

**QUARTERLY REPORT** 29 February 2024

# AHAM World Series – China A Opportunity Fund

MANAGER AHAM Asset Management Berhad 199701014290 (429786-T)

TRUSTEE TMF Trustees Malaysia Berhad 200301008392 (610812-W)

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## Quarterly Report and Financial Statements As at 29 February 2024

| Contents                          | Page |
|-----------------------------------|------|
|                                   |      |
| QUARTERLY REPORT                  | 2    |
| STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME | 9    |
| STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION   | 10   |
| STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSET     | 12   |

## QUARTERLY REPORT

#### FUND INFORMATION

| Fund Name            | AHAM World Series – China A Opportunity Fund   |
|----------------------|--|
| Fund Type            | Growth   |
| Fund Category        | Feeder (Wholesale)   |
| Investment Objective | The Fund seeks to achieve capital appreciation over medium to long term period   |
| Benchmark            | MSCI China A Onshore   |
| Distribution Policy  | The Fund is not expected to make distribution. However, incidental distribution may be declared whenever is appropriate. |

## FUND PERFORMANCE DATA

#### USD Class

| Category                      | As at<br>29 Feb 2024 | As at<br>30 Nov 2023 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total NAV (million)           | 18.491               | 20.406               |
| NAV per Unit (USD)            | 0.4611               | 0.4771               |
| Unit in Circulation (million) | 40.104               | 42.770               |

## AUD-Hedged Class

| Category                      | As at<br>29 Feb 2024 | As at<br>30 Nov 2023 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total NAV (million)           | 21.363               | 24.969               |
| NAV per Unit (AUD)            | 0.4203               | 0.4362               |
| Unit in Circulation (million) | 50.823               | 57.236               |

## MYR-Hedged Class

| Category                      | As at<br>29 Feb 2024 | As at<br>30 Nov 2023 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total NAV (million)           | 532.528              | 594.692              |
| NAV per Unit (RM)             | 0.4502               | 0.4689               |
| Unit in Circulation (million) | 1182.960             | 1268.327             |

## MYR Class

| Category                      | As at<br>29 Feb 2024 | As at<br>30 Nov 2023 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total NAV (million)           | 137.787              | 155.678              |
| NAV per Unit (RM)             | 0.5319               | 0.5410               |
| Unit in Circulation (million) | 259.039              | 287.746              |

#### SGD-Hedged Class

| Category                      | As at<br>29 Feb 2024 | As at<br>30 Nov 2023 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Total NAV (million)           | 16.281               | 18.616               |
| NAV per Unit (SGD)            | 0.4325               | 0.4497               |
| Unit in Circulation (million) | 37.643               | 41.395               |

#### Fund Performance

#### **USD Class**

#### Performance as at 29 February 2024

|                |            |           |           |           |           | Since        |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
|                | 3 Months   | 6 Months  | 1 Year    | 3 Years   | 5 Years   | Commencement |
|                | (1/12/23 - | (1/9/23 - | (1/3/23 - | (1/3/21 - | (1/3/19 - | (29/1/19 -   |
|                | 29/2/24)   | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)     |
| Fund           | (3.35%)    | (6.15%)   | (16.53%)  | (47.82%)  | (14.10%)  | (7.78%)      |
| Benchmark      | (1.69%)    | (5.29%)   | (17.01%)  | (35.29%)  | 2.28%     | 18.80%       |
| Outperformance | (1.66%)    | (0.86%)   | 0.48%     | (12.53%)  | (16.38%)  | (26.58%)     |

Source of Benchmark: Bloomberg

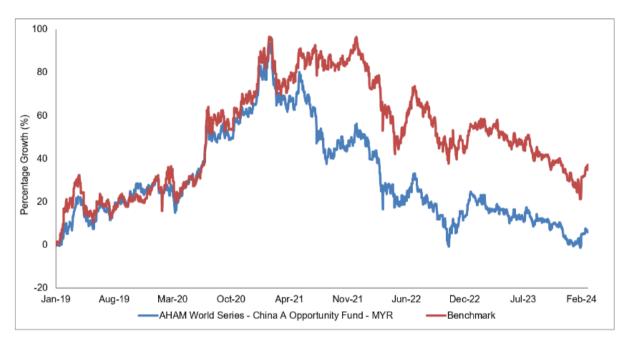


#### **MYR Class**

| Performance as at 29 February 2024 |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
|------------------------------------|--|

