# Platinum Asia Investments Limited ASX: PAI

# MONTHLY REPORT 31 January 2022

# FACTS

Portfolio value	\$444.68 mn
Portfolio commenced	15 September 2015
Current share price	\$1.105
Current dividend yield	9.05%
Pre-tax NTA	\$1.2096
Post-tax NTA	\$1.1873
Maximum franked dividend	12.23 cps
NTA retained earnings & div profit resv.	19.55 cps

# PERFORMANCE<sup>1</sup>

	Company % (Pre-tax NTA)	MSCI %
1 month	2.6	0.0
3 months	3.5	0.7
6 months	1.5	(2.1)
Calendar year to date	2.6	0.0
1 year	(4.2)	(3.4)
2 years (compound pa)	13.0	7.1
3 years (compound pa)	14.5	9.6
5 years (compound pa)	13.0	10.9
Since inception (compound p	a) 10.3	9.7

PAI's returns are calculated after the deduction of fees and expenses, adjusted for taxes paid and any capital flows and assume the reinvestment of dividends. PAI's returns have not been calculated using PAI's share price.

# **INVESTED POSITIONS**<sup>3</sup>

	LONG %	SHORT %	NET %	CCY %
Asia-Pacific	86.8	(1.0)	85.8	89.7
China	44.8		44.8	44.8
Hong Kong	6.3		6.3	9.9
Taiwan	6.3		6.3	6.3
India	10.8	(1.0)	9.8	10.0
Macao	1.2		1.2	1.2
Philippines	1.7		1.7	1.7
Singapore	1.0		1.0	1.0
South Korea	9.6		9.6	9.6
Vietnam	5.2		5.2	5.2
Europe				0.5
United Kingdom				0.5
North America				9.8
United States of America				9.8
Sub-Total	86.8	(1.0)	85.8	100.0
Cash	13.2	1.0	14.2	
Total	100.0		100.0	100.0

Long - 58 stocks, 1 swap Short - 1 swap, 2 indices

# FEES

Management fee:

1.10% p.a. (excl. GST) of portfolio value\* plus

Performance fee:

15.00% p.a. (excl. GST) of outperformance over benchmark (MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan Net Index (A\$))

\*The portfolio value is the market value of the investments in the portfolio after the deduction of fees and expenses, adjusted for taxes, corporate actions and dividends.

### PERFORMANCE GRAPH<sup>2</sup>



Ars returns are calculated after the deduction of rees and	PAI (Pre-tax NIA)	87.2%
expenses, adjusted for taxes paid and any capital flows and	— MSCI	80.2%
assume the reinvestment of dividends. PAI's returns have	MOOI	00.27
not been calculated using PAI's share price.		

#### TOP TEN POSITIONS

STOCK	COUNTRY	INDUSTRY	%
Taiwan Semiconductor	Taiwan	Info Technology	5.7
Samsung Electronics Co	South Korea	Info Technology	4.6
Tencent Holdings Ltd	China	Comm Services	4.3
Vietnam Ent Investments	Vietnam	Other	3.9
ZTO Express Cayman Inc	China	Industrials	3.7
InterGlobe Aviation Ltd	India	Industrials	3.4
Ping An Insurance Group	China	Financials	3.4
China Resources Land Ltd	China	Real Estate	3.2
SK Hynix Inc	South Korea	Info Technology	3.1
AIA Group Ltd	Hong Kong	Financials	3.0
		Total	38.3

# INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN<sup>3</sup>

SECTOR	LONG %	SHORT %	NET %
Consumer Discretionary	17.8		17.8
Information Technology	16.2	(1.0)	15.2
Financials	14.8		14.8
Industrials	12.2		12.2
Real Estate	10.8		10.8
Communication Services	4.3	(0.1)	4.3
Materials	3.4		3.4
Consumer Staples	2.8		2.8
Health Care	0.7		0.7
Other	3.9		3.9

as a reference only.

as a relefence only. 3. The "Long %" is the exposure to long securities and long securities/index derivative positions, the "Short %" is the exposure to short securities and short securities/index derivative positions, each as a percentage of PAI's portfolio value. The "Currency %" is the effective currency exposure of PAI's portfolio as a percentage of its portfolio value, taking into account long and short securities, forwards and long and short securities/index derivative positions, each as a percentage of PAI's portfolio value. The "Currency %" is the effective currency exposure of PAI's portfolio as a percentage of its portfolio value, taking into account long and short securities, forwards and long and short securities/index derivative positions. For the "Industry breakdown", index positions (whether through ETFs or derivatives) are only included under the relevant sector if they are sector specific, otherwise they are included under "Other". 3. and 4. Country classifications for securities reflect Bloomberg's "country of risk" designations, and currency classifications for securities for a currency classifications.

