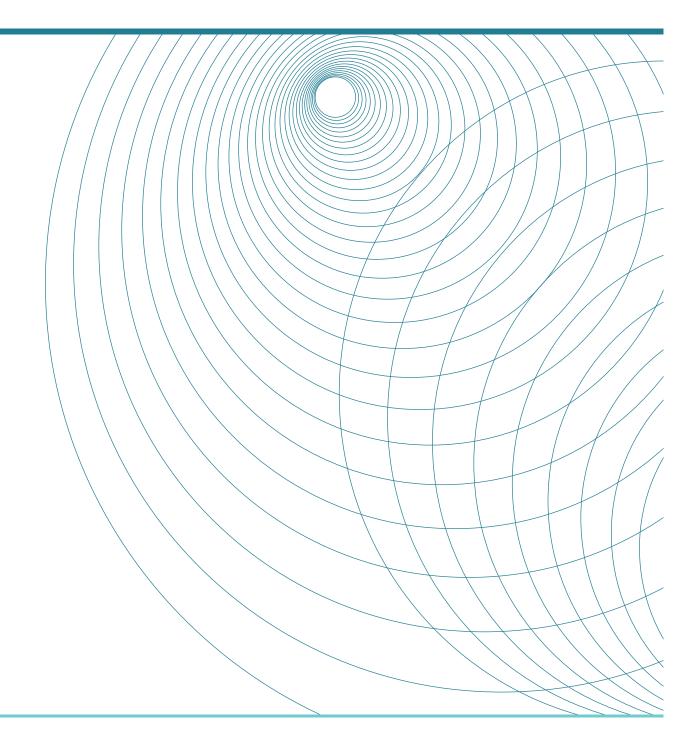


# ANNUAL REPORT Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund

Financial year ended 31 December 2024



# MANAGERS

Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited 12 Marina View, #18-02 Asia Square Tower 2 Singapore 018961 Company Registration No. 198202562H

### **DIRECTORS OF THE MANAGERS**

Seet Oon Hui Eleanor Yutaka Nishida Hiroshi Yoh Allen Yan

#### **TRUSTEE & REGISTRAR**

BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited 20 Collyer Quay, #01-01 Singapore 049319

#### **AUDITORS**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP 7 Straits View, Marina One, East Tower, Level 12, Singapore 018936

# CUSTODIAN

BNP Paribas, acting through its Singapore Branch 20 Collyer Quay, #01-01 Singapore 049319

This report is also available on our website (www.nikkoam.com.sg)

# PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Returns (%)	3 Mth	6 Mth	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Inception
Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund - SGD Class <sup>1</sup>	7.12	16.20	28.55	12.06	8.12	5.86	6.21
Straits Times Index (STI) <sup>2</sup>	6.39	16.90	23.52	11.92	7.92	4.50	3.49

Source: Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, returns as at 31 December 2024. Returns are calculated on a NAV-NAV basis, SGD, and based on the assumption that all dividends and distributions are reinvested, if any. Returns for period in excess of 1 year are annualised. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

Returns (%)	3 Mth	6 Mth	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Inception
Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund - SGD Class <sup>1</sup>	1.76	10.39	22.12	10.16	7.02	5.32	6.06
Straits Times Index (STI) <sup>2</sup>	6.39	16.90	23.52	11.92	7.92	4.50	3.49

Source: Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, returns as at 31 December 2024. Returns are calculated on a NAV-NAV basis, SGD, and based on the assumption that all dividends and distributions are reinvested, if any, and take into account of maximum initial sales and a realisation charge, currently nil, as and where applicable. Returns for period in excess of 1 year are annualised. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

#### Inception date: 31 August 1987

#### Note:

- (1) With effect from 17 October 2011, the Fund (formerly known as "Shenton Thrift Fund") has been renamed Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund.
- (2) Prior to 1 May 2017, the performance returns of the benchmark were calculated using price index methodology. With effect from 1 May 2017, the performance returns of the benchmark is calculated using net total return index methodology. Net total return index methodology incorporates into its returns calculation the reinvestment of a constituent company's dividend distributions net of tax credits or charges.
- (3) With effect from 1 September 2025, references to "Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited", "Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund" and "Nikko Asset Management Co., Ltd" shall be deemed deleted and replaced with "Amova Asset Management Asia Limited", "Amova Singapore Equity Fund" and "Amova Asset Management Co., Ltd" respectively.

# Portfolio Review

# Fund returns 28.55% in 2024

For the financial period ending 31 December 2024, the Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund") posted a return of 28.55% (SGD terms, on a NAV-NAV basis), outperforming the Straits Times Index (STI) which returned 23.52% on a total return basis over the same period.

The Fund's overweight positions in Sea Limited, Yangzijiang Shipbuilding and TDCX added the most to relative performance over the period. Conversely, overweight positions in UMS Integration and Frencken Group, and the underweight in Seatrium were the biggest detractors from relative performance.

# Market Review

# The Straits Times Index (STI) climbs 23.52% in 2024

Singapore stocks wrapped up a stellar year, in line with global equities, with the STI gaining 23.52% in 2024 on a total return basis in SGD terms. Monetary policy remained at the forefront of the macro landscape, which culminated in the US Federal Reserve cutting interest rates for the first time in four years in September. Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election marked a pivotal moment for markets in November, although there were concerns over potential tariffs that could come with the new US administration. Elsewhere, Asia's biggest focal point remains on the health of the Chinese economy, which eventually saw China unleash its boldest stimulus in years and adopting a "moderately loose" stance on monetary policy over the final months of 2024. Separately, continued enthusiasm about artificial intelligence has been a large boost to global markets, even as geopolitical tensions remained high over the period. In Singapore, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) kept its exchange rate-based monetary policy unchanged; inflation continued to ease; and the economy expanded by 4% for the full year according to preliminary government data. Lawrence Wong was inaugurated as Singapore's fourth prime minister, succeeding Lee Hsien Loong, as he emphasised continuity and stability as pillars for the incoming administration.

# MAS keeps its foreign exchange policy unchanged

The MAS transitioned to a quarterly schedule starting in 2024, and the central bank maintained the prevailing rate of appreciation of the Singapore dollar nominal effective exchange rate (SGDNEER) policy band during the four meetings. It has not changed policy since a tightening in October 2022. The MAS narrowed its 2024 core inflation forecast to a 2.5–3% range, down from the previous estimate of 2.5–3.5%. On growth, it noted that the economy's momentum has strengthened and projected that Singapore's growth will remain close to its expected course in 2025.

# Singapore's economy expands 4.0% YoY in 2024

Singapore posted a 4.3% year-on-year (YoY) growth in the fourth quarter, lower than the 5.4% recorded in the previous quarter but exceeding market expectations of 3.8%. According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the economy expanded by 4% for the full year, surpassing official projections. However, policymakers cautioned about potential downside risks stemming from heightened geopolitical tensions and uncertainty surrounding US trade policies under the incoming Trump administration. Meanwhile, non-oil domestic exports rebounded to 3.4% YoY in November, reversing a revised 4.7% drop in October. The increase was primarily driven by electronics, possibly due to exporters front-loading their shipments before US President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs kick in. Electronics exports surged 23.2% in November, whilst non-electronics exports fell 1.6%. Industrial production rose 8.5% YoY in November from 1.2% in October, mainly due to a favourable base effect. Separately, retail sales grew by 2.2% YoY in October, accelerating from a downwardly revised 1.9% gain in the previous month.

# Consumer prices on a downward trend

Inflation has been on a downward trend in 2024, with core inflation—which excludes private transport and accommodation costs—hitting a three-year low of 1.9% YoY in November, attributed to the moderation in food and services costs. Overall inflation edged up slightly to 1.6% YoY in November, but was still below expectations of 1.8%. Policymakers maintained their projection for core inflation to average between 2.5% and 3.0% in 2024 and between 1.5% to 2.5% in 2025.

# Market Outlook and Strategy

# Focus on "New Singapore" stocks in renewable energy, tech, data, healthcare and logistics sectors

We continue to expect economic growth to moderate in 2025 relative to 2024, due to slower trade activity driven by escalating geopolitical tensions and trade conflicts, and uncertainties over China's economic stimulus measures and the pace of global monetary easing. In line with our expectations, the MAS eased monetary policy during the month. This shift to a more accommodative stance (a first in nearly five years) should help ease liquidity conditions and cushion the impact of slower economic growth in 2025 arising from slower trade.

We expect a further moderate expansion in corporate earnings in 2025, following the strong performance of 2023 and 2024. Bank earnings are likely to face pressure from lower lending margins as interest rates decline. However, we believe the impact will be manageable, as rates are expected to remain structurally higher than pre-2022 levels. Beyond the banking sector, we anticipate earnings growth to broaden across other industries such as industrials, consumer goods and communications services.

We are positive on the initiative by the MAS to strengthen the Singapore stock market and believe that potential measures could support liquidity and valuations, particularly among mid-cap stocks. We expect the upcoming proposals from the MAS review to include both supply-side and demand-side solutions. These measures should help facilitate capital intermediation, enhance market depth, and broaden the diversity of the domestic stock market.

Our portfolio remains positioned in "New Singapore" stocks, which represent the future economy of Singapore, in areas such as renewable energy, tech, data, healthcare, and logistics. In recent months, we have been more positive on selected stocks in the industrials sector, predicated mainly on positive bottom-up outlooks in industries such as aircraft maintenance and repair, defence, air cargo, and transportation. Energy transition remains a central theme—our portfolios include power generators transitioning from brown to green energy, and benefitting from tight electricity markets. We are gradually adding to selected Singapore REITs, as the rate cut cycle should lift future dividends and valuations in the sector.

This document is purely for informational purposes only with no consideration given to the specific investment objective, financial situation and particular needs of any specific person. It should not be relied upon as financial advice. Any securities mentioned herein are for illustration purposes only and should not be construed as a recommendation for investment. You should seek advice from a financial adviser before making any investment. In the event that you choose not to do so, you should consider whether the investment selected is suitable for you. Investments in funds are not deposits in, obligations of, or guaranteed or insured by Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited ("Nikko AM Asia").

Past performance or any prediction, projection or forecast is not indicative of future performance. The Fund or any underlying fund may use or invest in financial derivative instruments. The value of units and income from them may fall or rise. Investments in the Fund are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of principal amount invested. You should read the relevant prospectus (including the risk warnings) and product highlights sheet of the Fund, which are available and may be obtained from appointed distributors of Nikko AM Asia or our website (www.nikkoam.com.sg) before deciding whether to invest in the Fund.

The information contained herein may not be copied, reproduced or redistributed without the express consent of Nikko AM Asia. While reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information as at the date of publication, Nikko AM Asia does not give any warranty or representation, either express or implied, and expressly disclaims liability for any errors or omissions. Information may be subject to change without notice. Nikko AM Asia accepts no liability for any loss, indirect or consequential damages, arising from any use of or reliance on this document.

(Where relevant – for funds included under CPFIS) The Central Provident Fund ("CPF") Ordinary Account ("OA") interest rate is the legislated minimum 2.5% per annum, or the 3-month average of major local banks' interest rates, whichever is higher, reviewed quarterly. The interest rate for Special Account ("SA") is currently 4% per annum or the 12-month average yield of 10-year Singapore Government Securities plus 1%, whichever is higher, reviewed quarterly. Only monies in excess of \$20,000 in OA and \$40,000 in SA can be invested under the CPF Investment Scheme ("CPFIS"). Please refer to the website of the CPF Board for further information. Investors should note that the applicable interest rates for the CPF accounts and the terms of CPFIS may be varied by the CPF Board for time to time.

# For Hong Kong Investors

The Fund may only be offered to professional investors in Hong Kong and is not authorised by the Securities and Futures Commission. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to this document. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents, you should obtain independent professional advice.

Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited. Registration Number 198202562H

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE**

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The Trustee is under a duty to take into custody and hold the assets of Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund") in trust for the unitholders. In accordance with the Securities and Futures Act 2001, its subsidiary legislation and the Code on Collective Investment Schemes, the Trustee shall monitor the activities of the Manager for compliance with the limitations imposed on the investment and borrowing powers as set out in the Trust Deed in each annual accounting year and report thereon to unitholders in an annual report.

To the best knowledge of the Trustee, the Manager has, in all material respects, managed the Fund during the financial year covered by these financial statements, set out on pages 11 to 28, in accordance with the limitations imposed on the investment and borrowing powers set out in the Trust Deed.

For and on behalf of the Trustee BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited

Authorised signatory 27 March 2025

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT BY THE MANAGER

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

In the opinion of Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, the accompanying financial statements set out on pages 11 to 28, comprising the Statement of Total Return, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Movements of Unitholders' Funds, Statement of Portfolio and Notes to the Financial Statements are drawn up so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and the portfolio holdings of Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund") as at 31 December 2024, and the financial performance and movements in unitholders' funds for the financial year then ended in accordance with the recommendations of Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice 7 "Reporting Framework for Investment Funds" issued by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to meet its financial obligations as and when they materialise.

For and on behalf of the Manager Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited

Authorised signatory 27 March 2025

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF NIKKO AM SHENTON THRIFT FUND

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# Our Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund"), are properly drawn up in accordance with the recommendations of Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice 7 "Reporting Framework for Investment Funds" issued by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants ("RAP 7"), so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and portfolio holdings of the Fund as at 31 December 2024, and the financial performance and movements of unitholders' funds for the financial year ended on that date.

