

# **SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT**

For the financial period ending 31 December 2018

# ABF Singapore Bond Index Fund

#### MANAGERS

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

#### DIRECTORS

Hou Wey Fook Lim Soon Chong Junichi Sayato Seet Oon Hui Eleanor Yu-Ming Wang

#### **TRUSTEE & REGISTRAR**

HSBC Institutional Trust Services (Singapore) Limited 21 Collyer Quay, #13-02 HSBC Building Singapore 049320

### AUDITORS

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

#### CUSTODIAN

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited 1 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong

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
iBoxx ABF Singapore Bond Index total return series	3.33	4.08	2.29	3.19	2.86	2.37	2.86
ABF Singapore Bond Index Fund	3.29	3.95	2.01	2.85	2.55	2.07	2.58

Source: Markit & Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited, returns as at 31 December 2018. iBoxx® is a mark of Markit Indices Limited and have been licensed for use by Nikko Asset Management Asia Ltd. Returns are calculated on a NAV-NAV<sup>1</sup> basis, in SGD, and assuming 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.

#### Note:

(1) Nil subscription fee or preliminary charge

#### Inception date: 31 August 2005

#### About ABF Singapore Bond Index Fund

The ABF Singapore Bond Index Fund (the "Fund") is Singapore's first exchange traded bond fund. The Fund invests in a portfolio of high quality, Singapore government and quasi government bonds. It closely tracks the basket of bonds in the iBoxx ABF Singapore Bond Index. The target tracking error of the fund is set at not more than 0.4% per annum.

The Fund is a collective investment scheme, authorised in Singapore and listed on the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (the "SGX-ST").

The Fund is an index fund which seeks investment results that correspond closely to the total return of the iBoxx ABF Singapore Bond Index before fees and expenses. The iBoxx ABF Singapore Bond Index is an indicator of investment returns of debt obligations denominated in Singapore dollars issued or guaranteed by the government of Singapore or any government of People's Republic of China, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore or Thailand (collectively, the "Asian Governments"), by an agency or instrumentality of the Singapore government (or any other Asian Government), by a Singapore government (or any other Asian Government) sponsored entity or a quasi-Singapore government (or any other Asian Government) entity and Singapore dollar denominated debt obligations issued by supranational financial institutions. The Index Provider determines the composition of the iBoxx ABF Singapore Bond Index in accordance with its rules and procedures for the iBoxx ABF Singapore Bond Index in the tot time), and publishes information regarding the composition, investment characteristics and return of the iBoxx ABF Singapore Bond Index.

The Fund is suitable for investors who seek an "index-based" approach to investing in a portfolio of Singapore government (or any other Asian Government) sovereign and quasi-sovereign bond securities in a cost effective and easy to access manner. Units may also be used as an asset allocation tool or as a trading instrument. Whilst the Fund invests in a portfolio of bonds issued by the Singapore government (or any other Asian Government) and quasi-sovereign Singapore (or any other Asian Government) entities, the Fund itself is not guaranteed by the Singapore government, any Singapore government agency or any government or government agency of any other country.

#### Note: Investors are advised to refer to the Fund's prospectus for more details on the Fund.

This document is for information only with no consideration given to the specific investment objective, financial situation and particular needs of any specific person. Any securities mentioned herein are for reporting or 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 unit trusts or ETFs 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 funds may use or invest in financial derivative instruments. The value of units and income from them may fall or rise. Investments in the funds are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of principal amount invested. You should read the relevant prospectus and product highlights sheet obtainable from appointed distributors of Nikko AM Asia or our website (<u>www.nikkoam.com.sg</u>) before investing.

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The performance of the ETF's price on the Singapore Stock Exchange ("SGX") may be different from the net asset value per unit of the ETF. The ETF may also be delisted from the SGX. Transaction in units of the ETF will result in brokerage commissions. Listing of the units does not guarantee a liquid market for the units. Units of the ETF may be bought or sold throughout trading hours of the SGX through any brokerage account. Investors should note that the ETF differs from a typical unit trust and units may only be created or redeemed directly by a participating dealer in large creation or redemption units. Investors may only redeem the units with Nikko AM Asia under certain specified conditions.

