
ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND (AAEJF)

AUDITED ANNUAL REPORT

For The Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024

ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND

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1. FUND INFORMATION

FUND NAME	Astute Asian (Ex Japan) Fund (AAEJF)
FUND TYPE	Growth
FUND CATEGORY	Equity
FUND INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE	<p>To achieved a steady income* and some prospects for capital appreciation in the long term by investing primarily in Asian markets excluding Japan.</p> <p><i>*please note that this Fund does not provide income to Unit holders.</i></p>
DURATION OF FUND	<p>The fund is open-ended fund.</p> <p>The fund was launched on 12 October 2007.</p>
FUND PERFORMANCE BENCHMARK	<p>❖ MSCI AC ASIA EX JAPAN (100%)</p> <p>(Source: MSCI website at http://www.msci.com.my)</p> <p><i>“The risk profile of the performance benchmark is not the same as the risk profile of the Fund.”</i></p>
FUND DISTRIBUTION POLICY	<p>Distribution is at the discretion of the Manager. If income distributed, it will be automatically re-invested via issuance of additional Units in the Fund.</p> <p>Generally, in the absence of written instructions from the Unit holders, income for the Fund will be automatically reinvested into additional Units of the Fund at NAV per Unit on income payment date. Unit holders who wish to realise any income can do so by redeeming Units held in the Fund.</p> <p>For reinvestment into additional units, no sales charges will be imposed.</p>

2. FUND PERFORMANCE

Summary of performance data is as follows:

	30.06.2024 RM	30.06.2023 RM	30.06.2022 RM	
Portfolio Composition:				
- Equity securities	88.53	96.13	90.47	
- Liquid assets and others	11.47	3.87	9.53	
Net Assets Value (RM)	1,693,763	2,881,064	3,524,923	
Number of Units in Circulation	7,446,926	14,744,682	15,014,475	
Net Asset Value per Units (RM)	0.2274	0.1954	0.2348	
Highest NAV Price for the period under review (RM)	0.2313	0.2331	0.2920	
Lowest NAV Price for the period under review (RM)	0.1819	0.1927	0.2302	
Total Return for the period under review (RM)				
- Capital growth	757,720	(312,190)	(706,549)	
- Income distribution	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Gross Distribution Per Unit (RM)	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Net Distribution Per Unit (RM)	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Total Expenses Ratio (TER) (%)	2.82*	1.96	2.46	
<i>*the TER for the financial year was higher compared with previous financial year as there were lower average net asset value of the fund.</i>				
Portfolio Turnover Ratio (PTR) (times)	1.07*	1.15	1.21	
<i>*the PTR for the financial year was lower compared with previous financial year as there were lower investment activities during the financial period under review.</i>				
	Total Return		Average Total Return	
	AAEJF	Index	AAEJF	Index
1 Year	16.38	11.69	16.38	11.69
3 Year	-22.28	-10.99	-7.43	-3.66
5 Year	-24.40	21.69	-4.88	4.34
Since Inception 28 November 2007	3.58	93.45	0.22	5.63
Annual total return for each of the last five financial year ended				
	AAEJF		Index	
30.06.2024	16.38		11.69	
30.06.2023	-16.78		2.26	
30.06.2022	-19.75		-22.07	
30.06.2021	7.38		32.80	
30.06.2020	-9.41		2.95	

Source: Bloomberg

*Notes:

1. Total returns as at 30.06. 2024. Total returns are calculated based on NAV per unit, adjusted for income distribution, if any.
2. The basis of calculation for the average total return is by dividing the total return by the numbers of years.

Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Unit prices and investment returns may fluctuate.

3. MANAGER'S REPORT

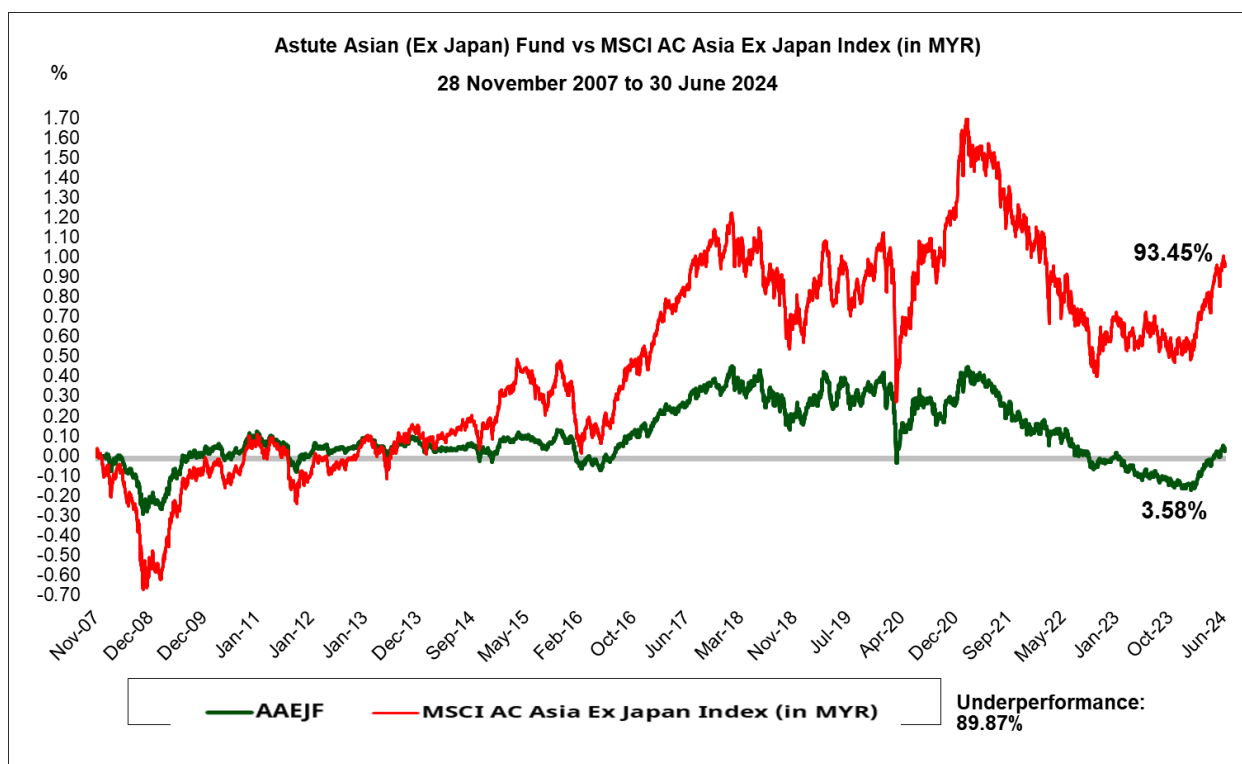
FUND'S OBJECTIVE ACHIVEMENTS

The Fund has not achieved its stated objective of capital appreciation over the longer-term via investing in Asia ex-Japan equity markets. For the year ended 30th June 2024, the Fund has achieved a total return of 3.58% since its inception on 28th November 2007. The benchmark return since inception was 93.45%.

PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

For the full financial year ended 30th June 2024, the Fund achieved a return of 16.38% against the benchmark return of 11.69%, resulting in an outperformance against the benchmark of 4.69%. The total NAV of the Fund decreased to RM 1,693,763 as at 30th June 2024 from RM 2,881,064 as at 30th June 2023. The decrease in NAV was mainly due to the decrease in the units in circulation.

