# VT HALO GLOBAL ASIAN CONSUMER FUND

## **January 2020 Monthly Fund Fact Sheet**



All Data at 12.00 GMT 31st January 2020

## **Portfolio Description**

The VT Halo Global Asian Consumer Fund aims to achieve an annualised total return before fees of 8-12% over the long term. This will be achieved from investing in companies globally which are exposed to the growth of the Asian middle class and the corresponding rise in their consumption

### **Fund Manager's Comments**

The Fund fell 4.6% in January, in a month that has been dominated by the outbreak of the novel Coronavirus that was first reported from Wuhan, on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019. The most direct comparable we have is the SARS outbreak 17 years ago where a sharp slowdown in GDP growth was swiftly followed by an equal rebound, once the virus was seen to be contained, resulting in only a modest impact on GDP. Markets followed a similar path back in 2003. However, we would like to point out that the level of connectivity in China is much greater today and on top of this the authorities have implemented some very strict travel restrictions leading to a potential supply side shock on top of the demand side one, which may take longer to recover. We expect the authorities to react accordingly in order to mitigate the negative impact and we have already seen the roll out of some counter cyclical measures to support the economy. China's macro policy was already turning more supportive prior to this and we believe it is important to keep some perspective. Ultimately, we believe the impact of the virus to be a temporary shock and that in the long run the Chinese economy will recover with little if no impact on its long-term growth potential.

The market reaction has been fairly typical with Chinese and Hong Kong equities the most impacted and within that discretionary consumption stocks hit the hardest. However, if we use SARS as a template the Hang Seng Index corrected by 17.8% from peak to trough, with the market subsequently recovering all its losses over the following few months. There are a number of variables we to continue to monitor, such as the level of containment of the virus in China and its mortality rate, which could cause a greater impact on stock prices before the expected recovery begins.

Consumption has become the main driver of the economy and the timing of this outbreak coincided with what it usually a seasonal peak for our tourism stocks, which comprise some 11% of the Fund. Hence we believe the impact to Q1 earnings may be material with some lingering effects into Q2 but ultimately the structural drivers for this sector and other discretionary consumption plays remain in place.

At Halo we are preparing a list of high-quality names to add to, in such areas as casinos, education and retail, which we believe have witnessed a disproportionate sell off and hence are most likely to recover. The spread of the 2019-nCoV virus has not changed our long-term view on our Chinese and China-related investments. More time at home is actually positive for some businesses. Online gaming has been resilient and we continue to be positive about the long-term potential of e-commerce in China driven by consumption upgrade and rising penetration. We ask our investors to be patient with us and to see this as an opportunity to further add exposure to high quality Asian companies with attractive long-term growth profiles.

On stock specific news, India and Vietnam have kicked off the reporting season. In India our two bank holdings HDFC and IndusInd reported results in line with expectations but showed a worsening credit cycle as the Indian economic growth slowed in last the 12 months. Our 3 holdings in Vietnam reported profits ahead of expectations with earnings growth ranging from 18% to 31% for 2019. All the shares though ended the month at lower levels and we will continue to add to these positions when appropriate.

### NAV 148.0

Investment Manager:

Halo Global Asset Management

**Fund Manager:** 

**Andrew Williamson-**

Jones

ACD:

Valu-Trac Investment Management Ltd.

Fund Type: UK UCITS IV OEIC

Launch Date: 3 Nov 2014

Classes: A, B, C

Base Currency:

Sterling

Dealing & Valuation:

Daily 12.00pm

Year End: 30 June

**Management Fees:** 

A: 1.15% p.a. B: 0.85% p.a.

C: 0.65% p.a.

ISIN:

A \$ Acc GB00BRJTG644
A £ Acc GB00BRGCDR64
A € Acc GB00BRWQWY25
B \$ Inc GB00BRJTG867
B £ Acc GB00BRWQWX18

B £ Inc GB00BKGCDS71 B € Acc GB00BK9WNR45

B € Inc GB00BK9WNQ38 C \$ Acc GB00BRWQX051 C \$ Inc GB00BRJTG974 C £ Acc GB00BRWQWZ32

C £ Inc GB00BRGCDT88 C € Acc GB00BK9WNT68 C € Inc GB00BK9WNS51

Asset Under Mgt \$69.8 m

Depository: National Westminster

Bank PLC

Dealing Frequency: Daily

Daily NAV available: Bloomberg,

Morningstar & Valu-Trac

Issued and approved by Halo Global Asset Management Itd Authorised and regulated by

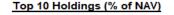
Financial Conduct Authority.

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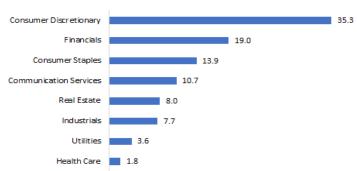


All Data at 12.00 GMT 31st January 2020

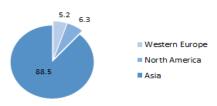




### Sector Allocation (% of NAV)



### Geographical Allocation %

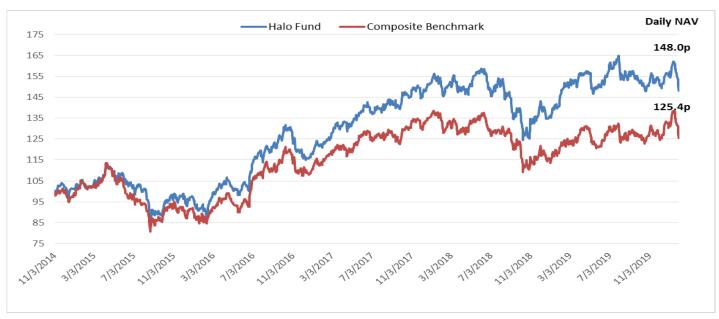


#### Market Cap Allocation % (USD)



#### **Fund Performance since Inception**

Performance data shown is of the B £ Net Acc. share class. Custom Benchmark, 30% MSCI AC Asia ex Jap Consumer Staples, 40% MSCI AC Asia ex Jap Consumer Discretionary and 30% MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Index. From 01/12/18 Custom Benchmark reduced Consumer Discretionary to 30% and added 10% Communication Services, due to reclassification by MSCI. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Data from Valu-Trac Administration Services and Reuters. This is for illustrative purposes only and in accordance with our Prospectus Halo does not benchmark against any index.



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