

Feeder fund eyes RM100mil in 12 months

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KUALA LUMPUR: Maybank Asset Management Group Bhd (MAMG) and Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon Investment Management have jointly launched feeder fund MAMG Asia Rising Stars Fund, with the aim to achieve an assets under management (AUM) of RM80mil to RM100mil within 12 months.

The feeder fund invests in target fund BNY Mellon Asia Rising Stars Fund, which in turn invests in Asian small cap companies that have a market capitalisation of below US\$5bil and is listed on recognised exchanges in Asia, including Japan.

Speaking at the launch of MAMG Asia Rising Stars Fund yesterday, MAMG CEO Badrul Hisyam Abu Bakar remains positive on the outlook for small cap stocks in Asia as the region is benefiting from robust growth rates in many countries led by good demographics and economic reforms in Asia ex-Japan, as well as structural reforms and a cyclical upturn in Japan.

"We are excited to launch this feeder fund as we have identified opportunities for retail investors to benefit from the Asia and Japanese small companies growth story.

"Small cap companies provide an appealing investment opportunity.

"Due to the large number of stocks and very limited sell side research coverage, there is more information inefficiency and mispricing in this asset class.

"This gives bottom up stock pickers like ourselves and BNY Mellon Japan the opportunity to take advantage of this mispricing and potentially generate healthy returns for investors," he said.

MAMG Asia Rising Stars Fund will be MAMG's first feeder fund that is open for retail participation, particularly those who seek to maximise investment returns, are



In agreement: BNY Mellon Investment Management MD (head of Asia-Pacific ex-Japan) Doni Shamsuddin (left) and Badrul shaking hands after the launch of MAMG Asia Rising Stars Fund.

willing to tolerate risks associated with Asian small cap equities, and have a long term investment horizon.

The fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing a minimum of 95% of its net asset value in the target fund, while the remaining 2% to 5% will be invested in liquid assets. The assets under management (AUM) of BNY Mellon Asia Rising Stars Fund amounts to US\$15mil (RM62.4mil).

As of end-September, the target fund has achieved cumulative returns of 27% since its inception in January 2017.

On a year-to-date basis, the target fund is down by 3.6%.

However, it has outperformed the MSCI Asia Small Cap Index by 7%.

The top performing holdings under the target fund since its inception include Guangzhou Pharmaceutical Holdings Co Ltd, China Resources Cement Holdings Ltd, and Merck India.

The target fund combines the investment management expertise of BNY Mellon Asset Management Japan Ltd and Maybank Asset Management Singapore Pte Ltd.

BNY Mellon Japan manages the Japanese small cap equities portion, while Maybank AM Singapore manages the Asia ex-Japan small cap portion.

Watch the video
thestartv.com



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Look at Asian small-cap firms, says Maybank Asset

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THESUN

KUALA LUMPUR: Maybank Asset Management Group Bhd (MAMG), which yesterday launched the MAMG Asia Rising Stars Fund, said investors should look at investing in Asian small-capitalisation companies to benefit from the region's growth prospects.

MAMG with the US-based investment manager BNY Mellon Investment Management jointly launched the fund, which is its first feeder fund to offer retail investors access to Asian small-cap stocks.

Speaking at the launch ceremony, MAMG CEO Badrul Hisyam Abu Bakar said the asset management firm remains positive on the outlook for small cap stocks in Asia as the region is benefitting from robust growth rates, as well as structural reforms and a cyclical upturn in Japan.

Badrul noted that due to the large number of stocks and very limited sell side research coverage, there is more information inefficiency and mispricing in the small-cap equities asset class.

"This gives bottom up stock pickers like ourselves and BNY Mellon Japan the opportunity to take advantage of this mispricing and potentially generate healthy returns for investors.

"Together (with BNY Mellon) we can unlock the greater potential of the fund by offering our investors a diversified exposure to both Japan and Asia ex-Japan, which is unique in the market," he added.