PERFORMANCE OF ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND VS BENCHMARK INDEX SINCE 28 NOVEMBER 2007 TO 30 JUNE 2024 AAEJF HAS UNDERPERFORMED THE BENCHMARK INDEX BY 89.87%

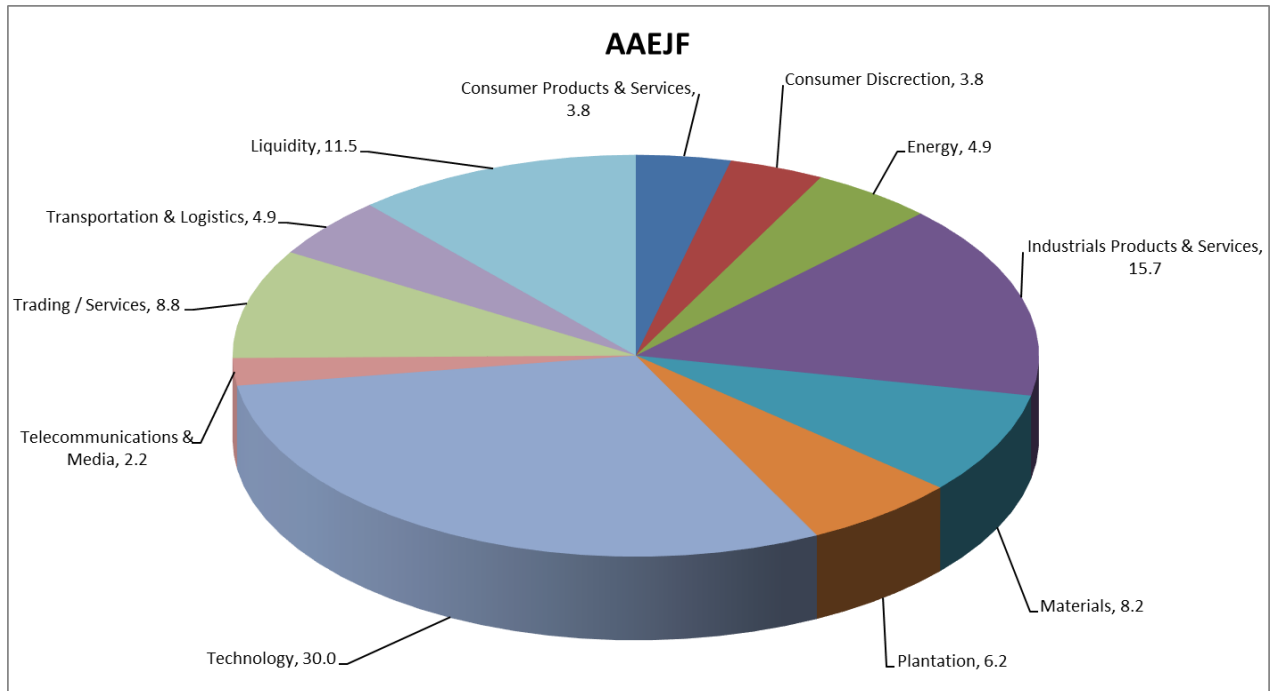


Source: Bloomberg

STRATEGIES EMPLOYED

The Fund adopts a top-down and bottom-up approach for its investment strategy, recognising that these are not mutually exclusive processes. The investment policy is to invest in companies that are seen to be undervalued as compared to its fair value in the expectation that their share prices will rise at some point to more accurately reflect their true worth. These companies are also likely to have a potential for earnings growth

ASSET ALLOCATION



ASSET ALLOCATION BY SECTOR ASAT 30 JUNE 2024

QUOTED SECURITIES	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Consumer Staples	-	0.8
Consumer Discretion	3.8	13.1
Consumer Products & Services	3.8	2.5
Communication	-	2.7
Energy	4.9	4.9
Exchange Product Fund	-	4.2
Finance	-	14.0
Financial Service	-	2.3
Healthcare	-	4.8
Industrial Product & Services	15.7	7.0
Info Technology	-	3.4
Materials	8.2	2.8
Plantation	6.2	3.2
Technology	30.0	23.5
Telecommunications & Media	2.2	-
Trading/Services	8.8	2.6
Transportation & Logistics	4.9	-
Liquidity	11.5	3.9
Utilities	-	4.3

MARKET REVIEW

The US Federal reserve hiked interest rates from 4.5% in February 2023 to 5.5% in July 2023. The robust US economy fuelled expectations of “higher for longer” interest rates. This put pressure on Asian currencies such as the Ringgit which fell to a 25 year low of RM4.79 in Sep-24. The latter in turn weighed down on Bursa Malaysia. Overall, the Ringgit declined by 1.0% against the USD to 4.72 in the period under review. The strong USD was a headwind for Asian equity markets.

The US 10-year bond yield ended 2023 at 3.88%, approximately the same level as the start of the year. The latter rose in 2024 due to a resilient US labour market. The 10 year yield peaked at 4.70% in Apr-24 before easing to 4.40% at the end of Jun-24. The resilient US economy provided strong support for US equity markets.

Between July 2023 and June 2024, Bank Negara kept the Overnight Policy Rate (“OPR”) at 3.0%. The KLCI declined by 2% to 1,455 in 2023. This was due to a lack of positive catalysts, unexciting earnings growth and a weak Ringgit. In 2023, foreigners net sold approximately RM2.3 billion worth of Malaysia equities. However, Bursa Malaysia rebounded by 9.3% in the first 6 months of 2024. This was driven by a confluence of data centre investments, robust FDIs, improved earnings outlook, reasonable valuations and local institutional buying.

MSCI Asia ex-Japan (MXAJ) rose 3.6% in 2023 and a further 8.9% in the first 6M of 2024. The key gainers were Taiwan, India and Korea in 1H 2024. China rallied by 20% from its low in February 2024 as sentiment on the equity market improved. In 2024, Beijing had rolled out a series of measures to revive the stock market and the economy including limiting short selling and promoting a new approach to real estate development while increasing construction spending. Also, the North Asian markets benefit from a bottoming out and anticipated recovery in the technology sector.

MARKET OUTLOOK

US 1Q24 GDP grew by a tepid +1.4% QoQ (3rd revision) in 1Q24. Recent US data show signs of a “Goldilocks” economy. Non-farm payrolls for Jun-24 came in at 206K, a tad higher than consensus. However, the surprise was the US unemployment rate for Jun-24 which came in at 4.1% (the highest since Oct-21). Other signs of cooler activity came from the core PCE numbers which increased by 0.083% in May-24 - the lowest increase since Nov-2020. Finally, June’s core CPI of 0.1% MoM for Jun-24 was below consensus expectations of 0.20%. The recent flow of “cooler” data in the US economy raised hopes of a FED rate cut as early as Sep-2024 and provided conditions for equity markets to stay buoyant.

Given that developed economies had raised rates by a wider margin than Asian economies, we expect the former’s rate cuts to be relatively more significant. In our view, this will eventually lead to a weaker USD and stronger Asian currencies moving forward.

We believe the technology sector in Asia will continue to do well. The bottoming out of the export cycle and the recovery in semiconductor demand led by artificial intelligence will support valuations. MSCI AC Asia ex-Japan is trading at a 2024 PER of 13.9x which appears reasonable vs its 10Y range 11.5x to 20.5x [Source: Bloomberg].

For Malaysia, we see a convergence in positive thematises such as data centre investments, FDIs, supply chain relocation, Johor special economic zone and recovery in E&E exports. These themes will support the KLCI for the remainder of 2024.

Finally, we believe the KLCI's valuations remain undemanding i.e. 2024 PER of 14.7x (10Y range 12.4x to 21.7x), PBR of 1.4x (10Y range 1.2x to 2.3x) and 2024 forecast DY of 4.1% (10Y range 2.7% to 5.3%) [Source: Bloomberg]. Our strategy is to invest in companies which have a combination of re-rating potential, strong management and positive catalysts such as earnings, dividends or corporate restructuring. We believe the Malaysia market is capable of trending higher in the coming months.

DISTRIBUTIONS

For the financial year under review, the Fund did not declare any income distribution.

STATE OF AFFAIRS OF THE FUND

There were no significant changes in the states of affairs of the Fund during the financial period and up until the date of the manager's report, not otherwise disclosed in the financial statements.

SECURITIES FINANCING TRANSACTIONS

The Fund has not undertaken any securities lending or repurchase transactions during the financial year under review.

DETAILS OF ANY UNIT SPLIT EXERCISE

The Fund did not carry out any unit split exercise during the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

CROSS TRADE

No cross-trade transactions have been carried out during the financial year under review.

SOFT COMMISSION

The Manager will retain soft commissions received from stockbrokers, provided they are of demonstrable benefit to the Unit Holders. The soft commissions may take form of goods and services such as data and quotation services, computer software and investment related publications which are incidental to the management of the Fund. Rebates, if any, will be directed to the account of the Fund.

During the period under review the Manager received data and quotation services and investment related publications which are incidental to the Fund investment.

4. TRUSTEE'S REPORT
To the unit holders of ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND



Maybank Trustees Berhad (5004-P)
8th Floor, Menara Maybank,
100 Jalan Tun Perak,
50050 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Telephone +603 2070 8833 / 2078 8363
Facsimile +603 2070 9387
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TRUSTEE'S REPORT

To the unit holders of ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND ("Fund")

We have acted as Trustee of the Fund for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 and hereby confirm to the best of our knowledge, after having made all reasonable enquiries, Astute Fund Management Berhad has operated and managed the Fund during the financial year covered by these financial statements in accordance with the following:

1. Limitations imposed on the investment powers of the management company under the deeds, securities laws and Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds;
2. Valuation and pricing is carried out in accordance with the deed; and
3. Any creation and cancellation of units are carried out in accordance with the deed and any regulatory requirement.

