31 OCTOBER 2015

Portfolio manager: Dale Nicholls

### Performance over month in USD (%)

Fund 9.4 Market index 9.0

MSCI AC Pacific (N)

Market index is for comparative purposes only.

These figures relate to the fund's past performance, which is not a reliable indicator of future results. The value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and an investor may not get back the amount invested. Source of fund performance is Fidelity. Basis: nav-nav with gross income reinvested, in USD, net of fees. Other share classes may be available. Please refer to the prospectus for more details.

## Approach and Style

Dale Nicholls adopts a bottom-up stock selection approach, with a focus on companies offering the best value relative to their long-term growth prospects, returns on capital and the quality of their management. When assessing a company, he uses regular visits to understand how each of these factors will change over time and to identify company-specific risks. In particular, Dale has a bias towards firms with a sustainable competitive advantage, particularly among small and medium sized companies whose potential value has yet to be fully recognised by the market.

## **Market Environment**

Asian equities gained in October on the back of pro-growth measures introduced in China as well as in other regional economies. The prospects of further policy easing in Europe and Japan along with expectations of a delay in an interest rate hike in the US also supported sentiment. Chinese and Hong Kong equities rose as the People's Bank of China (PBoC) reduced its key interest rates and reserve requirement ratio for banks to spur growth. The PBoC also removed the deposit rate ceiling in a major step towards full interest rate liberalisation. Chinese policymakers discussed economic and development initiatives for the 13th Five-Year Plan at the fifth plenary session, with noteworthy emphasis on sustainable growth, changes to one child policy, opening the economy, and continuing focus on anti-corruption measures. Japanese equities also ended in positive territory. The Bank of Japan (BoJ) refrained from adding further monetary stimulus, but expectations remained that the government would step in with fiscal support lifted share prices. The BoJ pushed back the timing for achieving its 2% inflation target to the second half of fiscal 2016 citing the correction in oil prices, and highlighted the downside risks to economic growth and prices. Strong third quarter GDP growth and encouraging earnings from Samsung Electronics as well as from energy companies boosted the South Korean market. Indonesian and Thai stocks gained as policymakers introduced additional measures to support their economies. Singapore's central bank also eased its monetary policy, citing downside risks to growth. All sectors ended in positive territory.

#### **Fund Performance**

The fund outperformed the index in October amid improved investor sentiment following pro-growth measures introduced in China and other regional economies. The overweight stance in China/Hong Kong-based companies that benefit from changing lifestyle and consumer preferences added value. The position in Hutchison China Meditech was a key contributor to returns in light of successful clinical trials, including one that resulted in a milestone completion related payment from Eli Lilly. Reports that the stock could list on NASDAQ also supported its share price. The position in China Biologic Products advanced as it secured higher plasma supplies, reiterated its commitment to a healthy product pipeline and is expected to deliver strong quarterly earnings given a favourable pricing environment. In the consumer discretionary sector, education services provider New Oriental Education & Technology Group reported better-than-estimated earnings. Its shares also rose in view of an optimistic outlook given the company's high-quality teaching, measured capacity expansion and rising demand for tutoring in China. There were also expectations that the Chinese government would announce favourable education sector related policy changes in its 13th Five Year Plan. The position in clothing retailer Esprit Holdings added value after it reported positive same-store sales growth. News reports indicated that it is likely to enter a fresh growth phase in the coming year due to improved store efficiency. Elsewhere, selected holdings in Japan-based consumer finance providers that are gaining on the back of regional expansion proved rewarding. Positions in Japan-based Aeon Financial Service and Orix were among the leading contributors to performance. The former reported growth in credit card and cash advance transaction volumes and the latter delivered strong net profit growth aided by subsidiary sales and low credit costs.

#### **Fund Positioning**

Over the long term, the manager expects that the growth of the middle class and higher penetration of products and services in China will be significant growth drivers. The manager continues to look for companies that offer the best value relative to their respective long-term growth prospects, returns on capital and management quality. The fund remains overweight in China, with a clear focus on individual, stock-specific opportunities driven by reforms, urbanisation and a change in consumer preferences. Investment opportunities in "New China" are preferred, as these companies are likely to be driven by the natural evolution of the middle class. The fund retains its small to mid-cap bias as there are more under-researched stocks in this category whose potential value has yet to be fully recognised by the market. Even at a slower pace of GDP expansion, China offers better prospects than many markets in the West. Selected holdings in sectors such as e-commerce and health care are maintained from a medium to long-term perspective. The fund has an overweight stance in the consumer discretionary and information technology (IT) sectors. In October, the manager added interesting opportunities in the consumer segment, such as Macau-based casino operator Galaxy Entertainment Group and Indonesian cigarette manufacturer HM Sampoerna. The former is expected to gain market share and deliver better growth than peers, and its cost reduction efforts are expected to support profits. The latter has a solid cash generating business and is likely to continue to gain market share due to its strong brands. A new position in Japanese game software developer Square Enix Holdings will benefit from stronger growth in the smartphone segment and new games are likely to enhance its profit margins.



