

# Asset Management

FUND FACT SHEET MARCH 2024

# Maybank Asian Income Fund

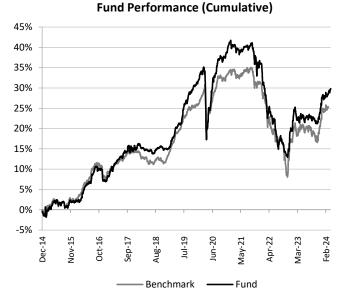


# INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The investment objective of the Maybank Asian Income Fund is to provide investors with capital growth and income primarily through investing in a portfolio of Asian fixed income securities and U.S. government debt.

FUND FACTS				
Fund Manager	Judy Leong			
Fund Inception Date	24 November 2014			
Subscription Mode	Cash/SRS			
Minimum Investment	Retail: SGD1,000/ USD1,000			
	Institutional: USD100,000			
Sales Charge	Up to 5%			
Management Fee	Retail: 1.0% p.a.			
	Institutional: 0.4% p.a.			
Benchmark	JP Morgan Asian Credit Index (JACI)			
Dealing Frequency	Daily			
Fund Size (AUM)	SGD 141.2 Million			
	(as of 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024)			
<b>Dividend Distribution</b>	Monthly			
ISIN Codes / Bloomberg Tickers	Class A - Accumulation:			
	USD: SG9999012504 / MFFMAFU			
	SGD: SG9999012496 / MFFMAFS			
	Class A - Distribution			
	USD: SG9999015713 / MAIFADU			
	SGD: SG9999015705 / MAIFADS AUD: SGX750339183 / MAIFADA			
	NZD: SGX298933138 / MAIFADA			
	NLD. JUNE 70733130 / MAILADE			

PERFORMANCE: Class A (Acc) - USD							
Returns %	Portfolio	Benchmark	Alpha				
1 month	1.00%	1.06%	-0.06%				
3 months	1.25%	1.42%	-0.18%				
6 months	6.45%	7.20%	-0.75%				
Year-to-date	1.25%	1.42%	-0.18%				
1 year	6.09%	5.87%	0.22%				
3 years p.a.	-2.36%	-1.58%	-0.78%				
5 years p.a.	1.55%	1.24%	0.31%				
Since inception p.a.	2.83%	2.61%	0.23%				
TOP HOLDINGS %							
SMALL BUSN CORP 2.125% 16-30/08/2026 4.44%							
WI TREASURY SEC. 4.25% 24-15/02/2054 3.79%							
BARCLAYS PLC 23-15/03/2172 FRN 3.05%							
MINOR INTL PCL 21-31/12/2061 FRN 2.69%							
AUST & NZ BANK 6.742% 22-08/12/2032 2.09%							
STATISTICS SUMMA	RV Fixed		ed Income + Cash				
JIANJICJ JOMMA			Hedging				
Average Yield to Matur	rity 6.2	22%	6.14%				
Average Duration	4.84		.78 Years				
Average Credit Rating		BBB+ / BBB					



Source: Bloomberg as of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Performance based on Class A (Acc) USD

PERFORMANCE: Class A (Acc) - SGD							
Returns %	Portfolio	Benchmark	Alpha				
1 month	0.91%	0.94%	-0.03%				
3 months	0.87%	1.01%	-0.14%				
6 months	5.55%	6.22%	-0.67%				
Year-to-date	0.87%	1.01%	-0.14%				
1 year	4.38%	4.14%	0.24%				
3 years p.a.	-3.23%	-2.30%	-0.93%				
5 years p.a.	0.77%	0.66%	0.12%				
Since inception p.a.	2.51%	2.62%	-0.11%				
DIVIDEND HISTOR	Y Recorc Date	l Payment Date	Amount (SGD)				
DIVIDEND HISTOR	Y Record Date 27/04/2	Ďate	Amount (SGD) 0.00335				
	Y Date	Date 3 10/05/23	(SGD)				
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Source: Data as of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Maybank Asset Management Singapore Pte Ltd, BNP Paribas Securities Services, Singapore Branch. Past performance is not an indication of future performance. Returns are calculated on a NAV-NAV basis, net of fees and assuming all dividends and distributions are reinvested, if any. Monthly distributions will be paid from Class A (Dist) SGD, USD, AUD and NZD distributing share classes. Please refer to Share Class Overview for more information on the dividend distribution.

