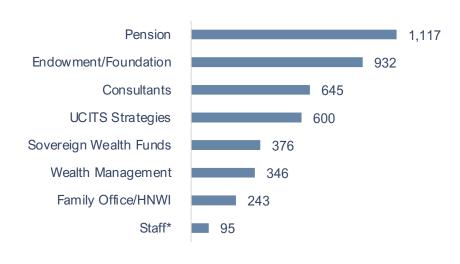


### Firm Background

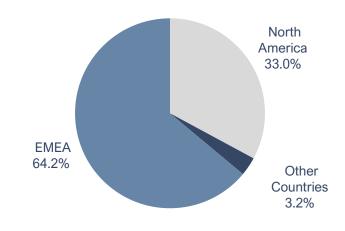
#### **Dalton Investments**

- Opportunistic, entrepreneurial and long-term focused value investing philosophy, aiming to generate superior returns for clients
- Began operations in 1998 to capitalize on opportunities arising from the Asia crisis; incorporated in 1999
- Offices in Santa Monica, Las Vegas, Sydney, Mumbai, Hong Kong, New York, and Tokyo
- Experienced, diverse team of 37 with 17 dedicated investment professionals
- Employee-owned firm, co-investing alongside clients

#### **AUM** (\$4.4bn)<sup>1</sup> by Client Type (\$m)<sup>1,2</sup>



### AUM (\$4.4bn) by Client Location (%)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>As of 31 March 2024. Includes a non-discretionary account.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>The above chart excludes approximately \$46 million in "financial institution" assets.

<sup>\*</sup>Staff includes all Dalton related parties

### **Investment Team & Support Staff**



As of 31 March 2024

#### **Chief Investment Officer**



James B. Rosenwald III\*, CFA (26/43)



#### **Director of Research**



Shiro Hayashi\* (15/23)



**CRO & CSO** 



Craig Mercer\* (7/25)



#### **Trading**



Richard Hill\* (9/26)



Kenneth Hendrawan (5/7)

### Sustainability



Su Cheng Tung (<1/2)

#### **Tokyo Office**



Kota Isogai (9/17)



Masumi Nishida\* (3/15)



Toshihito Yamada (12/12)



Takahisa Taguchi (3/7)

#### **Los Angeles Office**



Pedro Zevallos\* (7/29)



Venkat Pasupuleti\* (10/14)



Owens Huang\* (9/14)



James Lim\* (9/12)

#### Non-Investment



Team of 22 across management, finance, legal, compliance and operations

#### **Hong Kong Office**



Jessica Xing (3/10)

#### **Mumbai Office**



Siva Thiravidamony\* (5/14)



Upama Roy (2/12)

(Years of experience firm/industry)

<sup>\*</sup>Partner



### **Investment Philosophy**



#### **Invest in Good Businesses**

• Strong cash flows and balance sheets, a "moat" against competition, focus on ESG best practices



### **Seek a Significant Margin of Safety**

• Seek a material discount to intrinsic value, looking out 3-5 years



### **Focus on Alignment of Interest**

• Identify companies with an alignment of interest between the owner-operator/management and minority shareholders, or companies where an opportunity exists to enhance alignment



### **Strong Track Record**

· Identify a demonstrable track record of managing capital effectively and rewarding minority shareholders



### **Engagement**

· Capitalizing on corporate governance reform and shareholder activism to opportunistically add value





## Alignment of Interests with Owner Operators

Name	Country	Sector Group	Value of Ownership (USD mln)	% Ownership
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing	Taiwan	Information Technology	\$2,890	1%
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd	South Korea	Information Technology	\$72,999	22%
Fairfax India Holdings Corp	Canada	Financials	\$187	10%
ICICI Bank Limited	India	Financials	\$27,501	32%
Rio Tinto	Australia	Materials	\$1,008	1%
Wilmer International	Singapore	Consumer Staples	\$6,324	43%
Sanwa Holdings Corp	Japan	Industrials	\$37	1%
MERITZ FINANCIAL GROUP INC	South Korea	Financials	\$1,486	13%
TOYOTA INDUSTRIES CORP	Japan	Industrials	\$314	1%
SQUARE ENIX HLDGS	Japan	Communication Services	\$109	2%
Total (Top 10)			\$112,855	

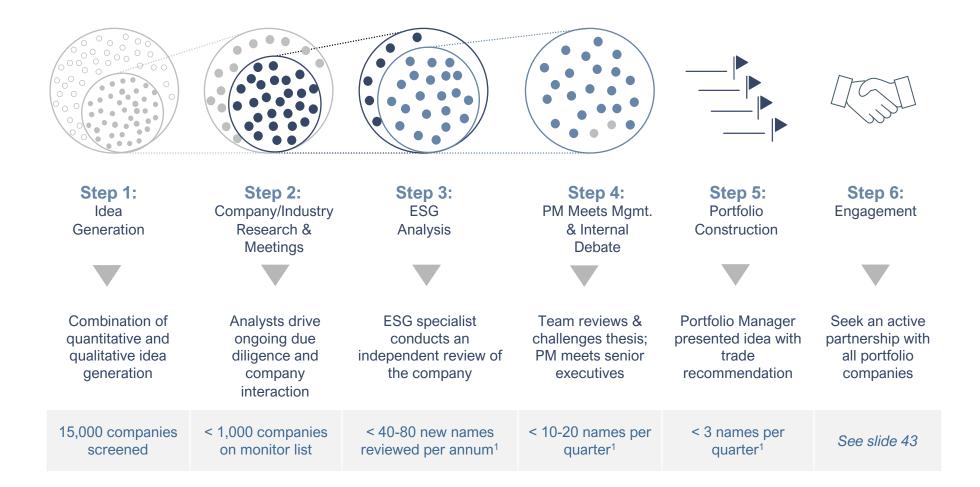
Source: Dalton Investments, Bloomberg, top 10 weights as of 31 March 2024

Please note that the case studies are included herein to convey Dalton's thought process and approach in analyzing investment opportunities and are not indicative of performance for any actual Dalton account. The actual performance of the position is not relevant disclosure and should be disregarded given that the aggregate performance of an account/portfolio can be materially different. Further, it should not be assumed that future investments will be profitable or will equal performance discussed in these case studies.





### **Dalton Investment Process**



The Investment Manager takes environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria into account in investment decisions among others; however, sizing of individual positions is based on a larger scope of criteria than ESG only.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Estimate of typical workflow



### Dalton's Approach to ESG

#### ESG in the context of the 4-Mantra



**Good Business**: A good business needs to generate profits sustainably



**Alignment**: Sound corporate governance practices improve the alignment with minority shareholders and create a greater emphasis on long-term value



**Track Record**: Some studies\* suggest that superior ESG firms may have lower costs of capital and therefore potentially offer a greater chance of generating superior returns to their weighted average cost of capital



**Margin of Safety**: A company with sound ESG policies potentially lowers the risk of permanent impairment of capital\*

Dalton is a signatory of the PRI, Climate Action 100+, and both the Japan and Korean Stewardship Codes

The Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund meets the classifications of an Article 8 (SFDR Regulation) as it promotes environmental and social characteristics.

#### **The ESG Research Process**

Review relevant corporate and sustainability disclosures

Analyze available ESG data sets

Check for controversies & legal disputes

Examine proprietary accounting fraud analysis tool

Prepare company ESG report

Vote on stock & engage where necessary

The Investment Manager takes environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria into account in investment decisions among others; however, sizing of individual positions is based on a larger scope of criteria than ESG only.



<sup>\*</sup>Fulton, Kahn, Sharples (2012). "Sustainable Investing: Establishing Long-Term Value and Performance." Deutsche Bank. Please note that no representations or warranties, either expressed or implied, can be made as to the data and analysis provided in these studies. The data analysis has been prepared by the respective authors and entities, and Dalton Investments has not verified any of the studies independently. The views and opinions expressed in the studies are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Dalton.



### Fund Portfolio Guidelines: Qualitative

	Long Book	Short Book
Profile	Smaller, entrepreneurial companies benefiting from structural change in Asia with managements committed to maximizing shareholder value	Big, bureaucratic (often state owned) enterprises driven by objective other than maximizing shareholder value
Strategy	Portfolio diversified across market capitalization, industries, and countries	Portfolio constructed for alpha generation; shorts not paired with specific long positions
Characteristics:		
Margin of safety	Market price low relative to proprietary intrinsic valuation	Market price high relative to proprietary intrinsic valuation
Alignment of interests	Management is long-term ambitious, willing to share profits with minority shareholders through share buy backs and dividends	History of weak management; unwilling to share with minority shareholders
Business Sustainability	Natural monopolies and valuable patents	Highly competitive industry; company has no ongoing edge
Business Economics	Healthy fundamentals, e.g. strong cash flows and balance sheets	Poor fundamentals, e.g. waning cash flows and balance sheets





### Fund Portfolio Guidelines: Quantitative

Soft Position Guidelines:	Long Book	Short Book
Number of positions	30-60 Names	20-40 Names
Position Limit	10% of NAV	5% of NAV
Position at Purchase	3% of NAV	1 - 3% of NAV
Stop Loss Review	Soft at 20% absolute decline	Hard at 20% absolute increase

Exposure Guidelines	Net	Gross
Net Exposure (By Region)		
Japan & Greater China	Max 70% net	
Rest of Asia (including India)	Max 50% net	
Portfolio Net Exposure	Typically 30% - 70%	
Portfolio Gross Exposure		Max 200%

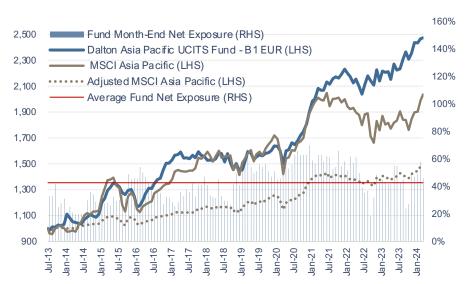
### **Liquidity Profile**

- Daily liquidity with three business days notice
- Underlying positions typically have market caps in excess of \$0.5bn and at least moderate trading volumes





### Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Performance History



	Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund	MSCI Asia Pac Index
Ann. Net Rate of Return	8.79%	6.88%
Cum. Net Total Return	147.36%	104.45%
Annualized Volatility	9.35%	12.71%
Sharpe Ratio	1.10	0.56
Sortino Ratio	1.99	0.85
Upside Capture Ratio	58.88%	-
<b>Downside Capture Ratio</b>	34.88%	-

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	YTD
Share B1 (EUR)	3.24%	7.70%	12.72%	20.03%	3.65%	-7.61%	13.10%	16.38%	17.15%	-4.12%	13.88%	1.47%
Benchmark	0.13%	13.96%	9.17%	8.06%	15.52%	-9.21%	21.73%	9.95%	5.80%	-12.01%	7.89%	7.29%
Relative	3.11%	-6.26%	3.55%	11.97%	-11.87%	1.60%	-8.63%	6.43%	11.35%	7.89%	5.99%	-5.82%





<sup>\*</sup>The performance figures quoted above represent the performance of the FundLogic Alternatives Plc – Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund up to March 2019. The performance figures from April 2019 represent the performance of the Lafayette UCITS ICAV - Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund since launch on 8 April 2019.