### What we have audited

The financial statements of the Fund comprise:

- the Statement of Total Return for the financial year ended 31 December 2024;
- the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2024;
- the Statement of Movements of Unitholders' Funds for the financial year then ended;
- the Statement of Portfolio as at 31 December 2024; and
- the notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing ("SSAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's 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 audit opinion.

#### Independence

We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities ("ACRA Code") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code.

# Other Information

The Fund's Manager (the "Manager") is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all sections of the annual report but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements 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.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF NIKKO AM SHENTON THRIFT FUND

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# **Responsibilities of the Manager for the Financial Statements**

The Manager is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of RAP 7 and for such internal control as the Manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 intends to terminate the Fund or to cease the Fund's operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Manager's responsibilities include overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

# Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's 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 SSAs 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, 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, 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 auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements 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 auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF NIKKO AM SHENTON THRIFT FUND

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

• Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements 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.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants Singapore, 27 March 2025

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 S\$	2023 S\$
<b>Income</b> Dividends Interest on cash and cash equivalents	_	17,354,065 245,893 17,599,958	17,293,344 273,778 17,567,122
	-	17,539,936	17,507,122
Less: Expenses Management fee Transfer agent fee Custody fee Audit fee Valuation fee Transaction costs Other expenses*	_	2,771,306 42,371 73,894 19,305 74,103 1,219,583 118,974 4,319,536	2,536,445 22,790 66,226 19,242 67,639 1,016,748 95,359 3,824,449
Net income	_	13,280,422	13,742,673
<b>Net gains or losses on value of investments</b> Net gains on investments Net foreign exchange losses	-	81,220,795 (86,282) 81,134,513	3,848,606 (62,897) 3,785,709
Total return for the financial year before income tax Less: Income tax Total return for the financial year after income tax	3 _	94,414,935 (141,208) 94,273,727	17,528,382 (65,345) 17,463,037

\* There were no non-audit related fees paid to a network firm of the Fund's auditor for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 and 2023.

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 S\$	2023 S\$
ASSETS Portfolio of investments Sales awaiting settlement Receivables Cash and cash equivalents Total assets	4	406,383,522 11,636 674,325 17,142,531 424,212,014	335,902,029 6,340 41,883 5,622,633 341,572,885
LIABILITIES Payables Purchases awaiting settlement Total liabilities	5	1,476,115 2,124,466 3,600,581	1,327,572 
EQUITY Net assets attributable to unitholders	6	420,611,433	340,245,313

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS OF UNITHOLDERS' FUNDS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 S\$	2023 S\$
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the beginning of the financial year		340,245,313	339,392,671
<b>Operations</b> Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from operations		94,273,727	17,463,037
Unitholders' contributions/(withdrawals)			
Creation of units Cancellation of units	[	25,407,464 (39,315,071)	18,404,816 (35,015,211)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from net creation and cancellation of units		(13,907,607)	(16,610,395)
Total increase in net assets attributable to unitholders	-	80,366,120	852,642
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the end of the financial year	6	420,611,433	340,245,313

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO

As at 31 December 2024

By Geography (Primary)			Percentage of total net assets attributable to
	Holdings at 31 December 2024	Fair value at 31 December 2024 S\$	unitholders at 31 December 2024 %
Quoted Equities		04	,,
CHINA Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings Limited Total CHINA	7,490,600	22,396,894 22,396,894	<u>5.32</u> 5.32
HONG KONG SAR Hongkong Land Holdings Limited Total HONG KONG SAR	575,200	3,491,910 3,491,910	0.83
MALAYSIA Frencken Group Limited Total MALAYSIA	2,504,600	2,830,198 2,830,198	0.67 0.67
PHILIPPINES Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company Total PHILIPPINES	6,004,990	10,196,788 10,196,788	2.42 2.42
SINGAPORE BRC Asia Limited Comfortdelgro Corporation Limited CSE Global Limited DBS Group Holdings Limited First Resources Limited Keppel Limited Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited Riverstone Holdings Limited Sats Limited Sea Limited Sea Limited Sembcorp Industries Limited Singapore Exchange Limited Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited Singapore Telecommunications Limited Ums Integration Limited	2,240,500 8,614,200 10,525,267 2,090,355 9,250,500 1,431,700 2,602,932 8,944,800 1,498,200 68,335 4,158,500 1,827,400 4,131,800 7,109,700 1,925,075 1,617,789	5,601,250 12,749,016 4,367,986 91,390,321 13,783,245 9,792,828 43,442,935 9,749,832 5,453,448 9,884,533 22,954,920 23,281,076 19,254,188 21,897,876 1,982,827 58,774,274	1.33 3.03 1.04 21.73 3.28 2.33 10.33 2.32 1.29 2.35 5.46 5.54 4.58 5.21 0.47 13.97
Total SINGAPORE Total Quoted Equities		<u>354,360,555</u> 393,276,345	<u> </u>
Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts			93.30
SINGAPORE			
Digital Core REIT Management Pte Limited Keppel Dc REIT Parkway Life Real Estate Investment Trust Total SINGAPORE	3,721,000 2,017,980 1,537,000	2,944,231 4,399,196 5,763,750 13,107,177	0.70 1.05 1.37 3.12
Total Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts		13,107,177	3.12
Portfolio of investments Other net assets Net assets attributable to unitholders		406,383,522 14,227,911 420,611,433	96.62 3.38 100.00

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO

As at 31 December 2024

By Geography (Summary)	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2024 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2023 %
Quoted Equities China Hong Kong SAR Malaysia Philippines Singapore Total Quoted Equities	5.32 0.83 0.67 2.42 84.26 93.50	4.80 3.02 2.11 - 78.34 88.27
Quoted Investment Fund Singapore Total Quoted Investment Fund		<u>3.42</u> <u>3.42</u>
Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts Singapore Total Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts	<u>3.12</u> <u>3.12</u>	7.03
Portfolio of investments Other net assets Net assets attributable to unitholders	96.62 3.38 100.00	98.72 1.28 100.00

# The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO

As at 31 December 2024

By Industry (Secondary)	Fair value at 31 December 2024 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2024 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2023 %
Aerospace/Defense	19,254,188	4,58	2.17
Agriculture	13,783,245	3.28	3.25
Banks	203,804,318	48.45	44.69
Computers	4,367,986	1.04	2.45
Diversified Financial Services	23,281,076	5.54	
Electric	22,954,920	5.46	9.32
Electrical Component & Equipment	2,830,198	0.67	0.89
Electronics	-	-	1.90
Engineering and Construction	15,246,276	3.62	3.61
Entertainment	-	-	2.15
Food	-	-	1.66
Holding Companies-Diversified	-	-	1.52
Internet	9,884,533	2.35	-
Iron/Steel	5,601,250	1.33	1.07
Miscellaneous Manufacture	9,749,832	2.32	-
Oil and Gas Services	-	-	5.24
Private Equity	-	-	1.39
Real Estate	3,491,910	0.83	1.22
Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS)	13,107,177	3.12	7.03
Semiconductors	1,982,827	0.47	3.15
Shipbuilding	22,396,894	5.32	4.64
Telecommunications	21,897,876	5.21	-
Transportation	12,749,016	3.03	1.37
Portfolio of investments	406,383,522	96.62	98.72
Other net assets	14,227,911	3.38	1.28
Net assets attributable to unitholders	420,611,433	100.00	100.00

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

These notes form an integral part of and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

### 1. General

Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund") is a Singapore domiciled fund constituted under a Trust Deed dated 12 June 1987 as amended by Supplemental Deeds and Amended and Restated Deeds (collectively referred to as the "Deeds"). The Deeds are governed by the laws of the Republic of Singapore. The Trustee of the Fund is BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited (the "Trustee"). The Manager of the Fund is Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited (the "Manager").

There are four classes of units established within the Fund, namely the SGD Class, USD Class, RMB Class and SGD Class B. The classes may differ in terms of their class currency, the minimum subscription amounts applicable, the minimum holding and minimum realisation amounts applicable as well as the annual management fee.

As of 31 December 2024 and 2023, only units in the SGD Class have been issued.

The Fund is single priced and the NAV of the Fund may fall as a result of the transaction costs incurred in the purchase and sale of its underlying investments and the spread between the buying and selling prices of such investments caused by subscriptions, redemptions, switches and/or exchanges of units in the Fund. To protect unitholders' interests, the Manager shall, in consultation with the Trustee, have the discretion to apply dilution adjustment or swing pricing in certain circumstances which the Manager deem appropriate. Swing pricing involves making upwards or downwards adjustments in the calculation of the NAV per unit of the Fund or Class on a particular Dealing Day so that such transaction costs and dealing spreads in respect of the underlying investments are, as far as practicable, passed on to the investors who are subscribing, realising, switching and/or exchanging units on that Dealing Day.

The NAV is adjusted if the net subscription or realisation (including switches and/or exchanges) on a particular Dealing Day reaches or exceeds a certain percentage (the "Swing Threshold") of the size of the Fund as of such relevant Dealing Day.

Any dilution adjustment as at the last dealing day of the year will be disclosed under Units in issue.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 2. Material accounting policy information

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

#### (a) <u>Basis of preparation</u>

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of financial instruments at fair value, and in accordance with the recommendations of Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice 7 "Reporting Framework for Investment Funds" ("RAP 7") issued by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants.

#### (b) <u>Recognition of income</u>

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

Interest income is recognised on a time-proportion basis using the effective interest rate method.

#### (c) <u>Investments</u>

Investments are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.

(i) Initial recognition

Purchases of investments are recognised on the trade date. Investments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition.

(ii) Subsequent measurement

Investments are subsequently carried at fair value. Net change in fair value on investments is included in the Statement of Total Return in the year in which they arise.

(iii) Derecognition

Investments are derecognised on the trade date of disposal. The resultant realised gains and losses on the sales of investments are computed on the basis of the difference between the weighted average cost and selling price gross of transaction costs, and are taken up in the Statement of Total Return.

#### (d) Basis of valuation of investments

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the reporting date. The quoted market price used for investments held by the Fund is the last traded market price for both financial assets and financial liabilities where the last traded price falls within the bid-ask spread. In circumstances where the last traded price is not within the bid-ask spread, the Manager will determine the point within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

#### (e) <u>Receivables</u>

Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Receivables are initially recognised at their fair value and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less accumulated impairment losses.

#### (f) Sales and purchases awaiting settlement

Sales and purchases awaiting settlement represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased that have been contracted for but not yet settled or delivered on the Statement of Financial Position date respectively. These amounts are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

(g) <u>Payables</u>

Accrued expenses are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### (h) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at banks which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

#### (i) <u>Foreign currency translation</u>

#### *(i) Functional and presentation currency*

The Fund qualifies as an authorised scheme under the Securities and Futures Act 2001 ("SFA") of Singapore and is offered to retail investors in Singapore. The Fund's activities are substantially based in Singapore, with subscriptions and redemptions of the units of the Fund denominated in Singapore Dollar ("SGD").

The performance of the Fund is measured and reported to the investors in Singapore Dollar. The Manager considers the Singapore Dollar as the currency which most faithfully represents the economic effects of the underlying transactions, events and conditions. The financial statements are expressed in Singapore Dollar, which is the Fund's functional and presentation currency.

#### (ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are translated into Singapore Dollar at the rates of exchange prevailing at the date of the Statement of Financial Position. The net unrealised gain or loss is taken to the Statement of Total Return within the net foreign exchange gain or loss. Transactions during the year are recorded in Singapore Dollar at the rates of exchange ruling on transaction dates. All realised gains or losses are recognised in the Statement of Total Return.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

#### (j) <u>Expenses</u>

Expenses including transaction costs on purchases or sales of investments are recognised in the Statements of Total Return as the related services are performed, in the period in which they arise.

#### (k) Management fee

Management fee expense is recognised on an accrual basis and in accordance with the Prospectus. Management fee is recognised as an expense over the period for which the service is provided. The management fee charged on any investment in other unit trusts managed by the Manager is rebated back to the Fund, where applicable.

#### (I) Creation and cancellation of units

Units are issued and redeemed at the prices based on the Fund's net asset value per unit at the time of issue or redemption for each respective class. The Fund's net asset value per unit is calculated by dividing the net asset attributable to the unitholders of each class of units with the total number of outstanding units for each respective class.

#### 3. Income tax

The Fund was granted the status of Designated Unit Trust (DUT) in Singapore. The Manager and Trustee of the Fund will ensure that the Fund fulfils its reporting obligations under the DUT Scheme.

