

# Platinum Asia Investments Ltd ASX PAI

## 31 March 2019

#### **Facts**

Portfolio value \$398.5 mn

Portfolio inception 15 September 2015

Current share price \$1.05 \$1.0961 Pre-tax NTA \$1.0807 Post-tax NTA

#### Fees

Performance graph<sup>2</sup>

Entry fee 1.1% p.a. of the portfolio value

Performance fee: Payable at 15% of the amount by which the portfolio's annual

performance exceeds the return achieved by the MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan Net Index

Performance <sup>1</sup>		
	Company % (Pre-tax NTA)	MSCI %
1 month	2.24	1.87
3 months	10.03	10.43
6 months	2.68	3.67
Calendar year to date	10.03	10.43
1 year	(0.56)	2.36
2 years (compound pa)	12.14	13.17
3 years (compound pa)	13.88	14.91
Since inception (compound pa)	9.01	11.29

\$35,000				
\$30,000	PAI (Pre-t	ax NTA) 35.7°	%	
	MSCI 46.0	0%		2/
\$25,000				
\$20,000				
\$15,000				
20	)15	2016	2017	2018

The Company's return is calculated after the deduction of fees and expenses, adjusted for taxes paid and any capital flows, and assumes the reinvestment of dividends. Returns are not calculated using the Company's share price

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Invested positions <sup>3</sup>			
	LONG %	NET %	CURRENCY %
China	8.1	8.1	8.1
China Ex PRC	35.2	35.2	
Hong Kong	9.7	9.7	29.7
Taiwan	3.8	3.8	3.5
India	12.7	9.1	10.3
Korea	8.4	8.1	8.3
Malaysia	0.4	0.4	0.5
Philippines	3.0	3.0	3.0
Thailand	4.3	4.3	4.4
United States	0.5	0.5	48.4
Vietnam	2.8	2.8	2.8
	88.9	84.9	
Australian Dollar			0.1
China Renminbi Off Shore			(19.1)
Cash	11.1	15.1	
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Long - 67 stocks Short - 2 stocks, 2 indices			

Top ten positions.			
STOCK	COUNTRY	INDUSTRY	%
Alibaba Group	China	Cons Discretionary	4.8
Ping An Insurance Grp	China	Financials	3.8
Tencent Holdings Ltd	China	Communication Serv.	3.8
Taiwan Semiconductor	Taiwan	Info Technology	3.8
Samsung Electronics Co Ltd	Korea	Info Technology	3.6
AIA Group Ltd	Hong Kong	Financials	3.5
Axis Bank Ltd	India	Financials	2.7
Kasikornbank PCL	Thailand	Financials	2.7
58.COM Inc	China	Communication Serv.	2.6
HK Exchanges & Clearing	Hong Kong	Financials	2.6

industry breakdown		
SECTOR	LONG %	NET %
Financials	26.1	26.1
Cons Discretionary	17.3	17.3
Communication Services	14.9	14.9
Info Technology	10.3	9.4
Real Estate	5.1	5.1
Consumer Staples	3.9	3.9
Industrials	3.6	3.6
Health Care	2.9	2.6
Other*	2.3	(0.5)
Utilities	1.0	1.0
Materials	0.9	0.9
Energy	0.7	0.7
* Includes index short positions		

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1. & 2. Source: Platinum for PAI returns and RIMES Technologies for MSCI returns. The returns are calculated relative to the MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan Net Index in A\$. The investment returns are calculated relative to the MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan Net Destance of the payment of the paym

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depicted in the graph are cumulative on A\$20,000 invested in PAI since inception. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns. It should be noted that Platinum does not invest by reference to the weightings of the index. Underlying assets are chosen through Platinum's bottom up stock selection process and as a result holdings will vary considerably from the make-up of the index. The index is provided as a reference only.

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3. China refers to securities or derivatives over securities, which securities are listed on the Shanghai or Shenzhen stock exchange. China Ex PRC refers to securities or derivatives over securities, which securities are listed outside of the PRC but provide exposure to PRC companies. The "Long %" represents the exposure to direct securities holdings and long stock/index derivatives as a percentage of PAI's portfolio value. The "Net %" represents the exposure to direct securities holdings and both long and short stock/index derivatives as a percentage of PAI's portfolio value. The "Currency %" represents the effective currency exposure of PAI's portfolio as a percentage of PAI's portfolio value, taking into account currency exposures through securities holdings, cash, forwards and long and short

<sup>4.</sup> The "Top ten positions" show PAI's top ten long positions as a percentage of PAI's portfolio value. Direct securities holdings and long stock derivatives are included. However, short stock derivatives are

### Market update and commentary

- There are signs that the Chinese economy has bottomed.
- Fiscal stimulus via tax cuts is continuing in China.
- Regional markets have rebounded but remain cheap.

Asian markets and the portfolio continued to produce positive returns in March. The Fund benefited from strong showings by various Chinese holdings (for instance Anta Sports, Ping An and Tencent), while our Indian private sector banks also performed pleasingly (Axis and ICICI in particular).

Early in the month markets needed to digest very weak economic data, especially from trade-exposed Korea: the OECD cut its growth expectation by 0.2% to 2.6% p.a. for 2019 (Morgan Stanley) and early export data for March indicated that Korean exports shrank 5% (Business Insider). None of this surprises us, with trade exposed economies likely suffering from the ongoing effects of trade uncertainty thanks to the antics of the Trump administration, with this possibly exacerbated by the effects of importers drawing forward orders in 2018 to avoid tariffs.

Markets seem to be "looking through" weak coincident data and we think with good cause. It seems clear that the Federal Reserve has paused in its tightening of monetary policy and China is clearly seeking to stimulate its economy, using coordinated fiscal and monetary stimulus. Indeed the situation from 2018 appears to have largely reversed, with the world's two largest economies now loosening and stimulating into a well-understood trade issue, rather than tightening into an under-estimated trade war.

In China, monetary loosening has probably run its course for now, in our view. However, Chinese authorities are now following on with pronounced fiscal stimulus.

The Ministry of Finance has promised to reduce the total burden of tax and fees by Rmb 2.0trn (around 2% of GDP) on an annualised basis (Xinhua), in addition to personal income tax cuts announced last year and implemented on 1 January 2019. Notably, China's income tax cuts are aimed at China's lower middle class, by allowing deductions for health, elderly care and education and increasing the tax-free threshold (CICC). Data in January and February indicate an 18% reduction in the income tax take across China and the nature of the tax measures announced will benefit lower-income earners most. Please do compare this to the nature of the tax cuts announced in the US.

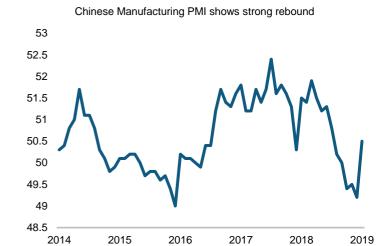
From here we shall see the impact of value-added tax (VAT) cuts on 1 April, directed at small and medium enterprises, and payroll tax reductions from 1 May.

These further tax cuts come as Chinese Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) showed improvement in March. Official manufacturing PMIs improved from 49.2 in February to 50.5 in March – the largest improvement since 2012 (Bloomberg).

The PT quarterly report will be available on our website on 17 April 2019.



Source: Credit Suisse, MSCI. Correct as at 1 April 2019



Source: Bloomberg. Correct at 5 April 2019.



Source: Bloomberg. Correct as at 5 April 2019