Please note the Lafayette Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund is a continuation of the FundLogic Alternatives Plc Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund by way of a merger. The FundLogic Alternatives PLC fund was launched on 17 July 2013. These performance figures refer to the past and past performance is not necessarily indicative of future results Source: Waystone





### **II. Current Asia Outlook**



### Pan-Asia Overview: Japan and Korea

We view Asia as a single contiguous market, often conducting cross-border research on companies and believe our long-term experience investing in Asia provides insight on how to identify future leaders, and value traps in Asian companies.

#### Japan

- Japan has attracted increasing investor attention in recent years, fuelled by a focus on corporate governance reform. This reform agenda has led to a buoyant stock market, with the Nikkei finally surpassing its previous peak of 1989.
- More recently, the Bank of Japan's (BOJ) ended negative interest rates, a move that had been widely anticipated by investors. The announcement detailed raising the policy rate to a band between 0.0% and 0.1, abolishing the yield curve control (YCC), and ending purchases of exchange-traded funds and real estate investment trusts.
- We believe this signals the start of a virtuous cycle of improved corporate performance, rising wages, and increased consumer spending.

#### Korea

- In February 2024, the Korean government announced its 'Value Up' program to address the persistent undervaluation of its stock market, commonly referred to as the Korea discount.
- The three key pillars of the program include providing tax incentives for listed companies to voluntarily prepare, implement, and communicate their corporate value enhancement plans.
- The program is still in its early stages and its long-term success will depend on its implementation and the willingness of both companies and investors to actively participate. In the short-term, the biggest winners in Korea have been in the financial sector where banks have rallied strongly on the back of the news, including the Fund's position in Meritz Financial Group which was up 40% during the quarter.



### Pan-Asia Overview: Taiwan and Greater China

#### **Taiwan**

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) has dominated the tech landscape in recent months. This surge extends to the Asian chip supply chain, benefiting companies like TSMC and its suppliers. Taiwan, a major player in chip manufacturing, has been particularly spurred by the AI revolution. While the recent government election offered little additional stimulus to an already buoyant stock market, Taiwan's chip making expertise and key role in the global supply chain have continued to fuel its impressive performance.
- Valuations in the semiconductor sector remain high, particularly in the US. Taiwanese chipmakers offer far more attractive valuations compared to their US counterparts. This presents an opportunity to invest at more favourable prices in a burgeoning growth that are positioned to benefit from the continued growth in the sector.

#### **Greater China**

- After a year of anaemic returns, the Chinese market showed signs of recovery midway through Q1 2024, given government discussions with regulators and curbs on short selling.
- Chinese equities surged in early February, fuelled by expectations of further stimulus. However, this enthusiasm faded in March, leaving the Chinese market lagging behind the other Asian markets.
- The short-term appeal of China appears driven by the idea that the market may have bottomed, offering limited downside risk.
   Valuations are indeed low, suggesting a potential return to normalcy (mean reversion).
- Ignoring the Chinese market entirely could hurt short term relative returns if mean reversion takes hold. Yet, the fear of "catching a falling knife" is keeping returns stagnant and valuations low.





### Pan-Asia Overview: India and ASEAN

#### India

- Valuations, particularly in the small and mid-cap segments, appear stretched on multiple metrics. The MSCI India's priceto-earnings ratio exceeding 22x is near its twenty-year high.
- Valuations are being driven upwards by a combination of factors. Two dominant factors include the shift in the index away from a lower growth large cap index to a more mid cap centric exchange, and the significant rise of domestic investors. Foreign investor participation has shrunk to a multidecade low of 16%, whereas the number of local equity trading accounts has risen by more than 500% in the past decade.
- The "deinstitutionalization" of the market's participants explains the reduced emphasis on traditional valuation metrics. Importantly, these high valuations are backed by robust earnings forecasts with mid-teens growth projected for the coming years.

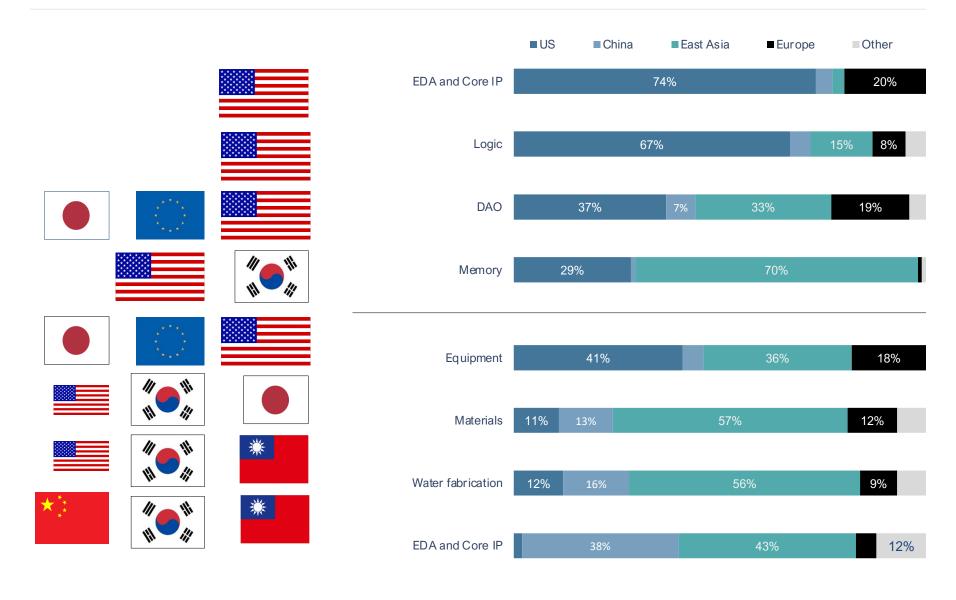
#### **ASEAN**

- Dalton continues to be faced with the challenge of limited margin of safety and weaker governance practices, when compared to other regions in Asia. It remains diligent in assessing new opportunities and will make investments when our four mantras are met.
- The manager holds a position in Vietnam Enterprises Limited, as this remains an attractive way to invest in the foreign ownership-controlled market at a discount.





# Leaders In the Semiconductor Supply Chain

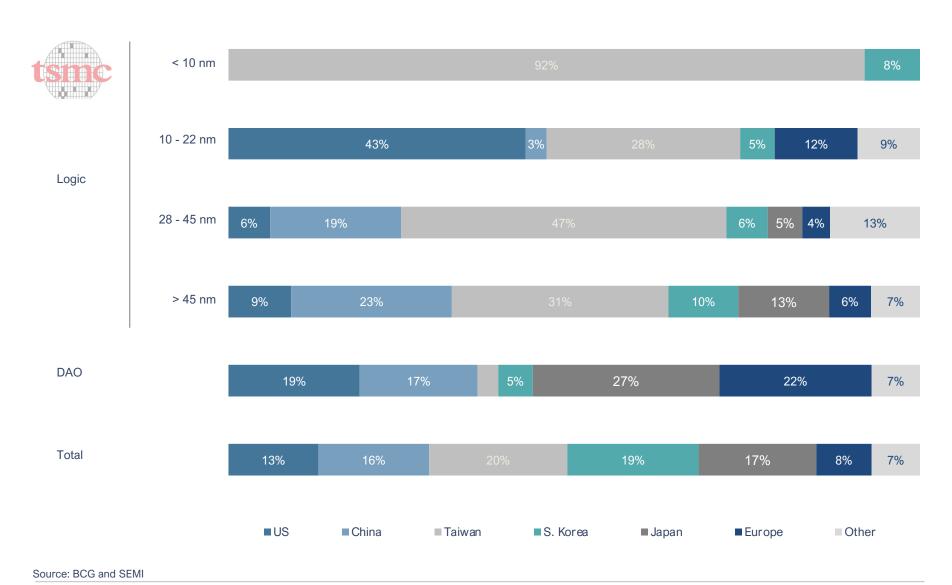


Source: BCG and Gartner



# All Advanced Logic IC Capacity is from Taiwan and South Korea







# Taiwanese OEM Production Capacity Breakdown: 2019 vs 2023

Ticker	Company	Year	Production capacity (2019 vs 2023E)									
пскег	Company	rear	China	Taiwan	Vietnam	India	Thailand	America	Europe	RoW		
2317.TW	Hon Hai	2019	<b>7</b> 6%	2%	8%	2%	2%	5%	3%	2%		
2317.100	Hommai	2023E	<b>7</b> 0%	1%	11%	5%	1%	<b>7</b> %	3%	2%		
4938.TW	Pegatron	2019	95%	2%	-	-	-	-	3%	1%		
4330.100	regation	2023E	<b>7</b> 5-80%	1-2%	5-10%	5-10%	-	-	2-3%	0-1%		
3231.TW	Wistron	2019	<b>7</b> 5%	5%	-	3%	-	10%	5%	2%		
3231.100	VVISUOII	2023E	55-60%	0-5%	5-10%	15-20%	0%	5-10%	0-5%	0-2%		
2382.TW	Quanta	2019	80%	10%	-	-	-	5%	5%	-		
2302.100	Quanta	2023E	65-70%	15-20%	-	-	0-5%	0-5%	0-5%	-		
2324.TW	Compal	2019	92%	2%	3%	1%	-	2%	-	-		
2024.100	Compai	2023E	80-85%	0-5%	5-10%	0-5%	-	0-5%	-	-		
2356.TW	Inventec	2019	63%	12%	-	-	-	15%	<b>7</b> %	3%		
2330.100	invented	2023E	55-60%	15%	5%	-	-	15%	<b>7</b> %	2-3%		
6669.TW	Wiwynn	2019	10%	-	-	-	-	60%	30%	-		
0003.100	003.1VV VVIVVYIIII	2023E	0-5%	5-10%	-	-	-	60%	25-30%	-		



## Manufacturers Are Moving Out of China

US-China geopolitical tension, China's unstable government, and technology supply chain decoupling are driving investment in Taiwan, Japan, Vietnam, India, and Korea. Multi-National Companies (MNCs) are applying the "China plus one" strategy to diversify their China risks. The table shows the example of MNCs' recent CAPEX in India.



