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# What does ESG mean for

# investment propositions?

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### **ASIA RESPONSIBLE INVESTING FORUM** WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR INVESTMENT PROPOSITIONS





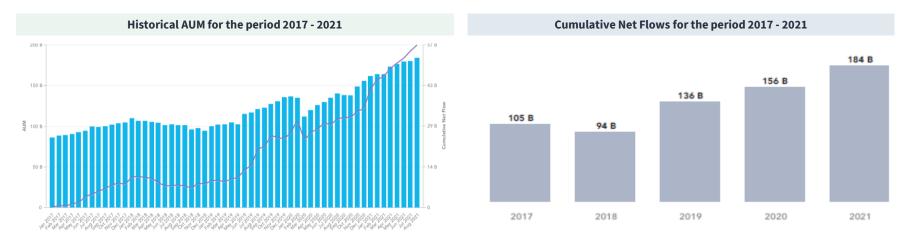
Mark Rodrigues Head of Product, AXA Investment Managers, Asia **Freda Amir** Head of Propositions, Architas Asia

## **RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT AUM IN ASIA**



#### ALL TIME HIGH FOR PERIOD 2017 - 2021

- Responsible Investment AUM totalled 184 Billion USD as at August 2021.\*
- Cumulative net flows into responsible investments over the past five years amounted to 57 Billion USD.
- Growth rate showed a steady upward trend of 11.70%.

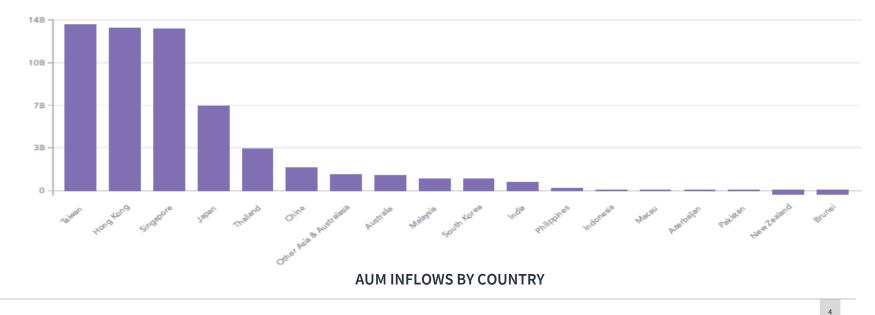


# **NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE REGION**



PERIOD 2017 - 2021

Recent years, inflows in to responsible investment in the region has been driven by Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, moving Japan down to fourth position.

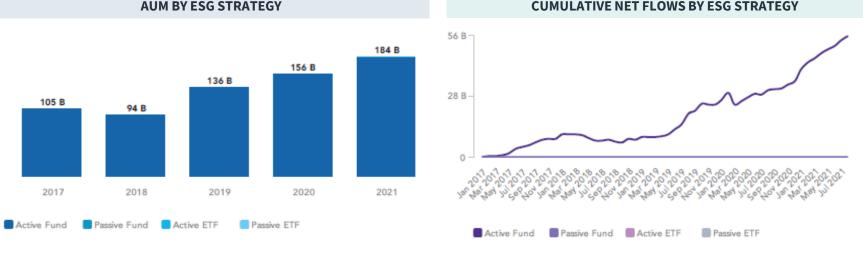


# **NEARLY 100% FUNDS IN THE REGION ARE ACTIVE ESG**

PERIOD 2017 - 2021

Looking at the charts below, we see that nearly all of the flows are going into funds, over the last year we have seen this start to 

change as a small proportion of investor look to passive funds



AUM BY ESG STRATEGY

#### **CUMULATIVE NET FLOWS BY ESG STRATEGY**

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5

# **NEARLY ALL ARE ESG INTEGRATED FUNDS**



6

#### PERIOD 2017 - 2021



RI - Embedded - Exclusions

- RI Embedded Integration/Engagement
- RI Screened Best-in-Class & Positive screening
- RI Screened Impact investing
- RI Screened Sustainability/thematic investment

- ESG integrated funds (Article 8) make up most flows in the region with a total of 663. Over the past two years we have seen an increase of flows into thematic funds.
- Compared to Article 9 "Impact Investing funds" and "Best In Class and Positive Screening" Funds, a total of 66
- Singapore and Taiwan investors are the most active in terms of seeking investment into responsible investments (Article 8 and Article 9).