The CPF interest rate for the Ordinary Account ("OA") is based on the 12-month fixed deposit and month-end savings rates of major local banks, subject to a minimum 2.5% interest per annum. The interest rate for Special, Medisave and Retirement Accounts ("SMRA") is pegged to the 12-month average yield of 10-year Singapore Government Securities plus 1%. A 4% floor rate will be maintained for interest earned on SMRA until 31 December 2019, after which a 2.5% minimum rate will apply. An extra 1% interest is paid on the first \$\$60,000 of a member's combined balances, including up to \$\$20,000 in the OA. The first \$\$20,000 in the OA and the first \$\$40,000 in the Special Account ("SA") cannot be invested under the CPF Investment Scheme ("CPFIS").

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Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited. Registration Number 198202562H

## SOFT DOLLAR COMMISSIONS/ARRANGEMENTS

In its management of the ABF Singapore Bond Index Fund (the "Fund"), the Manager currently does not receive or enter into any soft dollar commissions or arrangements.

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

## STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

For the financial period ended 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

	31 December 2018 S\$	31 December 2017 S\$
Income Interest	1	
Expenses Administrator fee Audit fee Custodian fee Management fee Legal and professional fee Trustee fee Transaction costs Other expenses	109,839 17,261 63,064 571,623 20,567 90,784 2,650 111,979 987,767	121,761 19,093 85,357 649,610 11,289 101,691 2,350 86,527 1,077,678
Net expenses	(987,766)	(1,077,678)
<b>Net gains or losses on value of investments</b> Net gains on investments Net foreign exchange gains	30,895,632 <u>185</u> 30,895,817	5,665,801 <u>1,543</u> 5,667,344
Total return for the financial period before income tax Less: Income tax Total return for the financial period after income tax	29,908,051 	4,589,666 - 4,589,666

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

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

	31 December 2018 S\$	30 June 2018 S\$
ASSETS		
Portfolio of investments	796,539,621	741,476,820
Cash and bank balances	2,294,344	2,326,350
Receivables	405,510	-
Total assets	799,239,475	743,803,170
LIABILITIES Payables Distribution payable Total liabilities	425,704 17,979,745 18,405,449	409,307 - 409,307
EQUITY Net assets attributable to unitholders	780,834,026	743,393,863

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

## STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS OF UNITHOLDERS' FUNDS

For the financial period ended 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

	31 December 2018 S\$	30 June 2018 S\$
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the beginning of financial period/year	743,393,863	877,741,289
<b>Operations</b> Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from operations	29,908,051	(9,333,278)
Unitholders' contributions/(withdrawals)		
Creation of units	27,959,368	37,912,591
Cancellation of units	(2,447,511)	(146,246,939)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders resulting from net creation and cancellation of units	25,511,857	(108,334,348)
Distributions	(17,979,745)	(16,679,800)
Total increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	37,440,163	(134,347,426)
Net assets attributable to unitholders at the end of financial period/year	780,834,026	743,393,863

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

## STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO

As at 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

By Industry (Primary)	Holdings at 31 December 2018	Fair value at 31 December 2018 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2018 %
Quoted Fixed Income Securities		Οψ	70
BANK			
Export-Import Bank Korea EMTN 2.318% 27/09/2022	1,750,000	1,750,573	0.22
		1,750,573	0.22
ELECTRIC			
SP Power Assets Limited EMTN 3.4% 19/09/2032	2,750,000	2,755,133	0.35
SP Power Assets Limited EMTN 4.665% 18/08/2020	3,500,000	<u>3,632,543</u> 6,387,676	0.47
		0,001,010	0.02
ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION			
Land Transport Authority 3.09% 31/08/2027 Land Transport Authority 3.275% 29/10/2025	5,000,000 750,000	5,258,509 793,919	0.67 0.10
Land Transport Authority MTN 2.73% 18/09/2020	3,000,000	3,027,375	0.39
Land Transport Authority MTN 2.75% or 19/03/2028	1,500,000	1,537,524	0.20
Land Transport Authority MTN 3.35% or 19/03/2048	7,500,000	7,702,597	0.99
Land Transport Authority MTN 3.43% 30/10/2053 Land Transport Authority MTN 3.45% 30/07/2058	4,500,000 10,250,000	4,654,167 10,569,071	0.60 1.35
Land Transport Authority MTN 3.51% 18/09/2030	2,000,000	2,189,911	0.28
	, ,	35,733,073	4.58
FINANCE Danga Capital Berhad 3.725% 11/08/2020	5,000,000	5,078,760	0.65
Temasek Fin IV PRIV Ltd 2.7% 25/10/2023	3,250,000	3,326,700	0.03
Temasek Financial I Ltd GMTN 3.265% 19/02/2020	7,500,000	7,590,978	0.97
Temasek Financial I Ltd GMTN 3.785% 05/03/2025	3,250,000	3,468,543	0.44
Temasek Financial I Ltd GMTN 4.2% 02/08/2050	5,000,000	5,532,531	0.71
		24,997,512	3.20
REAL ESTATE			
Housing & Development Board MTN 2.1% 03/11/2020	10,250,000	10,250,964	1.31
Housing & Development Board MTN 2.22% 22/11/2021 Housing & Development Board MTN 2.2325% 21/02/2022	5,500,000 5,500,000	5,522,126 5,525,470	0.71 0.71
Housing & Development Board MTN 2.5% 29/01/2023	6,250,000	6,342,202	0.81
Housing & Development Board MTN 2.545% 04/07/2031	7,500,000	7,405,423	0.95
		2,016,689	0.26
		37,062,874	4.75
SOVEREIGN			
Singapore Government Bond 1.25% 01/10/2021	21,200,000	20,839,865	2.67
Singapore Government Bond 1.75% 01/02/2023	18,250,000	18,146,427	2.32
Singapore Government Bond 1.75% 01/04/2022 Singapore Government Bond 2% 01/07/2020	24,600,000 35,500,000	24,491,900 35,561,525	3.14 4.55
Singapore Government Bond 2.125% 01/06/2026	26,630,000	26,890,625	4.55 3.44
Singapore Government Bond 2.25% 01/06/2021	53,650,000	54,108,064	6.93
Singapore Government Bond 2.25% 01/08/2036	26,050,000	25,779,682	3.30
Singapore Government Bond 2.375% 01/06/2025 Singapore Government Bond 2.625% 01/05/2028	25,550,000 17,950,000	26,170,724 18,851,129	3.35 2.41
Singapore Government bond 2.023 /0 01/03/2020	17,350,000	10,051,129	2.41

