

# Fidelity Funds – Asian Bond Fund

31 May 2024

For existing investors in the Fidelity Funds – Asian Bond Fund ('the Fund') only. Thank you for investing in the Fund. We would like to use this opportunity to give you an update on the Fund's performance. Please note that this is not a product advertisement or solicitation for investment in the Fund.



## How has the Fund performed in May 2024?

- The Fund returned 1.43%<sup>1</sup> (for the A-ACC-USD share class in USD terms) and 1.43%<sup>1</sup> (for the A-MINCOME(G)-SGD (hedged)\* share class in SGD terms).



## Reasons for performance

- Global investment grade (IG) markets recovered in May as credit spreads tightened and US Treasury yields remained volatile but ended the month slightly lower, which supported Asia IG bonds. Asia IG spreads continued to tighten from recent historical tights on the back of a favourable macro backdrop and supportive technicals in the region.
- The Fund delivered positive returns for the month, with the A-MINCOME(G)-SGD (hedged)\* share class outperforming its index<sup>2</sup> primarily due to term structure and credit selection. Both yield and term structure aided performance, and credit also contributed slightly due to the overall spread tightening of the asset class.
- On a country level, the overweight in Japan helped the most, while the underweight in China impacted relative performance.
- On a sector level, the overweight in financials and insurers contributed the most relatively, while the underweight in quasi-sovereigns were the main relative detractors for the month.
- On an individual issuer level, key credit contributors include overweight positions in Ping Ann Real Estate, Monetary Authority of Singapore Bill and Philippine Government Bonds. Key credit detractors include underweight positions in Petronas Capital and Indonesia Government Bonds, and an overweight position in Ste Transcore.



## Outlook / Expectations

- The fundamentals of Asia IG bonds remain supportive, as much of the global growth remains in Asia. Certain central banks in the region have also started to show signs of pivot, and Asian countries' ample foreign exchange reserves provide them with greater resilience in a shifting global macro environment.
- In terms of valuation, Asian IG credit spreads have continued to tighten and we believe that macro and technicals will stay supportive in 2024. We have thus not been underweight credit risk but maintained a neutral position to balance between rich valuation and strong technical momentum plus stable fundamentals.
- We remain focused on yield as the primary return driver for the portfolio. We continue to look for high quality names with good credit ratings to add to the portfolio, along with high-coupon, short-dated names for cash parking purposes.
- We maintain a long bias in duration but will be tactical along the way. On local currency markets, we see opportunities in markets that would benefit when central banks begin cutting rates or those with good fundamentals that would offer attractive yield pick-up versus US Treasuries when hedged back to US dollar, such as Singapore.
- In terms of positioning changes in May, we added attractively valued and higher-yielding front-end names such as those in financials, and continued to participate in new issues that are attractively valued and in some local currency bonds that offer decent all-in-yield such as in Japanese yen. We scaled back on outperformers and lower-yielding names across quasi-sovereigns in China, insurers in Japan and Chinese utility.
- As at 31 May 2024, the Fund's yield to maturity<sup>4</sup> was 5.9%, running yield<sup>5</sup> was 5.0%, duration<sup>3</sup> was 5.7 years and average credit rating<sup>6</sup> was BBB+.

We remain confident that the Fund could continue to meet its objectives of **generating regular yield from its underlying investments and to offer lower volatility relative to equity during difficult market conditions over the medium and long term.**

Source: Fidelity International, as at 31 May 2024.

1. The stated returns are computed on a NAV-NAV basis, with dividends reinvested in their respective currencies. They do not take into account the amount of initial sales charge, which may be levied by your distributor. The stated returns will be reduced when the applicable sales charge is being taken into account. Please note that past performance is not indicative of future returns. The 1-year return, net of sales charge of 3% for the Fidelity Funds – Asian Bond Fund A-ACC-USD and A-MINCOME(G)-SGD (hedged)\* share classes are -0.91% and -2.52% respectively.
2. The reference benchmark is the ICE BofA Asia Dollar Investment Grade Index.
3. Duration is a measure of sensitivity of the fund value to changes in interest rates and includes all investments in the fund including derivatives. It takes into account that expected cash flows will fluctuate as interest rates change and affect a bond's price.
4. Yield to Maturity is the internal rate of return earned on a bond, assuming that the bond will be held until maturity and all coupon and principal payments will be made. It is an estimation of future return, as the rate at which coupon payments can be reinvested when received is unknown.
5. Running Yield describes the income investors get from their portfolio as a percentage of market value of the securities (incorporating the effect of derivatives) and does not include the impact of fees. It should not be relied on as a measure of expected fund return. The running yield does not reflect the total return over the life of the bond and takes no account of reinvestment risk or the fact that bonds usually mature at par value.
6. Average Credit Rating is the weighted average of all the bond credit ratings in the fund. It takes into account all investments in the fund including derivatives. This measure gives an idea of how risky the fund's bonds are overall: the lower the average credit rating, the riskier the fund. With a Linear weighted average the weight assigned to each issue is equal to its market value weight.

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### **Singapore**

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CA-2024-1931322-(G)

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HK-SSO-2024-1936309-NR