



# Martin Currie Asia Unconstrained Trust



31 MAY 2018

## PROFILE

Objective	To achieve returns commensurate to Asia ex Japan nominal GDP growth
Benchmark	Unconstrained
Sector	Asia Pacific - excluding Japan
Launch	1985

## PORTFOLIO

### Country allocation

	30 Apr	31 May
Hong Kong	23.0%	21.2%
China	20.2%	21.0%
India	20.9%	20.5%
South Korea	13.1%	12.9%
Singapore	10.6%	11.9%
Taiwan	4.0%	4.0%
Malaysia	3.7%	3.9%
Thailand	2.8%	2.9%
Indonesia	1.9%	1.8%
Cash	2.6%	3.1%
Gearing*	(3.0%)	(3.0%)

### Top 10 holdings (52.3% of total portfolio)

AIA	7.3%
Tencent Holdings	6.9%
Samsung Electronics	6.5%
HSBC	5.1%
United Overseas Bank	4.7%
Infosys	4.5%
Guangdong Investment	4.5%
ENN Energy	4.4%
Tata Consultancy Services	4.4%
Taiwan Semiconductor	4.0%
Number of holdings	30
Number of countries	9

### Key facts

Total net assets	£164.4m
Share price (p)	399.0
Net asset value per share (p)	455.1
Discount (premium)	12.3%
Historic net yield <sup>†</sup>	4.1%

## PERFORMANCE

### Cumulative performance over periods to 31 May 2018

	One month	Three months	Six months	One year	Three years	Five years
Share price	2.3%	2.8%	1.7%	8.0%	38.0%	50.7%
NAV	1.1%	2.3%	1.9%	7.0%	39.7%	44.8%

### 12-month performance

	To end Q1 2018	To end Q1 2017	To end Q1 2016	To end Q1 2015	To end Q1 2014
Share price	9.8%	33.5%	(10.3%)	24.8%	(9.1%)
NAV	6.3%	33.5%	(7.5%)	17.9%	(9.7%)

### Past performance is not a guide to future returns.

Source: Martin Currie. The NAV basis used is cum-income in £. Please note prior to July 2017 the NAV basis used was ex-income NAV in £. Ex-income NAVs exclude current-year income, while cum-income NAVs include current-year income. These figures do not include the cost of buying and selling shares in an investment trust. If these were included, performance figures would be reduced.

On 11 July 2014 the investment policy changed from benchmark relative Asia Pacific including Japan to an unconstrained Asia ex Japan strategy.

## MANAGER'S COMMENTARY

Asian equities gained in May, the MSCI AC Asia ex Japan, up 2.2% in sterling terms. At a market level, China was the best-performing region over the month, while Malaysia was the weakest of the larger markets. In sector terms, healthcare led the field, while telecommunications fared the worst.

The company's NAV rose 1.1% over the month. At a stock level, in absolute terms, Chinese energy distributor ENN was the top contributor to relative returns, following high national gas volume growth and the market taking higher gas prices in its stride. Property and infrastructure holding company Guangdong Investment (GDI) also fared well, following the acquisition of a portfolio of residential and commercial properties from its parent company - this was reportedly at a 13% discount to the portfolio NAV. Elsewhere, pan-Asian insurance company AIA was another notable contributor.

On the other side, Indian financial inclusion services provider Vakrangee was the biggest detractor. The firm's share price continued to struggle during May following the resignation of PwC as auditor in April. Samsonite also weighed on returns. The luggage

manufacturer and retailer was the subject of a short-seller report towards the end of the month, causing a significant decline in the share price over a two-day period. The stock was subsequently suspended while the company prepared a rebuttal statement. While we are currently in the process of reviewing the statement, based on our current understanding, the financial position of the business and our belief in the strength of the Samsonite investment case remains intact. Meanwhile, United Overseas Bank was another prominent detractor.

In terms of portfolio activity, we bought Singapore Technologies Engineering (STE) during the month. STE is one of Asia's largest defence and engineering groups with commercial and defence clients in more than 80 countries through a network of over 100 subsidiaries and associates.



Andrew Graham

\*The risk outlined at the end of this document relating to gearing is particularly relevant to this company but should be read in conjunction with all warnings and comments given.

<sup>†</sup>Source for historic yield: Martin Currie as at 31 May 2018. The historic yield reflects dividends declared for the 12 months to 31 March 2017 as a percentage of the mid-market share price, as at the date shown. Investors may be subject to tax on their dividends.

The NAV stated in our reporting is inclusive of current year revenue. All sources (unless indicated): Martin Currie as at 31 May 2018.