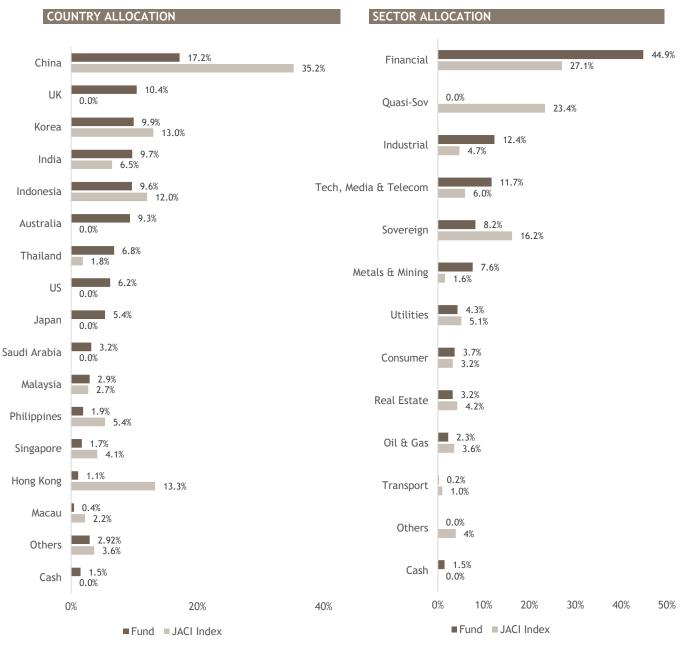


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# Maybank Asian Income Fund

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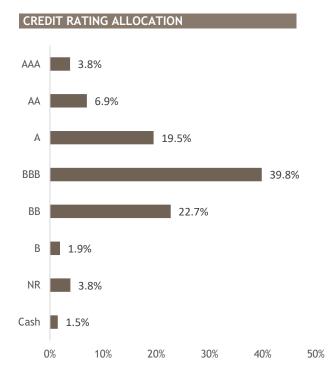
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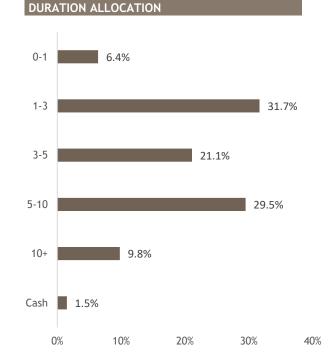


# FUND FACT SHEET MARCH 2024 Maybank Asian Income Fund

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE**

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## FUND MANAGER'S COMMENTARY

## Bond Market & Bond Portfolio Review for March

US Treasury (UST) market experienced a volatile month and 10-year UST rate ended the month 5bps lower at 4.20% p.a. Economy data and central banks remain the main drivers of the market. Economy data was mixed with weaker than expected US manufacturing Institute for Supply Management (ISM) (-1.3pts to 47.8 for Feb) and US service ISM (-0.8pts to 52.6 in Feb), but better US producer prices (up 0.6% mom vs consensus of 0.3% mom), US payroll (275k vs consensus of 200k) and US Consumer Price Index (CPI) (core inflation up 0.4% mom vs consensus of 0.3% mom). Central banks were generally more on the dovish side. While Fed kept interest rate unchanged as expected, it delivered an overall dovish tone and median dot plot still projects three cuts in 2024. Bank of Japan (BoJ) hiked rates but gave a dovish near-term guidance. European Central Bank (ECB) reinforced guidance for midyear easing.