Under the DUT Scheme, subject to certain conditions and reporting obligations being met, certain income of the DUT fund is not taxable in accordance with Sections 35(12) and 35(12A) of the Income Tax Act 1947. Such income includes:

- (a) gains or profits derived from Singapore or elsewhere from the disposal of securities;
- (b) interest (other than interest for which tax has been deducted under section 45 of the Income Tax Act 1947);
- (c) dividends derived from outside Singapore and received in Singapore;
- (d) gains or profits derived from foreign exchange transactions, transactions in futures contracts, transactions in interest rate or currency forwards, swaps or option contracts and transactions in forwards, swaps or option contracts relating to any securities or financial index;
- (e) discount prepayment fees, redemption premium and break cost from qualifying debt securities issued during the prescribed period; and
- (f) distributions from foreign unit trusts derived from outside Singapore and received in Singapore.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### **3. Income tax** (continued)

Income tax for the financial year ended 31 December 2024 and 2023 comprises:

	2024 S\$	2023 S\$
Singapore income tax	87,301	51,309
Overseas income tax	53,907	14,036
	141,208	65,345

The Singapore income tax represents tax deducted at source for Singapore sourced dividends. The overseas income tax represents tax deducted at source on dividend derived from outside Singapore.

#### 4. Receivables

5.

	2024 S\$	2023 S\$
Receivable from unitholders for creation of units Dividends receivable	630,946 43,379	41,883 -
	674,325	41,883
Payables		
	2024 S\$	2023 S\$
Payable to unitholders for cancellation of units Amount due to the Manager	497,452 837,244	526,951 679,680
Valuation fee payable	62,380	54,872
Transfer agent fee payable	3,022	8,951
Provision for audit fee Custody fee payable	19,859 56,158	19,656 37,439
Other payables		23
	1,476,115	1,327,572

Amount due to the Manager comprises of management fee and is payable to Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited. Trustee fee is payable out of the management fees by Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited to BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited. Custody fee, transfer agent fee and valuation fee are payable to BNP Paribas, acting through its Singapore Branch.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 6. Units in issue

During the financial year ended 31 December 2024 and 2023, the number of units issued, redeemed and outstanding were as follows:

SGD Class	2024	2023
Units at beginning of the financial year	124,235,287	130,477,531
Units created	8,183,642	6,904,872
Units cancelled	(12,959,842)	(13,147,116)
Units at end of the financial year	119,459,087	124,235,287
Net assets attributable to unitholders - S\$	420,611,433	340,245,313
Net asset value per unit - S\$	3.5209	2.739

A reconciliation of the net asset value as reported in the Statement of Financial Position to the net asset value as determined for the purpose of processing unit subscription and redemption is provided below:

SGD Class	2024 S\$	2023 S\$
Net assets attributable to unitholders per financial statements per unit	3.5209	2.739
Effect for movement in the net assets value between the last dealing date and the end of the reporting period ^	0.0001	_*_
Net assets attributable to unitholders for issuing/redeeming per unit	3.5210	2.739

<sup>^</sup> The net asset value for the purposes of processing unit subscription and redemption was established in accordance with the methodology indicated in the Fund's Prospectus. This item reflects the movement in net asset value between the last dealing date and the end of reporting period due to accrual of operating expenses.

\* Effect is less than 0.001

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

### 7. Financial risk management

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of risk, including but not limited to market risk (including price risk, interest rate risk and currency risk), liquidity risk and credit risk. The Manager is responsible for the implementation of the overall risk management programme, which seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Fund's financial performance. Specific guidelines on exposures to individual securities and certain industries and/or countries are in place as part of the overall financial risk management to reduce the Fund's exposures to these risks.

The Fund's primary objective is to achieve medium to long term capital appreciation by investing primarily in stocks listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the "SGX-ST"). Beside stocks listed on the SGX-ST, the Fund may also invest in companies listed on stock exchanges outside Singapore subject to a limit not exceeding 30% of the net asset value of the Fund.

The Manager may seek to add value by selectively over/under weighting benchmark components and blending the mix with a selection of non-benchmark components to deliver out-performance relative to the benchmark over the medium to long term.

These financial instruments are held in accordance with the published investment policies of the Fund and managed accordingly to achieve the investment objectives.

#### (a) Market risk - Price risk

Price risk is the risk that arises from uncertainties about future prices of financial instruments.

The Fund's investment is substantially dependent on the changes of market prices. The Fund's overall market positions are monitored regularly so as to assess any deviation from the Fund's investment objective. However, events beyond reasonable control of the Manager could affect the prices of the underlying investments and hence the net asset value of the Fund.

The Fund's market price risk is managed through diversification of the investment portfolio exposure across various stocks traded on the SGX-ST.

The benchmark against which the performance of the Fund is measured is the Straits Times Index (STI) (Net Total Return) (the "Benchmark").

As at 31 December 2024, an increase/decrease of the index component within the Benchmark by 13% (2023: 13%), with all other variables remaining constant, the net assets attributable to unitholders for the year would increase/decrease by approximately 12% (2023: 13%). The analysis was based on the assumptions that the index components within the Benchmark increased/decreased by a reasonable possible shift, with all other variables held constant and that the fair value of Fund's investments moved according to the beta. Reasonable possible changes in market index percentage are revised annually depending on the Manager's current view on market volatility and other relevant factors.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

# 7. Financial risk management (continued)

#### (b) Market risk - Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates (fair value risk).

Investment funds that invest in equity securities may be subject to interest rate risk as any interest rate change may affect the equity risk premium though at varying degrees. To manage this risk, the Manager analyses how interest rate changes may affect different industries and securities and then seeks to adjust the Fund's portfolio investments accordingly.

However, the effects of changes in interest rates on the Fund's portfolio may not be quantified as the relationship between the interest rates and the value of equity securities is indirect. Hence, no sensitivity analysis has been presented separately.

#### (c) Market risk - Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates.

To minimise currency risk, the Fund mainly holds its excess cash in its functional currency. For hedging purposes, the Fund may also enter into forward foreign exchange contracts.

The tables below summarise the Fund's exposure to currency risks.

As at 31 December 2024	SGD S\$	USD S\$	PHP S\$	Tota S	
Assets Portfolio of investments Sales awaiting settlement Receivables	379,866,060 11,636 674,325	16,320,674 - -	10,196,788 - -	406,383,52 11,63 674,32	6
Cash and cash equivalents Total assets	17,141,550 397,693,571	981 16,321,655	 10,196,788	17,142,53 424,212,01	1
<b>Liabilities</b> Payables Purchases awaiting settlement	1,476,115 2,124,466	-	-	1,476,11 2,124,46	
Total liabilities	3,600,581	-	-	3,600,58	
Net currency exposure	394,092,990	16,321,655	10,196,788		
As at 31 December 2023	SGD S\$	USD S\$	HKD S\$	MYR S\$	Total S\$
Assets Portfolio of investments Sales awaiting settlement Receivables Cash and cash equivalents Total assets	311,372,516 41,883 5,621,971 317,036,370	19,830,067 - - 662 19,830,729	549,412 6,340 - - 555,752	-	335,902,029 6,340 41,883 5,622,633 341,572,885
Liabilities Payables Total liabilities	<u> </u>	-	-	-	1,327,572 1,327,572
Net currency exposure	315,708,798	19,830,729	555,752	4,150,034	

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

### 7. Financial risk management (continued)

#### (c) **Market risk - Currency risk** (continued)

Portfolio of investments, which is a significant item in the Statement of Financial Position is exposed to currency risk and other price risk. The Manager has considered the impact of currency risk sensitivity on non-monetary assets which include listed equities, listed investment funds and real estate investment funds as part of the price risk sensitivity analysis.

As of 31 December 2024 and 2023, the Fund does not hold substantial monetary assets/liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. Changes in foreign exchange rates on monetary assets/liabilities will not result in a significant change in the net asset value of the Fund. Hence, no separate sensitivity analysis on foreign currency risk has been presented.

### (d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk of loss arising from the inability of the Fund to meet its obligations as and when they fall due without incurring unacceptable cost or losses.

The Fund is exposed to daily cash redemptions from unitholders. However, in accordance with the Fund's prospectus, minimum holdings and redemption size are set.

To manage the liquidity risk, a cash buffer is maintained in the Fund and monitored for minimum cash balances to prevent any extensive disposition of assets which may occur at lower prices and overdraft situations to meet trade settlements and obligations.

The Fund's securities are considered readily realisable, as the majority of the securities are listed on recognised stock exchanges.

The Fund's financial liabilities are analysed using contractual undiscounted cash flows for maturity groupings based on the remaining year at the Statement of Financial Position date to the contractual maturity date. As at 31 December 2024 and 2023, all liabilities are either payable upon demand or due in less than 3 months. The impact of discounting is not significant.

	Less than 3	<u>Less than 3 months</u>		
	As at	As at		
	31 December	31 December		
	2024	2023		
	S\$	S\$		
Payables	1,476,115	1,327,572		
Purchases awaiting settlement	2,124,466			
Contractual cash outflows	3,600,581	1,327,572		

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 7. Financial risk management (continued)

#### (e) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to fulfil its obligations to the Fund in part or in full as and when they fall due.

Concentrations of credit risk are minimised primarily by:

- ensuring counterparties as well as the respective credit limits are approved;
- ensuring there are controls in place to identify and assess the creditworthiness of counterparties and review such controls on a semi-annual basis; and
- ensuring that transactions are undertaken with a large number of counterparties.

The Fund is also exposed to counterparty credit risk on its financial assets held at amortised cost. As at 31 December 2024 and 2023, the Fund's financial assets held at amortised cost as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position are realised within three months. The Manager considers the probability of default to be insignificant as the counterparties generally have a strong capacity to meet their contractual obligations in the near term. Hence, no loss allowance has been recognised based on the 12 month expected credit losses as any such impairment would be insignificant to the Fund.

All trade settlement with approved counterparties are on Delivery versus Payment and/or Receipt versus Payment basis, with the exception of initial public offerings, new issues and placement transactions.

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents and outstanding and committed transactions from brokers. The table below summarises the credit rating of bank and custodians in which the Fund's assets are held as at 31 December 2024 and 2023.

	Credit rating as at 31 December 2024	-	Source of credit rating
Bank and custodian			-
- BNP Paribas, acting through its Singapore Branch	A1	Aa3	Moody's
Singapore Dranch	AI	Aas	woody S

The credit ratings are based on the Local Long-Term Bank Deposits published by the rating agency.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of the financial instruments.

#### (f) Capital management

The Fund's capital is represented by the net assets attributable to unitholders. The Fund strives to invest the subscriptions of redeemable participating units in investments that meet the Fund's investment objectives while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet unitholder redemptions.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 7. Financial risk management (continued)

#### (g) Fair value estimation

The Fund classifies fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy has the following levels:

- Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1).
- Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices) (Level 2).
- Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs) (Level 3).

The following table analyses within the fair value hierarchy the Fund's financial assets and liabilities (by class) measured at fair value at 31 December 2024 and 2023:

As at 31 December 2024	Level 1 S\$	Level 2 S\$	Level 3 S\$	Total S\$
Assets Portfolio of investments:				
- Quoted equities	393,276,345	-	-	393,276,345
- Quoted real estate investment trusts	13,107,177	-	-	13,107,177
	406,383,522	-	-	406,383,522
As at 31 December 2023	Level 1 S\$	Level 2 S\$	Level 3 S\$	Total S\$
Assets Portfolio of investments:				
<ul> <li>Quoted equities</li> </ul>	300,347,292	-	-	300,347,292
<ul> <li>Quoted investment funds</li> </ul>	11,642,338	-	-	11,642,338
- Quoted real estate investment trusts	23,912,399	-	-	23,912,399
	335,902,029	-	-	335,902,029

Investments whose values are based on quoted market prices in active markets, and therefore classified within level 1, include active listed equities, investment funds and real estate investment trusts. The Fund does not adjust the quoted price for these instruments.

The assets and liabilities included in the Statement of Financial Position except portfolio of investments and financial derivatives are carried at amortised cost; their carrying values are reasonable approximation of fair value.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

#### 8. Related party transactions

9.

In addition to related party information shown elsewhere in the financial statements, the following significant transactions took place during the financial year between the Fund and the related party at terms agreed between the parties and within the provisions of the Deeds:

		2024 S\$	2023 S\$
Bank balances held with related party of the Trustee		17,142,531	5,622,633
Financial ratios			
Expense ratio		0004	0000
SGD Class		2024	2023
Total operating expenses Average daily net asset value <b>Total expense ratio</b> 1	S\$ S\$ %	3,099,602 369,792,762 0.84	2,806,815 338,066,596 0.83
Turnover ratio			
		2024	2023
Lower of total value of purchases or sales Average daily net asset value <b>Total turnover ratio</b> <sup>2</sup>	S\$ S\$ %	239,073,982 369,792,762 64.65	205,233,147 338,066,596 60.71

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The expense ratio has been computed based on the guidelines laid down by the Investment Management Association of Singapore ("IMAS"). The calculation of the expense ratio at financial year end was based on total operating expenses divided by the average net asset value for the year. The total operating expenses do not include (where applicable) brokerage and other transactions costs, performance fee, interest expense, distribution paid out to unitholders, foreign exchange gains/losses, front or back end loads arising from the purchase or sale of other funds and tax deducted at source or arising out of income received. The Fund does not pay any performance fee. The average net asset value is based on the daily balances.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The portfolio turnover ratio is calculated in accordance with the formula stated in the Code on Collective Investment Schemes. The calculation of the portfolio turnover ratio was based on the lower of the total value of purchases or sales of the underlying investments, divided by the average daily net asset value.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

The following contains additional information relating to the Fund.

# 1. Distribution of investments

Please refer to the Statement of Portfolio on pages 14 to 16.