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

## STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO

As at 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

Holdings at 31 December 2018	Fair value at 31 December 2018 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2018 %
40,930,000 35,190,000 58,050,000 14,890,000 28,185,000 44,100,000 41,630,000 49,166,000 39,330,000 54,758,000	43,414,300 37,220,836 60,144,084 16,002,713 30,337,097 46,577,494 43,437,450 50,259,029 44,736,554 60,996,415 683,965,913	5.56 4.77 7.70 2.05 3.89 5.97 5.56 6.44 5.73 7.81 87.59
	789,897,621	101.16
	6,642,000	0.85
	796,539,621 (15,705,595) 780,834,026	102.01 (2.01) 100.00
tota ati un	al net assets ributable to itholders at	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2018 %
	0.22 0.82 4.58 3.20 4.75 87.59 0.85 102.01 (2.01) 100.00	0.23 0.87 3.64 3.19 4.73 86.31 0.77 99.74 0.26 100.00
	31 December 2018 40,930,000 35,190,000 58,050,000 14,890,000 28,185,000 44,100,000 41,630,000 49,166,000 39,330,000 54,758,000	$\begin{array}{c ccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$

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

## STATEMENT OF PORTFOLIO

For the financial period ended 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

By Geography (Secondary)	Fair value at 31 December 2018 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2018 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2018 %
Malaysia Singapore South Korea Accrued interest receivable on quoted fixed income securities	5,078,760 783,068,288 1,750,573 <u>6,642,000</u>	0.65 100.29 0.22 0.85	0.68 98.06 0.23 0.77
Portfolio of investments Other net (liabilities)/assets Net assets attributable to unitholders	796,539,621 (15,705,595) 780,834,026	102.01 (2.01) 100.00	99.74 0.26 100.00

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

### **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

For the financial period ended 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

The following contains additional information relating to the Fund.

## 1. Distribution of investments

Please refer to the Statement of Portfolio on pages 8 to 10

### 2. Credit rating of debt securities

CREDIT RATINGS	Fair value at 31 December 2018 S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 31 December 2018 %	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders at 30 June 2018 %
AAA	770 000 040	00.47	07.69
	776,680,612	99.47	97.68
AA	8,138,249	1.04	0.61
N.A.	5,078,760	0.65	0.68
Accrued interest receivable on quoted fixed	-,,		
income securities	6,642,000	0.85	0.77
	796,539,621	102.01	99.74