For Maybank Trustees Berhad
[Co. No.: 196301000109 (5004-P)]

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NORHAZLIANA BINTI MOHAMMED HASHIM
Head Unit Trust & Corporate Operations
Date: 26 August 2024

5. INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Crowe Malaysia PLT

20190800005 (L.P.0018817-LCA) & AF 1018
Chartered Accountants

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12, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng
50450 Kuala Lumpur
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Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **Astute Asian (Ex Japan) Fund** ("the Fund"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in net asset value and statement of cash flows of the Fund for the financial year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a material accounting policy information, as set out on pages 14 to 53.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the financial year then ended in accordance with Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence and Other Ethical Responsibilities

We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the By-Laws (on Professional Ethics, Conduct and Practice) of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants ("By-Laws") and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) ("IESBA Code"), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the By-Laws and the IESBA Code.

Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditors' Report Thereon

The Manager of the Fund is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements of the Fund and our auditors' report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements of the Fund does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

5. INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND (CONT'D)



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND (CONT'D)

Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditors' Report Thereon (Cont'd)

In connection with our audit of the financial statements of the Fund, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements of the Fund or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Manager and Trustee for the Financial Statements

The Manager of the Fund is responsible for the preparation of financial statements of the Fund that give a true and fair view in accordance with Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards. The Manager is also responsible for such internal control as the Manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements of the Fund that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements of the Fund, the Manager is responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Manager either intend to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Trustee is responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process. The Trustee is also responsible for ensuring that the Manager maintains proper accounting and other records as are necessary to enable true and fair presentation of these financial statements.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements of the Fund as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

5. INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND (CONT'D)



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND (CONT'D)

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (Cont'd)

As part of an audit in accordance with approved standards on auditing in Malaysia and International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:-

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements of the Fund, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Manager.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements of the Fund or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements of the Fund, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements of the Fund represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Manager regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

5. INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF
ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND (CONT'D)



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF
ASTUTE ASIAN (EX JAPAN) FUND (CONT'D)

OTHER MATTERS

This report is made solely to the unitholders of the Fund, as a body, and for no other purpose. We do not assume responsibility to any other person for the content of this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Cra".

Crowe Malaysia PLT
201906000005 (LLP0018817-LCA) & AF 1018
Chartered Accountants

Kuala Lumpur

26 August 2024

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Choong Kok Keong".

Choong Kok Keong
03461/11/2025 J
Chartered Accountant

6. STATEMENT BY MANAGER



STATEMENT BY MANAGER

We, **Clement Chew Kuan Hock** and **Y.M. Dato' Tunku Ahmad Zahir Bin Tunku Ibrahim**, being two of the directors of **Astute Fund Management Berhad**, do hereby state that, in the opinion of the Manager, the accompanying financial statements of **Astute Asian (Ex Japan) Fund** are drawn up in accordance with the Deed, Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards, International Financial Reporting Standards and Securities Commission Malaysia's Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position of **Astute Asian (Ex Japan) Fund** as at 30 June 2024 and its financial performance, changes in net asset value and cash flows for the financial year then ended.

For and on behalf of the Manager,

ASTUTE FUND MANAGEMENT BERHAD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clement Chew".

CLEMENT CHEW KUAN HOCK

Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Y.M. Dato' Tunku Ahmad Zahir Bin Tunku Ibrahim".

**Y.M. DATO' TUNKU AHMAD ZAHIR
BIN TUNKU IBRAHIM**

Director

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Date: 26 August 2024

6.1 STATEMENT OF AUDITED PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For The Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 RM	2023 RM
INVESTMENT INCOME			
Gross dividend income		63,794	129,566
Realised losses on sale of investments		(607,984)	(333,590)
Unrealised gains/(losses) on financial assets at fair value through profit and loss (“FVPL”)		757,720	(312,190)
Other income		1,942	1,294
		<u>215,472</u>	<u>(514,920)</u>
LESS: EXPENSES			
Management fee	4	33,734	47,510
Trustee's fee	5	1,125	1,584
Auditors' remuneration		7,410	6,500
Tax agent's fee		3,395	3,000
Administrative expenses		17,555	3,542
Transaction costs		16,077	26,793
		<u>79,296</u>	<u>88,929</u>
NET INVESTMENT INCOME/(EXPENSES)		<u>136,176</u>	<u>(603,849)</u>
FOREIGN EXCHANGE GAINS/(LOSSES):			
- realised		115,501	24,779
- unrealised		31	8,267
NET INCOME/(LOSS) BEFORE TAXATION		<u>251,708</u>	<u>(570,803)</u>
INCOME TAX EXPENSE	6	<u>(17,680)</u>	<u>(17,511)</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS) AFTER TAXATION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>234,028</u>	<u>(588,314)</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(EXPENSES) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		<u>234,028</u>	<u>(588,314)</u>
Total comprehensive (expenses)/income for the financial year is made up as follows:			
- realised		(523,723)	(284,391)
- unrealised		757,751	(303,923)

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

6.2 STATEMENT OF AUDITED FINANCIAL POSITION

At 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 RM	2023 RM
ASSETS			
INVESTMENT			
Quoted investments	7	1,499,433	2,769,474
OTHER ASSETS			
Sundry receivables		9,280	22,666
Bank balances		196,921	143,213
		206,201	165,879
TOTAL ASSETS		1,705,634	2,935,353
NET ASSET VALUE (“NAV”) AND LIABILITIES			
NAV			
Unitholders’ capital		1,850,771	3,272,100
Accumulated losses		(157,008)	(391,036)
TOTAL NAV	8	1,693,763	2,881,064
LIABILITIES			
Sundry payables and accruals	9	9,730	50,507
Amount owing to Manager		2,072	3,660
Amount owing to Trustee		69	122
TOTAL LIABILITIES		11,871	54,289
TOTAL NAV AND LIABILITIES		1,705,634	2,935,353
NUMBER OF UNITS IN CIRCULATION	8.1	7,446,926	14,744,682
NAV PER UNIT (“RM”)		0.2274	0.1954

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

6.3 STATEMENT OF AUDITED CHANGES IN NET ASSET VALUE

For The Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Unitholders' capital RM	Accumulated losses RM	Total NAV RM
Balance at 1 July 2022		3,327,645	197,278	3,524,923
Net loss after taxation/Total comprehensive expenses for the financial year		-	(588,314)	(588,314)
Contribution by and distribution to the unitholders of the Fund:				
- creation of units	8.1	60,815	-	60,815
- cancellation of units	8.1	(116,316)	-	(116,316)
- reclass of prior year realised foreign exchange losses from unitholders' capital	8.1	(44)	-	(44)
Total transactions with unitholders of the Fund		(55,545)	-	(55,545)
Balance at 30 June 2023/1 July 2023		3,272,100	(391,036)	2,881,064
Net income after taxation/Total comprehensive income for the financial year		-	234,028	234,028
Contribution by and distribution to the unitholders of the Fund:				
- creation of units	8.1	38,208	-	38,208
- cancellation of units	8.1	(1,459,537)	-	(1,459,537)
Total transactions with unitholders of the Fund		(1,421,329)	-	(1,421,329)
Balance at 30 June 2024		1,850,771	(157,008)	1,693,763

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

6.4 STATEMENT OF AUDITED CASH FLOWS
For The Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	RM	RM
CASH FLOWS FROM/(FOR) OPERATING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from sale of investments	3,174,432	3,564,856
Purchase of investments	(1,614,710)	(3,716,958)
Dividend income received	71,969	109,191
Management fee paid	(35,322)	(48,270)
Trustee's fee paid	(1,178)	(1,610)
Tax paid	(14,404)	(7,092)
Payment for other fees and expenses	(45,518)	(41,447)
Realised foreign exchange losses	(24,444)	(49,530)
Other income received	1,942	1,294
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH FROM/(FOR) OPERATING AND INVESTING ACTIVITIES	1,512,767	(189,566)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
CASH FLOWS FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from units created	38,208	60,815
Payment for cancelled units	(1,497,283)	(78,570)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH FOR FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(1,459,075)	(17,755)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN BANK BALANCES	53,692	(207,321)
NET EFFECT ON FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE	16	8,277
BANK BALANCES AT BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	143,213	342,257
	<hr/>	<hr/>
BANK BALANCES AT END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	196,921	143,213
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

6.5 NOTES TO THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For The Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024

1. THE FUND, THE MANAGER AND THEIR PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Astute Asian (Ex Japan) Fund (“the Fund”) was constituted pursuant to the execution of a Deed dated 12 October 2007 (“the Deed”) and the First Supplemental Deed dated 30 March 2013 between the Manager, Astute Fund Management Berhad, the Trustee, Maybank Trustees Berhad and the registered unitholders of the Fund. The Second supplemental deed dated 20 August 2013 (hereinafter referred to as the “Second Supplemental Deed” entered into between the Manager and AmTrustee Berhad. The Third Supplemental deed dated 3 August 2015 entered into between the Manager and the Previous Trustee, the Principal Deed was further modified to include a provision relating to goods and services tax. The Fourth Supplemental Deed dated 15 April 2016 between the Manager, Astute Fund Management Berhad and the Trustee, Maybank Trustees Berhad modified the appointment date for the change of the trustee from MTrustee Berhad to Maybank Trustees Berhad. The Fifth Supplemental Deed dated 22 April 2022 was executed for change of the Manager name and the Fund name. By a Sixth supplemental deed dated 11 January 2023 between the Manager and the Trustee, the Principal Deed was further modified to provide for the participation of Unit Holders in a Unit Holders’ meeting by any electronic communication facilities or technologies available and the amendments essentially entailed on the amendments to the provisions of the Principal Deed to be in line with the Guidelines on Unit Trust Funds revised on 28 November 2022.