# 2. Credit rating of debt securities

Nil.

# 3. Top 10 holdings

10 largest holdings at 31 December 2024	Fair value S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders %
DBS Group Holdings Limited	91,390,321	21.73
United Overseas Bank Limited	58,774,274	13.97
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited	43,442,935	10.33
Singapore Exchange Limited	23,281,076	5.54
Sembcorp Industries Limited	22,954,920	5.46
Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings Limited	22,396,894	5.32
Singapore Telecommunications Limited	21,897,876	5.21
Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited	19,254,188	4.58
First Resources Limited	13,783,245	3.28
Comfortdelgro Corporation Limited	12,749,016	3.03
10 largest holdings at 31 December 2023	Fair value S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders %
DBS Group Holdings Limited	71,960,763	21.15
United Overseas Bank Limited	42,350,357	12.45
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited	37,747,216	11.09
Sembcorp Industries Limited	20,082,420	5.90
Seatrium Limited	17,827,896	5.24
Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings Limited	15,778,057	4.64
UMS Holdings Limited	10,734,438	3.15
First Resources Limited	8,702,980	2.56
Keppel Infrastructure Trust	7,495,792	2.20
Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited	7,399,558	2.17

# 4. Exposure to financial derivatives

Nil.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

For the financial year ended 31 December 2024

### 5. Global exposure to financial derivatives

Nil.

### 6. Collateral

Nil.

# 7. Securities lending or repurchase transactions

Nil.

### 8. Investment in unit trusts, mutual funds and collective investment schemes

Please refer to the Statement of Portfolio on pages 14 to 16.

### 9. Borrowings

Nil.

### 10. Amount of units created and cancelled for the financial year ended 31 December 2024

Units created	25,407,464
Units cancelled	(39,315,071)

S\$

### 11. Turnover ratio

Please refer to Note 9 of the Notes to the Financial Statements on page 28.

# 12. Expense ratio

Please refer to Note 9 of the Notes to the Financial Statements on page 28.

### 13. Related party transactions

Please refer to Note 8 of the Notes to the Financial Statements on page 28.

# 14. Any other material information that will adversely impact the valuation of the Fund

Nil.

#### 15. Soft dollar commissions/arrangements

In their management of the Fund, the Managers currently do not receive or enter into any soft dollar commissions or arrangements.

### 16. Subsequent events

The Manager, Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited will be changing its name to Amova Asset Management Asia Limited with effect from 1 September 2025.

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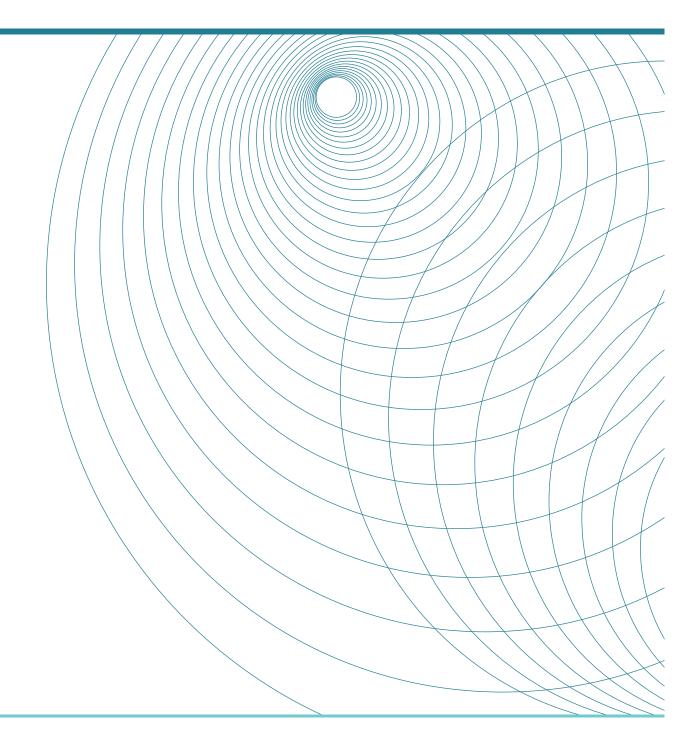
12 Marina View, #18-02, Asia Square Tower 2, Singapore 018961 Website: www.nikkoam.com.sg Company Registration Number: 198202562H





# SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund

Financial period ending 30 June 2024



## MANAGERS

Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited 12 Marina View, #18-02 Asia Square Tower 2 Singapore 018961 Company Registration No. 198202562H

### DIRECTORS OF THE MANAGERS

Seet Oon Hui Eleanor Yutaka Nishida Hiroshi Yoh Allen Yan

### **TRUSTEE & REGISTRAR**

BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited 20 Collyer Quay, #01-01 Singapore 049319

### **AUDITORS**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP 7 Straits View, Marina One, East Tower, Level 12, Singapore 018936

## CUSTODIAN

BNP Paribas, acting through its Singapore Branch 20 Collyer Quay, #01-01 Singapore 049319

This report is also available on our website (www.nikkoam.com.sg)

## PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Returns (%)	3 Mth	6 Mth	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Inception
Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund - SGD Class <sup>1</sup>	7.87	10.62	14.12	5.92	5.31	4.54	5.86
Straits Times Index (STI) <sup>2</sup>	5.61	5.66	9.40	6.79	4.39	3.22	3.10

Source: Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, returns as at 30 June 2024. Returns are calculated on a NAV-NAV basis, SGD, and based on the assumption that all dividends and distributions are reinvested, if any. Returns for period in excess of 1 year are annualised. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

Returns (%)	3 Mth	6 Mth	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Inception
Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund - SGD Class <sup>1</sup>	2.47	5.09	8.42	4.12	4.24	4.01	5.72
Straits Times Index (STI) <sup>2</sup>	5.61	5.66	9.40	6.79	4.39	3.22	3.10

Source: Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, returns as at 30 June 2024. Returns are calculated on a NAV-NAV basis, SGD, and based on the assumption that all dividends and distributions are reinvested, if any, and take into account of maximum initial sales and a realisation charge, currently nil, as and where applicable. Returns for period in excess of 1 year are annualised. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

### Inception date: 31 August 1987

### Note:

- (1) With effect from 17 October 2011, the Fund (formerly known as "Shenton Thrift Fund") has been renamed Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund.
- (2) Prior to 1 May 2017, the performance returns of the benchmark were calculated using price index methodology. With effect from 1 May 2017, the performance returns of the benchmark is calculated using net total return index methodology. Net total return index methodology incorporates into its returns calculation the reinvestment of a constituent company's dividend distributions net of tax credits or charges.

## Portfolio Review

## Fund returns 10.62% in the first half of 2024 (1H24)

For the financial period ending 30 June 2024, the Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund") posted a return of 10.62% (SGD terms, on a NAV-NAV basis), outperforming the Straits Times Index (STI) which returned 5.66% on a total return basis over the same period.

The Fund's overweight positions in Yangzijiang Shipbuilding and TDCX added the most to relative performance over the period. Conversely, the overweight positions in UMS Holdings and Seatrium were the biggest detractors from relative performance.

## Market Review

## The Straits Times Index (STI) rises 5.66% in 1H24

Singapore stocks, as measured by the STI, registered a positive 1H24, with a 5.66% gain on a total return basis in SGD terms. Monetary policy remained at the forefront of the macro landscape over the period. Investors entered 2024 thinking that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) could lower rates up to six times this year, but the Fed has held off on rate cuts so far. Meanwhile, continued enthusiasm about artificial intelligence (AI) has been a big boost to markets. Chinese equity markets were lifted by moves to stimulate economic growth, in particular those supporting the long-troubled real estate sector. In Singapore, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) kept its monetary policy settings unchanged, the economy expanded 2.7% year-on-year (YoY) in the first quarter, and inflationary pressures remained stable over the period.

## The MAS keeps foreign exchange policy unchanged

The MAS transitioned to a quarterly schedule starting in 2024 and maintained the prevailing rate of appreciation of the Singapore dollar nominal effective exchange rate (SGDNEER) policy band. The width and the level at which the band is centred also remained unchanged for both the January and April meetings. The MAS anticipates a strengthening economy in 2024, characterised by more broad-based growth. For 2024, the MAS forecasts both core and headline inflation to average between 2.5–3.5%, expecting pressures to cool more in the final quarter.

## *Economy expands 2.7% in 1Q24; most high frequency data improve in May*

Singapore's economy expanded 2.7% YoY in the first quarter of 2024 (1Q24), surpassing expectations of a 2.5% increase. Following this release, the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) kept its full-year 2024 gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast range at 1–3%, while emphasising downside risks from geopolitical tensions, prolonged tight global financial conditions and increased volatility in capital flows and currency fluctuations. Meanwhile, most high-frequency data reported in May indicated some improvement in the economic recovery. Non-oil domestic exports (NODX) declined by 0.1% YoY in May, a significant moderation from the 9.6% contraction in April, as electronic shipments grew for the second consecutive month, showing double-digit growth. Similarly, industrial production growth improved in May, increasing 2.9% YoY, surpassing the expected 1.4% rise, while April's contraction was revised to 1.2% (from 1.6%). Notably, the key electronics sector experienced a 20.1% increase in May, rebounding from a 1.1% decline in April. Meanwhile, the May Purchasing Managers' Index rose by 0.1 points to reach 50.6. In contrast, retail sales fell in April, ending a three-month streak of gains and performing worse than expected as tourist arrivals decreased.

## Inflation prints show signs of moderation

Inflationary pressures remained low over the period. The most recent reading revealed Singapore's consumer price index (CPI) climbed 3.1% YoY in May, up from 2.7% in April, driven by higher prices for vehicles and petrol. Meanwhile, core CPI, which strips out private road transport and accommodation costs, remained stable at 3.1% YoY for three consecutive months through May. Policymakers stated that core inflation is expected to follow a gradual moderating trend for the remainder of the year, with a more noticeable decline in the fourth quarter. They maintained their 2024 estimates for both core and headline inflation at 2.5% to 3.5%. Additionally, the MTI and the MAS noted that the strengthening of the Singapore dollar trade-weighted exchange rate should continue to mitigate imported inflation in the coming months.

## Singapore budgets a surplus for FY2024; Lawrence Wong is the new prime minister

In his Budget 2024 speech, then Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong announced Singapore's expected return to a small budget surplus of SGD 800 million, or 0.1% of GDP, in fiscal year (FY) 2024 (starting April), following a deficit in FY2023. Minister Wong unveiled

targeted support measures to alleviate the impact of rising inflation, including a combination of cash, vouchers and rebates as part of enhancements to the Assurance Package.

In May, Lawrence Wong was inaugurated as Singapore's fourth prime minister, succeeding Mr Lee Hsien Loong, who served as the country's leader for two decades and now holds the position of Senior Minister. In his inaugural address, Prime Minister Wong, who will also retain his role as finance minister, emphasised continuity and stability as pillars for the incoming administration.

## Market Outlook and Strategy

### Favour "New Singapore" stocks, which represent the future economy of Singapore

We continue to expect economic growth in Singapore to accelerate to about 2% in 2024. The manufacturing sector continues to recover, with industrial production now in positive territory, rising 2.9% YoY in May from a 1.2% decline in April. Encouragingly, the rise came on the back of strong growth in the electronics sector, supported by the semiconductor and other related segments. These datapoints are in line with our expectations of a broadening Al boom.

We continue to foresee a mild expansion in corporate earnings in 2024, after two strong years in 2022–23. In particular, bank earnings are likely to stay elevated in a higher-for-longer interest rate scenario, with credit costs likely to remain contained. Against this backdrop, valuations for Singapore stocks continue to be attractive at around 11x price/earnings ratio, against a historical average of about 14x.

Our stock selection continues to favour the tech sector, on the back of a continued recovery in the coming quarters. We also favour "New Singapore" stocks, which represent the future economy of Singapore, in areas such as renewable energy, tech, data, healthcare, food and logistics. During this year, heightened expectations of a delay in interest rate cuts by the Fed to the year-end has supported stocks of the Singapore banks, while depressing unit prices of the REITs. While this divergence has been less pronounced over the last two months, we remain selective in our REIT exposures, preferring those with specific bottom-up drivers and sound balance sheets.

This document is purely for informational purposes only with no consideration given to the specific investment objective, financial situation and particular needs of any specific person. It should not be relied upon as financial advice. Any securities mentioned herein are for illustration purposes only and should not be construed as a recommendation for investment. **You should seek advice from a financial adviser before making any investment. In the event that you choose not to do so, you should consider whether the investment selected is suitable for you.** Investments in funds are not deposits in, obligations of, or guaranteed or insured by Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited ("Nikko AM Asia").

Past performance or any prediction, projection or forecast is not indicative of future performance. The Fund or any underlying fund may use or invest in financial derivative instruments. The value of units and income from them may fall or rise. Investments in the Fund are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of principal amount invested. You should read the relevant prospectus (including the risk warnings) and product highlights sheet of the Fund, which are available and may be obtained from appointed distributors of Nikko AM Asia or our website (www.nikkoam.com.sg) before deciding whether to invest in the Fund.