Asian credit bond market (using USD denominated bonds as a reference) performed decent in March with continued credit spread tightening in a period when UST yield declined slightly. During the month, the JP Morgan Asia Credit Index (JACI) returned 1.06% from both price increase and coupon carry. Within the JACI components, JACI High Yield Index, with returns of 1.81%, outshone the Investment Grade Index, which saw 0.94%. The high yield outperformance was helped by certain C rated and unrated credit bonds, including those from Chinese real estate companies and the sovereign debt of Sri Lanka and Pakistan, witnessed a price recovery from their low price.

For the month of March, the Maybank Asian Income Fund USD retail class returned 1.00% and SGD retail class returned 0.91%, slightly underperformed their benchmarks of JACI index at 1.06% and JACI hedged to SGD index at 0.94% respectively. Moderate UST rates drop and credit spread tightening contributed to price return, in addition to the coupon return for the month. The underperformance was mainly due to portfolio's underweight in distressed credit bonds vs the index. Within the portfolio holdings, selective improving medium tenor credit bonds performed due to credit spread tightening, while Adani bonds suffered the most following negative headline of bribery probe by US prosecutors.

## Bond Market & Bond Portfolio Outlook

In our January FY2024 outlook, we had envisioned a year of bountiful harvest as we had expected bond yields to rally with US Fed cutting interest rates early FY2024. However thus far, the US economy has remained resilient despite high borrowing rates. This is suggesting that US may be able to engineer a soft landing, avoiding all naysayers' expectations for an impending recession. Therefore US Fed is not in a rush to cut, and interest rates could remain high for longer. However, staying high does not mean interest rate is going higher and eroding interest income. From a positive angle, it could mean that returns will be measured per year for the next three years and hence more sustainable for a longer period of time. Bond yields stay high and attractive as a form of steady income for investors.

With this change in returns expectation, we have tweaked portfolios to be close to neutral duration. In a soft landing scenario, the yield curve should bull steepen over time. Hence, we have positioned with a steepening bias, i.e. overweight short and belly while underweight the ultra-long end of the curve. We also increased our weight in BBB and high yield bonds to add more bond carry for portfolios. However we are limiting exposure to mainly quality bonds as we do not want to extend risk into weak and highly leveraged names.

In the January FY2024 outlook, we have forecast total returns of 6% to 8%, with a bias to the higher end with rate-cut expectations. Given that interest rate cut expectations are now being pushed later and in smaller quantum, we are expecting total returns for FY2024 to be at the lower end 6% and concentrated in 2H FY2024. However, smaller cuts would mean that we can enjoy decent returns for longer horizon as bond yields remain around 5% p.a. We still believe that the US hiking cycle is already behind us given that inflation pressure peaked late FY2022 and has been on a downtrend since.



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#### SHARE CLASS OVERVIEW

Share Class	Currency	Minimum Investment	Distribution Frequency	Dividend Per Share	Annual Dividend Yield
Class A (Acc) SGD	SGD	SGD 1,000	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Class A (Dist) SGD	SGD	SGD 1,000	Monthly	0.00335	4.92%
Class A (Acc) USD	USD	USD 1,000	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Class A (Dist) USD	USD	USD 1,000	Monthly	0.00360	4.88%
Class A (Dist) AUD	AUD	AUD 1,000	Monthly	0.00335	5.00%
Class A (Dist) NZD	NZD	NZD 1,000	Monthly	0.00370	4.91%

The dividend amount and rate are not guaranteed and could vary according to prevailing market conditions and at the discretion of the Investment Manager. We reserve the right to vary the frequency and/or amount of distributions. Distributions from the Fund may be made out of distributable income, capital or both. Past dividend payout yields and payments do not represent future payout yields and payments. Any distributions made from the Fund's capital will result in an immediate reduction of the net asset value per share.

"N.A." means that this share class does not distribute dividends.

Annualized Dividend Yield = (Dividend per share x Dividend Frequency\*) / Month End NAV#

\*Dividend Frequency: Annual = 1; Semi-annual = 2; Quarterly = 4; Monthly = 12

<sup>#</sup> Where the last calendar day falls on a non-business day, the reference NAV used for the dividend yield calculation will be that of the last business day of the month.

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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