|                |            |           |           |           |           | Since        |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
|                | 3 Months   | 6 Months  | 1 Year    | 3 Years   | 5 Years   | Commencement |
|                | (1/12/23 - | (1/9/23 - | (1/3/23 - | (1/3/21 - | (1/3/19 - | (29/1/19 -   |
|                | 29/2/24)   | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)     |
| Fund           | (1.68%)    | (4.06%)   | (11.78%)  | (38.90%)  | (0.49%)   | 6.38%        |
| Benchmark      | 0.01%      | (3.14%)   | (12.20%)  | (24.19%)  | 19.34%    | 37.22%       |
| Outperformance | (1.69%)    | (0.92%)   | 0.42%     | (14.71%)  | (19.83%)  | (30.84%)     |

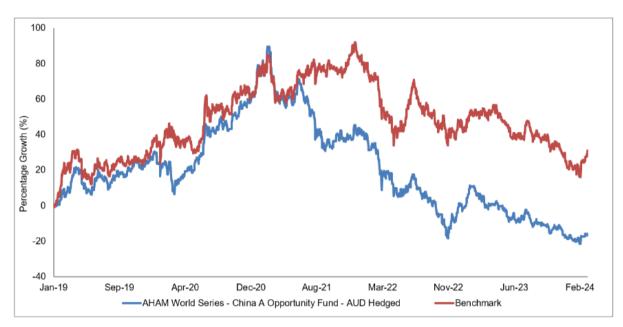
Source of Benchmark: Bloomberg



#### AUD Hedged-Class

|                |            |           |           |           |           | Since        |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
|                | 3 Months   | 6 Months  | 1 Year    | 3 Years   | 5 Years   | Commencement |
|                | (1/12/23 - | (1/9/23 - | (1/3/23 - | (1/3/21 - | (1/3/19 - | (29/1/19 -   |
|                | 29/2/24)   | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)     |
| Fund           | (3.65%)    | (6.95%)   | (18.39%)  | (50.60%)  | (21.44%)  | (15.94%)     |
| Benchmark      | (0.01%)    | (5.64%)   | (13.71%)  | (23.05%)  | 11.81%    | 31.09%       |
| Outperformance | (3.64%)    | (1.31%)   | (4.68%)   | (27.55%)  | (33.25%)  | (47.03%)     |

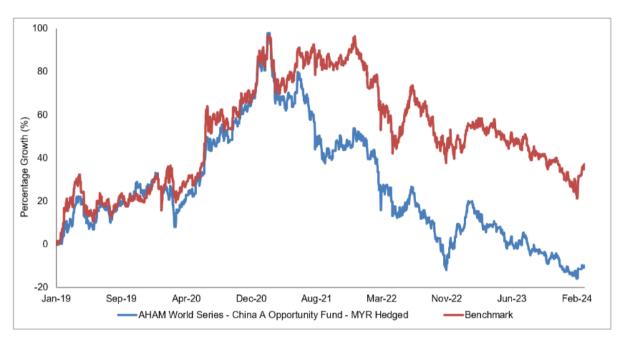
Source of Benchmark: Bloomberg



#### **MYR Hedged-Class**

|                | 0 Martha   |           |           | 0.)/      |           | Since        |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
|                | 3 Months   | 6 Months  | 1 Year    | 3 Years   | 5 Years   | Commencement |
|                | (1/12/23 - | (1/9/23 - | (1/3/23 - | (1/3/21 - | (1/3/19 - | (29/1/19 -   |
|                | 29/2/24)   | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)     |
| Fund           | (3.99%)    | (7.56%)   | (19.12%)  | (49.35%)  | (16.41%)  | (9.96%)      |
| Benchmark      | 0.01%      | (3.14%)   | (12.20%)  | (24.19%)  | 19.34%    | 37.22%       |
| Outperformance | (4.00%)    | (4.42%)   | (6.92%)   | (25.16%)  | (35.75%)  | (47.18%)     |