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(Where relevant – for funds included under CPFIS) The Central Provident Fund ("CPF") Ordinary Account ("OA") interest rate is the legislated minimum 2.5% per annum, or the 3-month average of major local banks' interest rates, whichever is higher, reviewed quarterly. The interest rate for Special Account ("SA") is currently 4% per annum or the 12-month average yield of 10-year Singapore Government Securities plus 1%, whichever is higher, reviewed quarterly. Only monies in excess of \$20,000 in OA and \$40,000 in SA can be invested under the CPF Investment Scheme ("CPFIS"). Please refer to the website of the CPF Board for further information. Investors should note that the applicable interest rates for the CPF accounts and the terms of CPFIS may be varied by the CPF Board form time to time.

## For Hong Kong Investors

The Fund may only be offered to professional investors in Hong Kong and is not authorised by the Securities and Futures Commission. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to this document. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents, you should obtain independent professional advice.

Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited. Registration Number 198202562H

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the financial period from 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (unaudited)

	30 June 2024 S\$	30 June 2023 S\$
Income	~ ~~~ ~~~	40.000.000
Dividends	8,230,306	10,268,888
Interest on cash and cash equivalents	113,546	124,009
-	8,343,852	10,392,897
Less: Expenses		
Management fee	1,294,189	1,262,004
Transfer agent fee	7,266	15,586
Custody fee	39,431	33,264
Audit fee	10,161	9,521
Valuation fee	34,606	33,653
Transaction costs	495,118	552,796
Other expenses	50,251	54,852
-	1,931,022	1,961,676
Net income	6,412,830	8,431,221
Net gains or losses on value of investments		
Net gains/(losses) on investments	29,190,783	(1,437,930)
Net foreign exchange losses	(58,246)	(6,068)
	29,132,537	(1,443,998)
Total roturn for the financial period before income tax	25 545 267	6 097 000
Total return for the financial period before income tax Less: Income tax	35,545,367	6,987,223
	(45,399)	(40,658)
Total return for the financial period after income tax	35,499,968	6,946,565

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	30 June 2024 S\$	31 December 2023 S\$
ASSETS Portfolio of investments Sales awaiting settlement Receivables Cash and cash equivalents Total assets	354,739,217 2,464,778 130,922 <u>12,342,135</u> 369,677,052	335,902,029 6,340 41,883 5,622,633 341,572,885
LIABILITIES Payables Purchases awaiting settlement Total liabilities	1,122,665 2,393,299 3,515,964	1,327,572 - 1,327,572
EQUITY Net assets attributable to unitholders	366,161,088	340,245,313

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS OF UNITHOLDERS' FUNDS

For the financial period from 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (unaudited)

	30 June 2024 S\$	31 December 2023 S\$
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the beginning of the financial period/year	340,245,313	339,392,671
<b>Operations</b> Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from operations	35,499,968	17,463,037
Unitholders' contributions/(withdrawals)		
Creation of units Cancellation of units	9,502,885 (19,087,078)	18,404,816 (35,015,211)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from net creation and cancellation of units	(9,584,193)	(16,610,395)
Total increases in net assets attributable to unitholders	25,915,775	852,642
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the end of the financial period/year	366,161,088	340,245,313

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# **STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO**

By Geography (Primary)	Holdings at 30 June 2024	Fair value at 30 June 2024 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2024 %
Quoted Equities		Οψ	70
CHINA Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings Limited Total CHINA	6,483,500	<u>15,949,410</u> 15,949,410	<u>4.36</u> 4.36
MALAYSIA Frencken Group Limited YTL Power International Berhad Total MALAYSIA	6,480,500 1,431,700	10,563,215 <u>1,982,477</u> 12,545,692	2.88 0.54 3.42
PHILIPPINES Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company Total PHILIPPINES	5,756,840	8,992,238 8,992,238	2.46 2.46
SINGAPORE BRC Asia Limited ComfortDelGro Corporation Limited CSE Global Limited DBS Group Holdings Limited First Resources Limited Genting Singapore Limited Grab Holdings Limited Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited Riverstone Holdings Limited SATS Limited Sea Limited See Limited Sembcorp Industries Limited Singapore Post Limited Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited Singapore Telecommunications Limited UMS Holdings Limited United Overseas Bank Limited Total SINGAPORE	2,240,500 4,688,000 10,944,420 2,242,455 6,460,200 10,596,600 1,172,592 2,718,732 8,689,300 3,714,400 80,167 3,319,000 5,686,400 2,636,800 8,564,200 7,053,875 1,524,589	4,794,670 6,281,920 4,377,768 80,257,464 8,915,076 9,166,059 5,641,541 39,231,303 8,428,621 10,586,040 7,760,662 15,964,390 2,445,152 11,417,344 23,551,550 8,323,572 47,765,373 294,908,505	1.31 1.72 1.20 21.92 2.43 2.50 1.54 10.71 2.30 2.89 2.12 4.36 0.67 3.12 6.43 2.27 13.04 80.53
THAILAND Fabrinet Company Limited	20,298	6,726,515	1.84
Total THAILAND Total Quoted Equities		6,726,515 339,122,360	<u>1.84</u> 92.61

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# **STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO**

By Geography (Primary) (continued) Quoted Investment Funds	Holdings at 30 June 2024	Fair value at 30 June 2024 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2024 %
SINGAPORE CapitaLand India Trust Keppel Infrastructure Trust Total SINGAPORE Total Quoted Investment Funds	3,360,921 7,687,285	3,293,703 3,613,024 6,906,727 6,906,727	0.90 0.99 1.89 1.89
Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts SINGAPORE CapitaLand Ascendas REIT Digital Core REIT Management Private Limited Total SINGAPORE	2,108,400 4,288,200	5,397,504 3,312,626	1.47 0.91 2.38
Total Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts Portfolio of investments Other net assets		8,710,130 8,710,130 354,739,217 11,421,871	2.38 2.38 96.88 3.12
Net assets attributable to unitholders		366,161,088	100.00

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO

By Geography (Summary)	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2024 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2023 %
Quoted Equities China Hong Kong SAR Malaysia Philippines Singapore Thailand Total Quoted Equities	4.36 3.42 2.46 80.53 1.84 92.61	4.80 3.02 2.11 - 78.34 - 88.27
Quoted Investment Funds Singapore Total Quoted Investment Funds	<u> </u>	<u>3.42</u> <u>3.42</u>
Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts Singapore Total Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts	<u>2.38</u> 2.38	7.03
Portfolio of investments Other net assets Net assets attributable to unitholders	96.88 3.12 100.00	98.72 1.28 100.00

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO

By Industry (Secondary)	Fair value at 30 June 2024 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2024 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2023 %
Aerospace/Defense Agriculture Banks Computers Electric Electrical Component & Equipment Electronics Engineering and Construction Entertainment Food Holding Companies-Diversified Internet Iron/Steel Miscellaneous Manufacture Oil and Gas Services Private Equity Real Estate Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS) Semiconductors Shipbuilding Telecommunications Transportation	11,417,344 8,915,076 176,246,378 4,377,768 21,559,891 10,563,215 - 10,586,040 9,166,059 - 13,402,203 4,794,670 15,155,136 - 3,293,703 8,710,130 8,323,572 15,949,410 23,551,550 8,727,072	3.12 2.44 48.13 1.20 5.89 2.88 2.89 2.50 - - 3.66 1.31 4.14 - 0.90 2.38 2.27 4.36 6.43 2.38	$\begin{array}{c} 2.17\\ 3.25\\ 44.69\\ 2.45\\ 9.32\\ 0.89\\ 1.90\\ 3.61\\ 2.15\\ 1.66\\ 1.52\\ \\ 1.07\\ \\ 5.24\\ 1.39\\ 1.22\\ 7.03\\ 3.15\\ 4.64\\ \\ \\ 1.37\end{array}$
Portfolio of investments Other net assets Net assets attributable to unitholders	354,739,217 11,421,871 366,161,088	96.88 3.12 100.00	98.72 1.28 100.00

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

For the financial period from 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (unaudited)

The following contains additional information relating to the Fund.

## 1. Distribution of investments

Please refer to the Statement of Portfolio on pages 9 to 12.

## 2. Credit rating of debt securities

Nil.

## 3. Top 10 holdings

10 Largest holdings at 30 June 2024	ا Fair value S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders %
DBS Group Holdings Limited	80,257,464	21.92
United Overseas Bank Limited	47,765,373	13.04
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited	39,231,303	10.71
Singapore Telecommunications Limited	23,551,550	6.43
Sembcorp Industries Limited	15,964,390	4.36
Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings Limited	15,949,410	4.36
Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited	11,417,344	3.12
SATS Limited	10,586,040	2.89
Frencken Group Limited	10,563,215	2.88
Genting Singapore Limited	9,166,059	2.50
10 Largest holdings at 30 June 2023	Fair value S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders %
DBS Group Holdings Limited	64,626,033	19.16
United Overseas Bank Limited	33,745,292	10.00
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited	31,208,785	9.25
Keppel Corporation Limited	21,027,127	6.23
Sembcorp Industries Limited	18,877,825	5.60
Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings Limited	16,325,400	4.84
Seatrium Limited	14,481,933	4.29
Genting Singapore Limited	13,774,008	4.08
Keppel Infrastructure Trust	9,761,545	2.89
Jardine Matheson Holdings Limited	9,753,061	2.89

### 4. Exposure to financial derivatives

Nil.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

For the financial period from 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (unaudited)

### 5. Global exposure to financial derivatives

Nil.

## 6. Collateral

Nil.

### 7. Securities lending or repurchase transactions

Nil.

### 8. Investment in unit trusts, mutual funds and collective investment schemes

Please refer to the Statement of Portfolio on pages 9 to 12.

### 9. Borrowings

Nil.

11.

### 10. Amount of units created and cancelled for the financial period ended 30 June 2024

			S\$
Units created			9,502,885
Units cancelled			(19,087,078)
Turnover ratio			
		30 June	30 June
		2024	2023
Lower of total value of purchases or sales	S\$	96,735,695	108,546,381
Average daily net asset value	S\$	346,765,608	339,176,357
Total turnover ratio <sup>1</sup>	%	27.90	32.00

The portfolio turnover ratio is calculated in accordance with the formula stated in the Code on Collective Investment Schemes. The calculation of the portfolio turnover ratio was based on the lower of the total value of purchases or sales of the underlying investments, divided by the average daily net asset value.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

For the financial period from 01 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 (unaudited)

### 12. Expense ratio

SGD Class		30 June 2024	30 June 2023
Total operating expenses	S\$	2,834,698	2,828,067
Average daily net asset value	S\$	341,800,507	338,831,605
<b>Total expense ratio</b> ²	%	0.83	0.83

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The expense ratio has been computed based on the guidelines laid down by the Investment Management Association of Singapore ("IMAS"). The calculation of the expense ratio at financial period end was based on total operating expenses divided by the average net asset value for the year. The total operating expenses do not include (where applicable) brokerage and other transactions costs, performance fee, interest expense, distribution paid out to unitholders, foreign exchange gains/losses, front or back end loads arising from the purchase or sale of other funds and tax deducted at source or arising out of income received. The Fund does not pay any performance fee. The average net asset value is based on the daily balances.

### 13. Related party transactions

The Manager of the Fund is Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, a subsidiary of Nikko Asset Management International Limited. The Trustee of the Fund is BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited (the "Trustee").

Management fee is payable to the Manager. Trustee fee is payable out of the management fees by Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited to BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited. Custody fee, transfer agent fee and valuation fee are payable to a related company of the Trustee, BNP Paribas, acting through its Singapore Branch.

In addition to related party information shown elsewhere in the financial statements (including the Statement of Portfolio), the following significant transactions took place during the financial period between the Fund and a related party at terms agreed between the parties and within the provisions of the Deeds:

	30 June	31 December
	2024	2023
	S\$	S\$
Bank balances held with related party of the Trustee	12,342,135	5,622,633

### 14. Any other material information that will adversely impact the valuation of the Fund

Nil.

### 15. Soft dollar commissions/arrangements

In their management of the Fund, the Managers currently do not receive or enter into any soft dollar commissions or arrangements.

