Ascend Asia Global Equity (SGD)

30 September 2025

Our Strategy

Following the 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the 2020 Pandemic, the flood of unprecedented liquidity and low interest rates in markets propelled prices of nearly all assets to record highs. Today, it is increasingly challenging for investors to achieve above-market returns using the “winning formula” of the past decade. The Ascend Asia Global Equity (AGE) strategy is designed for investors who are willing to avoid crowded markets and embrace volatility, to achieve above-market returns over the next decade.

100% Equity

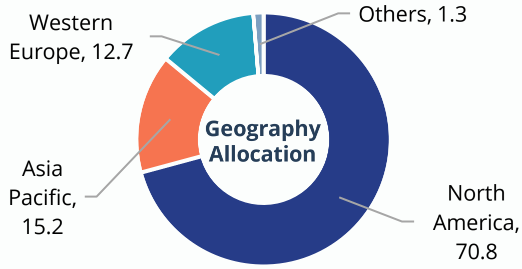
Invest Globally
No benchmark hugging
Maximize returns

≥8%

Capital Appreciation
compounded at 8%
target return over
longer term

FVT

Focus on **undervalued opportunities** with **good fundamentals** in sustainable trends



Others include Central Asia, Africa/Middle East, South & Central America, and Eastern Europe.

Taking Advantage of the Market Cycle

Just as in nature, there are also seasons in financial markets. Sowing and harvesting in the wrong season can be detrimental to any investment. Rather than trying to accurately predict year-on-year movements, we believe that capturing long-term cycles and trends brings a much greater impact for investors. There have been two important seasons in the past 20 years:

Emerging Market Season (2001 – 2010)

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Best	EM 13.8	Asia -5.6	EM 55.8	EM 25.6	EM 34.0	Europe 33.7	EM 39.4	Japan -29.2	EM 78.5	EM 18.9
	Asia 10.7	EM -6.2	Asia 47.7	Asia 22.2	Japan 25.5	Asia 32.4	Asia 36.5	US -37.4	Asia 73.2	Asia 18.1
	US 3.5	Japan -10.3	Europe 38.5	Europe 20.9	Asia 20.1	EM 32.1	Europe 13.9	Europe -46.4	Europe 35.8	Japan 15.4
	Europe 0.0	Europe -18.4	Japan 35.9	Japan 15.9	Europe 9.4	US 15.1	US 4.9	Asia -51.9	US 25.6	US 14.4
Worst	Japan -1.2	US -22.5	US 28.0	US 10.2	US 4.3	Japan 6.2	Japan -4.2	EM -53.3	Japan 6.3	Europe 3.9

In the first 10 years, EM topped the market 7 of 10 times, while the US was nearly always at the bottom.

Total Return: EM: 337.02% US: 8.63%

US market Season (2011 – 2022)

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
US 1.5	Asia 22.3	US 31.5	US 13.0	Japan 9.6	US 11.2	EM 37.3	US -4.9	US 30.7	Asia 22.4	US 28.2	Europe -15.1
Europe -11.1	Europe 19.1	Japan 27.2	Asia 2.8	US 0.7	EM 11.2	Asia 37.0	Japan -12.9	Europe 23.8	EM 18.3	Europe 16.3	Japan -16.6
Japan -14.3	EM 18.2	Europe 25.2	EM -2.2	Europe -2.8	Asia 6.8	Europe 25.5	Asia -13.9	Japan 19.6	US 17.8	Japan 1.7	Asia -17.5
Asia -15.6	US 15.2	Asia 3.4	Japan -4.0	Asia -9.4	Japan 2.4	Japan 24.0	EM -14.6	Asia 19.2	Japan 14.5	EM -2.5	US -18.5
EM -18.4	Japan 8.2	EM -2.6	Europe -6.2	EM -14.9	Europe -0.4	US 21.1	Europe -14.9	EM 18.4	Europe 5.4	Asia -2.9	EM -20.1

In the subsequent 12 years, everything flipped. US became the best performing market 7 of 12 times.

Total Return: EM: 11.22% US: 260.29%

Source: Morningstar. EM: MSCI Emerging Market Index. US: S&P 500. Europe: MSCI Europe. Asia: MSCI AC Asia Pac Ex Japan Index. Japan: MSCI Japan Index.

By identifying investments with good fundamentals and investing in them when their valuations are low (sowing) and taking profit when the opportunities mature (harvesting), AGE is designed to help investors avoid the possibility of “missing the season”, as the human tendency to chase past performance can prevent them from enjoying future strong returns.

Historical Performance

Calendar Return, %

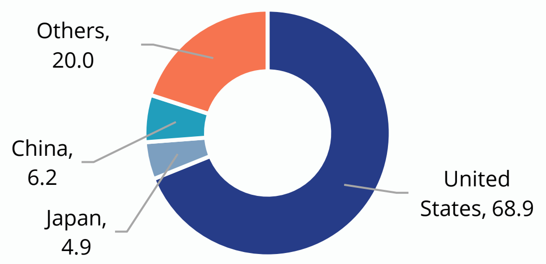
Class	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	YTD
A SGD	2.66	-2.25	-4.14	-1.54	5.55	3.90	1.48	1.53	2.68	9.90

Since January 2025, AGE has enhanced its investment approach to better capture short- to medium-term trends, while maintaining a focus on long-term growth. With tighter risk management and stronger alignment to upward market movements, the strategy is positioned to respond more effectively to market conditions and deliver more consistent, predictable returns going forward.

