

LO Funds

Asia High Conviction

Newsletter

Regional Equities ● Equities 31 August 2024

PERFORMANCE COMMENT

Asian markets recovered sharply post the sell-off in early August, as was the case for global markets, and ended the month with a 2% gain. South Korea was a notable underperformer, recording a 2.8% decline while the rest of the region posted positive gains. China and India also underperformed, with both markets recording a 1% gain. ASEAN continued its strong outperformance, with Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand recording 9.5%, 9.8% and 8.4% gains respectively. The LO Funds—Asia High Conviction Fund performed in line with the benchmark.

MACRO REVIEW

With the US rate-cut cycle on the horizon, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand have seen their currencies strengthen against the USD. This has provided a supportive macroeconomic backdrop for ASEAN equity markets. Malaysia saw strong net foreign inflows in August as economic optimism grew, with a recovery in FDIs supported by digital infrastructure like data centres and the setting up of the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone. In Thailand, politics was the main highlight. Srettha Thavisin was removed from his Prime Minister appointment by the Constitutional Court and Paetongtarn Shinawatra was elected as the new Prime Minister without much opposition. Being Thaksin Shinawatra's daughter, Paetongtarn's appointment will be surrounded by suspicion on how much influence her father will have behind the scenes. Regardless, a more certain and stable political landscape will allow the new cabinet to focus on reviving the country's growth. Though the USD 14 bn digital-wallet scheme was scrapped, the new administration will likely roll out fiscal policies in other forms to spur domestic consumption. The Ministry of Finance is also planning to expand the size of the Vayupak Fund by ~USD 3.5 bn to invest in domestic equity markets.

In China, domestic policy stimulus was largely absent throughout the

month until the end of August, when Bloomberg reported that the government was considering allowing households to refinance USD 5 trillion in existing mortgages at lower borrowing costs. If implemented, this could reduce households' interest payment burdens and boost consumption. President Xi's meeting with US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan in Beijing underscored China's commitment to maintaining a stable relationship with the US. The People's Bank of China began trading government bonds to influence yield curves. Chinese corporations wrapped up the Q2 earnings season with mixed results. Internet companies saw more beats on profit, despite soft revenue growth. While the macro environment remained challenging, most internet companies are scaling back subsidies to focus on profitability and continue to step up shareholder returns. In addition to Alibaba and Tencent, JD.com and Meituan also engaged in aggressive share buybacks in the second guarter, with new programmes approved for USD 5 bn and USD 1 bn, respectively. Sentiment, however, soured later in the month as Pinduoduo underscored challenges such as softer demand, macroeconomic uncertainty, and persistent intense competition.

The Asian Technology sector saw a sharp recovery post the early August sell-off. While earnings and outlooks remain strong, and there is ongoing investment in Al and related infrastructure, we see sentiment in the sector turning more cautious as Nvidia's share price performance post results suggests a lot of optimism in Technology may have been priced in in the near term. The recent performance of South Korean memory semiconductor companies like SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics has also been lacklustre.

India was relatively muted in terms of macroeconomic developments and August was largely dominated by the earnings season. While earnings were rather mixed, capital markets remained hot, with new IPOs like Ola Electric surging close to 70% in three weeks post IPO.

PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

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Newsletter \cdot LO Funds - Asia High Conviction \cdot Data as at 31 August 2024



In the month, we trimmed our allocation to Taiwanese Technology while adding to its peers in South Korea and Hong Kong. While the Fund remains overweight Technology hardware and semiconductors, there is a higher allocation towards companies with better valuation support. The Fund also exited Amorepacific Corp. We are less confident in the company being able to sustain its high-growth outlook in the US and EMEA as consumer spending on cosmetics slows, as indicated by the weak guidance issued by major cosmetics companies.

The Fund started a new position in CP All in Thailand. CP All belongs to the Charoen Pokphan Group and is the sole operator of 7-11 CVS in Thailand. It also has the rights to operate 7-11 stores in Cambodia and Laos. CP All has 15,000 stores in Thailand and commands a 70% market share in the Thai CVS sector. Other than CVS business, CP All has also grown through acquisitions over the years to become a leading wholesale food retailer and hypermarket/supermarket operator with the Makro and Lotus brands.

TOP PERFORMANCE CONTRIBUTORS/DETRACTORS

Top contributors in the month included Taiwanese Technology companies Ememory Technology, E lnk and Chroma, which rebounded very strongly post the sell-off in early August. E lnk issued upbeat guidance for H2 2024 as it sees electronic shelf labelling returning to a normal growth trajectory after a period of prolonged inventory adjustment. Colored E-readers continue to see strong demand and digital signage is achieving higher visibility across different applications in retail, transportation and mobility.

Trip.Com and Popmart International, two of our key overweight positions in China and Hong Kong, were among our top contributors. For Trip.Com, the earnings beat of more than 30% reflected the

underestimated operating leverage of its business, resilience in its domestic travel business and the strength of its fast-growing outbound segment. Popmart raised its FY24 revenue growth guidance to at least 62% y/y, with international business growing by at least 200% y/y. We maintain our conviction that Popmart's unique business model and increasingly popular toy IPs will make it less vulnerable to macro weakness in China.