MNC	Business Carried out	Year of Establishment	Place of Establishment
Safran Group	Space test cetre for aerospace & defense products	2023	Kerala
Samsung	Compressor manufacturing plant(for refrigerators)	2022	Sriperumbudur near Chennai, Tamil Nadu
	Largest mobile manufacturing plant	2018	Noida, UP
Siemens	Bogie Production Facility	2022	Aurangabad, Maharashtra
	Diagnostic imaging facility	2019	Bengaluru
Hindustan Coca- Cola beverages	Bottling arm of coca-cola	2022	Jalpaiguri, West Bengal
Pegatron	Third Apple vendor to set up a manufacturing unit in India	2022	Chennai
Foxconn	Mobile Phone manufacturing	2020	
Hewlett Packard	Multiple PC products, including laptops, desktops, All-in-Ones (AlOs), and monitors.	2020	Sriperumbudur near Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Amazon	First device manufacturing line in India to make Fire TV sticks locally	2021	Chennai
	Robotics and digitalization technologies	2022	Bengaluru
ABB India	Manufacture of digital technologies for electrical distribution networks for Indian as well as global markets.	2022	Maneja plant in Vadodara

Source: Morgan Stanley

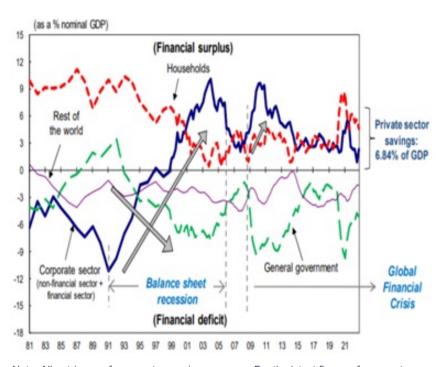




## Balance Sheet Recession: China Today vs. Japan 1990s

Japan: Companies started to save more money after 1991

#### Financial Surplus or Deficit by Sector

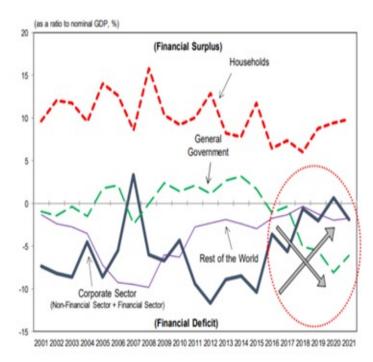


Note: All entries are four-quarter moving averages. For the latest figures, four quarter averages ending in 2022 Q4 are used.

Sources: Bank of Japan, Flow of Funds Accounts, and Government of Japan, Cabinet Office. National Accounts

China: Companies slowed down borrowing years before the bubble burst; Growth has relied on large government deficit spending

#### Financial Surplus or Deficit by Sector



Source: Nomura Research Institute, based on the data from National Bureau of Statistics China and People's Bank of China



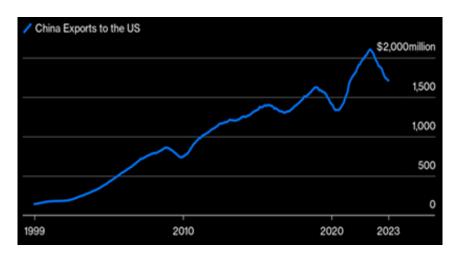


### China Continues to Face Multiple Headwinds

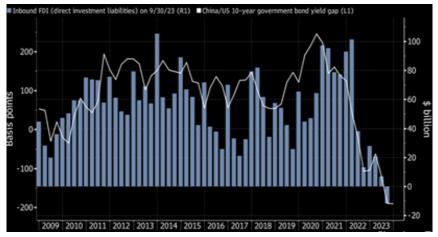
While still above levels prior to joining the World Trade Foreign direct investment into China from all sources has also Organization in 2002, Chinese exports to the US seem to have turned negative as for the first time in decades. peaked and are rapidly declining.

#### **China's Export Machine is Slowing at Last**

The prolonged rise in exports since WTO entry in 2001 appears to be over



#### China's FDI Turns Negative for the 1st Time since 1998



Source: Bloomberg

Source: China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange; Bloomberg compiled data





### Japanese Valuations are Attractive

### **Examining Tangible Book Value Per Share (TBVPS)**

• Japan is trading at a modest premium to its long-term average, but a substantial discount to other regions

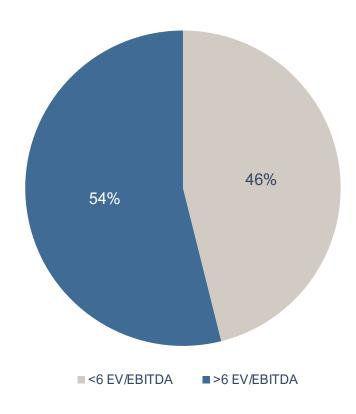


Source: Bloomberg



# Japan Small/Mid Cap Valuations Are Extremely Attractive

### EV/EBITDA Breakdown (<\$3bn Market Cap)



- Median EV/EBITDA is 6.2x
- Around 661 companies trade for <6x
- Japanese banks are willing to finance MBOs with up to 6x EBITDA
- This section of the market could be taken private with essentially zero equity



# Japanese Companies' Profit Margins Highest in Decades

#### **All Company Profit Margins - Tankan**



Source: Bank of Japan data as of 11/10/2022.

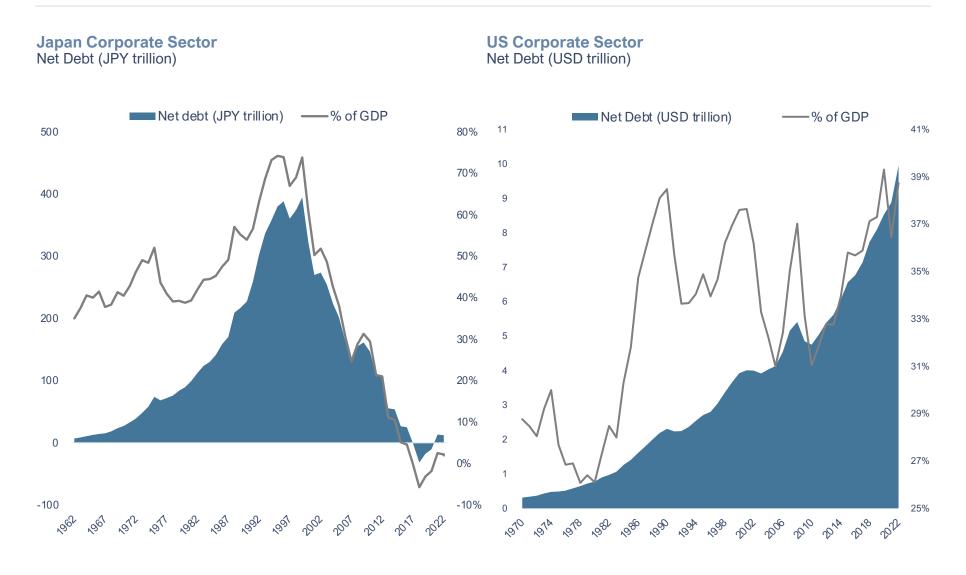
Period under review: Annual data from 1999 until 2022.

Tankan = Tanki Keizai Kansoku Chousa, the Short-Term Economic Survey of Enterprises in Japan; it is a quarterly poll of business confidence reported by the Bank of Japan showing the status of the Japanese economy.





### Corporate Japan is Flush with Cash



Source: Ministry of Finance, Japan

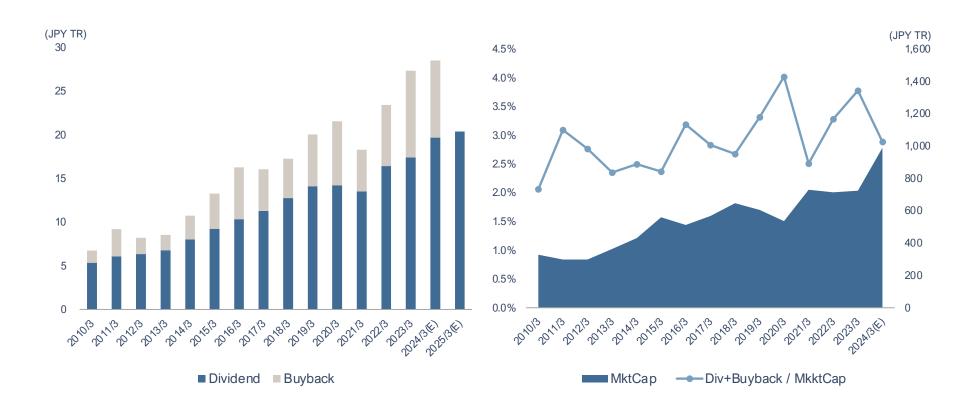
Source: FRB, Deutsche Bank





## Capital Allocation Practices are Changing in Japan

Buy backs and dividends continue to provide attractive returns to investors.