#### Attribution

Performance attribution is produced in the currency shown below. For funds with multiple share classes, the attribution return reflects the aggregate performance across all the share classes. It may therefore deviate from the published return for a particular share class. When using the analysis for hedged share classes, please consider that the attribution is shown before the impact of hedging.

The contributions shown in the tables are before the impact of charges. If charges are applied, their effect is captured in the "Other" category in the tables and will also be reflected in the fund return.

All investments, including derivatives, linked to a particular issuing company have been combined to form a total percentage for each issuing company.

The sector/industry and country contribution tables (where relevant) display a maximum of ten individual sectors/industries or countries. For funds investing in more than ten sectors/industries or countries, only top five and bottom five are listed, with the contribution from other sectors/industries or countries shown in the "Other Sectors" or "Other Countries" category.

Currency of attribution US Dollar (USD)

One month relative return (%) 0.57

Position Contribution (%) 1 month

TOP CONTRIBUTORS	Average Relative Weight	Relative Performance Contribution	TOP DETRACTORS	Average Relative Weight	Relative Performance Contribution
HUTCHISON CHINA MEDITECH LTD	1.0	0.32	SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO LTD	-2.2	-0.37
NEW ORIENTAL ED & TECH GRP INC	0.8	0.20	CHINA ANIMAL HEALTHCARE LTD	0.2	-0.24
CHINA BIOLOGIC PRODS INC	1.1	0.19	JIN CO LTD	0.7	-0.24
AEON FINANCIAL SERVICE CO LTD	1.0	0.17	DAOU TECHNOLOGY INC	0.8	-0.21
ESPRIT HOLDINGS LTD	0.4	0.17	HUANENG RENEWABLES CORP LTD	0.6	-0.15
ORIX CORP	2.9	0.14	SLATER & GORDON LTD	0.8	-0.12
CITIC TELECOM INTL HLDGS LTD	1.1	0.13	STARPHARMA HLDGS LTD	0.5	-0.10
CTRIP.COM INTL LTD	0.2	0.13	DESCENTE LTD	0.5	-0.10
CHINA LODGING GROUP LTD	1.0	0.11	AGTECH HOLDINGS LTD	0.4	-0.10
ZHEJIANG SUPOR COOKWARE CO LTD	0.5	0.10	JUBILANT FOODWORKS LTD	0.5	-0.09

Positions in other funds - including ETFs (Exchange Traded Funds) - can appear in this table, but index derivatives form part of an "Index / Unclassified" category which will appear in the table(s) below when relevant

## Sector/Industry Contribution (%)

1 month

## Country Contribution (%)

1 month

# CONTRIBUTIONS TO RELATIVE RETURN

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GICS Sector	Average Relative Weight	Security Selection	Sector/ Industry Selection	Total Relative Contribution		Average Relative Weight	Security Selection	Country Selection	Total Relative Contribution
Financials	-9.1	0.13	0.50	0.63	China	12.3	0.72	0.05	0.77
Consumer Staples	-2.8	0.24	0.16	0.40	Hong Kong	2.2	0.53	-0.01	0.52
Telecommunication Services	-2.6	0.37	0.01	0.38	Indonesia	2.9	0.09	0.18	0.27
Materials	-0.8	0.12	-0.01	0.12	Australia	-4.3	0.10	0.14	0.24
Consumer Discretionary	9.4	0.26	-0.15	0.11	Philippines	-0.4	0.08	0.03	0.11
Energy	-0.5	0.10	-0.01	0.09	Singapore	-0.4	-0.07	0.00	-0.07
Health Care	2.3	-0.04	-0.01	-0.05	Thailand	0.9	-0.06	-0.04	-0.09
Utilities	-0.6	-0.04	-0.03	-0.07	India	5.1	-0.32	0.00	-0.32
Industrials	-0.6	-0.04	-0.18	-0.23	Japan	-20.4	-0.24	-0.22	-0.46
Information Technology	5.1	-0.84	0.03	-0.81	Korea (South)	2.4	-0.55	0.05	-0.49
					Other Countries	-0.4	0.00	0.09	0.09
Total Primary Assets	-0.1	0.26	0.30	0.57	Total Primary Assets	-0.1	0.29	0.28	0.57
Other*	0.1			0.00	Other*	0.1			0.00
TOTAL	0.0			0.57	TOTAL	0.0			0.57

 $<sup>^\</sup>star$ Other includes portfolio components not already listed such as cash, expenses and other miscellaneous items.

# **PACIFIC FUND A-USD**

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