

Affin Hwang World Series - China Growth Fund

Quarterly Report
28 February 2021

Out**think**. Out**perform**.



AFFIN HWANG
CAPITAL

MANAGER
Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad
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TRUSTEE
HSBC (Malaysia) Trustee Berhad (1281-T)

AFFIN HWANG WORLD SERIES – CHINA GROWTH FUND

Quarterly Report and Financial Statements As at 28 February 2021

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QUARTERLY REPORT

FUND INFORMATION

Fund Name	Affin Hwang World Series – China Growth Fund
Fund Type	Growth
Fund Category	Feeder (Wholesale)
Investment Objective	The Fund seeks to achieve capital appreciation over medium to long term period through investments in China equities
Benchmark	MSCI China 10/40 Index
Distribution Policy	The Fund is not expected to make distribution. However, incidental distribution may be declared whenever is appropriate.

FUND PERFORMANCE DATA

MYR Class

Category	As at 28 Feb 2021	As at 30 Nov 2020
Total NAV (million)	87.383	60.878
NAV per Unit (RM)	1.3191	1.1089
Unit in Circulation (million)	66.230	54.891

USD Class

Category	As at 28 Feb 2021	As at 30 Nov 2020
Total NAV (million)	10.549	5.314
NAV per Unit (USD)	0.8050	0.6726
Unit in Circulation (million)	13.105	7.900

MYR-Hedged Class

Category	As at 28 Feb 2021	As at 30 Nov 2020
Total NAV (million)	134.314	64.035
NAV per Unit (RM)	0.8063	0.6724
Unit in Circulation (million)	166.613	95.219

Performance as at 28 February 2021

MYR Class

	3 Months (1/12/20 - 28/2/21)	6 Months (1/9/20 - 28/2/21)	1 Year (1/3/20 - 28/2/21)	3 Years (1/3/18 - 28/2/21)	5 Years (1/3/16 - 28/2/21)	Since Commencement (1/8/11 - 28/2/21)
Fund	18.96%	23.87%	63.21%	46.11%	98.15%	163.82%
Benchmark	9.87%	15.52%	39.15%	35.69%	123.08%	160.57%
Outperformance	9.09%	8.35%	24.06%	10.42%	(24.93%)	3.25%

Source of Benchmark: Bloomberg

USD Class

	3 Months (1/12/20 - 28/2/21)	6 Months (1/9/20 - 28/2/21)	1 Year (1/3/20 - 28/2/21)	3 Years (1/3/18 - 28/2/21)	Since Commencement (15/8/17 - 28/2/21)
Fund	19.68%	27.45%	70.08%	41.43%	61.00%
Benchmark	10.54%	18.83%	44.86%	31.45%	55.29%
Outperformance	9.14%	8.62%	25.22%	9.98%	5.71%

