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#### **FUND PROFILE**

OBJECTIVE Long-term capital appreciation through investment in equities of Japanese companies that are achieving EPS growth through the skillful execution of unique business models that are well

suited to the economic environment and growth opportunities

**APPROACH** Intensive bottom-up research (company visits, interviews and fundamental analysis) with

utilization of proprietary database of over 3,800 companies

SUITABILITY Institutional investors with a long term view

#### **FUND MANAGER'S COMMENT I OVERVIEW**

Our outlook as of September 30 for corporate performance for the fiscal year ending March 2021 for the 1,591 TOPIX companies that actually announced their forecasts for the year is as follows: ordinary income down 28.3% from the previous year, net income down 32.3% from the previous year, and gross dividends down 19.8% from the previous year. The Japanese stock market rose slightly in September. Although stock markets in the U.S. and other countries fell as a precaution to over pricing and concerns of an increased second wave in the coronavirus spread in Europe, the domestic market ended firmly with expectations of a rebirth in economic strategy with the LDP party's election and appointment of the Suga administration and as economic indicators remained firm as the recovery continued from April-May's bottoming out.

Future concerns include the U.S. suspension of exports of semiconductor products to China, the course of the US presidential election, and the impact of the second wave of infection in Europe. At present, there has been no major change in corporate performance, but we think it important to continue to conduct due diligence on individual companies and select those that can expect EPS growth in the medium- to long-term.

# **Investment Themes**

#### WITH THIS IN MIND WE ARE BUILDING OUR PORTFOLIO AROUND THE **FOLLOWING THEMES:**

- Companies that have established highly profitable business models that will enable them to achieve a high level of earnings growth over the medium to long term;
- Companies with sustainable earnings growth over the medium to long term in the hardware and software fields that contribute to the actualization of IoT and 5G, which are part of the fourth industrial revolution;
- Companies that contribute to customer productivity improvement by providing services using IoT and 5G;
- 4. Companies that are supportive of lifestyle changes brought on by the Coronavirus;
- 5. Japanese bellwether companies with EPS growth and low stock price volatility.

# PERFORMANCE CHART

#### **USD HEDGED UNIT CLASS** 1.700 1,600 USD Unit 1,500 1,400 1.300 1,200 1,100 1,000 900 12/15 06/16 12/16 12/17 06/18 12/18 06/19 12/19 06/20



#### **FUND FACTS**

Market Coverage	Japanese Equities			
Currency	U.S. Dollar, Japanese Yen, or Euro			
Inception Date	19 August 2015 USD Hedged Unit Class 30 March 2011 Yen Unit Class 01 May 2018 EUR Hedged Unit Class			
ISIN Code	IE00BVRZ9185 USD Hedged Unit Class IE00B3VGSP84 Yen Unit Class IE00BDRTDF67 EUR Hedged Unit Class			
Bloomberg Code	YUKIUSD:ID USD Hedged Unit Class YUKIJPY:ID Yen Unit Class YUKIEUR:ID EUR Hedged Unit Class			
Total Net Asset	¥6,657 Million -\$10 Million -\$5,063 Million -¥5,063 Million -€4.14 Million  USD Hedged Unit Class Yen Unit Class EUR Hedged Unit Class			
Unit NAV	\$1,285.18 USD Hedged Unit Class ¥31,261 Yen Unit Class €771.41 EUR Hedged Unit Class			
Legal Classification	UCITS regulated by Central Bank of Ireland			
Listed	Irish Stock Exchange			
Reporting Year End	July			
Subscription / Redemption	Daily			
Minimum Investment	\$10,000 USD Hedged Unit Class ¥1,000,000 Yen Unit Class €10,000 EUR Hedged Unit Class			
NAV Calculations	Daily			
Manager	Carne Global Fund Managers (Ireland) Ltd Dublin			
Trustee	BNY Mellon Trust Company (Ireland) Ltd Dublin			
Investment Manager	Yuki Management & Research Co. Ltd Tokyo			
Fund Manager	Magotaka Oshitani			
Administrator	BNY Mellon Fund Services (Ireland) DAC Dublin			
Auditor	PricewaterhouseCoopers Dublin			
International Placing Agent	Yuki-Co, LLC			