Note: FY2024(E) forecasts are results for firms that have announced results and Toyo Keizai estimates for firms that have not announced results and have not disclosed company projections. FY2024(E) forecasts are Toyo Keizai estimates for firms that have not disclosed company projections. Source: QUICK, SMBC Nikko Securities

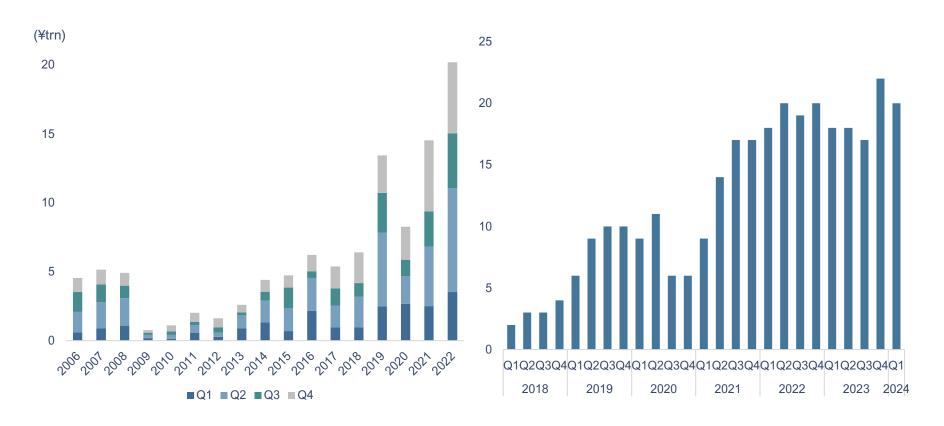




# Capital Allocation Practices are Changing Rapidly in Japan

# Historical quarterly Japan share buyback announcements by calendar year

### Number of active buyback programs with portfolio companies



Sources: CLSA, Bloomberg, Okasan Securities. Data reflects Japanese equity holdings actively held across all Dalton portfolios as of 6/30/2023.

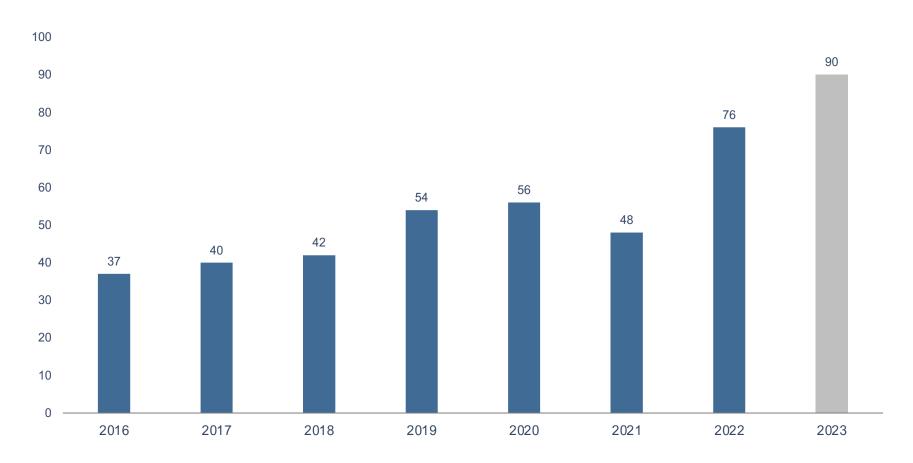




# 2023 Saw the Highest Number of AGM Proposals Ever!

The number of AGM proposals, at 90, is at new highs, up 18% YOY, with 44 proposals put forward by activist investors.

### **Number of June AGM Proposals**



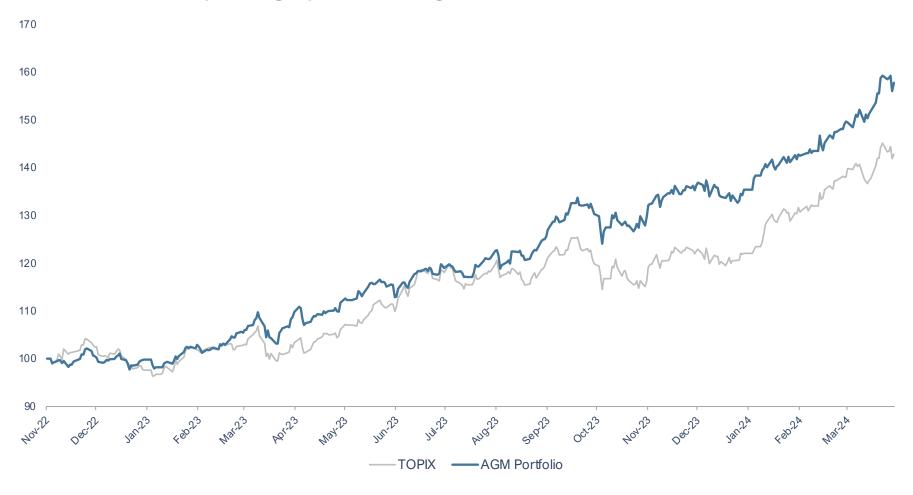
Source: CLSA





# Simply Making AGM Proposals Outperforms

### Performance of an equal-weight portfolio of targets in 2022 AGMs

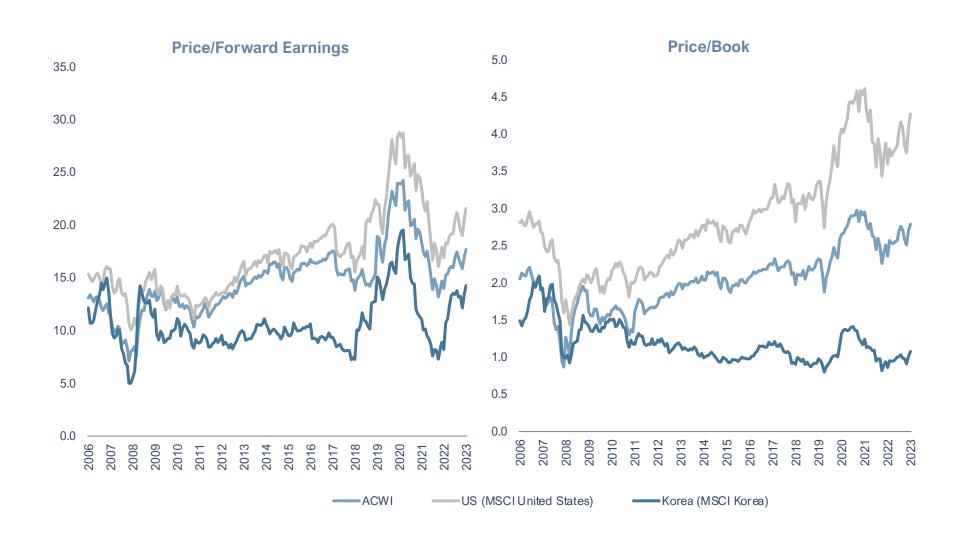


Source: CLSA





# Korea Provides Ample Mispriced Opportunities



Source: MSCI





### South Korea Exhibits Big Room for Improvement

#### **Underinvested Market**

- 401K equivalent private pension is growing fast but equity exposure was only 2% vs 40-60% in developed countries
- MSCI developed market possibility

#### **Business Model Change**

- Old economy businesses to future oriented businesses: semi, healthcare, internet/mobile, EV, game, media, etc.
- · Cyclical to stable businesses

#### **Corporate Governance**

- Korean retail account: 6M in '19 to 14M in '22
- Korea govt. benchmarking Japan: Value-Up program for P/B lower than 1 companies, etc.

#### **Capital Allocation**

· Low payout ratio; upside in potential increase





### Korea President Yoon Starts to Focus on "Korea Discount"



- Korea Presidents Yoon attends opening ceremony of Korea Stock Exchange for 2024
- Yoon mentions positive review of "commercial law" change to better protect minority shareholders
  - > "Duty of loyalty to company" changing to "Duty of loyalty to all shareholders" may have significant implications and has been demanded by minority shareholders
- Yoon also mentioned initiative to remove capital gains tax implementation scheduled in '25
- · Yoon clearly demonstrated that the stock market is now very important to Korea



### Korea's Corporate Governance is Changing

### **Changing Companies**



 Select number of companies starting to take a proactive stance toward shareholder value focused management

#### **Shareholder Activism**



- Increasing shareholder activism accompanying proxy vote wins
- Samsung C&T, Hyundai Motors, Samsung Electronics, Macquarie Infra, Korean Air, SM Entertainment, Tovis, Dongwon Industries, etc.

#### **Increased Retail Participation**



 Significant increase in retail investor participation raised awareness and interest in corporate governance due to their return sensitivity

#### **Stewardship Code**





- Dalton Investments adopted the Korea Stewardship Code in 2017 as the first US investment manager signatory
- NPS with \$600bn in assets adopted the Korean Stewardship Code in July 2018
- NPS accounts for 7% of market ownership and has the power to influence the market



# Structural Reasons Supporting the Case for Investing in India



#### **High Growth Potential**

- Fifth largest economy by nominal GDP (\$3.0 trillion) and third largest on a PPP basis (\$11.5 trillion)
- · Largest democracy and second-most populous country in the world (1.35 billion people)
- Second-fastest growing large economy in the world during the last decade
- Per capita income only \$2,200; India is a long way from the middle-income trap

#### **Highly Favorable Demographics**

- · Median age of population is among the lowest globally at 29 years
- Only country where share of working-age population will continue to rise well into 2035
- Booming middle class of around 300 million in the country today

### **Growing Urbanization and Literacy**

- India currently has 33% of Asia urban population and 18% of world urban population
- Nearly 75% of the population is literate, compared to only 18% in 1951



# Structural Reforms Made by the Government in the Last 9 Years



**Manufacturing Boost** 



**Goods and Service Tax** 



**RERA** 



**Direct Benefit Transfer** 



**Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code** 



**PSU Bank Recapitalizations** 



**Labour Reforms** 



**Land Reforms** 



**Agri Reforms** 



Significantly improving India's manufacturing competitiveness, ease of doing business and potential GDP growth rate.