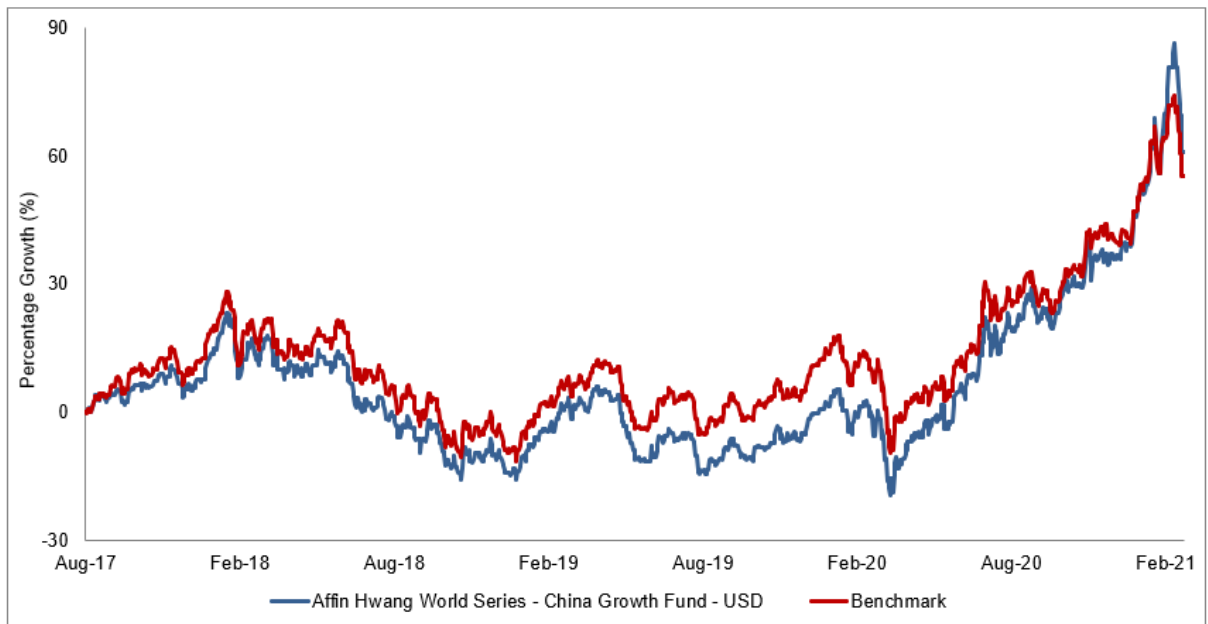
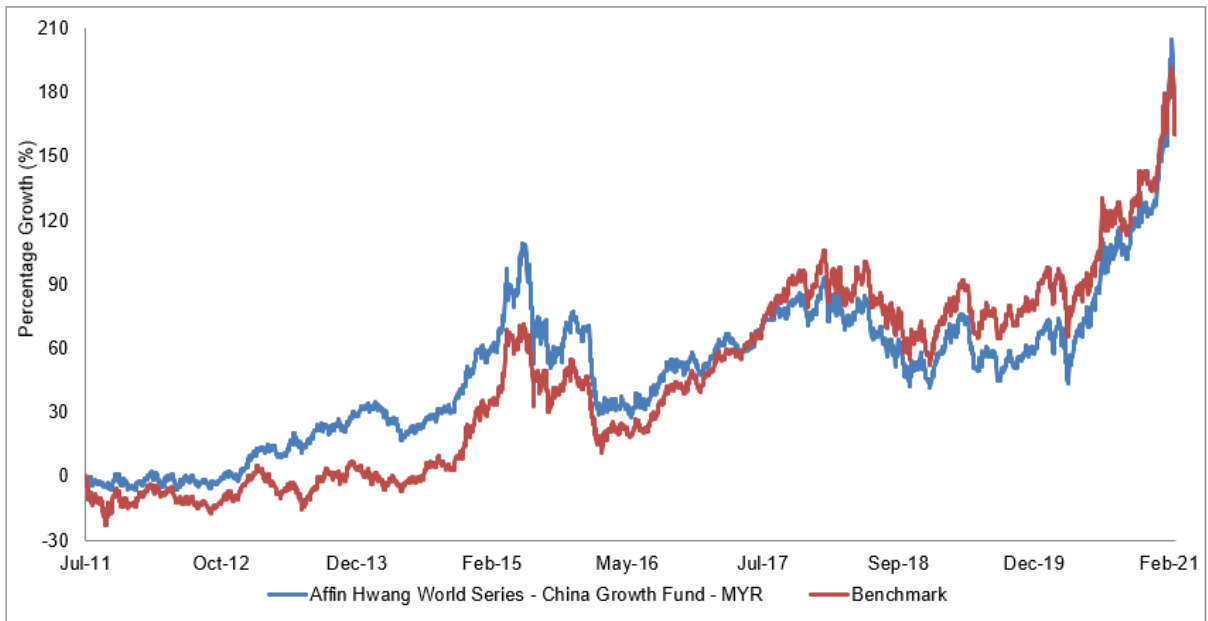
Source of Benchmark: Bloomberg