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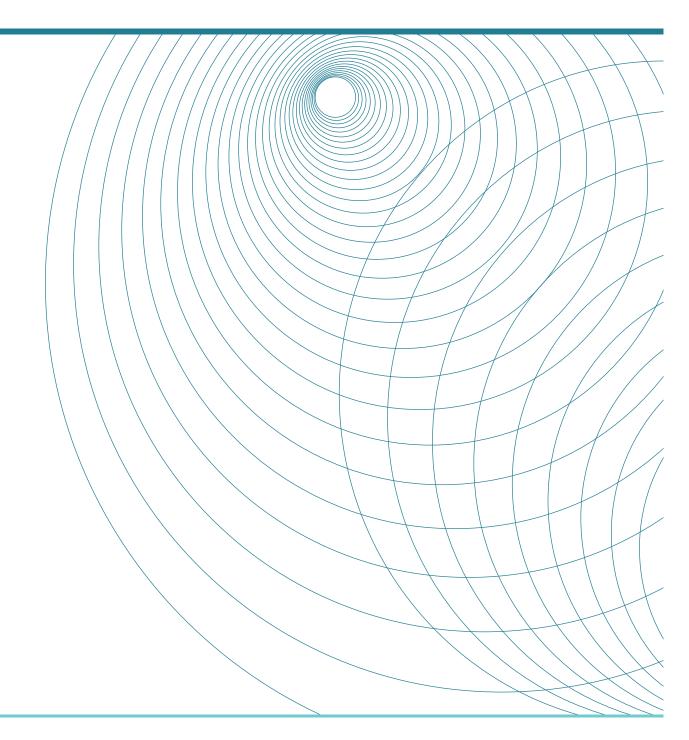
12 Marina View, #18-02, Asia Square Tower 2, Singapore 018961 Website: www.nikkoam.com.sg Company Registration Number: 198202562H





# ANNUAL REPORT Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund

Financial year ended 31 December 2023



## MANAGERS

Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited 12 Marina View, #18-02 Asia Square Tower 2 Singapore 018961 Company Registration No. 198202562H

### **DIRECTORS OF THE MANAGERS**

Seet Oon Hui Eleanor Yutaka Nishida Hiroshi Yoh Allen Yan

### **TRUSTEE & REGISTRAR**

BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited 20 Collyer Quay, #01-01 Singapore 049319

#### **AUDITORS**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP 7 Straits View, Marina One, East Tower, Level 12, Singapore 018936

## CUSTODIAN

BNP Paribas, acting through its Singapore Branch 20 Collyer Quay, #01-01 Singapore 049319

This report is also available on our website (www.nikkoam.com.sg)

### PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Returns (%)	3 Mth	6 Mth	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Inception
Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund - SGD Class <sup>1</sup>	0.15	3.16	5.31	5.39	5.14	3.83	5.65
Straits Times Index (STI) <sup>2</sup>	1.37	3.54	4.74	8.83	5.33	2.93	2.98

Source: Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, returns as at 31 December 2023. Returns are calculated on a NAV-NAV basis, SGD, and based on the assumption that all dividends and distributions are reinvested, if any. Returns for period in excess of 1 year are annualised. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

Returns (%)	3 Mth	6 Mth	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	10 Yr	Since Inception
Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund - SGD Class <sup>1</sup>	-4.86	-1.99	0.04	3.60	4.07	3.30	5.50
Straits Times Index (STI) <sup>2</sup>	1.37	3.54	4.74	8.83	5.33	2.93	2.98

Source: Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, returns as at 31 December 2023. Returns are calculated on a NAV-NAV basis, SGD, and based on the assumption that all dividends and distributions are reinvested, if any, and take into account of maximum initial sales and a realisation charge, currently nil, as and where applicable. Returns for period in excess of 1 year are annualised. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

### Inception date: 31 August 1987

### Note:

- (1) With effect from 17 October 2011, the Fund (formerly known as "Shenton Thrift Fund") has been renamed Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund.
- (2) Prior to 1 May 2017, the performance returns of the benchmark were calculated using price index methodology. With effect from 1 May 2017, the performance returns of the benchmark is calculated using net total return index methodology. Net total return index methodology incorporates into its returns calculation the reinvestment of a constituent company's dividend distributions net of tax credits or charges.

## Portfolio Review

### *Fund returns 5.31% in 2023*

For the financial period ending 31 December 2023, the Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund") posted a return of 5.31% (SGD terms, on a NAV-NAV basis), outperforming the Straits Times Index (STI) which returned 4.74% on a total return basis over the same period.

The Fund's overweight positions in YTL Power International and UMS Holdings, and the underweight in Jardine Matheson added the most to relative performance over the period. Conversely, overweight positions in Seatrium, Keppel Infrastructure and TDCX were the biggest detractors from relative performance.

### Market Review

### The Straits Times Index (STI) climbs 4.74% in 2023

Singapore stocks—as measured by the STI—rose for the review period, propped up by robust gains in the second half of 2023. At the start of the year, the banking meltdown in the US and Europe sparked concerns of a credit crunch, although these concerns were short-lived. Global equities were broadly higher over the second quarter—as fears of a global downturn further receded on the back of the resilience in the global economy, and an artificial intelligence frenzy propelled technology (tech) stocks higher. Entering the second half of the year, price pressures continued to abate, all while growth remained resilient. Investor optimism soon waned over August and September though, as the prospect of higher-for-longer rates gripped markets again. The negative sentiment carried over to October amid surging government bond yields, but markets soon concluded the year with a remarkable two-month surge as the US Federal Reserve sent its clearest message yet that its aggressive hiking campaign has ended by pencilling in a series of rate cuts in 2024.

### MAS keeps its foreign exchange policy unchanged

In Singapore, the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) left its monetary policy unchanged in 2023 after taking aggressive measures to blunt the impact of inflation by strengthening the Singapore dollar at an unprecedented pace of five times since October 2021. The central bank will be shifting to a quarterly (from a semi-annual frequency) monetary policy schedule in 2024 to enhance communication and provide greater flexibility in responding to changes in economic conditions.

### Singapore's economy expands 1.2% YoY in 2023

According to advance estimates, Singapore's economy expanded by 2.8% year-on-year (YoY) in the fourth quarter of 2023, a sharp increase from the downwardly revised 1.0% growth in the third quarter. For the whole of 2023, the economy grew by 1.2%, slower than the 3.6% growth recorded in 2022. The Ministry of Trade and Industry has forecast that Singapore's GDP will see an expansion of about 1% to 3% in 2024.

### High-frequency data remains weak over the year

Throughout 2023, high-frequency data remained weak, with some improvement towards the end of the year. Non-oil domestic exports and industrial production—which had contracted for months—expanded briefly but contracted again in December. Price pressures moderated over the period but remained relatively elevated, with the headline Consumer Price Index easing to 4.8% YoY in 2023 after averaging 6.1% in 2022. The MAS' preferred core inflation measure, which excludes private transport and accommodation inflation, averaged 4.2% in 2023, inching up from the 4.1% recorded in 2022. The MAS projects core inflation to average between 2.5–3.5% in 2024. However, it highlighted potential upward risks to this from factors including geopolitical conflicts, adverse weather events and prolonged tightness in the domestic labour market, while acknowledging that an unforeseen global economic downturn could alleviate cost and price pressures more rapidly.

## Market Outlook and Strategy

### 2024 likely to offer strong potential for stock-picking alpha

We continue to expect economic growth in Singapore to accelerate modestly in 2024 to about 2%. We expect the US economy to remain broadly resilient, but are now more cautious on China, due to the continued problems facing its property sector. We remain positive on the manufacturing sector on a recovery in tech demand, and we also continue to see a modest improvement in tourism.

We foresee a milder expansion in corporate earnings in 2024, after two strong years in 2022–23. In particular, bank lending margins are likely to stay elevated in a higher-for-longer interest rate scenario, while credit costs are likely to remain contained. Against this backdrop, valuations for Singapore stocks are attractive at around 10x price/earnings ratio, against a historical average of about 14x.

2024 is likely to offer strong potential for stock-picking alpha, in our opinion. We are overweight in the tech sector, which should see a more convincing recovery this year. We continue to like "New Singapore" stocks, which represent the future economy of Singapore, in areas such as renewable energy, tech, data, healthcare, food and logistics. We are also cautiously adding to REITs which feature strong balance sheets and benefit from sound underlying demand.

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Past performance or any prediction, projection or forecast is not indicative of future performance. The Fund or any underlying fund may use or invest in financial derivative instruments. The value of units and income from them may fall or rise. Investments in the Fund are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of principal amount invested. You should read the relevant prospectus (including the risk warnings) and product highlights sheet of the Fund, which are available and may be obtained from appointed distributors of Nikko AM Asia or our website (www.nikkoam.com.sg) before deciding whether to invest in the Fund.

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(Where relevant – for funds included under CPFIS) The Central Provident Fund ("CPF") Ordinary Account ("OA") interest rate is the legislated minimum 2.5% per annum, or the 3-month average of major local banks' interest rates, whichever is higher, reviewed quarterly. The interest rate for Special Account ("SA") is currently 4% per annum or the 12-month average yield of 10-year Singapore Government Securities plus 1%, whichever is higher, reviewed quarterly. Only monies in excess of \$20,000 in OA and \$40,000 in SA can be invested under the CPF Investment Scheme ("CPFIS"). Please refer to the website of the CPF Board for further information. Investors should note that the applicable interest rates for the CPF accounts and the terms of CPFIS may be varied by the CPF Board from time to time.

### For Hong Kong Investors

The Fund may only be offered to professional investors in Hong Kong and is not authorised by the Securities and Futures Commission. The contents of this document have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to this document. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents, you should obtain independent professional advice.

Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited. Registration Number 198202562H

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE**

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The Trustee is under a duty to take into custody and hold the assets of Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund") in trust for the unitholders. In accordance with the Securities and Futures Act 2001, its subsidiary legislation and the Code on Collective Investment Schemes, the Trustee shall monitor the activities of the Manager for compliance with the limitations imposed on the investment and borrowing powers as set out in the Trust Deed in each annual accounting year and report thereon to unitholders in an annual report.

To the best knowledge of the Trustee, the Manager has, in all material respects, managed the Fund during the financial year covered by these financial statements, set out on pages 11 to 29, in accordance with the limitations imposed on the investment and borrowing powers set out in the Trust Deed.

For and on behalf of the Trustee BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited

Authorised signatory 27 March 2024

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## STATEMENT BY THE MANAGER

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

In the opinion of Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, the accompanying financial statements set out on pages 11 to 29, comprising the Statement of Total Return, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Movements of Unitholders' Funds, Statement of Portfolio and Notes to the Financial Statements are drawn up so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and the portfolio holdings of Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund") as at 31 December 2023, and the financial performance and movements in unitholders' funds for the financial year then ended in accordance with the recommendations of Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice 7 "Reporting Framework for Investment Funds" issued by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to meet its financial obligations as and when they materialise.

For and on behalf of the Manager Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited

Authorised signatory 27 March 2024

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF NIKKO AM SHENTON THRIFT FUND

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## **Our Opinion**

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund"), are properly drawn up in accordance with the recommendations of Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice 7 "Reporting Framework for Investment Funds" issued by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants ("RAP 7"), so as to present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position and portfolio holdings of the Fund as at 31 December 2023, and the financial performance and movements of unitholders' funds for the financial year ended on that date.

### What we have audited

The financial statements of the Fund comprise:

- the Statement of Total Return for the financial year ended 31 December 2023;
- the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2023;
- the Statement of Movements of Unitholders' Funds for the financial year then ended;
- the Statement of Portfolio as at 31 December 2023; and
- the notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with Singapore Standards on Auditing ("SSAs"). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's 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 audit opinion.

### Independence

We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Public Accountants and Accounting Entities ("ACRA Code") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Singapore, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the ACRA Code.

### **Other Information**

The Fund's Manager (the "Manager") is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all sections of the annual report but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements 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.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF NIKKO AM SHENTON THRIFT FUND

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### Responsibilities of the Manager for the Financial Statements

The Manager is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of RAP 7 and for such internal control as the Manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 intends to terminate the Fund or to cease the Fund's operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Manager's responsibilities include overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's 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 SSAs 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.

As part of an audit in accordance with SSAs, 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, 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 auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements 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 auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE UNITHOLDERS OF NIKKO AM SHENTON THRIFT FUND

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

• Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements 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.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants Singapore, 27 March 2024

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 S\$	2022 S\$
<b>Income</b>	_	17,293,344	13,422,411
Dividends		273,778	86,789
Interest on cash and cash equivalents		17,567,122	13,509,200
Less: Expenses		2,536,445	2,570,824
Management fee		22,790	28,642
Transfer agent fee		66,226	63,974
Custody fee		19,242	17,848
Audit fee		67,639	68,555
Valuation fee		1,016,748	827,934
Transaction costs		95,359	137,742
Other expenses		3,824,449	3,715,519
Net income		13,742,673	9,793,681
<b>Net gains or losses on value of investments</b>		3,848,606	3,145,593
Net gains on investments		(62,897)	(4,245)
Net foreign exchange losses		3,785,709	3,141,348
Total return for the financial year before income tax Less: Income tax Total return for the financial year after income tax	3	17,528,382 (65,345) 17,463,037	12,935,029 (43,791) 12,891,238

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 S\$	2022 S\$
ASSETS Portfolio of investments Sales awaiting settlement Receivables Cash and cash equivalents Total assets	4	335,902,029 6,340 41,883 <u>5,622,633</u> 341,572,885	333,989,436 - 23,714 <u>6,875,518</u> 340,888,668
LIABILITIES Payables Total liabilities	5	1,327,572 1,327,572	1,495,997 1,495,997
EQUITY Net assets attributable to unitholders	6	340,245,313	339,392,671

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS OF UNITHOLDERS' FUNDS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 S\$	2022 S\$
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the beginning of the financial year		339,392,671	324,003,175
<b>Operations</b> Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from operations		17,463,037	12,891,238
Unitholders' contributions/(withdrawals)			
Creation of units Cancellation of units		18,404,816 (35,015,211)	36,422,266 (33,924,008)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from net creation and cancellation of units		(16,610,395)	2,498,258
Total increases in net assets attributable to unitholders		852,642	15,389,496
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the end of the financial year	6	340,245,313	339,392,671