# India's Long-term Outperformance and Leadership in High-Performing Companies (% of cos. With >=20% CAGR USD returns)

Year	Country	Index	No of cos. in Index	% of cos. still in existence	% of cos. With >=20% CAGR	Index CAGR%
2002	India	BSE 500	500	72%	23%	20.3%
	USA	S&P 500	500	55%	1%	9.5%
	China	Shanghai Comp.	749	88%	1%	7.5%
	Japan	Topix 500	495	74%	0%	5.3%
2012	India	BSE 500	500	84%	10%	11.2%
	USA	S&P 500	500	76%	9%	10.7%
	China	Shanghai Comp.	994	94%	3%	6.1%
	Japan	Topix 500	501	93%	2%	5.5%
2017	India	BSE 500	501	95%	12%	6.3%
	USA	S&P 500	506	90%	9%	6.5%
	China	Shanghai Comp.	1408	94%	4%	-2.2%
	Japan	Topix 500	500	96%	1%	-3.8%

- · Number one major market in terms of USD return over last twenty years and number 2 in terms of economic growth
- Continues to offer secular growth companies with long growth runway
- · Challenge: Selling and buying back purely on valuation has proven tricky



# India is Where China Was in 2007 on Many Economic Metrics





Source: Societe Generale Cross Asset Research

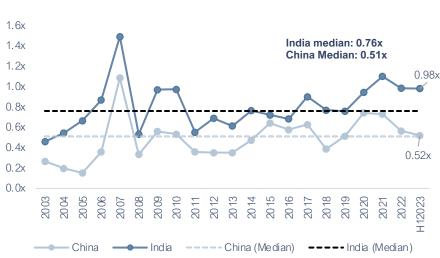


# Although China's GDP has Grown Faster, India's Market Cap Translation has been Superior Historically

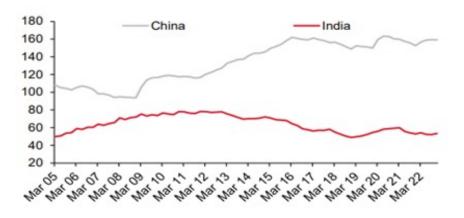
#### China and India GDP (\$Tn)



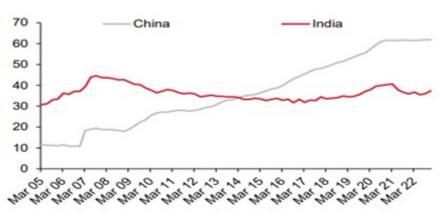
#### **Market Cap to GDP**



#### **Non-Financial Corporate Debt as Percentage of GDP**



#### **Household Debt as Percentage of GDP**

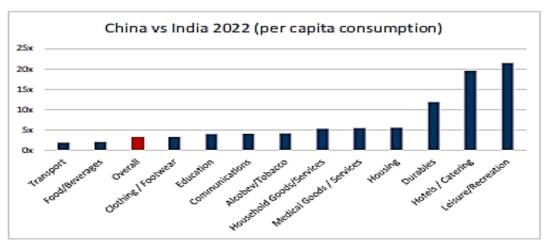


Sources: Bloomberg, Societe Generale Cross Asset Research

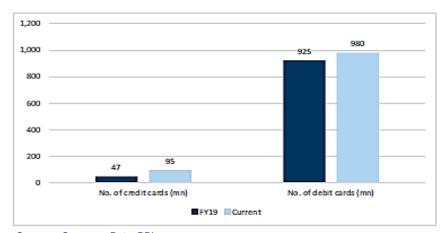




## **Potential Beneficiaries**



Source: Euromonitor



Sources: Company Data, RBI

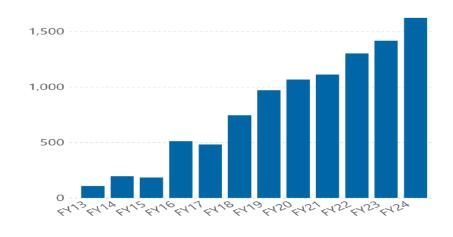
- Long growth runway expected even in traditional industries
- Discretionary expenditure related industries to grow at fastest rate



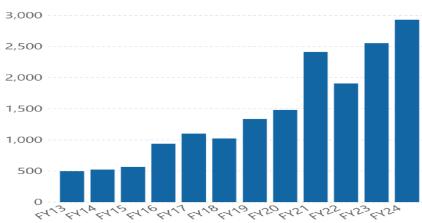


## India – Improving Competitiveness

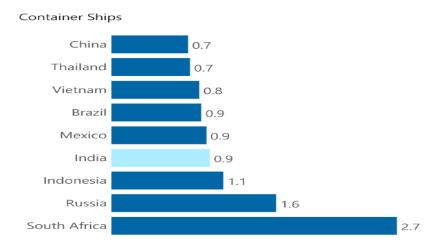
#### **Budgeted Capital Outlay by NHAI (Rs bn)**



#### **Budgeted Capital Outlay by Railway (Rs bn)**



#### Median Time (Days) Spent by Ships in Ports (2021)



- Significant uptick in road and rail investments
- Pipeline of projects indicate further increase in next few years
- Median time spent by ships in Indian ports have come down by 80% in last few years

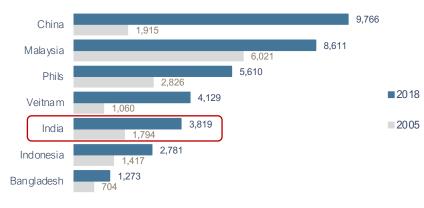
Sources: Budget Documents, NHAI, Macquarie Research, January 2024





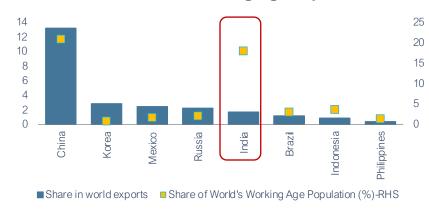
## India: Case for Manufacturing Boom

#### **Labor Costs (Wage / Employee, in US\$, at Current Prices)**



Source: UNIDO

#### **Share in World Costs vs Working Age Population**



Source: WTO, UN Population, Spark Capital Research

#### **Corporate Tax Rate of Major Asian Economies**



Cheaper labor costs, competitive tax rates, favorable demographics and a large domestic market make India a preferred alternative to China

Sources: Govt, Morgan Stanley Research Note: India\* is the base corporate tax rate for new manufacturing

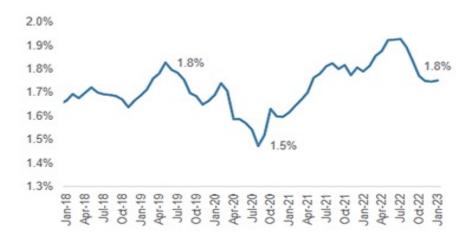




## India's Growing Export Market Share

India's share of the global export market for both goods and services has been expanding.

#### **India Exports as % of World Exports, 6M Trailing**

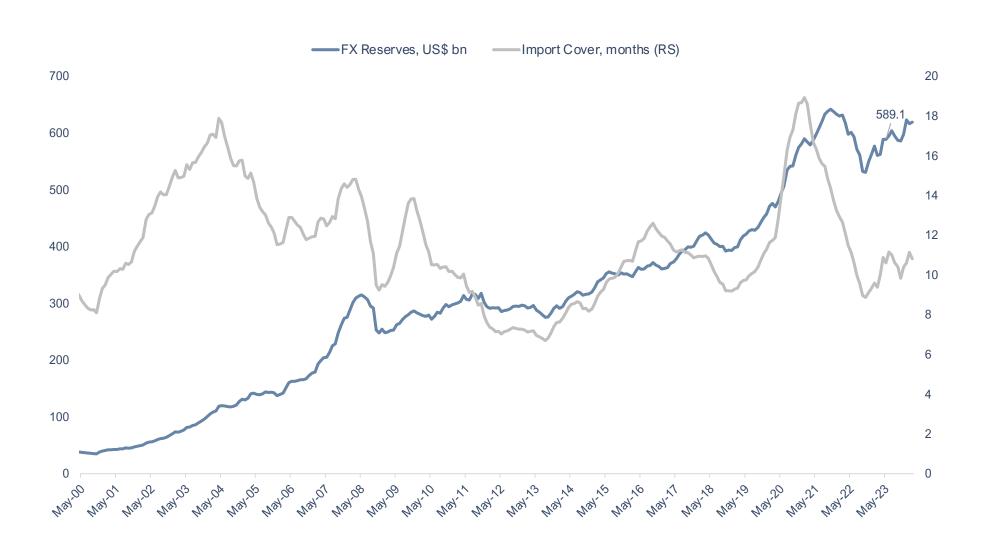


#### **India Global Services Exports Share**



# India Forex Reserves Continue to be Higher than Pre-Covid Levels





Source: RBI, CEIC, Morgan Stanley Research



# Macro Highlights: GDP Growth and Inflation

General election commencing on April 19th. Prime Minister Modi is widely anticipated to win his 3rd term.