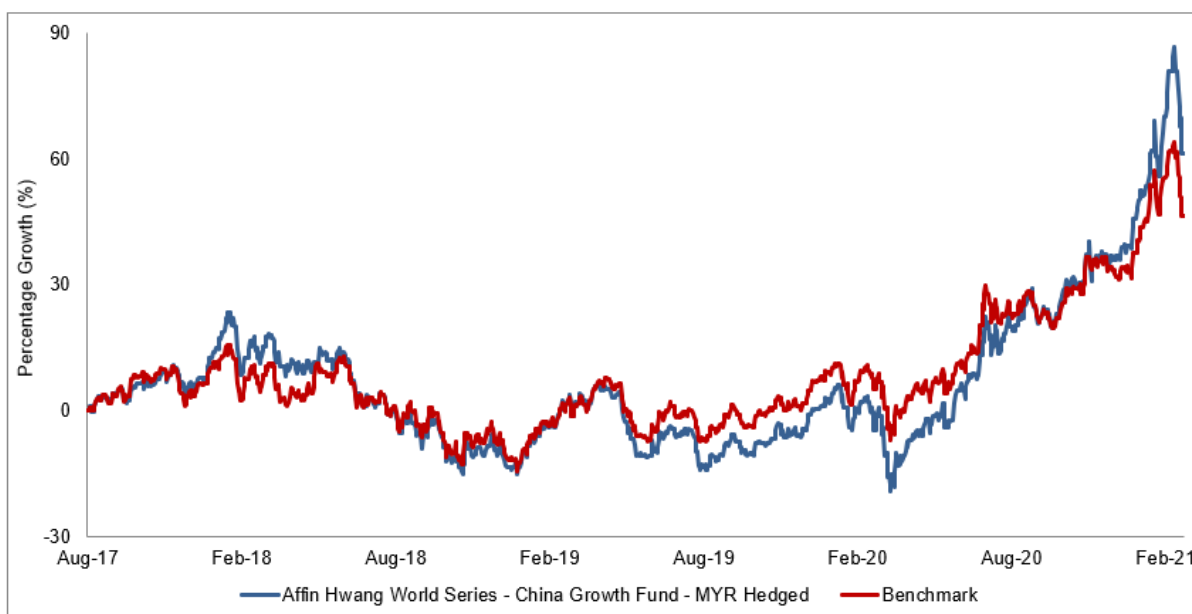
MYR Hedged-Class

	3 Months (1/12/20 - 28/2/21)	6 Months (1/9/20 - 28/2/21)	1 Year (1/3/20 - 28/2/21)	3 Years (1/3/18 - 28/2/21)	Since Commencement (15/8/17 - 28/2/21)
Fund	19.91%	27.60%	69.32%	41.16%	61.26%
Benchmark	9.87%	15.52%	39.15%	35.69%	46.47%
Outperformance	10.04%	12.08%	30.17%	5.47%	14.79%

Source of Benchmark: Bloomberg

Movement of the Fund versus the Benchmark





"This information is prepared by Affin Hwang Asset Management Berhad (AFFINHWANGAM) for information purposes only. Past earnings or the fund's distribution record is not a guarantee or reflection of the fund's future earnings/future distributions. Investors are advised that unit prices, distributions payable and investment returns may go down as well as up. Source of Benchmark is from Bloomberg."

Benchmark: MSCI China 10/40 Index

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance and that Unit prices and investment returns may go down, as well as up.

Asset Allocation

Fund's asset mix during the period under review:

	28 February 2021
	(%)
Unit Trust	96.72
Derivative	0.42
Cash & money market	2.86
Total	100.00

Strategies Employed

The BGF China Fund adopts a flexible style and has a focus on the structural change and reform in China. The portfolio seeks to capture full spectrum of opportunities for a changing China through access to full range of China-focused stocks. The structural reform focus offers dynamic opportunity to uncover reform beneficiaries and optimal investment themes in new and old economies.