The principal activity of the Fund is to invest in “Permitted Investments” as defined in the Seventh Schedule of the Deed. The Fund commenced operations on 28 November 2007 (commencement date) and will continue its operations until terminated by the Trustee or the Manager as provided under Clauses 12.1, 12.2, 12.3 and 12.4 of the Deeds.

The investment objective of the Fund is to achieve a steady income and some prospects for capital appreciation in the long term by investing primarily in Asian markets excluding Japan.

The Manager, Astute Fund Management Berhad, is a company incorporated in Malaysia. The principal activity of the Manager is the management of unit trust and wholesale funds.

The financial statements of the Fund are presented in Ringgit Malaysia (“RM”) which is the functional and presentation currency of the Fund.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors of the Manager on 26 August 2024.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements of the Fund are prepared under the historical cost convention and modified to include other bases of valuation as disclosed in other sections under material accounting policy information, and in compliance with Malaysian Financial Reporting Standards (“MFRSs”) and International Financial Reporting Standards (“IFRSs”).

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION (CONT'D)

- 2.1 During the current financial year, the Fund has adopted the following new accounting standards (including the consequential amendments, if any):-

**MFRSs and/or IC Interpretations (Including The Consequential Amendments)
/or IC Interpretations (Including The Consequential Amendments)**

MFRS 17 Insurance Contracts

Amendments to MFRS 17 Insurance Contracts

Amendments to MFRS 17: Initial Application of MFRS 17 and MFRS 9 – Comparative Information

Amendments to MFRS 101: Disclosure of Accounting Policies

Amendments to MFRS 108: Definition of Accounting Estimates

Amendments to MFRS 112: Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction

Amendments to MFRS 112: International Tax Reform – Pillar Two Model Rules

The adoption of the above accounting standards and/or interpretations (including the consequential amendments, if any) did not have any material impact on the Fund's financial statements except as follow:-

Amendments to MFRS 101: Disclosure of Accounting Policies

The Amendments to MFRS 101 'Disclosure of Accounting Policies' did not result in any changes to the existing accounting policies of the Fund. However, the amendments require the disclosure of 'material' rather than 'significant' accounting policies and provide guidance on how entities apply the concept of materiality in making decisions about the material accounting policy disclosures. The fund has made updates to the accounting policies presented in Note 3 to the financial statements in line with the amendments.

2. BASIS OF PREPARATION (CONT'D)

- 2.2 The Fund has not applied in advance the following accounting standards and interpretations (including the consequential amendments, if any) that have been issued by the Malaysian Accounting Standards Board (MASB) but are not yet effective for the current financial year:-

MFRSs and/or IC Interpretations (Including The Consequential Amendments)	Effective Date
MFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements	1 January 2027
MFRS 19 Subsidiaries without Public Accounting: Disclosures	1 January 2027
Amendments to MFRS 9 and MFRS 7: Amendments to the Classification and Measurement of Financial Instruments	1 January 2026
Amendments to MFRS 10 and MFRS 128: Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture	Deferred
Amendments to MFRS 16: Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback	1 January 2024
Amendments to MFRS 101: Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current	1 January 2024
Amendments to MFRS 101: Non-current Liabilities with Covenants	1 January 2024
Amendments to MFRS 107 and MFRS 7: Supplier Finance Arrangements	1 January 2024
Amendments to MFRS 121: Lack of Exchangeability	1 January 2025

The adoption of the above accounting standards and/or interpretations (including the consequential amendments, if any) is expected to have no material impact on the financial statements of the Fund upon their initial application expect as follow:-

MFRS 18 Presentation and Disclosure of Financial Statements

MFRS 18 'Presentation and Disclosure in Financial Statements' will replace MFRS 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements' upon its adoption. This new standard sets out the new requirements for the presentation and disclosure of information in the primary financial statements and notes. The potential impact of the new standard on the financial statements of the Fund has yet to be assessed.

3. MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION

3.1 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the process of applying the accounting policies of the Fund, the management is not aware of any judgements that have significant effects on the amounts recognised in the financial statements.

There are also no assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation of uncertainties at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

3.2 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Financial Assets

Financial Assets Through Profit or Loss

The financial assets are initially measured at fair value. Subsequent to the initial recognition, the financial assets are remeasured to their fair values at the reporting date with fair value changes recognised in profit or loss. The fair value changes do not include profit income.

Financial Assets at Amortised Cost

The financial assets are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except for trade receivables without significant financing component which are measured at transaction price only. Subsequent to the initial recognition, all financial assets are measured at amortised cost less any impairment losses.

(b) Financial Liability

Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

The financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value less transaction costs. Subsequent to the initial recognition, the financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

3. MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION (CONT'D)

3.2 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

(c) Equity Instruments

Unitholders' Capital

Unitholders' capital is classified as equity and recorded at the proceeds received, net of directly attributable transaction costs.

The unitholders' contributions to the Fund meet the criteria of puttable instruments classified as equity instruments under MFRS 132 - Financial Instruments Presentation. Those criteria include:-

- the units entitle the holder to a proportionate share of the Fund's NAV;
- the units are the most subordinated class and class features are identical;
- there is no contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial asset other than the obligation on the Fund to repurchase; and
- the total expected cash flows from the units over its life are based on substantially on the profit or loss of the Fund.

NAV Attributable to Unitholders

NAV attributable to unitholders represents the total NAV in the statement of financial position, which is carried at the redemption amount that would be payable at the end of the reporting period if the unitholders exercised the right to redeem units of the Fund.

Units are created or cancelled at prices based on the Fund's NAV per unit at the time of the creation or cancellation. The Fund's NAV per unit is calculated by dividing the net assets attributable to the unitholders with the total issued and paid-up units as of that date.

Distributions

Distributions are at the discretion of the Fund. A distribution to the Fund's unitholders is accounted for as a reduction from realised reserves. A proposed distribution is recognised as a liability in the period in which it is approved.

3. MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICY INFORMATION (CONT'D)

3.3 CLASSIFICATION OF REALISED AND UNREALISED GAINS AND LOSSES

Unrealised gains and losses comprise changes in the fair value of financial instruments for the period and from reversal of prior period's unrealised gains and losses for financial instruments which were realised (i.e. sold, redeemed or matured) during the reporting period.

Realised gains and losses on disposal of financial instruments classified as part of at fair value through profit or loss are calculated using the weighted average method. They represent the difference between an instrument's initial carrying amount and disposal amount.

3.4 INCOME TAXES

Current tax assets and liabilities are expected amount of income tax recoverable or payable to the taxation authorities.

Current taxes are measured using tax rates and tax laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period and are recognised in profit or loss except to the extent that the tax relates to items recognised outside profit or loss (either in other comprehensive income or directly in changes in NAV).

3.5 INCOME RECOGNITION

(a) Dividend Income

Dividend income from investments is recognised when the right to receive dividend payment is established.

(b) Realised Gains or Losses on Sale of Investments

Realised gain or loss on the sale of an investment is recognised based on the sale proceeds less cost which is determined on the weighted average cost basis.

(c) Interest Income

Interest income is recognised on a time proportion basis taking into account the principal outstanding and the effective profit rates applicable.

4. MANAGEMENT FEE

Clause 13.1 of the Deeds provides that the Manager is entitled to a management fee computed daily on the net asset value attributable to unitholders of the Fund at a maximum rate of 1.85% (2023 - 1.85%) per annum. The management fee recognised in the financial statements is computed based on 1.50% (2023 - 1.50%) per annum.