#### **Real GDP Outlook remains positive Inflation is on a Downward Trajectory** 8% 9.1% 7% 8.0% 7.4% 7.2% 6.8% 6.5% 6% 3.7% 5% 4% 3% YoY% -6.0% Feb-16 Jun-16 Oct-16 Jun-17 Jun-17 Jun-18 Oct-18 Oct-18 Geb-20 Jun-21 Jun-22 Jun-22 Jun-22 Jun-22 Jun-22 Jun-22 Jun-23 Jun-23 Geb-23

Source: RBI, Morgan Stanley Research



Headline CPI

Core CPI

2019

2020

2021

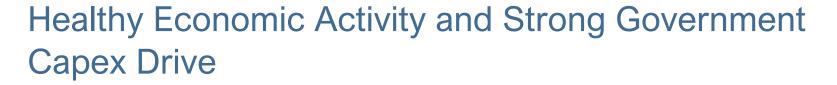
2022

2023

2024E

2025E

2018









#### **India Purchasing Manager Index Composite**



#### **India Government Capital Expenditure**



#### **India Non-Financial Corporate Debt to GDP**



Sources: Ministry of Finance, CEIC, Macquarie Research, Bureau of Indian Standards, BIS

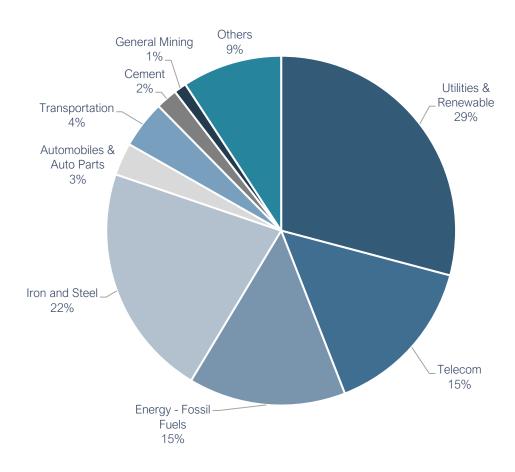


# Corporate Capital Expenditure Cycle Picking Up in Select Sectors



Corporate Sector CAPEX Announcements Worth US \$230bn to be Incurred in the Medium-Term

#### **% Industry Breakout of Corporate Capital Expenditures Announcements**



Sources: CEIC, Haver, Company Data, Morgan Stanley





## India's Income Pyramid will Invert over the Next Decade

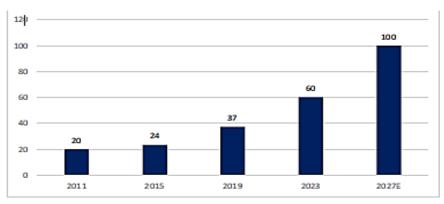


Source: The World Economic Forum



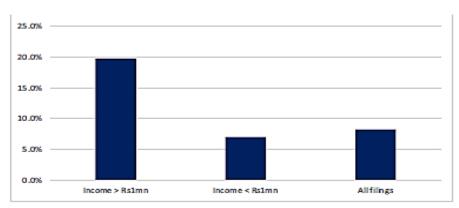
## India – Income Growth, Wealth Effect

#### Population (mn) with Income > USD10,000



Source: Euromonitor, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

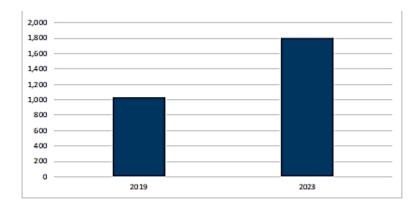
#### **CAGR** in Number of Individual Income Tax Filers (AY17-22)



Source: Government of India, data compiled by Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

#### Indian Households own ~10% of Global Physical Gold

#### Value of Household Gold Stock in India (USD bn)

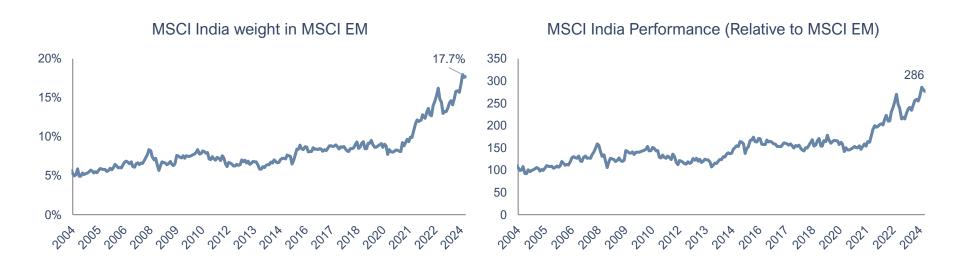


Sources: Bloomberg, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research

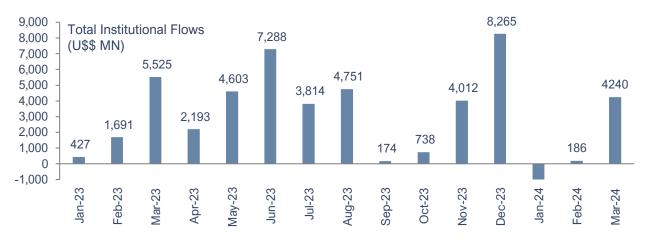


# Foreign Investor Flows into India Remained Strong during 2023





#### **Foreign Activity Remained Strong**



Sources: Bloomberg, Jeffries

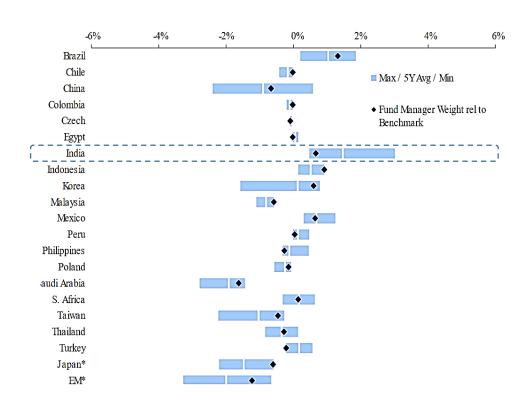


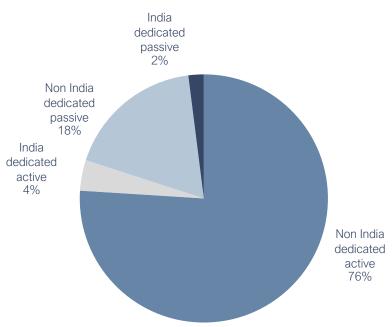
## Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) Remain Underinvested in India



#### **GEM Fund Managers' Country Allocation vs. MSCI EM**

#### Total FII Equity AUM Exposure: US\$ 534 Bn\*





Sources: EPFR Global, Morgan Stanley Research Data as of 05/2023.

Source: CLSA, Bloomberg \*Data as of 02/2023



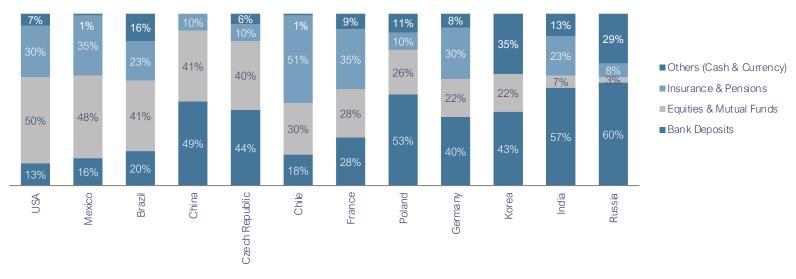


## Allocation to Indian Equities Still at a Nascent Stage

Foreign Investor Category	Investments in India Equities (\$ billion)	Total Investable Assets (\$trillion)	Approximate Allocation to Indian Equities (%)	
Sovereign Wealth Funds/ Government-Owned Entities	\$74	\$10	1%	
Pension Funds	\$51	\$56	0.1%	
Endowment Funds	\$3	\$0.7	0.5%	

Total assets of pension funds worldwide is estimated to be \$56 trillion, as of 2020 Total assets of U.S. based endowment funds is \$690 billion, as of 2020

#### **Composition of Household Financial Assets**



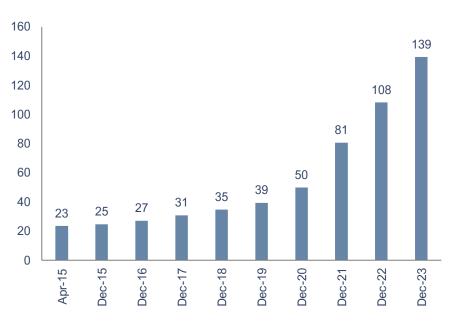
Source: Bloomberg



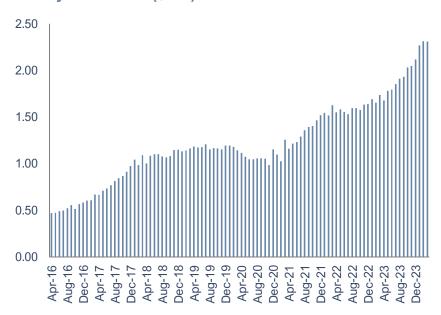


# **Increasing Domestic Equity Flows**

#### No. of Domestic Investment "Demat" Accounts in Mn



#### Monthly SIP<sup>1</sup> Flows (\$ Bn)



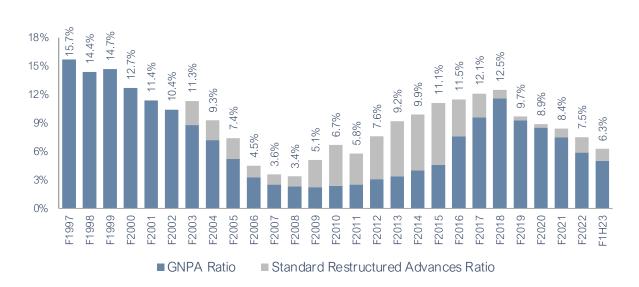
- Domestic equity flows have risen sharply in the last seven years, making the Indian equity market more resilient and less prone to any global risk off events or foreign investor outflows.
- Equities are still a small portion of household assets in India (<7%).