Market Review

Global equities started 2021 on a strong note as policy easing, and global vaccine rollouts went underway. At the start of January, US markets saw strong optimism. The storming of the US Capitol in early January had little effect over the broader market. The market showed strong attention to the Biden administration's US\$ 1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief proposal in mid-January. However, a black swan event at the end of the month saw retail investors selectively targeting underperforming stocks (e.g. GME and AMC) that resulted in a short squeeze and pushing their share prices to new highs.

US equity markets ended the month of February with modest gains though sentiment was tested as surging bond yields and inflation fears took precedence. Whilst equities and bonds tend to move in opposite

directions, the reality is that equity outperformance in the past year has largely come from growth-centric stocks and “stay at home” trades, which are now facing short-term squeezes on their profit margins from rising rates. Another factor is the shift from growth to value, with value stocks performing better over the month. The Fed lightly addressed some of these concerns but mainly assured that current easy monetary policy will remain, with primary focus on the labor market.

The S&P500 closed 2.76% higher in the month, whilst Asian markets came in marginally lower, with the MSCI Asia ex Japan index gaining 1.25%. It was also a time for earnings announcements. 58.0% of companies in the MSCI Asia ex Japan index reporting their results in the month. Of these, 48.0% saw earnings beat and 12.0% missing estimates. In the US, 790% of the companies in the S&P500 saw earnings beat.

President Biden held his first official call with President Xi Jinping. While Biden may have brought up controversial topics such as economic competition and human rights issues, the call should merely be viewed as a formality rather than tangible progress between China and the US and both sides continue to thread on thin ice. The US House of Representatives also passed a US\$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package.

Commodities saw strong returns in the January, buoyed by vaccination programs and normalization of the economy. The commodity market saw four consecutive weeks of increased market inflow, particularly across crude oil, grain & oilseed, and livestock markets. This rally continued in February, as copper saw its largest monthly gain in over four years and oil prices hitting new one-year highs. The S&P GSCI posted a return on 10.67% in the month.

Following from 2020's political overhang, Malaysia's Yang di-Pertuan Agong issued a Proclamation of Emergency, resulting in the implementation of MCO 2.0 as daily Covid-19 cases rose to four digits. Restrictions on movement were less stringent than the initial MCO from 2020, though inconsistent communication surrounding the restrictions resulted in some public confusion.

The PN government unveiled its fifth economic stimulus package, PERMAI, worth RM 15 billion. Market impact was neutral following the announcement, as the package was viewed largely as a safety net aimed at cushioning the downside impact of MCO 2.0's implementation, especially to more vulnerable sectors.

Malaysia's Consumer Price Index (CPI) came in at 122.5 in February 2021, a marginal increase of 0.1% from January 2021. Despite this, trade numbers have been gradually increasing as global trade picks up. December 2020 saw Malaysia's exports rise 10.8% y-o-y and imports rebounding for the first time in 9 months by 1.6% y-o-y. This positive momentum continued in January 2021, with exports expanding by 6.6% y-o-y to RM 89.6 billion. Imports saw the same trend, increasing by 1.3% y-o-y.

In February, the local equity market's performance was muted relative to regional peers, gaining by 0.82% in the month. It was also results season in the local market, with the tech sector largely reporting earnings beat on the back of robust demand. AmBank announced a settlement cost of RM2.83 billion for its role and involvement in the 1MDB scandal that took place prior. This accounts for up to 30.0% of its market capitalisation. Petronas announced its first annual loss of RM 21 billion in 2020, its weak earnings dragged by weak product prices and margins, in line with last year's decline in crude oil prices.

The Malaysian bond market saw an unwinding of “rate cut” bets at the end of January following BNM's announcement to keep interest rates unchanged at 1.75% highlighting that recovery of the local economy was underway. The shorter-end of the MGS curve saw yields rise whilst longer-tenured papers remained resilient. Market is of the expectation that central bank will cut rates in BNM's next meeting in March, but our in-house view views that the likelihood of a cut is minimal.