The feeder fund will invest a minimum of 95% of the fund's net asset value in a target fund called BNY Mellon Asia Rising Stars Fund, a sub fund of the BNY Mellon Global Funds, managed by BNY Mellon Asset



BNY Mellon Investment Management, head of Asia Pacific ex Japan, managing director Doni Shamsuddin and Badrul (right) during the launch of the fund in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Management Japan Ltd.

Launched in January 2017, the target fund focuses on companies with a market capitalisation below US\$5 billion (RM20.8 billion) and seeks to provide capital growth by investing in Asian small cap companies that are listed on Asian exchanges, including Japan.

Since the inception of the target fund last year, the cumulative return is 27%, with its asset under management stood at US\$15 million as of date.

The fund is designed for retail investors

who seek to maximise investment returns and willing to tolerate risk associated with Asia small cap equities and have a long term investment horizon.

These investors can access the fund at Maybank branches nationwide, with a minimum initial investment of RM1,000 and subsequent additional investments of at least RM100.

The investment plan is also available in other currency classes, namely Singapore dollar, US dollar, Australian dollar as well as euro.

→ BISNES

Maybank Asset lancar dana baharu untuk pelabur runcit

Maybank Asset Management Group Bhd (MAMG) dan BNY Mellon Investment Management, organisasi pengurusan pelaburan terkemuka dunia bekerjasama melancarkan Dana MAMG Asia Rising Stars, dana pertama bagi pelabur runcit yang ingin memaksimumkan pulangan pelaburan dalam ekuiti modal kecil Asia.

Dana pengantara ini bertujuan memaksimumkan pulangan pelaburan dengan melabur dalam Dana BNY Mellon Asia Rising Stars (Dana Sasaran) yang dilancarkan pada Januari 2017.

Dana BNY Mellon Asia Rising Stars, memberi tumpuan kepada syarikat dengan cap pasaran di bawah AS\$5 bilion dan bertujuan menyediakan pertumbuhan modal dengan melabur dalam syarikat saham modal kecil Asia yang disenaraikan di bursa yang diiktiraf di Asia, termasuk Jepun.

Usaha capai objektif pelaburan

Dana ini berusaha mencapai objektif pelaburannya dengan melabur sekurang-kurangnya 95 peratus daripada aset bersihnya dalam Dana Sasaran.

Dana Sasaran menggabungkan kepakaran pengurusan pelaburan BNY Mellon Asset Management Japan Limited (BNY Mellon Japan) dan Maybank Asset Management Singapore Private Limited (Maybank AM Singapore).

Dalam kerjasama itu, BNY Mellon Japan menguruskan bahagian ekuiti modal kecil Jepun sementara Maybank AM Singapore menguruskan bahagian ekuiti modal kecil Asia kecuali Jepun.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MAMG, Badrul Hisyam Abu Bakar, berkata pihaknya kekal positif dengan prospek saham modal kecil di Asia kerana rantau ini sedang meraih manfaat daripada kadar pertumbuhan yang kukuh di kebanyakan negara, hasil daripada demografi yang baik dan pembaharuan ekonomi di Asia kecuali Jepun, serta pembaharuan struktur dan kenaikan dalam kitaran ekonomi Jepun.

Jana pulangan memberangsangkan

"Potensi pelaburan dalam syarikat saham modal kecil sangat menarik kerana bilangan syarikat ini yang besar dan liputan kajian yang terhad menghasilkan maklumat dan nilai harga yang kurang tepat di dalam kelas aset ini.

"Ini membolehkan MAMG dan BNY Mellon Japan mengambil peluang untuk melabur di dalam kelas aset ini pada harga rendah untuk menjana pulangan yang memberangsangkan untuk pelabur," katanya pada majlis pelancaran dana baharu itu di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

Fakta nombor

95 PERATUS

Pelaburan daripada aset bersih dalam Dana Sasaran