5. TRUSTEE'S FEE

Trustee is entitled to a fee at such rate as may be agreed from time to time between the Manager and the Trustee. The Trustee's fee recognised in the financial statements is computed daily at 0.05% (2023 - 0.05%) per annum of the net asset value attributable to unit holders of the Fund.

6. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

	2024	2023
	RM	RM
Current tax expense	10,785	17,511
Underprovision in the previous financial year	1,669	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	12,454	17,511
Foreign withholding tax	5,226	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17,680	17,511
	<hr/>	<hr/>

6. INCOME TAX EXPENSE (CONT'D)

A reconciliation of income tax expense applicable to the net income/(loss) before taxation at the statutory tax rate to income tax expense at the effective tax rate of the Fund is as follows:-

	2024	2023
	RM	RM
Net income/(loss) before taxation	251,708	(570,803)
Tax at the statutory tax rate of 24% (2023 - 24%)	60,410	(136,993)
Tax effects of:-		
Bilateral credit relief	(2,373)	-
Non-taxable income	(578)	(13,895)
Non-deductible expenses	18,407	21,343
Net non-deductible losses/(non-taxable gain) on investments	(63,664)	147,056
Underprovision of current tax in the previous financial year	1,669	-
Unilateral credit relief	(1,417)	-
Foreign withholding tax	5,226	-
	<u>17,680</u>	<u>17,511</u>

Domestic income tax is calculated at the Malaysian statutory tax rate of 24% (2023 - 24%) of the estimated assessable profit for the financial year.

7. QUOTED INVESTMENTS

		2024	2023
	Note	RM	RM
Equity investments, at fair value:			
- in Malaysia	7.1	796,475	581,775
- outside Malaysia	7.2	702,958	2,187,699
		<u>1,499,433</u>	<u>2,769,474</u>

7. QUOTED INVESTMENTS (CONT'D)

At 30 June 2024	Number of shares	At cost RM	At fair value RM	Percentage of NAV of the Fund %
7.1 EQUITY INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA				
<u>BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES</u>				
<u>MAIN MARKET</u>				
<u>CONSUMER PRODUCT & SERVICES</u>				
MSM Malaysia Holding Berhad	27,400	41,246	63,842	3.77
<u>ENERGY</u>				
Hibiscus Petroleum Berhad	36,000	108,305	83,880	4.95
<u>INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES</u>				
Kelington Group Berhad	42,100	84,070	143,982	8.50
Malayan Cement Berhad	10,200	34,441	50,796	3.00
SKP Resources Berhad	63,000	70,503	72,450	4.28
		189,014	267,228	15.78
<u>PLANTATION</u>				
Innoprise Plantations Berhad	74,500	134,207	105,045	6.20
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>				
Genetec Technology Berhad	16,000	35,332	35,840	2.12
SMRT Holding Berhad	129,000	122,559	121,905	7.20
		157,891	157,745	9.32
<u>TELECOMMUNICATION & MEDIA</u>				
Redtone Digital Berhad	35,500	34,456	36,565	2.16
<u>TRANSPORT & LOGISTIC</u>				
Malaysia Airport Holding Berhad	8,300	85,226	82,170	4.85
TOTAL QUOTED EQUITY INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA		750,345	796,475	47.03

7. QUOTED INVESTMENTS (CONT'D)

At 30 June 2024 (Cont'd)	Number of shares	At cost RM	At fair value RM	Percentage of NAV of the Fund %
7.2 EQUITY INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE MALAYSIA				
IN HONG KONG				
<u>CONSUMER DISCRETION</u>				
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.	1,500	94,617	63,862	3.77
<u>MATERIALS</u>				
Zijin Mining Group Co., Ltd.	14,000	100,777	139,332	8.23
<u>TRADING/SERVICES</u>				
CNOOC Ltd.	11,000	66,897	148,801	8.78
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG		262,291	351,995	20.78
IN KOREA				
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>				
SK Hynix Inc	260	118,177	210,603	12.43
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN KOREA		118,177	210,603	12.43
IN TAIWAN				
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>				
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	1,000	73,924	140,360	8.29
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN TAIWAN		73,924	140,360	8.29
TOTAL QUOTED EQUITY INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE MALAYSIA		454,392	702,958	41.50
TOTAL QUOTED INVESTMENTS		1,204,737	1,499,433	88.53

7. QUOTED INVESTMENTS (CONT'D)

At 30 June 2023	Number of shares	At cost RM	At fair value RM	Percentage of NAV of the Fund %
7.1 EQUITY INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA				
<u>BURSA MALAYSIA SECURITIES</u>				
<u>MAIN MARKET</u>				
<u>CONSUMER PRODUCT & SERVICES</u>				
Tomei Consolidated Berhad	69,600	85,507	72,384	2.51
<u>ENERGY</u>				
Hibiscus Petroleum Berhad	90,000	108,305	77,850	2.70
<u>FINANCIAL SERVICES</u>				
RHB Bank Berhad	12,355	74,975	67,088	2.33
<u>INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES</u>				
Petronas Chemicals Group Berhad	11,200	109,114	67,200	2.33
Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Berhad	17,700	108,088	83,190	2.89
		217,202	150,390	5.22
<u>PLANTATION</u>				
Innoprise Plantations Berhad	74,500	134,207	91,635	3.18
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>				
MI Technovation Berhad	19,500	29,351	26,910	0.93
<u>UTILITIES</u>				
Taliworks Corporation Berhad	117,200	106,912	95,518	3.32
TOTAL QUOTED EQUITY INVESTMENTS IN MALAYSIA		756,459	581,775	20.19

7. QUOTED INVESTMENTS (CONT'D)

At 30 June 2023 (Cont'd)	Number of shares	At cost RM	At fair value RM	Percentage of NAV of the Fund %
7.2 EQUITY INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE MALAYSIA				
IN HONG KONG				
<u>COMMUNICATION</u>				
China Mobile Ltd.	2,000	65,863	76,271	2.65
<u>CONSUMER DISCRETION</u>				
Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.	3,000	189,234	145,040	5.03
JNBY Design Ltd.	15,000	89,271	75,824	2.63
Samsonite International S.A.	5,400	64,347	71,055	2.47
Trip.com Group Ltd.	200	33,398	32,461	1.13
		376,250	324,380	11.26
<u>FINANCE</u>				
AIA Group Ltd.	2,000	88,517	94,192	3.27
China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd.	2,000	53,105	42,393	1.47
CSOP Hang Seng TECH Index Daily 2X Leveraged Product	16,400	64,760	45,269	1.57
Manulife Financial Corporation	800	70,197	69,590	2.41
Postal Savings Bank of China Co., Ltd.	10,000	31,050	28,698	1.00
		307,629	280,142	9.72
<u>INDUSTRIALS</u>				
Hainan Meilan International Airport Co., Ltd.	9,000	104,930	52,032	1.81
<u>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</u>				
BOE Varitronix Ltd.	6,000	60,213	40,297	1.40
<u>MATERIALS</u>				
Tianqi Lithium Corporation	1,600	75,393	51,967	1.80
Zijin Mining Group Co., Ltd.	4,000	27,218	27,388	0.95
		102,611	79,355	2.75

7. QUOTED INVESTMENTS (CONT'D)

At 30 June 2023 (Cont'd)	Number of shares	At cost RM	At fair value RM	Percentage of NAV of the Fund %
7.2 EQUITY INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE MALAYSIA (CONT'D)				
IN HONG KONG (CONT'D)				
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>				
PAX Global Technology Ltd.	25,000	86,983	88,417	3.07
Tencent Holdings Ltd.	600	124,318	118,461	4.11
TravelSky Technology Ltd.	8,000	58,532	63,350	2.20
Yeahka Ltd.	2,000	26,512	20,839	0.72
		296,345	291,067	10.10
<u>TRADING/SERVICES</u>				
CNOOC Ltd.	11,000	66,897	73,353	2.55
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN HONG KONG		1,380,738	1,216,897	42.24
IN INDONESIA				
<u>ENERGY</u>				
PT Bukit Asam Tbk	23,800	31,725	19,754	0.69
<u>HEALTHCARE</u>				
PT Industri Jamu Dan Farmasi Sido Muncul Tbk	617,000	180,913	139,492	4.84
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN INDONESIA		212,638	159,246	5.53