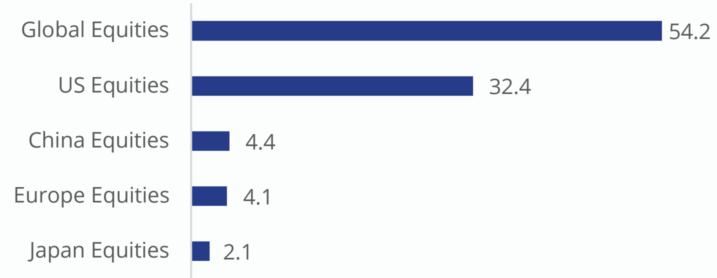
Past performance is not an indication of future performance. The value of the investment can go down as well as up and is not guaranteed. Source: Ascend Asia Asset Management. Share class performance is calculated using NAV of the share class with income reinvested and including ongoing charges, excluding any entry and exit fees.

Strategy Characteristics

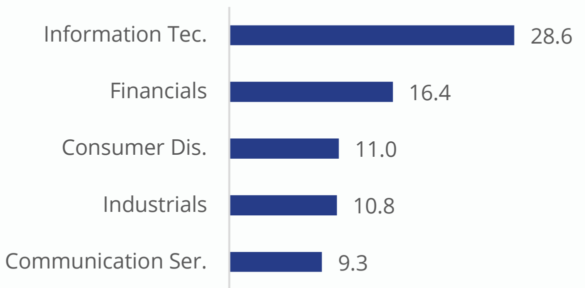
Country Allocation, %



Top 5 Market Allocation, %



Top 5 Equity Sector Allocation, %



Top 5 Fund Holdings, %

ISHARES MSCI ACWI ETF	29.2
ISHARES Core MSCI World ETF	25.1
Amundi Core S&P 500 Swap ETF	10.7
ISHARES U.S. Equity Fac Rotation Active ETF	5.6
ISHARES NASDAQ 100 ETF	5.2

Source: Ascend Asia Asset Management. Top 5 market allocation and fund holdings are at fund level. Geographical allocation and top 5 sector allocation are at portfolio look-through level. For illustrative purposes only and does not constitute to any recommendations to invest in the above-mentioned country/sector/security.

Discerning The Signals From The Noise

A three-pronged research process to identify signals that point us to **sustainable trends** which are underappreciated by the market, which come with **good fundamentals** and **attractive valuation**, with a higher likelihood of outperforming over the long term.

Fundamental

Study financial and economic data (e.g. GDP, unemployment rate, and inflation rate etc.) that may drive market movement to find opportunities with **good fundamentals** that are underappreciated.

Valuation

Picking the right valuation metrics (e.g. price-to-earnings, price-to-book, EV/EBITDA etc.) to spot **undervalued opportunities** and avoid overpaying for any investment with only good stories.

Trend

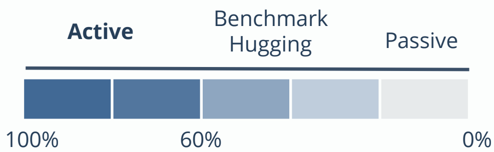
Seek inflection points in **sustainable trends** to capture overlooked opportunities and avoid less recognised risks (such as the end of a bond supercycle).

High Level of Active Management

Many actively managed funds underperform because they have a low active share. This happens when a portfolio's holdings are very similar to the referenced benchmark, a practice commonly referred to as 'benchmark hugging'. In contrast, **funds with a high level of active management may have greater potential for outperformance in the long run**, as there is no way any fund can outperform the market if they are investing like the market.

By investing in areas where we have the greatest conviction and applying it to our whole portfolio, we aim to provide better returns over risk through a full market cycle.

Target active share > 80%



Signatory of: PRI Principles for Responsible Investment

AscendAsia Asset Management

Market & Portfolio Developments

Commentary

Financial markets extended their gains in September, supported by growing confidence in an economic soft landing and confirmation of the Federal Reserve's first rate cut of the year. Financial assets across equities, bonds, and gold advanced. In this backdrop, AGE delivered a gain of 2.68% in September, extending year-to-date returns to 9.90%.

Goldilocks

As we enter the final quarter of 2025, the macro backdrop resembles a "Goldilocks" environment - growth is slowing but not collapsing, inflation is contained, and the Fed is once again cutting rates. Corporate earnings also remain resilient, helped by a broadening AI-investment cycle. This 'just right' backdrop is supportive of risk assets so long as a recession is avoided.

Our portfolio is positioned to continue to benefit from this positive trend, while maintaining a balanced regional exposure across Developed and Emerging Markets that will help us to be more resilient in the event of unexpected shocks ahead. Within Emerging Markets, our positions in China – which we prefer due to their more attractive valuations and improving fundamentals – have been contributing positively to overall performance amid growing excitement over the growing AI capabilities of Chinese companies such as Alibaba.

Constructive but Vigilant

We remain constructive but vigilant: taking a positive stance on equities while maintaining diversification and positioning in segments of the market with good risk/reward. Potential risks in terms of an unexpected growth shock or renewed policy volatility from the Trump administration could quickly challenge today's optimism and which we are monitoring closely (we wrote about the *'Three Bears' to watch out for in our recent market outlook*) Maintaining a nimble and prudent approach will be key to navigating the final stretch of 2025.

Fund Details

Item	Class A
Currency	SGD
ISIN	SGXZ58547654
Min. Subscription	SGD 1,500,000
Min. Subsequent Subscription	SGD 15,000
Max. Sales Charge	5%
Management Fee	1.58%
Fund Name	Millennium Equity Fund
Dealing Frequency	Daily
Inception Date	18 Jun 2021
Fund Focus	Global Equities
Fund Domicile	Singapore
Investment Manager	Ascend Asia Asset Management
Fund Administrator	Standard Chartered Bank
Custodian	Standard Chartered Bank
Auditor	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Trustee	Perpetual (Asia) Limited