#### Important Notes:

- Manulife Global Fund Dragon Growth Fund (Manulife Dragon Growth Fund or the "Fund") invests in a diversified portfolio of public companies listed in Hong Kong and/or having substantial business interest in Hong Kong and/or China, which may involve risks relating to equity market, geographical concentration, Mainland China investment, Mainland China tax, liquidity and volatility risks.
- 2 The relevant distributing class of the Fund does not guarantee distribution of dividends, the frequency of distribution, and the amount/rate of dividends. Dividends may be paid out of realized capital gains, capital and/or gross income while charging all or part of their fees and expenses to capital (i.e. payment of fees and expenses out of capital) in respect of MDIST (G) share class(es).
- Dividends paid or effectively paid out of capital amount to a return or withdrawal of part of the amount of an investor's original investment or from any capital gains attributable to that original investment, and may result in an immediate decrease in the Net Asset Value per Share in respect of the relevant class(es).
- 3 The Fund intends to use financial derivative instruments ("FDIs") for investment, efficient portfolio management and/or hedging purposes. The use of FDIs exposes the Fund to additional risks, including counterparty/credit risk, liquidity risk, valuation risk, volatility risk and over-the-counter transaction risk.
  4 Investment involves risk. The Fund may expose its investors to capital loss. Investors should not base on this material alone to make investment decisions and should read the
- 4 Investment involves risk. The Fund may expose its investors to capital loss. Investors should not base on this material alone to make investment decisions and should read the offering document for details, including the risk factors, charges and features of the Fund and its share classes.



Investment Management

April 2024

# Manulife Dragon Growth Fund



Eligible under Capital Investment Entrant Scheme (CIES)<sup>1</sup>

#### manulifeim.com.hk

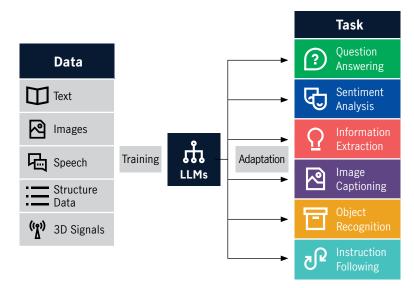
1 The Capital Investment Entrant Scheme will resume according to the Policy Address 2023. For details, please refer to the website of the Immigration Department and/or inquire to your financial intermediary. Authorization of the scheme is not an official recommendation of the scheme.

# Hong Kong & China equities: Year of economic recovery

# Innovation - Artificial Intelligence: enabler for higher productivity and growth

Artificial Intelligence enablement is expected to accelerate as Mainland China's offline spend may continue to be digitalized via A.I. and next generation tools.

## Large language models: what are they good for?



Source: Center for Research on Foundation Models (CRFN), Stanford University Institute for Human Cantered Artificial Intelligence. LLMs can centralize information from several data modalities to adapt to a wide range of tasks from answering questions, to extracting information and identifying images. For illustrative purposes only.

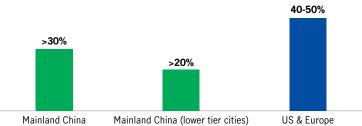
# Consumption upgrade - Mobility and tourism data suggest further room for recovery

Service-oriented companies should continue to benefit from increased domestic and international tourism. Online travel agency (OTA) companies benefit from earnings recovery driven by increased active customers, pent-up demand for outbound travel, market share gains and higher mix of outbound travel.

# Policy tailwinds - Reduced regulatory headwind for China TMT sector

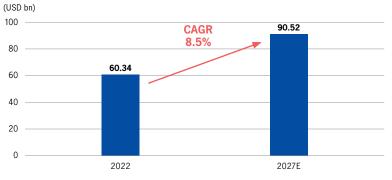
Mainland China continues to approve domestic gaming titles this year which is encouraging. China's mobile gaming revenue saw a meaningful rebounded on the back of gaming license approval as companies are able to launch more new games. Gaming companies should see revenue acceleration throughout the year.

## OTA's online penetration in hotel GMV



Source: Morgan Stanley, as of November 1, 2022. GMV stands for Gross Merchandise Volume. The above information may contain projections or other forward-looking statements regarding future events, targets, management discipline or other expectations. There is no assurance that such events will occur, and the future course may be significantly different from that shown here.