7. QUOTED INVESTMENTS (CONT'D)

At 30 June 2023 (Cont'd)	Number of shares	At cost RM	At fair value RM	Percentage of NAV of the Fund %
7.2 EQUITY INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE MALAYSIA (CONT'D)				
IN SINGAPORE				
<u>CONSUMER DISCRETION</u>				
Genting International Plc	16,600	60,435	53,801	1.87
<u>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</u>				
Aztech Global Ltd.	22,800	65,922	56,601	1.97
<u>UTILITIES</u>				
Sembcorp Industries Ltd.	1,500	28,047	29,738	1.03
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN SINGAPORE		154,404	140,140	4.87
IN TAIWAN				
<u>TECHNOLOGY</u>				
Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., Ltd	5,000	72,365	84,637	2.93
Mediatek Inc	1,000	105,706	103,062	3.58
Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	2,000	147,848	172,570	5.99
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN TAIWAN		325,919	360,269	12.50
IN THAILAND				
<u>CONSUMER STAPLES</u>				
Thai Union Group	13,400	30,243	22,823	0.79
<u>ENERGY</u>				
Banpu PCL - NVDR	37,600	65,989	43,935	1.53
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN THAILAND		96,232	66,758	2.32

7. QUOTED INVESTMENTS (CONT'D)

At 30 June 2023 (Cont'd)	Number of shares	At cost RM	At fair value RM	Percentage of NAV of the Fund %
7.2 EQUITY INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE MALAYSIA (CONT'D)				
IN UNITED STATES				
<u>EXCHANGE TRADED FUND</u>				
Proshares Ultra FTSE China 50	1,399	140,363	120,717	4.19
<u>FINANCE</u>				
Direxion Daily CSI 300 China A Share Bull 2X Shares	1,500	165,744	123,672	4.29
TOTAL INVESTMENTS IN UNITED STATES		306,107	244,389	8.48
TOTAL QUOTED EQUITY INVESTMENTS OUTSIDE MALAYSIA		2,476,038	2,187,699	75.94
TOTAL QUOTED INVESTMENTS		3,232,497	2,769,474	96.13

The foreign currency exposure profile of the above quoted investments is the total amount of the equity securities in each country's stock exchange as disclosed above.

8. TOTAL NET ASSET VALUE

	Note	2024 RM	2023 RM
Unitholders' capital	8.1	1,850,771	3,272,100
Accumulated losses:			
- realised reserve	8.2	(451,709)	72,014
- unrealised reserve	8.3	294,701	(463,050)
		(157,008)	(391,036)
		1,693,763	2,881,064

8. TOTAL NET ASSET VALUE (CONT'D)

8.1 UNITHOLDERS' CAPITAL

	2024		2023	
	Number units	RM	Number of units	RM
As at beginning of the financial year	14,744,682	3,272,100	15,014,475	3,327,645
Creation of units	191,861	38,208	281,796	60,815
Cancellation of units	(7,489,617)	(1,459,537)	(551,589)	(116,316)
Reclass of prior year realised foreign exchange losses to realised reserve	-	-	-	(44)
As at end of the financial year	<u>7,446,926</u>	<u>1,850,771</u>	<u>14,744,682</u>	<u>3,272,100</u>

8.2 REALISED RESERVE – DISTRIBUTABLE

	2024 RM	2023 RM
Balance as at beginning of the financial year	72,014	52,449
Net income/(loss) for the financial year	234,028	(588,314)
Net unrealised (gains)/losses on valuation of quoted investments transferred to unrealised reserve	(757,720)	312,190
Unrealised foreign exchange gains transferred to unrealised reserve	(31)	(8,267)
Realised foreign exchange gains transferred from unrealised reserve during the year	-	303,956
Net (decrease)/increase in realised reserve for the financial year	<u>(523,723)</u>	<u>19,565</u>
Balance as at end of the financial year	<u>(451,709)</u>	<u>72,014</u>

8. TOTAL NET ASSET VALUE (CONT'D)

8.3 UNREALISED RESERVE - NON-DISTRIBUTABLE

	2024 RM	2023 RM
Balance as at beginning of the financial year	(463,050)	144,829
Net unrealised gains/(losses) on valuation of quoted investments transferred from realised reserve	757,720	(312,190)
Unrealised foreign exchange gains transferred from realised reserve	31	8,267
Realised foreign exchange gains transferred to realised reserve during the year	-	(303,956)
Balance as at end of the financial year	<u>294,701</u>	<u>(463,050)</u>

9. SUNDRY PAYABLES AND ACCRUALS

	2024 RM	2023 RM
Accrued expenses	9,730	10,811
Current tax payable	-	1,950
Redemption money payable	-	37,746
	<u>9,730</u>	<u>50,507</u>

Redemption money payable represents amount payable to unitholders at the end of the reporting period for the cancellation of units.

10. TOTAL EXPENSE RATIO

	2024 %	2023 %
Total Expense Ratio (“TER”)	<u>2.82</u>	<u>1.96</u>

The TER includes annual management fee, annual trustee’s fee, auditors’ remuneration and other administrative fee and expenses which is calculated as follows:

$$\text{TER} = \frac{(A+B+C+D+E) \times 100}{F}$$

- A = Management fee
- B = Trustee’s fee
- C = Auditors’ remuneration
- D = Tax agent’s fee
- E = Administrative fees and expenses
- F = Average net asset value of the Fund calculated on daily basis

The average net asset value of the Fund for the financial year is RM2,245,178 (2023 - RM3,167,062).

11. PORTFOLIO TURNOVER RATIO

	2024 Times	2023 Times
Portfolio Turnover Ratio (“PTR”)	<u>1.07</u>	<u>1.15</u>

The PTR is derived from the following calculation:

$$\text{PTR} = \frac{(\text{Total acquisitions for the financial year} + \text{total disposals for the financial year}) \div 2}{\text{Average net asset value of the Fund for the financial year calculated on daily basis}}$$

Where,

- total acquisitions for the financial year = RM1,614,710 (2023 - RM3,716,958)
- total disposals for the financial year = RM3,174,432 (2023 - RM3,564,856)

12. OPERATING SEGMENTS

Operating segments are prepared in a manner consistent with the internal reporting provided to the Fund Manager as its chief investment decision maker in order to allocate resources to segments and to assess their performance.

The Fund Manager requires such information to allocate the resources more effectively to the following two segments:-

- 12.1 Geographical segment - allocate resources to invest in various countries within Asia excluding Japan; and
- 12.2 Investment segment - allocate resources to invest in quoted investments and liquid assets.

Investment segment has not been presented as the investments of the Fund are mainly concentrated on equity securities.

12. OPERATING SEGMENTS (CONT'D)

GEOGRAPHICAL SEGMENTS

The following table provides an analysis of the results and assets by geographical segments:-

2024	Malaysia RM	Hong Kong RM	Taiwan RM	United States RM	Other countries RM	Total RM
INVESTMENT INCOME/ (LOSS)						
Segment income/(loss) representing segment results:-						
Gross dividend income	17,501	15,210	6,783	7,922	16,378	63,794
Realised (losses)/gains on sale of investments	(9,527)	(332,810)	17,741	(126,069)	(157,319)	(607,984)
Unrealised gains on valuation of investments	220,813	253,547	32,086	61,718	189,556	757,720
Other income	1,942	-	-	-	-	1,942
	230,729	(64,053)	56,610	(56,429)	48,615	215,472
Unallocated expenditure						(79,296)
Net investment income						136,176
Foreign exchange gains/ (losses):						
- realised	-	88,455	4,915	1,812	20,319	115,501
- unrealised	-	(69)	27	16	57	31
	-	88,386	4,942	1,828	20,376	115,532
Net income before taxation						251,708
Income tax expense						(17,680)
Net income after taxation						234,028

12. OPERATING SEGMENTS (CONT'D)

GEOGRAPHICAL SEGMENTS (CONT'D)

2024	Malaysia RM	Hong Kong RM	Taiwan RM	United States RM	Other countries RM	Total RM
ASSETS						
Investments:-						
Quoted investments/ Segmental assets	796,475	351,995	140,360	-	210,603	1,499,433
						<hr/>
Other assets - unallocated						206,201
						<hr/>
Total assets						1,705,634
						<hr/>
LIABILITIES						
Unallocated liabilities						11,871
						<hr/>

12. OPERATING SEGMENTS (CONT'D)

GEOGRAPHICAL SEGMENTS (CONT'D)