#### **CONTACTS**

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#### FUND MANAGER'S COMMENT I REVIEW

Through company visits and interviews, the fund manager added new positions, confirmed existing positions, and increased the weightings of some positions. One company of note is SG Holdings (9143), the second largest courier service in Japan. Profitability continues to improve as a result of focusing on consistently profitable customers. Since the company's customer-facing business is built on assumptions it can make on annual transaction volume, it can turn that into data, successfully control costs across its full nationwide distribution network and increase margins. In addition, thanks to added value up-sell proposals offered by the salesforce to customers, the company is achieving higher average sales per customer every year and continues to see revenue and transaction volume growth. The company is also successfully addressing the e-commerce needs for individuals in this coronavirus era, and as its sales and home deliveries increase its profit margins are improving due to its ability to reduce the number of redeliveries. The company has taken a pro-shareholder stance, with a dividend payout policy in line with stable EPS growth that supports the share price. For these reasons we continue to hold the position.

## **FEES**

0.015%		
0.085% - 0.025%		
0.02%		
1.50%		
0.07%		
(		

Please see prospectus for details [minimum charge may apply]

#### **PERFORMANCE DATA**

#### **USD HEDGED UNIT CLASS**

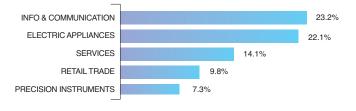
	YTD	1M	ЗМ	6M	1Y	3Y	5Y	Inception
FUND	6.0%	7.2%	12.8%	37.1%	11.3%	-4.9%	45.0%	28.5%
TOPIX [excl. dividends]	-5.6%	1.3%	4.3%	15.9%	2.4%	-2.9%	15.2%	-1.4%

\*Note: TOPIX figures are stated in USD terms for this table.

#### YEN UNIT CLASS

	YTD	1M	ЗМ	6M	1Y	3Y	5Y	Inception
FUND	5.4%	7.2%	12.7%	36.7%	10.0%	-10.0%	41.5%	212.6%
TOPIX [excl. dividends]	-5.6%	1.3%	4.3%	15.9%	2.4%	-2.9%	15.2%	87.7%

#### SECTOR BREAKDOWN



### **TOP HOLDINGS**

TOTAL	33.1%
10 Koei Tecmo Holdings Co (3635)	2.8%
9 Daikin Industries (6367)	2.8%
8 Tokyo Electron Ltd (8035)	2.9%
7 Kobe Bussan Co (3038)	2.9%
6 Terumo Corp (4543)	3.0%
5 NEC Corp (6701)	3.2%
4 Fujitsu General Ltd (6755)	3.3%
3 Nintendo Co Ltd (7974)	3.6%
2 M3 Inc (2413)	4.0%
1 Capcom Co Ltd (9697)	4.5%

# FUND MANAGER'S COMMENT I Future Strategy

The TOPIX ended slightly higher in September. Capital has flowed to companies with business models that have thrived during the pandemic, as well as companies in the IT and digitization areas favored by the new Suga administration. On the other hand, stocks that had risen since the end of last month despite no earnings, especially financial and commodity stocks, fell. Though companies with good business models that continue to achieve EPS growth even during the virus woes are highly valued by investors and trade at high PERs, their volatility is lower than that of the overall market, and we expect that the market will continue to value growth companies and companies with increasing profits. Our investment policy is to focus on fundamentals, building a portfolio focused on companies undergoing a high rate of change with a superior market advantage. We will adjust our position weightings based on target prices using our 3-year earnings estimates, and thoroughly analyze and evaluate company earnings to focus our investments on companies that we expect will improve profits over the mid- to long-term and have high EPS growth momentum based on unit sales growth.

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