#### 3. Top 10 holdings

10 largest holdings at 31 December 2018

	Cost S\$	Fair value S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders %
Singapore Government Bond 3.5% 01/03/2027	60,938,282	60,996,415	7.81
Singapore Government Bond 3.5% 01/05/2027 Singapore Government Bond 2.75% 01/07/2023	60,938,282 60,063,175	60,996,415 60,144,084	7.70
•			
Singapore Government Bond 2.25% 01/06/2021	54,936,709	54,108,064	6.93
Singapore Government Bond 3.25% 01/09/2020	52,217,271	50,259,029	6.44
Singapore Government Bond 3% 01/09/2024	47,203,299	46,577,494	5.97
Singapore Government Bond 3.375% 01/09/2033	42,764,455	44,736,554	5.73
Singapore Government Bond 3.125% 01/09/2022	44,798,194	43,437,450	5.56
Singapore Government Bond 2.75% 01/03/2046	41,271,522	43,414,300	5.56
Singapore Government Bond 2.75% 01/04/2042	35,604,635	37,220,836	4.77
Singapore Government Bond 2% 01/07/2020	35,733,731	35,561,525	4.55

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

## **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

For the financial period ended 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

#### 3. Top 10 holdings (continued)

10 largest holdings at 31 December 2017

	Cost S\$	Fair value S\$	Percentage of total net assets attributable to unitholders %
	04 500 000	<u></u>	0.54
Singapore Government Bond 3.5% 01/03/2027	61,598,929	62,078,338	8.51
Singapore Government Bond 2.5% 01/06/2019	56,728,797	54,848,384	7.52
Singapore Government Bond 2.25% 01/06/2021	53,657,605	53,173,055	7.29
Singapore Government Bond 1.625% 01/10/2019	49,222,065	48,830,831	6.70
Singapore Government Bond 2.75% 01/07/2023	41,906,479	42,180,366	5.78
Singapore Government Bond 3% 01/09/2024	41,589,868	41,322,062	5.67
Singapore Government Bond 3.25% 01/09/2020	42,101,894	40,449,241	5.55
Singapore Government Bond 2.75% 01/04/2042	34,321,761	35,662,675	4.89
Singapore Government Bond 3.125% 01/09/2022	33,653,904	32,759,958	4.49
Singapore Government Bond 3.375% 01/09/2033	31,685,740	32,744,560	4.49

#### 4. Exposure to derivatives

Nil

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

Nil

9. Borrowings

Nil

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

## **REPORT TO UNITHOLDERS**

11.

For the financial period ended 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

## 10. Amount of units created and cancelled for the financial period ended 31 December 2018

			S\$
Units created Units cancelled		_	27,959,368 (2,447,511)
Financial ratios			
Expense ratio		31 December 2018	31 December 2017
Total operating expenses Average daily net asset value <b>Total expense ratio</b> 1	S\$ S\$ %	1,938,295 746,886,103 0.26	2,146,677 858,842,147 0.25
Turnover ratio		31 December 2018	31 December 2017
Lower of total value of purchases or sales Average daily net asset value <b>Total turnover ratio</b> <sup>2</sup>	S\$ S\$ %	146,540,462 755,614,743 19.39	112,284,277 860,489,134 13.05

<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 31 December 2018 was based on total operating expenses divided by the average net asset value for the year. The total operating expenses do not include 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 and 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 ended 31 December 2018 (Unaudited)

#### 12. 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 HSBC Institutional Trust Services (Singapore) Limited (the "Trustee").

Management fee is payable to the Manager. Administrator fee and trustee fee are payable to the Trustee. Custody fee is payable to a related company of the Trustee, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited.

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:

	31 December	30 June
	2018	2018
	S\$	S\$
Bank balances held with related party of the		
Trustee	2,294,344	2,326,350

#### 13. Additional information

#### Service Providers:

Fund Manager	: Nikko Asset Management Asia Limited appointed on 12 Aug 05; any retirement or removal per Clause 29 of Trust Deed
Remuneration Basis	: 0.15% p.a. on NAV
Trustee/Custodian/	
Valuation Agent/	
Fund Registrar	: HSBC Institutional Trust Services (Singapore) Limited
Market Makers	: Flow Traders Asia Pte Ltd and Phillip Securities Pte Ltd
Participating Dealers	: DBS Vickers Securities (S) Pte Ltd, CIMB-GK
	Securities Pte Ltd, Phillip Capital &
	Deutsche Bank AG, Singapore Branch
Corporate Secretariat	: Boardroom Corporate & Advisory Services Pte Ltd
Auditor	: PricewaterhouseCoopers appointed on 12 Aug 05
Audit Partner	: Ong King Howe
Tax Agent	: Ernst & Young Solutions LLP
Solicitors to Managers	: Chan & Goh LLP
Solicitors to Trustee	: WongPartnership LLP

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

Nil

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