	Art 8 Funds	Art 9 Funds
Singapore	227	26
Hong Kong	161	15
Taiwan	255	25
Japan	20	
Total	663	66

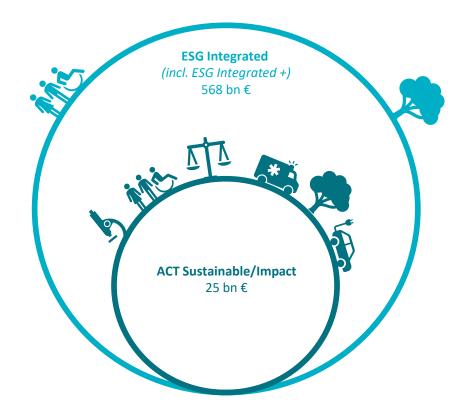


# Architas ESG Forum & AXA IM Responsible Investment Products

October 2021

This document is intended exclusively for Professional Investors as defined by EU Directive 2014/65/EU. Circulation must be restricted accordingly. It refers to a fund not yet in existence and contents are subject to change.

#### Our Responsible Investment AUM



\*All AXA IM vehicles NOT ONLY open-ended funds

Source : AXA IM as of 30/06/2021. Non audited figures. Inclusive figures with a cumulative approach.

1 - AXA IM Joint Ventures have a specific approach with regards to ESG scoring and stewardship

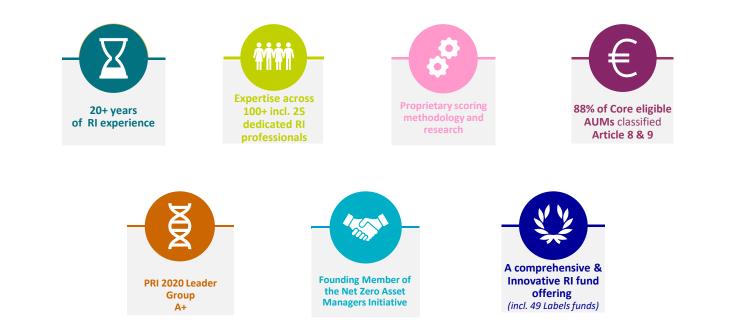
This product categorisation framework applies to open funds in liquid asset classes. Specific approaches may apply for segregated accounts or Alternative strategies.



INTERNAL

#### AXA IM Core, a global leader in responsible investing

ESG is fully integrated across our investment processes and embedded within our organisation



#### **RI: Responsible Investment**

\*Source: AXA IM as of 31/03/2021. Non audited figures

Some resources are shared by the entire AXA IM Organization. There is no assurance that any particular individual will be involved in the management of the portfolio for any given period of time, if at all. We do not guarantee the fact that staff remain employed by AXA Investment Managers and exercise or continue to exercise in AXA Investment Managers.



INTERNAL



# AXA IM RI and Impact offering

#### Responsible Investing evolution towards impact



Impact Investing focuses on financing businesses and projects that are designed to have intentional, positive, measurable and sustainable impacts on society while simultaneously delivering potential financial market returns



Source: AXA IM, for illustrative purpose only. These are internal guidelines which are subject to change without notice.

### ESG integration vs. Impact

Aligned But Different

Process of Taking Account of **ESG risks** and **opportunities** in investment decisions:

**ESG Integration** 

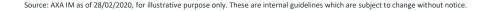
- ESG as a source of insight into company performance
- Focuses on how companies and investors are managing ESG risks
- Usually about managing and mitigating a business's own ESG issues
- May reward companies that identify opportunities from better management of ESG issues

The Intentional, Positive, Social and Environmental Outcomes of Investment

Impact Investing

- Starts with the premise of a social challenge
- Focuses on investments that provide a solution
- Able to demonstrate contributions from relevant investments
- Often linked to a United Nations Sustainable Development-based metric







#### **ESG** regulations

#### Impact in the investment process



#### DISCLAIMER

The product categorization is provided based on the basis of the European Directive (EU) 2019/2088 on the sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector ("SFDR Regulation") and state of knowledge at the time of creation of this document. The attention of each recipient is drawn to the fact that, as of today the SFDR related regulatory technical standards are not yet finalized and enforced and while we monitor closely regulatory developments, the product categorization shall be re-assessed once such regulatory technical standards are published and may evolve.