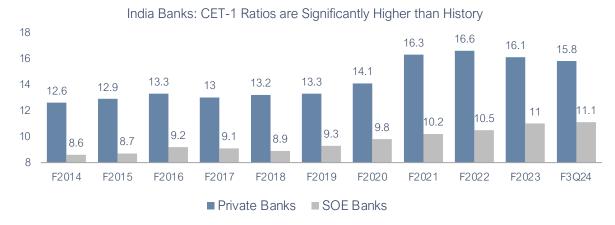


## India Banks - Balance Sheets Remain Strong

Gross non-performing assets are declining along with debt restructurings



Private banks core equity capital is at all time highs



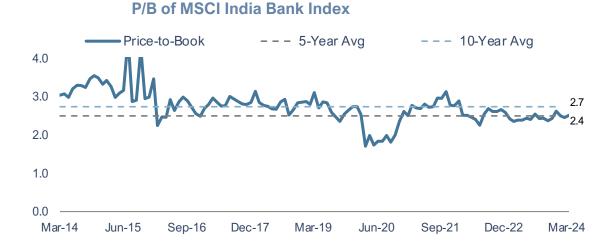
Source: Morgan Stanley Research





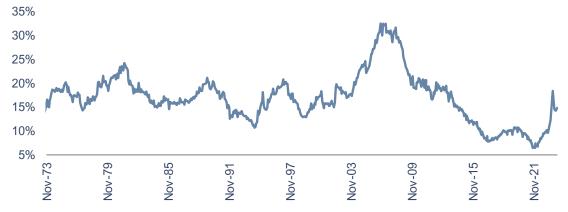
## India Banks - Valuations Below Long-Term Average

Price to book ratios for banks are below historical averages



Loan growth is just now beginning to rebound back after decade long declines

### **System Loan Growth - Trailing 3Y CAGR**



Sources: RBI, Bloomberg

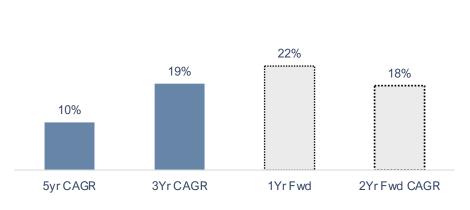


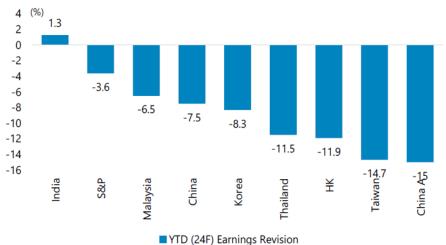


## India Markets - Strong Earnings Expectations

#### MSCI India forward earnings expectations remain strong

# India is the only major market to see forward earnings upgrades in 2023







## III. Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund



### Roles

# **Dalton Investments** as Investment Manager

- Assets under Management: Approximately \$4.4bn as 31 March 2024\*
- Offices in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Mumbai, and Sydney.

#### **Lafayette UCITS ICAV**

- Structure and Purpose: Lafayette UCITS ICAV, managed by Waystone Management Limited ("Waystone"), enables investors to access investment strategies offered by alternative managers in a UCITS-compliant format
- Robust regulatory framework of UCITS, both from an infrastructure and investment perspective
- Robust operating framework supported by well-established fund service providers
- Waystone Management oversight through roles of Promoter, Manager and Distributor to the UCITS ICAV

#### Waystone Management Limited

#### Manager to the ICAV

- Liaising with the Irish regulator (Central Bank of Ireland) on behalf of the ICAV in relation to the ongoing authorisation of the ICAV and its sub-funds, including compliance reporting
- · Liaising with the ICAV's service providers on behalf of the ICAV
- Marketing of the ICAV on a cross-border basis
- Daily post-trade monitoring of the sub-fund portfolio to detect any breaches of UCITS regulations
- Periodic trade monitoring/reconciliation to detect discrepancies with administrator NAV data
- Periodic review of Investment Objectives and Policies of the sub-fund with a view to keeping the board of the ICAV informed

# Longchamp Asset Management as Distributor

- Assets distributed and under Management: Approximately \$1.7bn of assets managed and advised as of 31 March 2024
- Exclusive Sub-Distributor for the Sub-Fund
- Expertise in pan-European distribution of alternative strategies
- Appointed as exclusive sub-distributor to the Sub-Fund

<sup>\*</sup>Performance results and assets under management figures presented are preliminary, unaudited, subject to change and do not constitute Dalton's standard books and records. Accordingly, no representation or warranty applies.





### **Fund Structure Overview**

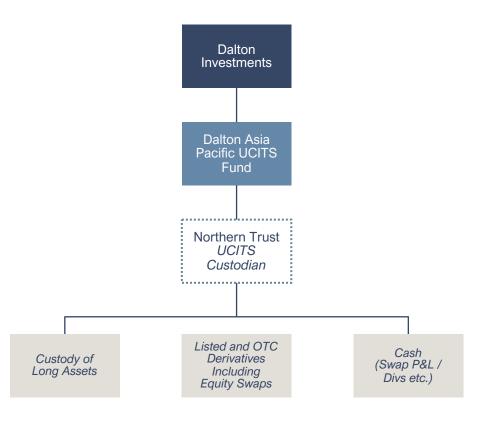
#### **Northern Trust International Fund Waystone Fund Management Longchamp Asset Board of Directors Administration Services (Ireland)** Ltd Management Limited Management and Oversight of ICAV • Exclusive Sub-Distributor for Manager Administrator the Sub-Fund · Monitoring of investment manager to Calculates NAV for each Sub-Fund ensure no breach of the investment Performs reconciliation functions policy and/or UCITS rules Produces and distributes NAV Quarterly board meetings statements to authorized third parties LAFAYETTE UCITS ICAV **Bridge Consulting KPMG UCITS Platform** (Irish ICAV) Money Laundering Risk Officer Auditor • Independent Auditor **Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund** (UCITS Sub-Fund) · Sub-fund under umbrella **Northern Trust Fiduciary Services** (Ireland) Limited **Northern Trust Fiduciary Services** (Ireland) Limited Transfer agent **Dalton Investments** • Opens investor accounts (performs Custodian and Trustee required checks) · Responsible for safekeeping the fund's Investment Manager Acts as investor contact point for assets. Segregated custody accounts Manages the investment strategy subscriptions and redemptions · Monitoring of investment guidelines within UCITS rules · Provides monthly statement of holdings





## Strategy Implementation

- Dalton Investments manages the strategy
- Northern Trust is the Administrator of the UCITS ICAV
- Under UCITS regulation, all shorts/leverage must be done synthetically
- Counterparty exposure is max 10% of NAV, monitored daily
- Daily NAV, with daily liquidity





## Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund Details

Sub-Fund	Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund				
Investment Strategy	Long/Short Asian Equity				
Investment Manager	Dalton Investments INC.				
UCITS Platform	Lafayette UCITS ICAV				
Exclusive Sub-Distributor	Longchamp Asset Management				
Legal Structure	UCITS ICAV				
Domicile	Ireland				
Passporting	Passported in Austria, Germany, Italy, U.K., France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Ireland, Singapore				
Dealing Day	Daily				
Subscription/Redemption Deadline	1:00 p.m. Irish time 3 Business Days prior to the relevant Dealing Day				
	8 April 2019				
Launch Date	Please note the Lafayette Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund is a continuation of the FundLogic Alternatives Plc Dalton Asia Pacific UCITS Fund by way of a merger. The FundLogic Alternatives PLC fund was launched on 17 July 2013				
Currency Denomination	Base Currency of Fund: EUR. Hedged Share Classes: USD, GBP				
Share Classes	Accumulation				
Issue Price	€1,000; £1,000; \$1,000				

Classes	Management Fees	Performance Fees	Total Expense Ratio	Minimum Initial Subscription	Initial Charge	ISINs	BBG Tickers
Class B1 (Seeding)	0.75%	0%	1.18%	€ 50,000,000	0%	EUR: IE00BFXZM553	EUR: LDAPB1E ID
Class B2 (Early Bird)	1.00%	10%	1.43%	€ 30,000,000 \$ 30,000,000 £ 30,000,000	0%	EUR: IE00BFXZM884 USD: IE00BFXZM777 GBP: IE00BFXZM991	EUR: LDAPB2EID USD: LDAPB2UID GBP: LDAPB2GID
Class E (Clean)	1.25%	15%	1.67%.	€ 20,000,000 \$ 20,000,000 £ 20,000,000	0%	EUR: IE00BFXZMG67 USD: IE00BFXZMF50 CHF: IE000Z0XYXF1	EUR: LDAPUEE ID USD: LDAPUEU ID CHF: LDAPECH ID
Class I (Institutional)	1.50%	15%	1.93%	€ 1,000,000 \$ 1,000,000 £ 1,000,000	0%	EUR: IE00BFXZMK04 USD: IE00BFXZMJ98 GBP: IE00BFXZML11	EUR: LDAPUIE ID USD: LDAPUIU ID GBP: LDAPUIG ID
Class P (Retail)	1.50%	15%	1.93%	€ 250,000 \$ 250,000 £ 250,000	Up to 3%	EUR: IE00BFXZMN35 USD: IE00BFXZMM28 GBP: IE00BFXZMP58	EUR: LDAPUPE ID USD: LDAPUPU ID GBP: LDAPUPG ID
Class A (Retail)	2.00%	15%	2.42%	€ 10,000 \$ 10,000 F 10,000	Up to 5%	EUR: IE00BFXZMC20 USD: IE00BFXZMB13 CHF: IE00067LBN24	EUR: LDAPUAE ID USD: LDAPUAU ID CHF: LDAPACH ID





# **Appendix**

### **Dalton Infrastructure**

## Effective 31 March 2024



#### **Founders**

Belita Ong (22/43) – Chairman\*‡

James B. Rosenwald III (26/43) – Chief Investment Officer\*

Steven Persky (26/43) – Co-Founder\*‡

Gifford Combs (25/41) – Senior Portfolio Manager\*

#### **Management Committee**

Sarah Alfandari (4/17) – Chief Executive Officer and President\*<sup>‡</sup>

Janet Hunpadongrat (17/17) – Chief Operating Officer & Chief Financial Officer\*<sup>‡</sup>

lain Douglas (7/17) – Chief Marketing Officer\*

Craig Mercer (8/25) – Chief Sustainability Officer\*<sup>‡</sup>

Christopher Ha (6/19) – Chief Compliance Officer and Counsel\*<sup>‡</sup>

#### Infrastructure

#### **Marketing & Relationship Management**

Bart Maeda (17/33) – Managing Director
Adam Woodward (9/19) – Director\*
Caitlin Tesoriero (8/13) – Sr. Associate
Tranisha Harris (1/10) – Marketing Associate

#### **Operations & Finance**

Christopher Wu (5/15) – Director of Tax and Controller
Ryo Toyoda (9/12) – Director of Operations and IT\*
Gilbert Fuentes (9/12) – Accounting Manager
Ricardo Silva (9/21) – Sr. Accounting Associate
Matilde Solorzano (6/9) – Sr. Accounting Associate
Ithonya Fry (4/5) – Staff Accountant
Steven Kayo (1/3) Operations Associate
Megumi Maruta (23/23) – Compliance Officer



<sup>\*</sup> Partner

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>‡</sup> Members of the Risk Management Committee (Years of experience firm/industry)



