

AMUNDI FUNDS ASIA EQUITY FOCUS

Monthly
Portfolio
Update

30/11/2025

Meet the Team



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Market Review

The Asia ex Japan region retreated by -2.84% in November, the first market reversal since October 2024, driven by increasingly hawkish rhetoric following the October FOMC decision and renewed concerns regarding AI-led capex. Pricing of a December Fed rate cut once again fluctuated, as changing data and Fed rhetoric reshaped the market consensus around future US policy rate cuts. Meanwhile and on the tech front, despite continued strong guidance from AI hyperscalers and positive developments on AI releases, stock price reaction was relatively muted – with investors capitalizing on strong recent gains to take profit across the North Asian AI sector.

The sell-off was particularly acute in tech-heavy markets such as Korea (-7.4%) and Taiwan (-5.0%), where the month on month share price decline coincided with heavy foreign investor outflows. In Korea, the tech sector malaise spread to the broader equity market, with industrial sector constituents also selling off, despite continued strong fundamentals reflected through earnings and continued robust order flows.

Elsewhere, Chinese equities continued to see a continuation of September's trends, with value sectors such as energy, financials and utilities continuing to outperform relative to growth stocks, with internet stocks such as Alibaba and PDD declining on the back of weak economic data and cautious corporate guidance.

On the other hand, India and the broader ASEAN region registered small positive gains, benefitting from their relatively low exposure to AI as well as their status as regional laggards this year – albeit, India failing to properly reflect the strong 3Q25 GDP print (+8.2%) in its equity prices.

Hong Kong (+2.6%) was Asia's best performing market in November, largely supported by AIA, with the insurance giant returning +4.38% over the course of the month.

The MSCI Asia ex Japan index declined by -2.84% (net, total return in USD) in November, marginally underperforming the MSCI Emerging Markets index (-2.39%), whilst the more developed market-centric MSCI World index (+0.28%) was largely flat on the month.

Portfolio Review

Against this backdrop, our portfolio underperformed its benchmark in November.

The fund's positioning in Taiwan was a strong contributor to the portfolio's relative returns in November; an underweight to the broader market, which was hit by newfound investor scepticism regarding the sustainability of AI hyperscaler capex spend, coupled with strong positioning within fabless IC manufacturers positively impacted the portfolio.

On the other hand, the fund's positioning within Korea and China detracted from relative returns. In China, our portfolio saw a drag from our underlying stock selection within the market, as performance leadership was driven by higher yielding, lower volatility sectors such as financials, utilities and energy with the tech sector taking a small breather. Meanwhile in Korea, some mild profit-taking across highly valued industrials and IT companies, where we were positioned, weighed on the portfolio's returns.

Our portfolio was subject to a few modifications over the course of the month. On a country basis, we marginally increased our positioning in Mainland Chinese A-shares, whilst conversely, trimming our holdings in Hong-Kong equities, where we have moved to a net underweight relative to the benchmark. Elsewhere, we took profit on our holdings within Taiwan and Korea, with the tech sectors across both markets performing handsomely over the course of the past few months.

Outlook

Equity markets have strongly rebounded from the bottom reached beginning April and are up year-to-date by 20.1% in USD terms for Developed Markets Equities and 29.7% for Emerging Markets Equities. Over the next few months, it is probable that the volatility induced by tariffs negotiations will decrease, even though final agreements, with China and Mexico especially, have to be found. Even if in the short term, the US dollar may temporarily reverse part of its year-to-date weakness, the search for diversification out of US assets should continue as a result of policy uncertainty. Emerging Markets Equities, with Asian equities at their forefront should benefit as valuations are less extended than in Developed Markets.

With a longer-term view, the team also continue to think that improvement in capital expenditure discipline, the lack of major macroeconomic imbalances, and increasing pay-out ratio, should help emerging economies to reduce economic and profit volatility.

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