## Mainland China online gaming market



Source: Research and Market - China Online Gaming Market, January 2023. The above information may contain projections or other forward-looking statements regarding future events, targets, management discipline or other expectations. There is no assurance that such events will occur, and the future course may be significantly different from that shown here.

# Manulife Dragon Growth Fund

## Capturing growing trends: three key investment themes

#### **R&D / Innovation**



Intelligence



Advanced manufacturing

Chinese government pledged to build self-sufficiencies in science and technology and to accelerate the modernization of the industrial systems.

# Conviction is the key in stock selection

Our investment team holds a medium- to long-term view, but makes adjustments in the short-term according to market conditions. We aim to hold a concentrated portfolio with **40-55** stocks<sup>1</sup>.

## Award-winning team

In addition to successfully capture many uptrend opportunities through teamwork, we also select stocks through lateral thinking. By thinking a few steps ahead, we target to achieve outstanding results that outperform others in the industry.

#### **Consumption upgrade**





Service-oriented companies such as tourism-related sectors should recover further on the back of increased inbound and outbound tourism. Domestic sportswear brands may ride on a sustainable recovery driven by higher demand by consumers, better product pricing and volume growth.

## Flexible allocation between China and Hong Kong equities

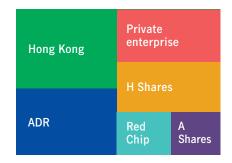
Our investment team makes flexible and dynamic allocations between China and Hong Kong equities, according to changes in market conditions, government policies, industry trends and individual holdings.

#### **Policy tailwinds**



Import substitution

Chinese government will continue to support several key policy areas, such as decarbonization initiatives (electric vehicle and renewable supply chain), import substitution tailwind for tech and healthcare.



Winning a wide range of awards for the **past 8 years**<sup>2</sup>

# Manulife Investment Management's expertise

# 40+

equity investment experts in the Greater China region<sup>3</sup> 25+ years

of track record<sup>4</sup>

# USD 360 million

asset under management<sup>5</sup>

1 Source: Manulife Investment Management, as of September 30, 2023. This is an illustrative guideline. Portfolio holdings and characteristics are subject to change at any time. Information about the asset allocation is historical and is not an indication of the future composition. 2 Source: Manulife Investment Management, as of September 30, 2023. Awards issued by different sponsors are for reference only, and should not be construed as an endorsement of Manulife Investment Management, its affiliates or its products. Please refer to the respective websites of the sponsors of these awards for more information regarding the criteria and manner in which such awards are determined. Morningstar Awards Hong Kong 2021 are issued based on the best risk adjusted performance as of December 2020 within their Morningstar Categories or groupings of Morningstar Categories, subject to qualitative review. Morningstar Awards 2021 (c). Morningstar, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Awarded to Manulife Dragon Growth Fund AA HKD for the Best Hong Kong Equity Fund. Benchmark Fund of the Year Awards are issued based on the assessment criteria of the sponsor. Outstanding Achiever for 2014 and 2015, Retail Class – Best-in-class for 2016, House Award - Best-in-class for 2017, 2018 and 2020. This award reflects the performance of the Fund as of September of the year mentioned. Bloomberg BusinessWeek (Chinese Edition) Top Fund Awards 2015 are issued based on the assessment criteria of the sponsor and performance data of funds. This award reflects the performance of the Fund – Class A as of September of the year mentioned. Fund Selector Asia Awards 2017 are issued based on the assessment criteria of the sponsor and performance data of funds. This award reflects the performance of the Fund – Class A as of June 2016. Citywire Asia Awards are issued based on the assessment criteria of the sponsor and performance data of funds. Citywire Best Fund Manager Awards – Hong Kong Equity for 2016, 2018, 2020, 2021. reflecting the 3-year performance of the Fund as of December of the prior year (i.e. 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020). Citywire Best Fund Group Awards - Hong Kong Equity for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, recognizing the expertise of the group as a whole in managing money in specific investment sectors over seven years (i.e. Dec 2009 – Dec 2016, Dec 2010 – Dec 2017, Dec 2011 – Dec 2018 and Dec 2012 – Dec 2019). 3 Source: Manulife Investment Management, as of September 30, 2023. 4 Manulife Global Fund – Dragon Growth Fund (Class A) inception date: December 20, 1996; Manulife Global Fund – Dragon Growth Fund (Class AA) inception date: November 19, 2007. 5 Source: Manulife Investment Management, as of September 30, 2023. AUM reflects the total AUM of Manulife Global Fund – Dragon Growth Fund Class A and AA.