Source of Benchmark: Bloomberg



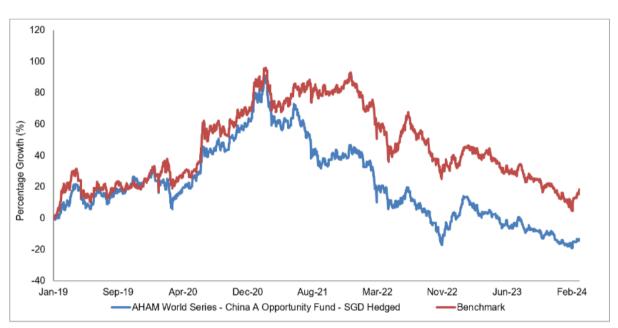
#### SGD Hedged-Class

|                |            |           |           |           |           | Since        |
|----------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
|                | 3 Months   | 6 Months  | 1 Year    | 3 Years   | 5 Years   | Commencement |
|                | (1/12/23 - | (1/9/23 - | (1/3/23 - | (1/3/21 - | (1/3/19 - | (29/1/19 -   |
|                | 29/2/24)   | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)  | 29/2/24)     |
| Fund           | (3.82%)    | (7.09%)   | (18.18%)  | (49.48%)  | (19.16%)  | (13.50%)     |
| Benchmark      | (1.04%)    | (5.69%)   | (17.02%)  | (34.61%)  | 1.87%     | 18.21%       |
| Outperformance | (2.78%)    | (1.40%)   | (1.16%)   | (14.87%)  | (21.03%)  | (31.71%)     |

Performance as at 29 February 2024

Source of Benchmark: Bloomberg

Movement of the Fund versus the Benchmark



"This information is prepared by AHAM Asset Management Berhad 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 A Onshore 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:

|                     | 29 February 2024 |
|---------------------|------------------|
|                     | (%)              |
| Unit Trust          | 96.93            |
| Derivative          | -2.14            |
| Cash & money market | 5.21             |
| Total               | 100.00           |
| Cash & money market | 5.21             |

#### **Income Distribution Breakdown**

No distribution was declared by the Fund over the financial period under review.

#### Strategies Employed

The Target Fund managers see Chinese equities as an attractive opportunity despite the current challenges. They believe recent government policy easing indicates an acknowledgement of economic problems, and that valuations are already low enough to reflect market pessimism. They point to China's past ability to overcome crises and the ongoing growth of high-quality companies successfully competing on the global stage. This suggests a strategy of investing in undervalued Chinese companies with strong fundamentals and the potential for future growth, even in a difficult economic environment.

#### Market Review

The financial markets experienced a strong rally from December to February. This was driven by optimism that inflation was cooling, allowing central banks to potentially lower interest rates without harming economic growth. December saw the biggest gains, with most regional stock markets rising and bond yields falling as investors anticipated rate cuts. While January remained positive for stocks, gains were more modest as bond yields rose due to central banks delaying rate cuts and strong US economic data. Finally, February capped the quarter with another month of equity gains across the board, particularly in China, Japan, and the US. This was fueled by data suggesting broader economic growth and fixed income markets pricing out the likelihood of significant central bank easing. However, a decline in natural gas and agricultural commodities caused the Bloomberg Commodity Index to fall slightly.

The MSCI Asia ex Japan index experienced fluctuations over the three months. It rose 3.5% in December on expectations that the Fed may cut rates sooner. This ended the quarter up 6.4% and rounded off 2023 positive returns to 6%. In December, all markets rose except China amid the lack of significant stimulus and a draft regulation on gaming that caused a negative knee-jerk reaction, though sentiments improved slightly after NPPA approved more imported and domestic games. In January, the MSCI Asia ex Japan index fell 5.5% on lacklustre support from Chinese policymakers amid continued concerns about the property and capex cycle, and geopolitical concerns on potential new US restrictions on China's biotech and technology sectors. In February, the index rose again by 5.6% with all markets rising and China, Korea and Taiwan showing the strongest returns. China rebounded, with the National Team's (state-backed funds) support and mild improvement of sentiments.

Chinese A-shares experienced a mixed performance from December to February. December saw a decline due to weak economic data and regulatory concerns in gaming. January continued the negative trend with factors like lack of economic stimulus and forced liquidations hurting the market. However, February witnessed a strong rebound fueled by better-than-expected holiday data, a surprise central bank rate cut, and positive signals from the government. Overall, the quarter started and ended negatively, but a strong February surge offset some of the earlier losses.