Yields trended higher in tandem with US treasury movement in the month of February. The 10-year MGS closed at 3.08%. The corporate space also saw yields edge higher, particularly in the longer-dated names of the IG credit space. The primary market was greeted by the auction of a new 7-year GII of RM 3.5 billion. The trend here follows from January's auction of the 10-year MGS, with strong bidding interest as the 7-year GII posted a bid-to-cover ratio of 2.2x, supported by onshore interbank players. The yield closed at 2.8%.

Investment Outlook

Global markets have rallied sharply from their lowest, supported by fiscal and monetary stimulus. The economy is still recovering, albeit at a slow pace, as consumers' confidence return following the low death

rates despite the rise in infections. With most markets recovering the year's losses by December coincided with the release of Phase III clinical trial data for the vaccines, there is certainly light at the end of the tunnel for global markets.

Recovery plays will be the most obvious theme for the year improving macroeconomic conditions and the inevitable rollout of vaccines has everyone looking to the future and letting go of 2020's miseries. General market consensus suggests global GDP is down 5% in 2020, with an expected rebound of 5.4% in 2021 with the reopening of economies and growth returns. We have already started to see the rotation from growth to value take place in the start of 2021.

January 2021's US employment report was less than stellar as nonfarm payrolls increased only by half of the market's initial consensus, which is worse when compared to the fact that it had already been revised down by 159,000 two months prior. The US labor market has some ways to go for recovery as Covid-19 cases continue to rise. Valuations in the American market are coming across as stretched as the S&P 500 surpasses far beyond its historical P/E average of 15x -17x. There has been some correction in the recent few weeks and we may see this correction extend for a further couple more months.

Earnings momentum will continue in 2021 with earnings growth projected to rise by 38.0% in Asia ex-Japan (ex-Financials) according to estimates by some sell-side analysts. Key sectors leading the recovery include the energy, consumer discretionary and industrials. Though, this is tempered by moderately higher valuations which has crept up above historical averages. Liquidity conditions remain positive and with earnings visibility from Asian companies that are riding along a China-led economic recovery, Asia continues to be an ocean of growth potential as the region continues to grow.

Following President Biden's call to China, we still expect little improvement between China and the US's already contentious relationship. We see at least a few months of reprieve for the global economy as the two leading nations focus on economic recovery. It will not be long before they step back into the boxing ring to tackle the long list of conflicting issues they face, ranging from trade issues, social rights and environmental impacts.

Economic recovery continues to be delayed by Covid-19 as cases surge throughout the country/ From a bottom-up perspective, the domestic focus will be on the recovery beneficiaries and exporters in the technology and EMS segment which have strong earnings visibility in the near term as well increasing demand. Political risk has been delayed with the declaration of state of emergency until August 2021.

Fund flows continue to pour in, following 2020's trend which began in the month of March. In the US. long-term mutual funds and exchange-traded funds picked up US\$95 billion in new assets. ESG funds have also been gathering plenty of interest and we will expect this investor shift to ESG-focused funds to be more commonplace across the industry. The Biden administration's foray into building stronger climate change initiatives also signals a shift for the investment industry as this will generate more opportunities across asset classes. The wider implications of this on the economy will take time to materialise, but will continue to be observed.

AFFIN HWANG WORLD SERIES - CHINA GROWTH FUND

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	Financial period ended <u>28.2.2021</u> USD	Financial period ended <u>29.2.2020</u> USD
INVESTMENT INCOME		
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost	2,036	3,883
Net gain on foreign currency exchange	17,589	3,657
Net gain on forward foreign currency contract at fair value through profit or loss	1,347,992	9,571
Net gain on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	19,791,290	4,763,486
	<u>21,158,907</u>	<u>4,780,597</u>
EXPENSES		
Management fee	(534,315)	(748,844)
Trustee fee	(14,952)	(20,992)
Auditors' remuneration	(1,387)	(1,432)
Tax agent's fee	(1,039)	(667)
Other expenses	(821)	(1,034)
	<u>(552,514)</u>	<u>(772,969)</u>
NET PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	20,606,393	4,007,628
Taxation	-	-
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS	<u>20,606,393</u>	<u>4,007,628</u>
Increase of net asset attributable to unitholders is made up of the following:		
Realised amount	4,542,684	(2,367,212)
Unrealised amount	16,063,709	6,374,840
	<u>20,606,393</u>	<u>4,007,628</u>