#### Our Responsible Investing offering

A full range of strategies to help you meet your goals



#### **ESG Integrated**

ESG incorporated into the investment process to help achieve risk-adjusted returns

In accordance with SFDR Art 8





ACT

11 Sub-funds

#### Investing with purpose to support the transition to a more sustainable economy\* In accordance with SFDR Art 9 (2 and 3) \*ACT funds often take one or more UN SD Goals that aligns with the themes/objectives of the funds Thematic E objective Thematic S objective Thematic E & S objective

3 Sub-funds

This product categorisation framework applies to open funds in liquid asset classes. Specific approaches may apply for segregated accounts or Alternative strategies.

\*\*The ESG data used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies based in part on data provided by third parties, and in some cases developed in-house. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonized definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. For example, different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate strationability criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but need to be distinguished because their calculation methods may differ.



4 Sub-funds



# AXA WF Global Factors – Sustainable Equity

#### AXA WF Global Factors – Sustainable Equity

Aiming to grow your investment while mitigating risk

Client objectives	Our solution
Long-term returns	Aims to achieve long-term growth above that of the MSCI World Index
Reduced total risk (lower volatility than the cap-weighted index)	Aims for lower volatility than the MSCI World Index
Improved ESG profile, reduced carbon footprint	Targets a higher ESG score* and lower carbon intensity than MSCI World Index
Cost-effective solutions	Cost effective implementation & fees

#### An Investment Managers

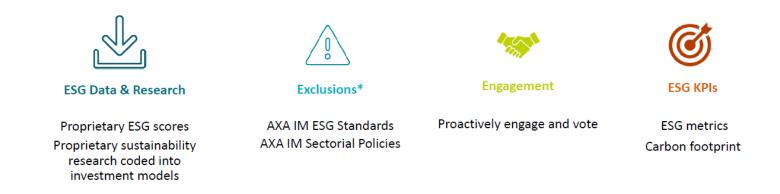
Source: AXA IM, Rosenberg Equities as of 30 June 2021. The investment objectives and/or features set forth above illustrate our strategy and approach only. Each specific investor's experience may vary. No assurance is made that these investment objectives and/or features will be achieved. The figures presented are gross of fees. An investor's return will be reduced by the management fees and other expenses. \*The ESG data used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonised definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different.

INTERNAL

#### **ESG** integration

ESG is integrated in multiple ways

Because ESG considerations are coded into Rosenberg's systematic process, ESG information is considered in every buy/sell decision



Source: AXA IM as of 31/12/2020, for illustrative purpose only. These are internal guidelines which are subject to change without notice. \* Based on the AXA IM exclusions policies: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines</a>. Investment objectives and/or features set forth above illustrate our strategy and approach only. Each specific investor's experience may vary. No assurance is made that these investment objectives and/or features. ESG data may not be available for the entire universe/benchmark.



#### AXA WF Global Factors – Sustainable Equity

ESG integration at the heart of our investment approach





The carbon saved is equivalent to 173,000 miles driven by the average passenger vehicle

Water intensity\*\*\* **4**, 2,319 13,493

The water saved is equivalent to 4 Olympic swimming pools

Source: AXA IM, MSCI, Trucost, Febelfin ASBL, FNG, US Environmental Protection Agency. The benchmark is the MSCI World Index \* ESG Score based on AXA IM scoring methodology. \*\* In tonnes per \$ million of revenue. \*\*\*in m3 per \$ million of revenue. Data to 30 September 2021. The Fund has received the FNG-Label for sustainable mutual funds. The fund has received 2 out of three possible stars for its particularly ambitious and comprehensive sustainability strategy, which gained it additional points in the areas of institutional credibility, product standards, and selection and dialogue strategies. Detailed information on the methodology can be found in the rules of procedure <u>https://fmc-siegel.org/fuer-bewerber/</u>. The Fund has been awarded the Towards sustainability Label. For more information: <a href="https://exercideault/files/2019-02/quality\_standard">https://exercideault/files/2019-02/quality\_standard</a>. Sustainabile that additional points in the areas of institutional credibility, product standards, and selection and dialogue strategies. Detailed information on the methodology can be found in the rules of procedure <u>https://fmc-siegel.org/fuer-bewerber/</u>. The Fund has been awarded the Towards sustainability Label. For more information: <a href="https://exercideault/files/2019-02/quality\_standard">https://exercideault/files/2019-02/quality\_standard</a>. Sustainabile for all or provide awards are not an indicator of future performance or awards. The ESG scoring is an internal scoring methodology developed within Responsible Investment Team of AXA IM. ESG Score is a proprietary AXA Investment Managers metric that reflects a company's performance across a range of environmental {(E, social (S), and governance (G) criteria. In ESG Score Towards in the universe. It applies a floor at 10 (worst).