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO

As at 31 December 2023

By Geography (Primary)	Holdings at 31 December 2023	Fair value at 31 December 2023	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2023
Quoted Equities		S\$	%
<b>CHINA</b> Austasia Group Limited Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings Limited <b>Total CHINA</b>	1,758,000 10,589,300	549,412 15,778,057 16,327,469	0.16 4.64 4.80
HONG KONG SAR DFI Retail Group Holdings Limited Jardine Matheson Holdings Limited Total HONG KONG SAR	1,620,000 94,983	5,128,685 5,163,311 10,291,996	1.50 1.52 3.02
MALAYSIA Frencken Group Limited YTL Power International Berhad Total MALAYSIA	2,249,800 5,691,500	3,037,230 4,150,034 7,187,264	0.89 1.22 2.11
SINGAPORE BRC Asia Limited CapitaLand Investment Limited ComfortDelGro Corporation Limited CSE Global Limited DBS Group Holdings Limited First Resources Limited Genting Singapore Limited Keppel Limited Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited SATS Limited Seatrium Limited Seatrium Limited Sembcorp Industries Limited Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited TDCX Incorporated UMS Holdings Limited United Overseas Bank Limited Venture Corporation Limited Wilmar International Limited	2,028,800 1,495,600 3,322,900 8,849,120 2,153,869 6,086,000 7,266,700 847,600 2,903,632 2,288,800 151,083,862 3,782,000 1,902,200 709,646 8,010,775 1,488,589 475,100 661,200	3,631,552 4,726,096 4,652,060 3,805,122 71,960,763 8,702,980 7,266,700 5,992,532 37,747,216 6,294,200 17,827,896 20,082,420 7,399,558 4,540,078 10,734,438 42,350,357 6,466,111 2,360,484 266,540,563	1.07 1.39 1.37 1.12 21.15 2.56 2.15 1.76 11.09 1.85 5.24 5.90 2.17 1.33 3.15 12.45 1.90 0.69 78.34
Total Quoted Equities		300,347,292	88.27

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# **STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO**

As at 31 December 2023

By Geography (Primary) (continued)	Holdings at 31 December 2023	Fair value at 31 December 2023 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2023 %
Quoted Investment Funds			
SINGAPORE CapitaLand India Trust Keppel Infrastructure Trust Total SINGAPORE	3,637,321 14,991,585	4,146,546 7,495,792 11,642,338	1.22 2.20 3.42
Total Quoted Investment Funds		11,642,338	3.42
Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts			
SINGAPORE CapitaLand Ascendas REIT CapitaLand Ascott Trust CapitaLand China Trust Digital Core REIT Management Pte Limited Lendlease Global Commercial REIT Total SINGAPORE	2,231,400 3,274,647 4,941,900 5,874,300 6,690,536	6,761,142 3,241,901 4,595,967 4,997,993 4,315,396 23,912,399	1.99 0.95 1.35 1.47 1.27 7.03
Total Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts		23,912,399	7.03
Portfolio of investments Other net assets Net assets attributable to unitholders		335,902,029 <u>4,343,284</u> 340,245,313	98.72 <u>1.28</u> 100.00

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# **STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO**

As at 31 December 2023

By Geography (Summary)	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2023 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2022 %
Quoted Equities China Hong Kong SAR Malaysia Singapore Total Quoted Equities	4.80 3.02 2.11 78.34 88.27	1.77 2.43 1.95 <u>85.00</u> 91.15
Quoted Investment Funds Singapore Total Quoted Investment Funds	3.42 3.42	2.92 2.92
Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts Singapore Total Quoted Real Estate Investment Trusts	7.03 7.03	4.34
Portfolio of investments Other net assets Net assets attributable to unitholders	98.72 <u>1.28</u> 100.00	98.41 <u>1.59</u> 100.00

# The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

# **STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO**

As at 31 December 2023

By Industry (Secondary)	Fair value at 31 December 2023 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2023 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2022 %
Aerospace/Defense	7,399,558	2.17	0.86
Agriculture	11,063,464	3.25	10.76
Banks	152,058,336	44.69	43.71
Computers	8,345,200	2.45	2.08
Diversified Financial Services	-	-	0.40
Electric	31,728,246	9.32	7.45
Electrical Component & Equipment	3,037,230	0.89	1.95
Electronics	6,466,111	1.90	1.18
Engineering and Construction	12,286,732	3.61	8.08
Entertainment	7,266,700	2.15	0.54
Food	5,678,097	1.66	0.62
Holding Companies-Diversified	5,163,311	1.52	2.43
Insurance	-	-	0.99
Internet	-	-	1.29
Iron/Steel	3,631,552	1.07	1.04
Oil and Gas Services	17,827,896	5.24	-
Private Equity	4,726,096	1.39	2.88
Real Estate	4,146,546	1.22	1.06
Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS)	23,912,399	7.03	4.34
Retail	-	-	3.13
Semiconductors	10,734,438	3.15	2.47
Shipbuilding	15,778,057	4.64	1.15
Transportation	4,652,060	1.37	-
Portfolio of investments	335,902,029	98.72	98.41
Other net assets	4,343,284	1.28	1.59
Net assets attributable to unitholders	340,245,313	100.00	100.00

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

These notes form an integral part of and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying financial statements.

#### 1. General

Nikko AM Shenton Thrift Fund (the "Fund") is a Singapore domiciled fund constituted under a Trust Deed dated 12 June 1987 as amended by Supplemental Deeds and Amended and Restated Deeds (collectively referred to as the "Deeds""). The Deeds are governed by the laws of the Republic of Singapore. The Trustee of the Fund is BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited (the "Trustee"). The Manager of the Fund is Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited (the "Manager").

There are four classes of units established within the Fund, namely the SGD Class, USD Class, RMB Class and SGD Class B. The classes may differ in terms of their class currency, the minimum subscription amounts applicable, the minimum holding and minimum realisation amounts applicable as well as the annual management fee.

As of 31 December 2023 and 2022, only units in the SGD Class have been issued.

The Fund is single priced and the NAV of the Fund may fall as a result of the transaction costs incurred in the purchase and sale of its underlying investments and the spread between the buying and selling prices of such Investments caused by subscriptions, redemptions, switches and/or exchanges of units in the Fund. To protect unitholders' interests, the Manager shall, in consultation with the Trustee, have the discretion to apply dilution adjustment or swing pricing in certain circumstances which the Manager deem appropriate. Swing Pricing involves making upwards or downwards adjustments in the calculation of the NAV per unit of the Fund or Class on a particular Dealing Day so that such transaction costs and dealing spreads in respect of the underlying investments are, as far as practicable, passed on to the investors who are subscribing, realising, switching and/or exchanging units on that Dealing Day.

The NAV is adjusted if the net subscription or realisation (including switches and/or exchanges) on a particular Dealing Day reaches or exceeds a certain percentage (the "Swing Threshold") of the size of the Fund as of such relevant Dealing Day.

Any dilution adjustment as at the last dealing day of the year will be disclosed under Units in issue.

During the financial year ended 31 December 2023 and 2022, the Fund did not reach the swing threshold and no swing pricing has been applied.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 2. Material accounting policy information

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

#### (a) <u>Basis of preparation</u>

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of financial instruments at fair value, and in accordance with the recommendations of Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice 7 "Reporting Framework for Investment Funds" ("RAP 7") issued and revised by the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants in August 2023 for the financial year beginning on or after 1 January 2023.

The adoption of the revised RAP 7 did not result in substantial changes to the accounting policies of the Fund and had no material effect on the amounts reported for the current or prior years.

#### (b) <u>Recognition of income</u>

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

Interest income is recognised on a time-proportion basis using the effective interest rate method.

(c) Investments

Investments are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss.

(i) Initial recognition

Purchases of investments are recognised on the trade date. Investments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition.

(ii) Subsequent measurement

Investments are subsequently carried at fair value. Net change in fair value on investments is included in the Statement of Total Return in the year in which they arise.

(iii) Derecognition

Investments are derecognised on the trade date of disposal. The resultant realised gains and losses on the sales of investments are computed on the basis of the difference between the weighted average cost and selling price gross of transaction costs, and are taken up in the Statement of Total Return.

### (d) Basis of valuation of investments

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the close of trading on the reporting date. The quoted market price used for investments held by the Fund is the last traded market price for both financial assets and financial liabilities where the last traded price falls within the bid-ask spread. In circumstances where the last traded price is not within the bid-ask spread, the Manager will determine the point within the bid-ask spread that is most representative of fair value.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

(e) <u>Receivables</u>

Receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. Receivables are initially recognised at their fair value and subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less accumulated impairment losses.

#### (f) Sales and purchases awaiting settlement

Sales and purchases awaiting settlement represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased that have been contracted for but not yet settled or delivered on the Statement of Financial Position date respectively. These amounts are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

(g) <u>Payables</u>

Accrued expenses are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(h) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at banks which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

- (i) <u>Foreign currency translation</u>
  - *(i)* Functional and presentation currency

The Fund qualifies as an authorised scheme under the Securities and Futures Act 2001 ("SFA") of Singapore and is offered to retail investors in Singapore. The Fund's activities are substantially based in Singapore, with subscriptions and redemptions of the units of the Fund denominated in Singapore Dollar ("SGD").

The performance of the Fund is measured and reported to the investors in Singapore Dollar. The Manager considers the Singapore Dollar as the currency which most faithfully represents the economic effects of the underlying transactions, events and conditions. The financial statements are expressed in Singapore Dollar, which is the Fund's functional and presentation currency.

(ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are translated into Singapore Dollar at the rates of exchange prevailing at the date of the Statement of Financial Position. The net unrealised gain or loss is taken to the Statement of Total Return within the net foreign exchange gain or loss. Transactions during the year are recorded in Singapore Dollar at the rates of exchange ruling on transaction dates. All realised gains or losses are recognised in the Statement of Total Return.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 2. Material accounting policy information (continued)

### (j) <u>Expenses</u>

Expenses are recognised in the Statement of Total Return as the related services are performed.

### (k) Management fee

Management fee expense is recognised on an accrual basis and in accordance with the Prospectus. Management fee is recognised as an expense over the period for which the service is provided. The management fee charged on any investment in other unit trusts managed by the Manager is rebated back to the Fund, where applicable.

#### (I) Creation and cancellation of units

Units are issued and redeemed at the prices based on the Fund's net asset value per unit at the time of issue or redemption for each respective class. The Fund's net asset value per unit is calculated by dividing the net asset attributable to the unitholders of each class of units.

#### 3. Income tax

The Manager and Trustee of the Fund have assessed and are satisfied that the Fund has met the requisite conditions under the Designated Unit Trust (DUT) scheme for the current financial year. The Manager and Trustee of the Fund will ensure that the Fund fulfils its reporting obligations under the DUT Scheme.

Under the DUT Scheme, certain income of the DUT fund is not taxable in accordance to Sections 35(12) and 35(12A) of the Income Tax Act 1947. Such income includes:

- (a) gains or profits derived from Singapore or elsewhere from the disposal of securities;
- (b) interest (other than interest for which tax has been deducted under section 45 of the Income Tax Act 1947);
- (c) dividends derived from outside Singapore and received in Singapore;
- (d) gains or profits derived from foreign exchange transactions, transactions in futures contracts, transactions in interest rate or currency forwards, swaps or option contracts and transactions in forwards, swaps or option contracts relating to any securities or financial index;
- (e) discount prepayment fees, redemption premium and break cost from qualifying debt securities issued during the prescribed period; and
- (f) distributions from foreign unit trusts derived from outside Singapore and received in Singapore.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

#### 3. **Income tax** (continued)

Income tax for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 and 2022 comprises:

	2023 S\$	2022 S\$
Singapore income tax	51,309	43,791
Overseas income tax	14,036	-
	65,345	43,791

The Singapore income tax represents tax deducted at source for Singapore sourced dividends. The overseas income tax represents tax deducted at source on dividend derived from outside Singapore.

#### 4. Receivables

5.

2023 S\$	2022 S\$
41,883	23,714
2023 S\$	2022 S\$
526,951 679,680 54,872 8,951 19,656 37,439 23	759,866 677,858 18,076 2,967 18,297 18,933 - 1,495,997
	\$ 41,883 2023 \$ 526,951 679,680 54,872 8,951 19,656 37,439

Amount due to the Manager comprises of management fee and is payable to Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited. Trustee fee is payable out of the management fees by Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited to BNP Paribas Trust Services Singapore Limited. Custody fee and valuation fee are payable to BNP Paribas, acting through its Singapore Branch. Transfer agent fee is payable to BNP Paribas, acting through its Singapore Branch with effect from 1 April 2023.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

#### 6. Units in issue

During the financial year ended 31 December 2023 and 2022, the number of units issued, redeemed and outstanding were as follows:

SGD Class	2023	2022
Units at beginning of the financial year	130,477,531	129,502,450
Units created	6,904,872	14,121,415
Units cancelled	(13,147,116)	(13,146,334)
Units at end of the financial year	124,235,287	130,477,531
Net assets attributable to unitholders - S\$	340,245,313	339,392,671
Net asset value per unit - S\$	2.739	2.601

A reconciliation of the net asset value as reported in the Statement of Financial Position to the net asset value as determined for the purpose of processing unit subscription and redemption is provided below:

SGD Class	2023 S\$	2022 S\$
Net assets attributable to unitholders per financial statements per unit Effect for movement in the net assets value between the last	2.739	2.601
dealing date and the end of the reporting period ^	_*	_*
Net assets attributable to unitholders for issuing/redeeming per unit	2.739	2.601

<sup>^</sup> The net asset value for the purposes of processing unit subscription and redemption was established in accordance with the methodology indicated in the Fund's Prospectus. This item reflects the movement in net asset value between the last dealing date and the end of reporting period due to accrual of operating expenses.