AFFIN HWANG WORLD SERIES - CHINA GROWTH FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	<u>2021</u> USD	<u>2020</u> USD
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,238,082	1,515,406
Amount due from broker	2,491,540	83,066
Amount due from Manager		
- creation of units	4,616,538	96,170
- management fee rebate receivable	35,019	28,676
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	63,179,042	44,679,785
Forward foreign currency contracts at fair value through profit or loss	311,976	-
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>71,872,197</u>	<u>46,403,103</u>
LIABILITIES		
Forward foreign currency contracts at fair value through profit or loss	37,665	357,246
Amount due to broker	6,420,519	83,056
Amount due to Manager		
- management fee	86,987	69,923
- cancellation of units	-	591,775
Amount due to Trustee	2,416	1,942
Auditors' remuneration	1,562	1,583
Tax agent's fee	996	1,553
Other payables and accruals	1,380	816
TOTAL LIABILITIES (EXCLUDING NET ASSET ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS)	<u>6,551,525</u>	<u>1,107,894</u>
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS	<u>65,320,672</u>	<u>45,295,209</u>

AFFIN HWANG WORLD SERIES - CHINA GROWTH FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 28 FEBRUARY 2021 (CONTINUED)

	<u>2021</u> USD	<u>2020</u> USD
REPRESENTED BY:		
FAIR VALUE OF OUTSTANDING UNITS		
- MYR Class	21,586,805	16,484,035
- MYR-Hedged Class	33,184,444	22,376,194
- USD Class	10,549,423	6,434,980
	<u>65,320,672</u>	<u>45,295,209</u>
NUMBER OF UNITS IN CIRCULATION		
- MYR Class	66,230,000	85,960,000
- MYR-Hedged Class	166,613,000	197,987,000
- USD Class	13,105,000	13,595,000
	<u>245,948,000</u>	<u>297,542,000</u>
NET ASSET VALUE PER UNIT (USD)		
- MYR Class	0.3259	0.1918
- MYR-Hedged Class	0.1992	0.1130
- USD Class	0.8050	0.4733
	<u>0.3259</u>	<u>0.1918</u>
NET ASSET VALUE PER UNIT IN RESPECTIVE CURRENCIES		
- MYR Class	RM1.3191	RM0.8082
- MYR-Hedged Class	RM0.8063	RM0.4762
- USD Class	USD0.8050	USD0.4733
	<u>RM1.3191</u>	<u>RM0.8082</u>

AFFIN HWANG WORLD SERIES - CHINA GROWTH FUND

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2021

	Financial period ended <u>28.2.2021</u> USD	Financial period ended <u>29.2.2020</u> USD
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL PERIOD	40,610,344	58,474,061
Movement due to units created and cancelled during the financial period		
Creation of units arising from applications	41,162,408	3,681,882
- MYR Class	13,701,747	1,863,619
- MYR-Hedged Class	19,932,387	1,523,574
- USD Class	7,528,274	294,689
Cancellation of units	(37,058,473)	(20,868,362)
- MYR Class	(14,627,932)	(7,176,042)
- MYR-Hedged Class	(17,511,330)	(11,526,581)
- USD Class	(4,919,211)	(2,165,739)
Net increase in net assets attributable to unitholders during the financial period	20,606,393	4,007,628
- MYR Class	7,671,655	1,439,078
- MYR-Hedged Class	10,497,738	1,986,194
- USD Class	2,437,000	582,356
NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDER AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL PERIOD	<u>65,320,672</u>	<u>45,295,209</u>

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