# Manulife Dragon Growth Fund





#### Kai Kong Chay

Managing Director and Senior Portfolio Manager for Greater China equities, Kai Kong oversees the Greater China equity desk and works closely with investment specialists based across Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan.

Kai Kong is a seasoned investment professional with more than 25 years of investment experience covering Greater China markets, including 18 years as a portfolio manager.

#### Q: How did China equities perform in March?

A: China equities<sup>1</sup> posted slight gains for the month on the back of better-than-expected economic data for March, including manufacturing and non-manufacturing PMI, export and import data, etc. On the policy front, major policy announcements during National People's Congress (NPC) meeting have been inline with expectations. Mainland China set the 2024's real GDP growth target at around 5% and budget deficit at 3% of GDP, as well as announced another RMB 1 trillion of special sovereign bond, while keeping 1-year and 5-year loan prime rates (LPRs) unchanged at 3.45% and 3.95% respectively. Hong Kong equities were flat. Materials and energy outperformed on sector rotation to higher yielding names, while IT also posted strong performance with robust earnings by leading internet companies.

#### Q: What were the key contributors to the Fund's performance over the month?

A: The Fund moved higher and outperformed the benchmark<sup>2</sup>. The portfolio's underweight in financials and overweight in industrials contributed to performance, while the overweight in health care offset part of the gains. Stock selection in industrials and health care contributed to performance, while financials offset part of the gains.

On the contributor side, the key contributor was a Chinese biopharmaceutical company which moved higher on better-than-expected 2023 results. It continued to be driven by progress of clinical trials and cooperation with overseas partners. The company is a leader with major products for cancer treatment.

Another contributor was a Chinese commodity producer. The company reported stronger-than-expected 2023 results with significant improvement in sales volume. It should further benefit from higher ASP (average selling price), capacity expansion and improving shipping and distribution.

On the detractor side, the key detractor was a Chinese automobile manufacturer. The stock pulled back as the company trimmed delivery guidance for Q1 2024 along with a more realistic FY2024 sales plan. That said, gross margin guidance remained intact for FY2024 despite shipment target change.

Another detractor was a Chinese construction machinery manufacturer, which corrected amid flattish domestic sales momentum YTD. However, the company maintained its 2024 revenue growth guidance with higher overseas contribution, as well as expected gross margin to remain stable. The company should serve as a long-term beneficiary under Mainland China's infrastructure investments.

#### Q: What is your outlook on the market?

A: Overall, recovering activities in industrial sectors and better-than expected consumption trends in Q1 2024 suggest potential bottoming of Mainland China's economy which offset weaknesses from the property sector.

For policy tailwinds, the concerted rollout of fiscal, monetary, and property-related policies may improve Mainland China's economy further in 2024. Despite weakness in China's property market, China reiterated its 2024 real GDP growth target to be around 5.0%. Mainland China reiterates its motivations to strive for technology innovations, with keen focus on promoting domestic consumptions and levelling the playing field for various enterprises as well as investment on new infrastructure, new urbanization and green economy.

For innovations, the Chinese government called A.I. as an important engine for "new productive forces" and was reported to be raising capital for a USD27 billion chip fund. In March, the State Council approved action plan to promote large-scale equipment renewal (e.g. in construction, infrastructure, transport, agriculture fields) and upgrade in the industrials sector with central government's financial supports. We favor investment opportunities in advanced manufacturing and technology innovation.

For consumptions, we believe consumption may further improve with Mainland China's pro-growth policy stance. In March, the State Council approved plan to promote tradein of consumer goods (e.g. automobiles, home appliances). We expect more targeted measures to be rolled out to support growth.

Unless otherwise stated, all information is sourced from Manulife Investment Management, as of March 31, 2024. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Information about the asset allocation is historical and is not an indication of the future composition. The information in this material may contain projections or other forward-looking statements regarding future events, targets, management discipline or other expectations, and is only as current as of the date indicated. There is no assurance that such events will occur, and may be significantly different than that shown here.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Manulife Investment Management and Bloomberg as of March 31, 2024. China equities were represented by the MSCI China Index. Hong Kong equities were represented by the MSCI Hong Kong Index.

<sup>2</sup> Source: MSCI AC Zhong Hua NR USD Index.

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This material has not been reviewed by the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC).

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