#### Investment Outlook

The period from December to February for China A-shares presented a contrasting picture. While the government acknowledged economic struggles and implemented supportive policies, the market initially remained pessimistic. December saw a decline due to weak data and regulatory concerns in gaming. January continued the negative trend, fueled by factors like a lack of comprehensive economic stimulus and forced liquidations. Valuations, however, remained unjustifiably low throughout this period.

Despite the early negativity, a shift in sentiment emerged in February. This was driven by better-than-expected holiday data, a surprise central bank rate cut, and positive signals from the government. The market staged a strong rebound, recouping some of the previous losses. Fund managers viewed this as a potential turning point. They believe current valuations have already accounted for market pessimism, suggesting a higher chance for a meaningful rebound rather than further downside surprises.

The long-term outlook for China A-shares remains optimistic. The Target Fund managers acknowledge the country faces a different growth stage and considerable economic challenges. However, they believe China remains on a growth trajectory with sizeable investment potential. They point to China's past ability to overcome crises and the ongoing success of high-quality companies expanding overseas. These companies are not only adapting to external challenges but also actively investing in technology and R&D, making them strong contenders in the global market. This, combined with a "bottom-up" investment strategy focusing on undervalued companies with strong fundamentals, suggests a belief in significant opportunities for active investors in the Chinese A-share market.

### UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

|  | Financial<br>period ended<br><u>29.2.2024</u><br>USD                              | Financial<br>period ended<br><u>28.2.2023</u><br>USD                              |
|--|---|---|
| INVESTMENT LOSS  |   |   |
| Interest income from financial assets<br>at amortised cost<br>Net gain/(loss) on foreign currency exchange<br>Net loss on forward foreign currency contracts<br>at fair value through profit or loss<br>Net loss on financial assets at fair value<br>through profit or loss | 7,395<br>10,256<br>(6,846,056)<br>(10,928,885)<br>(17,757,290)                    | 5,339<br>(53,129)<br>(8,416,858)<br>(8,502,264)<br>(16,966,912)                   |
| EXPENSES   |   |   |
| Management fee<br>Trustee fee<br>Fund accounting fee<br>Auditors' remuneration<br>Tax agent's fee<br>Other expenses  | (3,013,480)<br>(97,812)<br>(2,241)<br>(1,319)<br>(577)<br>(10,885)<br>(3,126,314) | (3,659,310)<br>(118,730)<br>(2,604)<br>(1,392)<br>(609)<br>(6,482)<br>(3,789,127) |
| NET LOSS BEFORE TAXATION   | (20,883,604)  | (20,756,039)  |
| Taxation   | -   | -   |
| DECREASE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE<br>TO UNITHOLDER   | (20,883,604)  | (20,756,039)  |
| Decrease of net asset attributable to unitholders is made up of the following:   |   |   |
| Realised amount<br>Unrealised amount   | (34,415,172)<br>13,531,568  | (18,294,109)<br>(2,461,930)   |
|  | (20,883,604)<br>  | (20,756,039)  |

# UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 29 FEBRUARY 2024

|  | <u>2024</u><br>USD                   | <u>2023</u><br>USD                        |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| ASSETS   |                                      |   |
| Cash and cash equivalents<br>Amount due from broker<br>Amount due from Manager   | 10,374,352<br>-                      | 8,000,982<br>7,109                        |
| <ul> <li>creation of units</li> <li>management fee rebate receivable</li> <li>Financial assets at fair value through</li> </ul>  | 57,172<br>228,436                    | 1,225,739<br>341,829                      |
| profit or loss<br>Forward foreign currency contracts at fair value   | 180,195,669                          | 272,027,342                               |
| through profit or loss   | 113,670                              | 306,202                                   |
| TOTAL ASSETS   | 190,969,299                          | 281,909,203                               |
| LIABILITIES  |                                      |   |
| Forward foreign currency contracts at fair value<br>through profit or loss<br>Amount due to broker<br>Amount due to Manager<br>- management fee<br>- cancellation of units | 4,096,768<br>-<br>268,174<br>684,005 | 4,786,958<br>110,585<br>404,965<br>28,265 |
| Fund accounting fee<br>Amount due to Trustee<br>Auditors' remuneration<br>Tax agent's fee<br>Other payables and accruals   | 246<br>8,698<br>1,299<br>568<br>37   | 260<br>13,134<br>1,387<br>1,387<br>(36)   |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES (EXCLUDING NET ASSET<br>ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS)   | 5,059,795                            | 5,346,905                                 |
| NET ASSET VALUE OF THE FUND  | 185,909,504                          | 276,562,298                               |
| NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS   | 185,909,504                          | 276,562,298                               |

## UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 29 FEBRUARY 2024 (CONTINUED)

|  | <u>2024</u><br>USD  | <u>2023</u><br>USD  |
|--|---|---|
| REPRESENTED BY:  |   |   |
| FAIR VALUE OF OUTSTANDING UNITS  |   |   |
| <ul> <li>AUD Hedged-class</li> <li>MYR Class</li> <li>MYR Hedged-class</li> <li>SGD Hedged-class</li> <li>USD Class</li> </ul> | 13,892,003<br>29,069,048<br>112,347,760<br>12,109,891<br>18,490,802                     | 20,937,396<br>43,729,504<br>164,997,553<br>17,444,271<br>29,453,574                     |
|  | 185,909,504   | 276,562,298   |
| NUMBER OF UNITS IN CIRCULATION   |   |   |
| - AUD Hedged-class<br>- MYR Class<br>- MYR Hedged-class<br>- SGD Hedged-class<br>- USD Class                                   | 50,823,000<br>259,039,000<br>1,182,960,000<br>37,643,000<br>40,104,000<br>1,570,569,000 | 60,501,000<br>325,283,000<br>1,329,626,000<br>44,519,000<br>53,324,000<br>1,813,253,000 |
| NET ASSET VALUE PER UNIT (USD)   |   |   |
| - AUD Hedged-class<br>- MYR Class<br>- MYR Hedged-class<br>- SGD Hedged-class<br>- USD Class                                   | 0.2733<br>0.1122<br>0.0950<br>0.3217<br>0.4611  | 0.3461<br>0.1344<br>0.1241<br>0.3918<br>0.5524  |
| NET ASSET VALUE PER UNIT IN<br>RESPECTIVE CURRENCIES   |   |   |
| <ul> <li>AUD Hedged-class</li> <li>MYR Class</li> <li>MYR Hedged-class</li> <li>SGD Hedged-class</li> <li>USD Class</li> </ul> | AUD0.4203<br>RM0.5319<br>RM0.4502<br>SGD0.4325<br>USD0.4611                             | AUD0.5150<br>RM0.6029<br>RM0.5566<br>SGD0.5286<br>USD0.5524                             |

#### UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ASSET ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

|  | Financial<br>period ended<br><u>29.2.2024</u><br>USD                     | Financial<br>period ended<br><u>28.2.2023</u><br>USD                   |
|--|--|--|
| NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS AT THE<br>BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL PERIOD   | 239,516,825  | 286,833,250  |
| Movement due to units created and cancelled during the financial period  |  |  |
| Creation of units arising from applications  | 6,131,388  | 26,818,790   |
| - AUD Hedged-class<br>- MYR Class<br>- MYR Hedged-class<br>- SGD Hedged-class<br>- USD Class                                   | 260,915<br>2,253,093<br>3,045,526<br>133,259<br>438,595                  | 1,530,874<br>6,066,784<br>16,013,420<br>1,563,319<br>1,644,393         |
| Cancellation of units  | (38,855,105)   | (16,333,703)   |
| - AUD Hedged-class<br>- MYR Class<br>- MYR Hedged-class<br>- SGD Hedged-class<br>- USD Class                                   | (3,295,526)<br>(7,349,535)<br>(19,007,573)<br>(2,468,285)<br>(6,734,186) | (598,751)<br>(5,243,166)<br>(7,341,061)<br>(374,962)<br>(2,775,763)    |
| Decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders during the financial period   | (20,883,604)   | (20,756,039)   |
| <ul> <li>AUD Hedged-class</li> <li>MYR Class</li> <li>MYR Hedged-class</li> <li>SGD Hedged-class</li> <li>USD Class</li> </ul> | (1,279,248)<br>(2,225,204)<br>(15,013,416)<br>(1,000,877)<br>(1,364,859) | (2,818,953)<br>(2,212,685)<br>(13,703,156)<br>(652,590)<br>(1,368,655) |
| NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS AT THE<br>END OF THE FINANCIAL PERIOD   | 185,909,504<br>  | 276,562,298  |

AHAM Asset Management Berhad Registration No: 199701014290 (429786-T)