2023	Malaysia RM	Hong Kong RM	Taiwan RM	United States RM	Other Countries RM	Total RM
INVESTMENT INCOME/ (LOSS)						
Segment income/(loss) representing segment results:-						
Gross dividend income	45,408	30,254	13,445	2,997	37,462	129,566
Realised gains/(losses) on sale of investments	59,460	(306,900)	(19,759)	-	(66,391)	(333,590)
Unrealised (losses)/gains on valuation of investments	(65,905)	(177,338)	34,350	(61,718)	(41,579)	(312,190)
Other income	1,294	-	-	-	-	1,294
	40,257	(453,984)	28,036	(58,721)	(70,508)	(514,920)
Unallocated expenditure						(88,929)
Net investment expenses						(603,849)
Foreign exchange gains/ (losses):						
- realised	-	60,829	(2,059)	(41,030)	7,039	24,779
- unrealised	-	4	(28)	8,344	(53)	8,267
	-	60,833	(2,087)	(32,686)	6,986	33,046
Net loss before taxation						(570,803)
Income tax expense						(17,511)
Net loss after taxation						(588,314)

12. OPERATING SEGMENTS (CONT'D)

GEOGRAPHICAL SEGMENTS (CONT'D)

2023	Malaysia RM	Hong Kong RM	Taiwan RM	United States RM	Other Countries RM	Total RM
ASSETS						
Investments:-						
Quoted investments/ Segmental assets	581,775	1,216,897	360,269	244,389	366,144	2,769,474
Other assets - unallocated						165,879
Total assets						2,935,353
LIABILITIES						
Unallocated liabilities						54,289

13. UNITS HELD BY THE MANAGER AND DIRECTORS OF THE MANAGER

There were no stocks held by the Manager or directors of the Manager as at 30 June 2024.

14. TRANSACTIONS BY THE FUND WITH BROKERS

Transactions by the Fund with brokers during the financial year are as follows:-

2024

	Value of trade		Brokerage fee	
	RM	%	RM	%
Maybank Investment Bank Berhad	1,193,136	26.13	2,405	24.16
DBS Vickers Securities (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.	1,000,405	21.91	2,658	26.70
CCB International (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.	950,886	20.82	1,905	19.14
Affin Hwang Investment Bank Berhad	674,377	14.77	1,564	15.71
CGS International Securities Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.	499,748	10.94	1,004	10.09
Hong Leong Investment Bank Berhad	180,303	3.95	283	2.84
CCB International Securities Limited	67,596	1.48	137	1.36
	<u>4,566,451</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>9,956</u>	<u>100.00</u>

2023

	Value of trade		Brokerage fee	
	RM	%	RM	%
DBS Vickers Securities (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.	2,684,088	38.29	7,431	44.09
CCB International (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.	1,259,789	17.98	2,517	14.93
Affin Hwang Investment Bank Berhad	1,196,000	17.06	2,680	15.90
CIMB Investment Bank Berhad	993,399	14.17	2,151	12.76
Maybank Investment Bank Berhad	710,905	10.14	1,553	9.21
Hong Leong Investment Bank Berhad	132,582	1.89	459	2.72
CCB International Securities Limited	32,968	0.47	66	0.39
	<u>7,009,731</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>16,857</u>	<u>100.00</u>

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

15.1 IDENTITIES OF RELATED PARTIES

- (a) The Fund has related party relationships with its Manager, Astute Fund Management Berhad and Trustee, Maybank Trustees Berhad; and
- (b) The Fund also had related party relationship with person related to the Director of the Manager.

15.2 In addition to the balances detailed elsewhere in the financial statements, the Fund carried out the following transactions with the related parties during the financial year:-

	2024		2023	
	RM		RM	
Astute Fund Management Berhad:				
- management fee	33,734		47,510	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Maybank Trustees Berhad:				
- trustee's fee	1,125		1,584	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
	2024		2023	
	Units	RM	Units	RM
<u>Person related to the Director of the Manager</u>				
- redemption of units in the Fund	1,874,109	351,708	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

15.3 Units of the Fund at market value held by related parties at the end of reporting period are as follows:-

	2024		2023	
	Units	RM	Units	RM
Person related to the Director of the Manager	-	-	1,874,109	366,201
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The person related to the Director of the Manager are legal and beneficial owner of the units.

16. FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The principal closing foreign exchange rates used (expressed on the basis of one unit of foreign currency to RM equivalent) for the translation of foreign currency balances at the end of the reporting period are as follows:-

	2024	2023
	RM	RM
Hong Kong Dollar	0.6039	0.5954
Indonesian Rupiah	-	0.0003
Singapore Dollar	3.4795	3.4479
Taiwan Dollar	0.1453	0.1498
Thai Baht	-	0.1320
United States Dollar	4.7157	4.6660

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The activities of the Fund are exposed to a variety of market risk (including foreign currency risk, interest rate risk and equity price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Fund's overall financial risk management policy focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Fund.

17.1 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES

The policies in respect of the major areas of treasury activity are as follows:-

(a) Foreign Currency Risk

The Fund is exposed to foreign currency risk on transactions and balances that are denominated in currencies other than Ringgit Malaysia. The major currencies giving rise to this risk are primarily Hong Kong, Taiwan, United States and others. Foreign currency risk is monitored closely on an ongoing basis to ensure that the net exposure is at an acceptable level.

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.1 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES (CONT'D)

(a) Foreign Currency Risk (Cont'd)

The exposure to foreign currencies risk based on the carrying amounts of the financial instruments at the end of the reporting period is summarised below:-

Foreign Currency Exposure

2024	Hong Kong Dollar RM	Taiwan Dollar RM	United States Dollar RM	Other Currencies RM	Ringgit Malaysia RM	Total RM
<u>Financial Assets</u>						
Quoted investments	351,995	140,360	-	210,603	796,475	1,499,433
Sundry receivables	3,946	403	1,468	1,901	1,562	9,280
Bank balances	-	-	167,858	4,541	24,522	196,921
	355,941	140,763	169,326	217,045	822,559	1,705,634
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>						
Sundry payables and accruals	-	-	-	-	9,730	9,730
Amount owing to Manager	-	-	-	-	2,072	2,072
Amount owing to Trustee	-	-	-	-	69	69
	-	-	-	-	11,871	11,871
Net financial assets	355,941	140,763	169,326	217,045	810,688	1,693,763
Less: Net financial assets denominated in the fund's functional currency	-	-	-	-	(810,688)	(810,688)
Currency Exposure	355,941	140,763	169,326	217,045	-	883,075

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.1 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES (CONT'D)

(a) Foreign Currency Risk (Cont'd)

Foreign Currency Exposure (Cont'd)

2023	Hong Kong Dollar RM	Taiwan Dollar RM	United States Dollar RM	Other Currencies RM	Ringgit Malaysia RM	Total RM
<u>Financial Assets</u>						
Quoted investments	1,216,897	360,269	244,389	366,144	581,775	2,769,474
Sundry receivables	4,648	10,085	-	7,258	675	22,666
Bank Balances	8,355	-	85,555	2,141	47,162	143,213
	1,229,900	370,354	329,944	375,543	629,612	2,935,353
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>						
Sundry payables and accruals	-	-	-	-	50,507	50,507
Amount owing to Manager	-	-	-	-	3,660	3,660
Amount owing to Trustee	-	-	-	-	122	122
	-	-	-	-	54,289	54,289
Net financial assets	1,229,900	370,354	329,944	375,543	575,323	2,881,064
Less: Net financial assets denominated in the fund's functional currency	-	-	-	-	(575,323)	(575,323)
Currency Exposure	1,229,900	370,354	329,944	375,543	-	2,305,741

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.1 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES (CONT'D)

(a) Foreign Currency Risk (Cont'd)

Foreign Currency Risk Sensitivity Analysis

The following table details the sensitivity analysis to a reasonably possible change in the foreign currencies at the end of the reporting period, with all other variables held constant:-

	2024	
	Effect On Net Income After Taxation Increase/ (Decrease) RM	Effect On NAV Attributable To Unitholders Increase/ (Decrease) RM
Hong Kong Dollar:		
- strengthened by 5%	17,797	17,797
- weakened by 5%	(17,797)	(17,797)
Taiwan Dollar:		
- strengthened by 5%	7,038	7,038
- weakened by 5%	(7,038)	(7,038)
United States Dollar:		
- strengthened by 5%	8,466	8,466
- weakened by 5%	(8,466)	(8,466)
Others:		
- strengthened by 5%	10,852	-
- weakened by 5%	(10,852)	-

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.1 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES (CONT'D)

(a) Foreign Currency Risk (Cont'd)

Foreign Currency Risk Sensitivity Analysis (Cont'd)

	2023	
	Effect On Net Loss After Taxation (Increase)/ Decrease RM	Effect On NAV Attributable To Unitholders Increase/ (Decrease) RM
Hong Kong Dollar:		
- strengthened by 5%	(61,495)	61,495
- weakened by 5%	61,495	(61,495)
Taiwan Dollar:		
- strengthened by 5%	(18,518)	18,518
- weakened by 5%	18,518	(18,518)
United States Dollar:		
- strengthened by 5%	(16,497)	16,497
- weakened by 5%	16,497	(16,497)
Others:		
- strengthened by 5%	(18,777)	18,777
- weakened by 5%	18,777	(18,777)

(b) Interest Rate Risk

Cash and other fixed income securities are particularly sensitive to movements in interest rates. When interest rate rises, the return on cash and the value of fixed income securities will rise whilst it will be vice versa if there is a fall, thus affecting the NAV of the Fund.