Introducing

architas

# **e.p.i.c** Global Equity **Opportunities**

Make ethical and prosperous investment choices.

architas



#### ethical CHOICES



**Sustainable Equity:** An investment proposition with focus on equity asset class

## Ø

#### **ESG designation:**

AXA Group, Architas ESG standards, ESMA SFDR<sup>1</sup> Article 9\*, and SFC Green Label

#### prosperous SECTORS

 $\bigstar$ 

#### Sectors:

Invests across all major sectors with biases to Growth sectors of Technology, Healthcare and New Industrials

## 

#### **Regions:**

High allocation to USA, though more diversified than Global Equity basket with slightly higher weightings to Europe and Asia

#### investment **DIVERSITY**

**Fund Selection:** Playing to core strength of manager selection and diversification

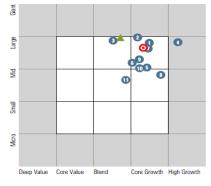


#### **Best-in-class:**

10 managers in the portfolio across Schroder, Natixis, Baillie Gifford, BlackRock and AXA IM to name a few.



#### Style Box and allocation



Style Breakdown	Portfolio %	Benchmark %
Large Value	4.96	20.35
Large Core	32.74	34.67
Large Growth	34.56	29.40
Mid Value ·	1.62	4.63
Mid Core	11.20	7.30
Mid Growth	9.09	3.64
Small Value	0.43	0.00
Small Core	2.90	0.01
Small Growth	2.49	0.01
Large Cap	72.26	84.42
Mid-Small Cap	27.74	15.59
Value	7.02	24.98
Core	46.84	41.98
Growth	46.15	33.04

Portfolio Constituents A Benchmark

Portfolio

#### Sectors

Equi	ty Sector Breakdown	Portfolio %	Benchmark %
Դ	Cyclical	24.73	33.41
<b></b>	Basic Matls	4.35	4.25
æ	Cons Cyclical	7.99	11.25
÷	Financial Svcs	10.44	15.07
ŵ	Real Estate	1.94	2.85
~	Sensitive	41.67	43.58
F	Comm Svcs	3.46	9.49
•	Energy	0.06	2.99
o	Industrials	14.87	10.38
E.	Technology	23.29	20.73
<b>→</b>	Defensive	33.60	23.01
	Cons Defensive	4.80	7.36
	Healthcare	24.41	12.90
Q	Utilities	4.40	2.74

#### Regional

World Region Breakdown	Portfolio %	Benchmark %
Americas	63.27	70.56
North America	61.85	70.40
Latin America	1.42	0.16
Greater Europe	22.08	19.32
United Kingdom	3.67	.4.47
Europe Developed	17.67	14.68
Europe Emerging	0.00	0.00
Africa/Middle East	0.74	0.17
Greater Asia	14.65	10.12
Japan	5.17	6.59
Australasia	0.36	2.09
Asia Developed	4.16	1.23
Asia Emerging	4.96	0.21

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

This material is for information purposes only and is intended to broaden readers' awareness of financial markets and of the investment management industry. No part of the materials should be construed to represent financial advice or an offer to buy, sell or otherwise participate in any investment activity or strategy. The content is based on information sources that are deemed reliable at the time of writing. The information presented can be changed without prior notice. Architas has no express or implied warranty, guarantee or statement as to the accuracy, suitability or completeness of the information provided. All rights are reserved. Without the prior consent of the copyright holder, no part of this publication in any form or by any means (mechanical, by photocopy, recording, or otherwise) is allowed to be published, copied or emailed or stored in an information system. These materials originate from Architas Asia Limited ("Architas"). Architas is a company incorporated in Hong Kong and regulated by the Securities and Futures Commission with CE number: BOU733. These materials are not intended for audiences in the United States of America.