## CAPITAL STRUCTURE

Ordinary shares 36,124,496

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harry Wells (chairman) Anja Balfour  
Peter Edwards Martin Shenfield  
Gregory Shenkman

## KEY INFORMATION

Year end 31 March  
Annual general meeting July  
Dividend paid August and December  
Investment management fee as at 31 March 2017<sup>^</sup> 0.75%  
(0.75% on net assets up to £150m  
0.60% on net assets over £150m)  
Ongoing charge – 31 March 2017<sup>§</sup> 1.1%  
TIDM code MCP  
Reuters code MCP.L  
Sedol code 0569512

<sup>^</sup>Percentage of net assets, calculated quarterly.

<sup>§</sup>Percentage of shareholders' funds. Includes annual management fee.

## Net asset value and dividend – 10-year history

Year end	Share price	NAV per share	Discount/ (premium)	Dividend per share
2009	169.5p	209.3p	19.0%	3.30p
2010	236.5p	291.1p	18.8%	3.70p
2011	274.3p	320.7p	14.5%	4.50p
2012	276.5p	330.0p	16.2%	5.50p
2013	298.5p	359.4p	17.0%	6.50p
2014 <sup>†</sup>	263.8p	313.4p	15.8%	7.50p
2015	320.8p	361.2p	11.2%	7.50p
2016	280.0p	327.2p	14.4%	7.75p
2017	364.5p	427.3p	14.7%	16.28p
2018 <sup>‡</sup>	384.0p	438.0p	12.3%	16.70p

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<sup>†</sup>From 2014 the company year end changed to 31 March.

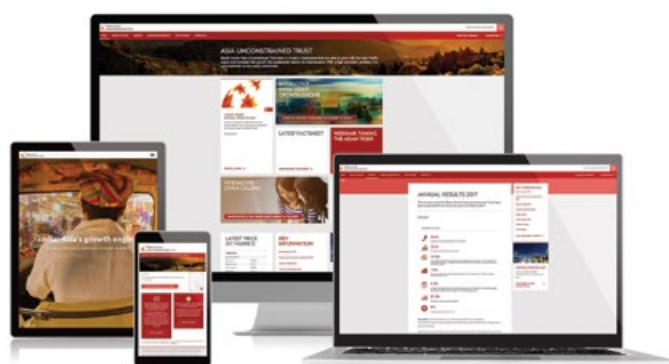
<sup>‡</sup>2018 final dividend will be paid in August 2018.

## MANAGER'S BIOGRAPHY

Andrew joined Martin Currie in 2010 and heads our Asia team. Alongside the Martin Currie Asia Unconstrained Trust he is lead manager on the Martin Currie Asia Pacific and Asia Long-Term Unconstrained strategies. He joined us from Sofaer Global Research, bringing with him over 20 years' experience of managing Asia-Pacific equities. At Sofaer, where he was a partner, Andrew managed the company's Japan absolute return fund and co-managed its Pacific-region absolute return fund. Prior to this he spent five years as senior vice president at Putnam Investments, where he co-managed its International Capital Opportunities Fund, focusing particularly on the Asia-Pacific region. Earlier in his career Andrew held portfolio management roles at both Scottish Widows Investment Partnership and Kemper Investment Management.

## WEBSITE

The company has its own website at [www.martincurrieasia.com](http://www.martincurrieasia.com). There you will find further details about the company, information on Martin Currie and daily share prices (and associated risks).



[www.martincurrieasia.com](http://www.martincurrieasia.com)



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This information is issued and approved by Martin Currie Investment Management Limited. It does not constitute investment advice. Market and currency movements may cause the capital value of shares, and the income from them, to fall as well as rise and you may get back less than you invested. Please note that, as the shares in investment trusts are traded on a stockmarket, the share price will fluctuate in accordance with supply and demand and may not reflect the value of underlying net asset value of the shares.

Depending on market conditions and market sentiment, the spread between purchase and sale price can be wide. As with all stock exchange investments the value of investment trust share purchases will immediately fall by the difference between the buying and selling prices, the bid-offer spread. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. An investor may not get back the amount originally invested. Investment trusts may borrow money in order to make further investments. This is known as 'gearing' and can enhance shareholder returns in rising markets but, conversely, can reduce them in falling markets.

The majority of charges will be deducted from the capital of the company. This will constrain capital growth of the company in order to maintain the income streams.

Martin Currie Investment Management Limited, registered in Scotland (no SC066107) Martin Currie Fund Management Limited, registered in Scotland (no SC0104896). Registered office: Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES.

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