The Fund does not have any significant balances which are subject to interest rate risk as defined in MFRS 7, hence is not exposed to interest rate risk.

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.1 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES (CONT'D)

(c) Particular Stock Risk

Any major price fluctuations of a particular stock invested by the Fund may adversely or favourably impact the NAV of the Fund. However, due to the diversification nature of the unit trust, the impact would not be as major as investing in one particular stock.

Particular stock risk sensitivity

Particular stock risk sensitivity is not presented as a reasonable possible change in any one equity index will not have a significant impact on the financial performance of the Fund.

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17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.1 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES (CONT'D)

(c) Particular Stock Risk (Cont'd)

Particular stock risk concentration

The Fund's concentration of equity price risk analysed by the Fund's equity instruments by sector is as follows:-

	2024		2023	
	RM	As a % of NAV	RM	As a % of NAV
Technology	508,708	30.04	678,246	23.53
Industrial Products and Services	267,228	15.78	150,390	5.22
Trading/Services	148,801	8.78	73,353	2.55
Materials	139,332	8.23	79,355	2.75
Plantation	105,045	6.20	91,635	3.18
Energy	83,880	4.95	141,539	4.92
Transport & Logistic	82,170	4.85	-	-
Consumer Discretion	63,862	3.77	378,181	13.13
Consumer Products & Services	63,842	3.77	72,384	2.51
Telecommunication & Media	36,565	2.16	-	-
Communication	-	-	76,271	2.65
Consumer Staples	-	-	22,823	0.79
Exchange Traded Fund	-	-	120,717	4.19
Financial services	-	-	67,088	2.33
Finance	-	-	403,814	14.01
Health Care	-	-	139,492	4.84
Industrials	-	-	52,032	1.81
Information Technology	-	-	96,898	3.37
Utilities	-	-	125,256	4.35
	1,499,433	88.53	2,769,474	96.13

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.1 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES (CONT'D)

(d) Liquidity and Cash Flows Risk

Liquidity risk refers to the ease to convert investments into cash without significantly incurring loss in value. Stocks issued by smaller companies will face a greater chance of liquidity risk as compared to stocks issued by larger companies. When investing in stocks of smaller companies, the historical volume traded would be analysed to minimise the liquidity risk.

(e) Fund Manager's Risk

The performance of the Fund is also influenced by the expertise of the Fund Manager. The investment committee will oversee the activities and performance of the Fund Manager. There is also the risk that the Fund Manager does not adhere to the investment mandate of the Fund. The investment committee and the compliance unit hold primary functions to ensure that the Fund's investment strategy and mandate are adhered to. A compliance checklist and investment performance report shall be presented for review during the investment committee meeting.

(f) Credit Risk

The exposure to credit risk, or the risk of counterparties defaulting, arises mainly from sundry receivables.

(i) Credit Risk Concentration Profile

The Fund does not have any major concentration of credit risk related to any individual customer or counterparty.

(ii) Maximum Exposure to Credit Risk

As the Fund does not hold any collateral, the maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of the financial assets as at the end of the reporting period.

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.1 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES (CONT'D)

(f) Credit Risk (Cont'd)

(i) Assessment of Impairment Losses

At each reporting date, the Fund assesses whether any of the financial assets at amortised cost are credit impaired.

The gross carrying amounts of the financial assets are written off against the associated impairment, if any, when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery despite the fact that they are still subject to enforcement activities.

Receivables

The Fund applies the simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected loss allowance for all receivables. No expected credit loss is recognised as it is negligible.

A financial asset is credit impaired when the receivable is in significant financial difficulties.

The Fund considers a receivable to be in default when the receivable is unlikely to repay its debt to the Fund in full or is more than 90 days past due.

Bank Balances

The Fund considers the licensed banks have low credit risks. In addition, some of the bank balances are insured by Government agencies. Therefore, the Fund is of the view that the loss allowance is immaterial and hence, it is not provided for.

17.2 CAPITAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Manager of the Fund manages the capital of the Fund by maintaining an optimal capital structure so as to support its businesses and maximise unitholders value. To achieve this objective, the Manager may make adjustments to the capital structure in view of changes in economic conditions, such as adjusting the amount of dividend payment, returning of capital to unitholders or undertake a unit splitting exercise to lower the value per unit of the Fund, thus the units become more affordable to raise more funds.

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.3 CLASSIFICATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2024	2023
	RM	RM
Financial Assets		
<u>Mandatorily at FVPL</u>		
Quoted investments	1,499,433	2,769,474
<u>Amortised Cost</u>		
Sundry receivables	9,280	22,666
Bank balances	196,921	143,213
	<u>206,201</u>	<u>165,879</u>
Financial Liability		
<u>Amortised Cost</u>		
Sundry payables and accruals	9,730	50,507
Amount owing to Manager	2,072	3,660
Amount owing to Trustee	69	122
	<u>11,871</u>	<u>54,289</u>

17.4 GAINS OR LOSSES ARISING FROM FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2024	2023
	RM	RM
Financial Assets		
<u>Mandatorily at FVPL</u>		
Net gains/(losses) recognised in profit or loss	213,530	(516,214)
<u>Amortised Cost</u>		
Net gains recognised in profit or loss	1,942	1,294

17. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONT'D)

17.5 FAIR VALUE INFORMATION

The fair values of the financial assets and financial liabilities of the Fund that maturing within the next 12 months approximated their carrying amounts due to the relatively short-term maturity of the financial instruments. The fair values of these assets are included in level 1 of the fair value hierarchy:-

2024	Fair Value of Financial Instruments Carried at Fair Value			Total Fair Value RM	Carrying Amount RM
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3		
	RM	RM	RM		
<u>Financial Asset</u>					
Quoted investments	1,499,433	-	-	1,499,433	1,499,433
<hr/>					
2023					
<u>Financial Asset</u>					
Quoted investments	2,769,474	-	-	2,769,474	2,769,474
<hr/>					

The Fund measures its quoted investments that are classified as financial assets at their fair values, determined at their quoted closing bid prices at the end of the reporting period. These financial assets belong to level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

There was no transfer between level 1 and level 2 during the financial year.

7. CORPORATE DIRECTORY

Manager	Astute Fund Management Berhad [199701004894 (420390-M)]	
Business Office	3 rd Floor, Menara Dungun 46, Jalan Dungun Damansara Heights 50490 Kuala Lumpur	
Registered Office	No.47-1, Jalan SS 18/6, 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan	
Board of Directors	Clement Chew Kuan Hock	Executive and Non-Independent Director
	Wong Fay Lee	Non-Executive and Non-Independent Director
	Asgari bin Mohd Fuad Stephens	Non-Executive and Non-Independent Director
	Y.M. Dato' Tunku Ahmad Zahir bin Tunku Ibrahim	Non-Executive and Independent Director
	Azran bin Osman Rani	Non-Executive and Independent Director
Investment Committee	Y.M. Dato' Tunku Ahmad Zahir bin Tunku Ibrahim	Independent Member
	Clement Chew Kuan Hock	Non-Independent Member
	Azran bin Osman Rani	Independent Member
	Asgari bin Mohd Fuad Stephens	Non-Independent Member
Secretary	Ng Chin Chin (MAICSA 7042650) No. 47-1, Jalan SS 18/6 47500 Subang Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan	
Trustee	Maybank Trustees Berhad [196301000109 (5004-P)] 8 th Floor, Menara Maybank 100 Jalan Tun Perak 50050 Kuala Lumpur	
Auditor and Reporting Accountant	Crowe Malaysia PLT (201906000005 (LLP0018817-LCA & AF 1018)) Level 16, Tower C Megan Avenue II 12, Jalan Yap Kwan Seng 50450 Kuala Lumpur	
Taxation Advisers	Mazars Taxation Services Sdn Bhd (579747-A) Wisma Golden Eagle Realty, 11 th Floor, South Block No.142-A, Jalan Ampang 50450 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	

BUSINESS OFFICE
ASTUTE FUND MANAGEMENT BERHAD

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