The top detractors in August included Samsung Electronics and Amorepacific. Samsung Electronics did not see as much of a recovery despite being sold down with the Technology sector. Amorepacific reported a disappointing set of Q2 FY24 numbers due to heavy restructuring expenses linked to its Chinese business.

We expect near-term market conditions to be volatile. Macroeconomic data coming out from the US is increasingly mixed to negative, be it employment or consumer spending data. Comments from major retail companies in the US anticipate that consumers will become increasingly cautious. Sentiment in the Technology sector is also shifting towards caution as a more normalised technology cycle is likely after the strong up-cycle driven by Al-related capex. Nonetheless, we continue to see good and counterbalancing forces in emerging market equities, which offer a compelling mix of growth at a reasonable valuation across broad sectors. ASEAN economies will benefit from rate cuts and increasing FDIs. In China and Hong Kong, large-cap companies that are dominant in their respective platforms are seeing healthy, sustainable growth momentum with superior cashflow generation that can be used to reward shareholders with more buybacks and higher dividends in times of market uncertainty. India will remain largely domestically driven, with relatively less earnings correlation to slowing developed markets.

Thank you for your continued support.

LOIM ASIA/EMERGING MARKETS EQUITIES TEAM

PERFORMANCE

31.08.2024			MONTH-	YEAR-IN	CEPTION-TO-					
	INCEPTION	AUM	TO-DATE	TO-DATE	DATE	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
LO Funds – Asia High Conviction PA [1]	30 May 2014	USD 246 mn	1.83%	13.70%	58.58%	-2.41%	-25.48%	-8.14%	33.40%	21.82%
LO Funds – Asia High Conviction NA [2]			1.92%	14.43%	74.07%	-1.47%	-24.76%	-7.26%	34.69%	23.00%
Benchmark [3]			1.95%	11.74%	56.80%	5.98%	-19.67%	-4.72%	25.02%	18.17%

Past performance is not a guarantee of future results. Performance is presented net of fees. [1] Dividend accumulated private client share class, net performance in USD.

- [1] Dividend accumulated private client share class, het performance in USD.
- [2] Dividend accumulated institutional snare class. He [3] MSCI AC Asia ex-Japan, ND performance in USD.

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The following risks may be materially relevant but may not always be adequately captured by the synthetic risk indicator and may cause additional loss:

Liquidity risk: Where a significant level of investment is made in financial instruments that may under certain circumstances have a relatively low level of liquidity, there is a material risk that the fund will not be able to transact at advantageous times or prices. This could reduce the fund's returns.

Emerging market risk: Significant investment in emerging markets may expose to difficulties when buying and selling investments. Emerging markets are also more likely to experience political uncertainty and investments held in these countries may not have the same protection as those held in more developed countries.

Active management risk: Active management relies on anticipating various market developments and/or security selection. There is a risk at any given time that the fund may not be invested in the highest-performing markets or securities. The fund's net asset value may also decline.

Before taking any investment decision, please read the latest version of the prospectus, the articles of incorporation, the Key Information Documents (KIDs) and the latest annual report and semi-annual report. Please pay attention to the Appendix B "Risk Factors Annex" of the prospectus.

Incorporation of extra-financial risks into the investment decision process may result in underweighting of profitable investments from the sub-fund's investment universe and may also lead the management of the sub-fund to underweight investments that will continue to perform. Sustainability risks may lead to a significant deterioration in the financial profile, profitability or reputation of an underlying investment and may therefore have a significant impact on its market price or liquidity.

The Fund has been classified as a financial product subject to Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial sector (the "SFDR"). The Fund promotes, among other characteristics, environmental or social characteristics, or a combination of those characteristics, provided that the companies in which the investments are made follow good governance practices.



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Access to documents in country of registrations:

The PRIIPS/KIDs are available in one of the official languages of your country and a Prospectus is available in English, French, German and



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France. Representative: CACEIS Bank, Rue Gabriel Péri 89-91, 92120 Montrouge, Supervisory Authority: Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF).

Germany. Representative: DekaBank Deutsche Girozentrale, Mainzer Landstraße 16, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main, Supervisory Authority: Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin).

Finland: Finanssivalvonta (Fiva) - Financial Supervisory Authority (FIN-FSA), Snellmaninkatu 6, P.O. Box 103, FI – 00101 Helsinki, Finland; Website: http://www.finanssivalvonta.fi.

Italy. Paying Agents: Société Générale Securities Services S.p.A., Via Benigno Crespi, 19/A-MAC 2, 20159 Milano, State Street Bank International GmbH — Succursale Italia, Via Ferrante Aporti, 10, 20125 Milano, Banca Sella Holding S.p.A., Piazza Gaudenzio Sella, 1, 13900 Biella, All funds Bank, S.A.U., Milan Branch, Via Bocchetto 6, 20123 Milano, CACEIS Bank S.A., Italy Branch, Piazza Cavour 2, 20121 — Milano, Supervisory Authority: Banca d'Italia (BOI)/ConSob.

Liechtenstein. Representative, LGT Bank AG Herrengasse 12, 9490 Vaduz, Supervisory Authority: Finanzmarktaufsicht Liechtenstein ("FMA").

Luxembourg: Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF), 291, route d'Arlon, L-1150 Luxembourg; www.cssf.lu.

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