\* Effect is less than 0.001

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 7. Financial risk management

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of risk, including but not limited to market risk (including price risk, interest rate risk and currency risk), liquidity risk and credit risk. The Manager is responsible for the implementation of the overall risk management programme, which seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Fund's financial performance. Specific guidelines on exposures to individual securities and certain industries and/or countries are in place as part of the overall financial risk management to reduce the Fund's exposures to these risks.

The Fund's primary objective is to achieve medium to long term capital appreciation by investing primarily in stocks listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the "SGX-ST"). Beside stocks listed on the SGX-ST, the Fund may also invest in companies listed on stock exchanges outside Singapore subject to a limit not exceeding 30% of the net asset value of the Fund.

The Manager may seek to add value by selectively over/under weighting benchmark components and blending the mix with a selection of non-benchmark components to deliver out-performance relative to the benchmark over the medium to long term.

These financial instruments are held in accordance with the published investment policies of the Fund and managed accordingly to achieve the investment objectives.

#### (a) Market risk - Price risk

Price risk is the risk that arises from uncertainties about future prices of financial instruments.

The Fund's investment is substantially dependent on the changes of market prices. The Fund's overall market positions are monitored regularly so as to assess any deviation from the Fund's investment objective. However, events beyond reasonable control of the Manager could affect the prices of the underlying investments and hence the net asset value of the Fund.

The Fund's market price risk is managed through diversification of the investment portfolio exposure across various stocks traded on the SGX-ST.

The benchmark against which the performance of the Fund is measured is the Straits Times Index (the "Benchmark").

As at 31 December 2023, an increase/decrease of the index component within the Benchmark by 13% (2022: 15%), with all other variables remaining constant, the net assets attributable to unitholders for the year would increase/decrease by approximately 13% (2022: 14%). The analysis was based on the assumptions that the index components within the Benchmark increased/decreased by a reasonable possible shift, with all other variables held constant and that the fair value of Fund's investments moved according to the beta. Reasonable possible changes in market index percentage are revised annually depending on the Manager's current view on market volatility and other relevant factors.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 7. Financial risk management (continued)

#### (b) Market risk - Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates (fair value risk).

Investment funds that invest in equity securities may be subject to interest rate risk as any interest rate change may affect the equity risk premium though at varying degrees. To manage this risk, the Manager analyses how interest rate changes may affect different industries and securities and then seeks to adjust the Fund's portfolio investments accordingly.

However, the effects of changes in interest rates on the Fund's portfolio may not be quantified as the relationship between the interest rates and the value of equity securities is indirect. Hence, no sensitivity analysis has been presented separately.

### (c) Market risk - Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in foreign exchange rates.

To minimise currency risk, the Fund mainly holds its excess cash in its functional currency. For hedging purposes, the Fund may also enter into forward foreign exchange contracts.

The tables below summarise the Fund's exposure to currency risks.

As at 31 December 2023	SGD S\$	USD S\$	HKD S\$	MYR S\$	Total S\$
Assets Portfolio of investments Sales awaiting settlement Receivables Cash and cash equivalents Total assets	311,372,516 41,883 5,621,971 317,036,370	19,830,067 - - 662 19,830,729	549,412 6,340 - 5555,752	4,150,034 - - - 4,150,034	335,902,029 6,340 41,883 5,622,633 341,572,885
Liabilities Payables Total liabilities	1,327,572 1,327,572	-	-	-	1,327,572 1,327,572
Net currency exposure	315,708,798	19,830,729	555,752	4,150,034	
As at 31 December 2022		SGD S\$	USD S\$	HKD S\$	Total S\$
As at 31 December 2022 Assets Portfolio of investments Receivables Cash and cash equivalents Total assets	_	••-			
<b>Assets</b> Portfolio of investments Receivables Cash and cash equivalents		<b>S\$</b> 312,775,262 23,714 6,875,435	<b>\$\$</b> 19,123,637 83	<b>\$\$</b> 2,090,537	<b>\$\$</b> 333,989,436 23,714 6,875,518

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 7. Financial risk management (continued)

#### (c) Market risk - Currency risk (continued)

Portfolio of investments, which is a significant item in the Statement of Financial Position is exposed to currency risk and other price risk. The Manager has considered the impact of currency risk sensitivity on non-monetary assets which include listed equities, listed investment funds and real estate investment funds as part of the price risk sensitivity analysis.

As of 31 December 2023 and 2022, the Fund does not hold substantial monetary assets/liabilities denominated in foreign currencies. Changes in foreign exchange rates on monetary assets/liabilities will not result in a significant change in the net asset value of the Fund. Hence, no separate sensitivity analysis on foreign currency risk has been presented.

#### (d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk of loss arising from the inability of the Fund to meet its obligations as and when they fall due without incurring unacceptable cost or losses.

The Fund is exposed to daily cash redemptions from unitholders. However, in accordance with the Fund's prospectus, minimum holdings and redemption size are set.

To manage the liquidity risk, a cash buffer is maintained in the Fund and monitored for minimum cash balances to prevent any extensive disposition of assets which may occur at lower prices and overdraft situations to meet trade settlements and obligations.

The Fund's securities are considered readily realisable, as the majority of the securities are listed on recognised stock exchanges.

The Fund's financial liabilities are analysed using contractual undiscounted cash flows for maturity groupings based on the remaining year at the Statement of Financial Position date to the contractual maturity date. As at 31 December 2023 and 2022, all liabilities are either payable upon demand or due in less than 3 months. The impact of discounting is not significant.

	Less than 3 months	
	As at	As at
	31 December	31 December
	2023	2022
	S\$	S\$
Payables	1,327,572	1,495,997
Contractual cash outflows	1,327,572	1,495,997

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 7. Financial risk management (continued)

#### (e) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty will be unable to fulfil its obligations to the Fund in part or in full as and when they fall due.

Concentrations of credit risk are minimised primarily by:

- ensuring counterparties as well as the respective credit limits are approved;
- ensuring there are controls in place to identify and assess the creditworthiness of counterparties and review such controls on a semi-annual basis; and
- ensuring that transactions are undertaken with a large number of counterparties.

The Fund is also exposed to counterparty credit risk on its financial assets held at amortised cost. As at 31 December 2023 and 2022, the Fund's financial assets held at amortised cost as disclosed in the Statement of Financial Position are realised within three months. The Manager considers the probability of default to be insignificant as the counterparties generally have a strong capacity to meet their contractual obligations in the near term. Hence, no loss allowance has been recognised based on the 12 month expected credit losses as any such impairment would be insignificant to the Fund.

All trade settlement with approved counterparties are on Delivery versus Payment and/or Receipt versus Payment basis, with the exception of initial public offerings, new issues and placement transactions.

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents and outstanding and committed transactions from brokers. The table below summarises the credit rating of bank and custodian in which the Fund's assets are held as at 31 December 2023 and 2022.

	Credit rating as at 31 December 2023	0	Source of credit rating
Bank and custodian			-
<ul> <li>BNP Paribas, acting through its Singapore Branch</li> </ul>	Aa3	Aa3	Moody's

The credit ratings are based on Local Long-Term Bank Deposits published by the rating agency.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the carrying amount of the financial instruments.

#### (f) Capital management

The Fund's capital is represented by the net assets attributable to unitholders. The Fund strives to invest the subscriptions of redeemable participating units in investments that meet the Fund's investment objectives while maintaining sufficient liquidity to meet unitholder redemptions.

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 7. Financial risk management (continued)

#### (g) Fair value estimation

The Fund classifies fair value measurements using a fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs used in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy has the following levels:

- Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1).
- Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices) (Level 2).
- Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs) (Level 3).

The following table analyses within the fair value hierarchy the Fund's financial assets and liabilities (by class) measured at fair value at 31 December 2023 and 2022:

As at 31 December 2023	Level 1 S\$	Level 2 S\$	Level 3 S\$	Total S\$
Assets Portfolio of investments:				
- Quoted equities	300,347,292	-	-	300,347,292
- Quoted investment funds	11,642,338	-	-	11,642,338
<ul> <li>Quoted real estate investment trusts</li> </ul>	23,912,399	-	-	23,912,399
	335,902,029	-	-	335,902,029
As at 31 December 2022	Level 1 S\$	Level 2 S\$	Level 3 S\$	Total S\$
Assets Portfolio of investments:				
- Quoted equities	309,348,428	-	-	309,348,428
- Quoted investment funds	9,924,782	-	-	9,924,782
<ul> <li>Quoted real estate investment trusts</li> </ul>	14,716,226	-	-	14,716,226
	333,989,436	-	-	333,989,436

Investments whose values are based on quoted market prices in active markets, and therefore classified within Level 1, include active quoted equities, investment funds and real estate investment trusts. The Fund does not adjust the quoted price for these instruments.

The assets and liabilities included in the Statement of Financial Position except portfolio of investments are carried at amortised cost; their carrying values are reasonable approximation of fair value.

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### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

#### 8. Related party transactions

9.

In addition to related party information shown elsewhere in the financial statements, the following significant transactions took place during the financial year between the Fund and the related party at terms agreed between the parties and within the provisions of the Deeds:

		2023 S\$	2022 S\$
Bank balances held with related party of the Trustee		5,622,633	6,875,518
Financial ratios			
Expense ratio		0000	0000
SGD Class		2023	2022
Total operating expenses Average daily net asset value <b>Total expense ratio</b> <sup>1</sup>	S\$ S\$ %	2,806,815 338,066,596 0.83	2,887,560 342,805,948 0.84
Turnover ratio		2023	2022
Lower of total value of purchases or sales Average daily net asset value <b>Total turnover ratio</b> <sup>2</sup>	S\$ S\$ %	205,233,147 338,066,596 60.71	163,119,148 342,805,948 47.58

- <sup>1</sup> The expense ratio has been computed based on the guidelines laid down by the Investment Management Association of Singapore ("IMAS"). The calculation of the expense ratio at financial year end was based on total operating expenses divided by the average net asset value for the year. The total operating expenses do not include (where applicable) brokerage and other transactions costs, performance fee, interest expense, distribution paid out to unitholders, foreign exchange gains/losses, front or back end loads arising from the purchase or sale of other funds and tax deducted at source or arising out of income received. The Fund does not pay any performance fee. The average net asset value is based on the daily balances.
- <sup>2</sup> The portfolio turnover ratio is calculated in accordance with the formula stated in the Code on Collective Investment Schemes. The calculation of the portfolio turnover ratio was based on the lower of the total value of purchases or sales of the underlying investments, divided by the average daily net asset value.

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# **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The following contains additional information relating to the Fund.

# 1. Distribution of investments

Please refer to the Statement of Portfolio on pages 14 to 17.

# 2. Credit rating of debt securities

Nil.

# 3. Top 10 holdings

10 largest holdings at 31 December 2023	Fair value S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders %
DBS Group Holdings Limited United Overseas Bank Limited Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited Sembcorp Industries Limited Seatrium Limited Yangzijiang Shipbuilding Holdings Limited UMS Holdings Limited First Resources Limited Keppel Infrastructure Trust Singapore Technologies Engineering Limited	71,960,763 42,350,357 37,747,216 20,082,420 17,827,896 15,778,057 10,734,438 8,702,980 7,495,792 7,399,558	21.15 12.45 11.09 5.90 5.24 4.64 3.15 2.56 2.20 2.17
10 largest holdings at 31 December 2022	Fair value S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders %
DBS Group Holdings Limited United Overseas Bank Limited Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited Keppel Corporation Limited	72,753,956 39,854,402 35,740,164	21.44 11.74 10.53

# 4. Exposure to financial derivatives

Nil.

(Constituted under a Trust Deed registered in the Republic of Singapore)

## **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

For the financial year ended 31 December 2023

### 5. Global exposure to financial derivatives

Nil.

## 6. Collateral

Nil.

### 7. Securities lending or repurchase transactions

Nil.

### 8. Investment in unit trusts, mutual funds and collective investment schemes

Please refer to the Statement of Portfolio on pages 14 to 17.

### 9. Borrowings

Nil.

### 10. Amount of units created and cancelled for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

Units created	18,404,816
Units cancelled	(35,015,211)

S\$

## 11. Turnover ratio

Please refer to Note 9 of the Notes to the Financial Statements on page 29.

## 12. Expense ratio

Please refer to Note 9 of the Notes to the Financial Statements on page 29.

### 13. Related party transactions

Please refer to Note 8 of the Notes to the Financial Statements on page 29.

### 14. Any other material information that will adversely impact the valuation of the Fund

Nil.

### 15. Soft dollar commissions/arrangements

In their management of the Fund, the Managers currently do not receive or enter into any soft dollar commissions or arrangements.

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