4. The "Top ten positions" show PAI's top ten long securities positions as a percentage of PAI's portfolio value (including long securities and long securities derivative positions). All data where MSCI is referenced is the property of MSCI Limited ("MSCI"). No use or distribution of this data is permitted without the written consent of MSCI. This data is provided "as is" without any warranties by MSCI. MSCI assumes no liability for or in connection with this data. Please see full MSCI disclaimer in <u>https://www.platinum.com.au/Special-Pages/Terms-Conditions</u>



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### MARKET UPDATE AND COMMENTARY



- Perceptions of risk versus the reality.
- China's restrained monetary response to COVID.

Amid the volatility of January in many markets, Non-Japan Asian markets were calm, with indices in the region basically flat and the portfolio performing pleasingly.

#### Perceptions of risk versus the reality

At times, investors receive a reminder about what real risk is, as opposed to the perception of risk. China is a salient example of this. Over the last several years, we have been treated to a cacophony of voices reporting on political risk in China and foreign investors have abandoned the place in droves, we believe. But let us reflect on the nature of political risk in a place which states clearly what its policy objectives are, and then goes about achieving them.

We sold our holdings in Tencent and Alibaba in November 2020 because of clear regulatory statements. Let us quote ourselves from our update from that month:

"The proximal trigger came on 10 November when China's State Administration for Market Regulation released draft antitrust rules. This was especially notable as it followed a revision to anti-monopoly laws earlier this year that specified the monitoring of the impacts of internet companies on outcomes in markets in which they operate. Behaviour targeted by the draft regulation includes: predatory pricing practices; forced exclusivity to gain access to platforms; forced bundling of transactions; and price discrimination using data on individuals (Source: Government releases)."

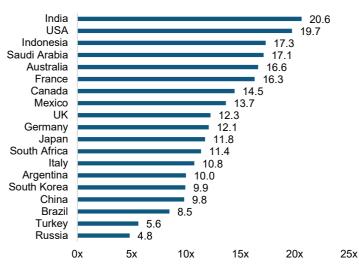
And yet we continue to see commentary regarding "political risk" in China.

#### China's restrained monetary response to COVID

We are struck by the restraint of the Chinese response to COVID in terms of monetary and fiscal policy. This contrasts markedly to the country's incredible splurge following the global financial crisis (GFC). Please see the accompanying chart of M2 (money supply) growth in China over the last 20 years. It is worth contrasting this with the accompanying chart of US M2 growth over the same period – note the colossal money supply growth there in response to COVID. In our view, the Chinese M2 explosion was not highly inflationary, indeed turned out to be deflationary, because it went largely toward productive assets like steel capacity, aluminium capacity, roads and bridges. However, it was very distortionary – resulting in serious bad debts in the banking system which the country has spent the following decade trying to address. In contrast the US experience has been a large increase in consumption and very strong inflation. What the longer-term outcomes will be we will not speculate. But it seems unlikely there will be no cost to pay for such monetary excesses.

Hence, when we are confronted by the consensus view that China is risky and the US is safe in terms of equity investments, we tend to disagree. Both places confer risks, which need to be assessed and priced. And we feel cautiously optimistic that we are being adequately compensated in price for the risks inherent in investing in China (please see accompanying valuation and earnings growth charts).





Source: Chart 1 – IBES consensus, in local currency. Correct as at 5 February 2022.



Source: Chart 2 – IBES consensus, in local currency. Correct as at 5 February 2022.



Source: Chart 4 - FactSet. Correct as at 5 February 2022.

Major market price-earnings ratios - Next 12 months