## Step 1 - Idea Generation

#### **Qualitative Idea Generation**

- Ideas generated through ongoing company interaction, bottomup research and market knowledge
- This includes identifying names where there are strong or increasing alignment of interests
- Dalton focuses on identifying companies with encouraging growth dynamics, strong long-term growth potential and attractive competitive positioning
- The analyst team's research drives the bulk of their idea generation

#### **Periodic Screens**

- Dalton conducts systematic screening based on Dalton's four mantras
- Screens are based on quantitative financial metrics e.g. P/B, Fwd P/E, EV/EBITDA, Dividend Yield, ROIC
- Screens are run periodically to keep ideas fresh and understand the scope of the opportunity
- Screens are led by the Chief Research Officer and are tailored to specific markets

#### **Example: Japan Valuation Screen**

Company	Market Cap (\$bn)	P/E (FY0)	P/E (FY1)	P/B	EV/EBIT DA (FY0)	ROIC – 5 Year Ave. (%)
TS Tech Co Ltd	1.1	10.9	8.8	1.5	5.0	11.7
Nikon Corp	3.7	13.4	10.8	4.1	5.3	14.1
Shimamura Co Ltd	2.7	132.5	14.6	1.6	5.3	16.2
Showa Denko KK	0.9	7.6	6.8	1.2	7.1	15.6
Tosoh Corp	2.4	24.4	29.3	2.4	8.7	12.3
Zeon Corp	1.4	15.3	12.3	3.3	9.6	17.9
Ube Industries Ltd	0.7	29.2	14.0	1.8	10.2	10.6
Kuraray Co Ltd	0.5	14.2	11.6	2.5	10.3	11.6
Asahi Kasei Corp	2.6	17.9	17.6	4.2	11.7	20.7
Daicel Corp	2.6	15.0	11.8	4.0	12.8	18.4
Denka Co Ltd	2.6	17.2	14.4	3.9	13.0	17.8
Denso Corp	31.2	129.5	12.6	1.7	5.4	17.2

Screen example for illustrative purposes only. Please note that the case studies are included herein to convey Dalton's thought process and approach in analyzing investment opportunities and are not indicative of performance for any actual Dalton account. The actual performance of the position is not relevant disclosure and should be disregarded given that the aggregate performance of an account/portfolio can be materially different. Further, it should not be assumed that future investments will be profitable or will equal performance discussed in these case studies.



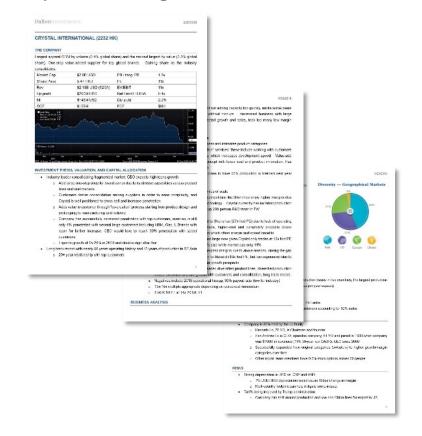


# Step 2 - Due Diligence & Company Meetings

#### **Due Diligence, Research & Financials**

- Build a model of intrinsic value and compare to relevant peers
- Establish direct contact with company management, division heads, competitors, suppliers, customers, etc.
- Engage in group discussion to refine understanding of the company and its competitive position
- Prepare investment thesis using Dalton's Investment Checklist
- Share investment thesis and valuation model with the team

#### **Disciplined Modelling & Documentation**







## Step 3 - ESG Analysis

#### **ESG** Analysis

- In-depth review of the ESG credentials of a company
- · Examine accounting flags raised
- Note ongoing legal disputes or controversies involving the company
- Check company performance against any exclusion criteria

#### **ESG** Reporting



The Investment Manager takes environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria into account in investment decisions among others; however, sizing of individual positions is based on a larger scope of criteria than ESG only.





## Steps 4 & 5 - Debate and Recommendation

#### **Internal Challenge and Portfolio Construction**

- Completed research provided to team for internal debate and discussion
- Team plays 'Devil's Advocate' against the investment case
- · Identify information gaps
- Consider risk/reward impact of adding position to existing portfolios
- Arrange for the Portfolio Manager to meet owner/operator to assess strategic vision, motivation, etc.

#### **Trade Recommendation**

- Consider impact on portfolio construction
- · Recommend position size
- Assess which accounts are appropriate for adding position
- Identify any sales needed to raise cash and/or manage risk
- Provide guidance on limit price, timing and estimated fair value
- Provide key documentation and summary recommendation to Portfolio Manager for consideration





## Step 6 - Engagement

#### **Engagement has multiple facets**

- Capital Allocation (stock repurchase/dividend increase, etc.)
- Executive Compensation (stock compensation)
- Board Seat/Outside Director
- Cancellation of Treasury Stock
- · Corporate Restructuring
- ESG disclosures and policies

#### Note that:

- Dalton is signatory of PRI and the Japan and Korean stewardship codes
- More details on their Sustainable Investment Policy can be found on their website

#### **Current Portfolio Engagement**

- Dalton has engaged directly with 33 of 44\* companies across their Japanese portfolio companies
- Across their Asian and emerging markets portfolios they have engaged constructively with several companies
- Their engagement activities in Japan have included: capital allocation (30), cancellation of treasury stock (5), other (21), executive compensation (6), and board structure (3).

Japanese Engagement Activities	Total Engagement
Companies with whom Dalton engaged	33
Total number of board proposals made	125
Total number of proposals implemented*	65

<sup>\*</sup>Includes positions held in other Dalton Japan equity strategies. Engagement activities are measured since the beginning of Dalton's investment in each company





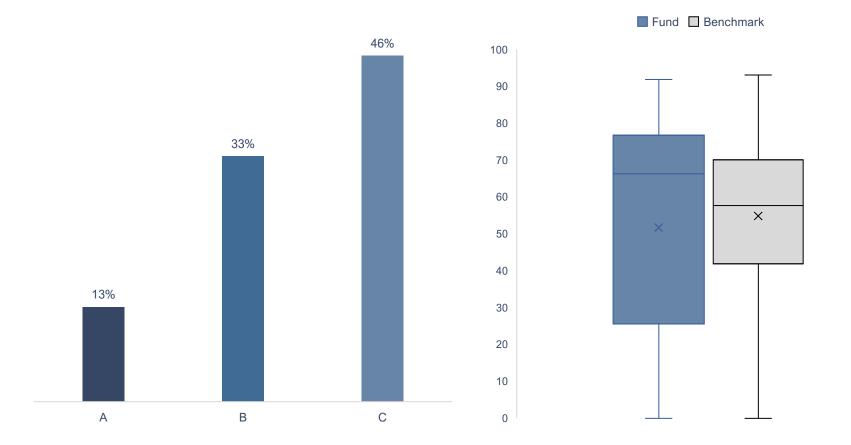
## Portfolio ESG Analysis

#### Rating Distribution by NAV Exposure (Pro rata long portfolio)

(A = High Quality practices, B = Moderate Quality Practices, C = Low Quality Practices, D = Review Requested)

#### **ESG Score: Distribution of Scores (Long Positions)**

Dalton Asia UCITS L/S Fund vs. MSCI Asia Pacific Index (0 = worst in class 100 = best in class)



Source: Dalton Investments internal analysis. Refinitiv. As at end March 2024.

The Investment Manager takes environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria into account in investment decisions among others; however, sizing of individual positions is based on a larger scope of criteria than ESG only.





## Portfolio ESG Analysis

#### **Key Notes**

- Asset4's data coverage in the MSCI Asia Pacific region covers over 1,400 companies
- 86% of Dalton's long positions have data coverage by Asset4
- Relative to the market, both the Fund's mean and median ranking are higher than those of the index
- For definition of the ESG Score methodology of Thomson Reuters (Refinitiv) Asset4, see the disclosures below\*
- While Dalton is mindful of the external data, they are aware that their investment focus means coverage of their investments will be limited
- · Dalton currently has no exposure to Tobacco, Armaments, Cluster Munitions, Landmines and Thermal Coal
- Dalton does no require a rating for the Fund's investment in Vietnam Enterprise Investments Limited, which is a closed-end Fund
  traded on the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange, nor does it require ratings for its investment in Fairfax India Holdings which
  is a publicly traded investment fund.

#### **Notes on the Short Portfolio**

- At this time, Dalton does not analyze ESG on their short positions
- Short positions typically reflect overvalued names with weak business models where they believe there is no alignment of interest between minority shareholders and the owner/operator
- Dalton does not specifically target positions where there are egregious ESG practices that may lead to capital impairment

\*ESG Score: Thomson Reuters captures and calculates over 400 company-level ESG measures, of which they have selected a subset of 178 most comparable and relevant fields to power the overall company assessment and scoring process. The underlying measures are based on considerations around comparability, data availability, and industry relevance. They are grouped into 6 categories. The 6 categories weighted proportionately to the count of measures within each category formulates the final ESG Score. The ESG Score is based on a percentile rank, with 100 representing best in class and 0 worst in class. ESG Controversies Score: ESG controversies category score measures a company's exposure to environmental, social and governance controversies and negative events reflected in global media.

The Investment Manager takes environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria into account in investment decisions among others; however, sizing of individual positions is based on a larger scope of criteria than ESG only.





### Disclaimer

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## Disclaimer

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The state of the origin of the fund is Ireland. In Switzerland, the representative is ACOLIN Fund Services AG, Leutschenbachstrasse 50, CH-8050 Zurich, whilst the paying agent is NPB Neue Privat Bank AG, Limmatquai 1/am Bellevue, P.O. Box, CH-8024 Zurich. The prospectus, the Key Investor Information Documents, the instrument of incorporation as well as the annual and semi-annual reports may be obtained free of charge from the representative. In respect of the units distributed in or from Switzerland, the place of performance and jurisdiction is at the registered office of the representative. Past performance is no indication of current or future performance. The performance data do not take account of the commissions and costs incurred on the issue and redemption of units.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> SEC registration does not imply SEC endorsement



### Disclaimer

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