## **AGCM China Stars Fund**

AGCM
ASIA GROWTH CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

April 2, 2020

# China begins to recover, factories reopen but consumers still cautious

During the month of March, the NAV of AGCM China Stars Fund RC1 SEK share class decreased by -9.6%. Equity markets around the world fell sharply as the pandemic spreads. The MSCI World index was down -13.2% in USD during the month, and -20.9% year to date.

The month of March was intense with historic market volatility and a stream of corporate 2019 financial reports from our Asian holdings and companies we cover. Most reports reflected a strong Q4 2019, but many companies also guide for a weak Q1 this year, with a gradual recovery thereafter. Several of our holdings in sectors such as internet services, telecom and healthcare expected little or no negative impact from the lockdowns. The valuation of most stocks in our funds were impacted by the massive sell-offs in the US and Europe, but there were some bright spots. The best performing holding in March was e-commerce operator JD.com, shares rose on data showing market share gains thanks to its proprietary distribution, a valuable asset during China's recent lockdown. Understandably, fast-moving consumer goods and kitchen appliances were in high demand during 1Q. Shares in internet services companies NetEase and Tencent also did well in March as consumers turned to online gaming and entertainment during the quarantine. Pharmaceutical company JHP also performed well in March after releasing 2019 results with over 30% growth in revenues and net profit, despite large increases in R&D spending. The worst performing stocks included our pharmaceutical distributors Sinopharm and CR Pharma, which were negatively impacted when many hospitals in China suspended ordinary services and many retail pharmacies had to close.

Only eight weeks from the peak of the crisis, the Chinese economy is beginning to normalize. The consumer is not yet back in full force but the nation's manufacturing sector has reopened, with 98 percent of major industrial firms nationwide having restarted work as of March 28, according to a report by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT). Around 89 percent of employees in industrial companies with an annual revenue of more than 20 million yuan (about 3 million USD) have returned to work. Even in the hard-stricken province of Hubei, the average work resumption rate of industrial firms exceeds 95 percent. Meanwhile, 76 percent of small and medium-sized enterprises nationwide have resumed operations. Chinese official manufacturing PMI reported on March 31 bounced back to 52.0, up from a historic low of 35.7 in February. The PMI for services and construction also strong at 52.3, up from 29.6 in February. The economic outlook for China has improved much faster than analysts and investors had expected.

Judging from what we read and hear from the leading global investment banks, White House officials and influential "experts", we sense a risk that investors in the US are overly optimistic when it comes to the duration of the epidemic and extent of the coming economic losses. The unprecedented stimulus, both in speed and size, by governments and central banks will be a major positive for equity markets in the medium term but will be insufficient to quickly counter the damage to consumption caused by travel restrictions, quarantines and plain fear. We expect to maintain a relatively defensive positioning in the proximate future, and Chinese stocks to outperform. We would be surprised if we would not see new market lows, and major opportunities, later in the spring.

Gustav Rhenman, Chief Investment Officer

## **AGCM China Stars Fund**

Monthly Report

March 2020



#### **Performance**

As of 31/03/2020	1 month	YTD	1 year	Since launch August 28, 2017
AGCM China Stars Fund RC1 SEK	-9.6%	-11.2%	-7.1%	+7.7%
AGCM China Stars Fund RC8 SEK	-9.6%	-11.1%	-6.7%	+9.7%
AGCM China Stars Fund RC9 SEK	-9.7%	-11.3%	-6.9%	+10.3%

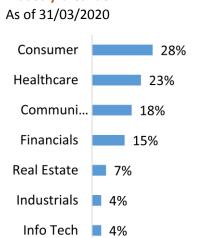
#### **Top 5 holdings**

As of 31/03/2020

#### Company name

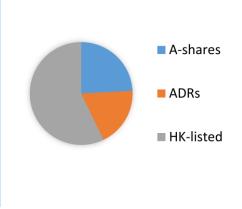
Company mame	
Alibaba Group	
Tencent Holdings	
Sinopharm	
Midea Group	
Haier Smart Home	

# Industry breakdown



## Market breakdown

As of 31/03/2020



### **About Asia Growth Capital Management**

Asia Growth Capital Management AB (AGCM) is a specialized investment management company managing investment funds investing in listed equities in Asia. The company was founded in Sweden in 2013 by a group of investment professionals and executives with extensive experiences from a wide range of different industries. The Chief Investment Officer has twice before been awarded by Lipper (Thomson Reuters) for managing the best performing Asia Fund among all regulated Asia funds registered for marketing in any EU country.

### **Fund Facts**

Portfolio manager:	Gustav Rhenman
Inception date:	28-August-2017
Fund size:	SEK 202 million
Number of holdings:	30
Management fee (RC1):	1.35% + 10% perf. Fee
Fund management	FundRock Management
Company:	Company S.A.
NAV:	(RC1) SEK 107.7
	(RC8) SEK 109.7
	(RC9) SEK 110.3
Minimum subscription:	n.a.
ISIN code:	SEK RC1 LU 1608617111
	SEK RC8 LU 1608617384
	SEK RC9 LU 1608617467

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**Risk information:** Money you invest in the Fund can both increase and decrease in value. Historic performance is no guarantee of future return. Saving in funds should be viewed in a long-term perspective, which then may potentially offer a better return than traditional savings in fixed income. We recommend that you read the KIID and prospectus available at <a href="https://www.agcm.se">www.agcm.se</a> before you make an investment. You can also request such information via e-mail to info@agcm.se.