

AFC VIETNAM FUND UPDATE

Fund Category	Vietnam Public Equities	
Country Focus	Vietnam	
Subscriptions	Monthly at NAV (five days before month end)	
Redemptions	Monthly at NAV 60 days notice	
Benchmark	VN Index	
Fund Manager	Andreas Karall	
Investment Manager	Asia Frontier Capital (Vietnam) Ltd., Cayman Islands	
Investment Advisor	Asia Frontier Investments Ltd., Hong Kong	
Fund Base Currency	USD	
Minimum Investment	USD 10,000	
Subsequent Investments	USD 1,000	
Management Fee	1.8% p.a. of NAV	
Performance Fee	12.5% p.a. of AV appreciation with high watermark	
Fund Domicile	Cayman Islands	
Launch Date	23 December 2013	
Custodian Bank	Viet Capital Securities, Ho Chi Minh City	
Auditor	EY, Hong Kong	
Administrator	Custom House, Singapore	
Legal Advisor	Ogier, Hong Kong	
ISIN	KYG0133A1673	

Contact Information

Asia Frontier Capital Ltd. www.asiafrontiercapital.com

Mr. Andreas Vogelsanger, CEO Asia Frontier Capital (Vietnam) Ltd. Tel: +66 84435 7472, Fax: +852 3904 1017 vietnam@asiafrontiercapital.com

Registered Office:

c/o Elian Fiduciary Services (Cayman) Limited, 89 Nexus Way, Camana Bay, Grand Cayman, KY1-9007, Cayman Islands

Hong Kong Office: Asia Frontier Investments Limited 1208, 12th Floor, Loon Kee Building 267-275 Des Voeux Road Central Hong Kong



The past few weeks were very eventful indeed, especially on the international political and financial arenas. The recent developments regarding Vietnamese stock markets can be described as positive, frustrating and enlightening.

Positive: The decision to raise foreign ownership limits, was broadly welcomed by international investors, even though more clarity is needed to better understand various imitations for different sectors. For example for banks the 30% limit (10% for a single investor) will remain unchanged and companies operating partly in other strategically important industries will probably also not be able to raise their limits to the full 100% (there are 267 conditional sectors in the investment law like telecom, defense, etc.!). Brokers and insurance companies however will be allowed to increase their limits to 100% and were therefore among the winners over the last few weeks. But why exactly banks increased by approximately 50% in recent weeks remains beyond my comprehension. They are now trading at a price / book ratio of around 2 with a high price / earnings ratio in regional comparison, and are definitely not cheap, even in an international context. With a high total weighting of the financial sector of over 35%, particularly banks, the main index has become a play ball of a single sector with intraday fluctuations of 10% and more. We however find "value" in other sectors and have to resign to the fact that this is reality for the time being.

Sector	Market cap. (USD bn)	Performance 2015
Financials	26,2	+34,6%
Consumer	12,0	+11,5%
Utilities	6,5	- 8,8%
Industrials	2,9	+ 9,7%
Materials	2,9	- 6,7%
Energy	1,1	-10,6%
Information Technology	0,9	+15,0%
Health Care	0,6	-15,0%
VN-Index	53,0	+15,0%
Small-Cap-Index		- 1,8%

Source: VietCapital Securities

Frustrating: The extremely different price development of certain stocks or sectors in comparison to the vast majority of shares, is due to the fact that 90% of the market is still dominated by domestic retail investors, which are currently still not ready to become more involved. The 2 charts below show how different the price movements of the "Big Caps" and the "Small Caps" are, since the beginning of this year:



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Source: VietCapital Securities

Since we are long-term investors and since the outperformance of smaller stocks happens always in waves as we have seen over the past few years, we see no reason to change the structure of our attractively valued portfolio, with the exception of course should earnings prospects change to the worse in any of our invested companies. The reporting season for the first half of the year is just beginning and we are curious to see how the improving economy will feed through to the domestic companies. In the long run, this will probably be the most important factor to define the extent of the upside potential of Vietnam. The above described development has led to strongly opposing developments in the short term. While the Ho Chi Minh City and the Hanoi index increased by 6% and 2.5% respectively, we had to resign to the fact that our AFC Vietnam Fund declined by 0.4% to approximately USD 1'388, according to our internal calculations.

Enlightening: Greece? Stock market boom and crash in China? Vietnam didn't really react to these themes, neither was it a topic of discussion. Once again Vietnam is proving its low correlation to other markets, driven by local investors. At what point however they drive the broad market back up is uncertain, but the example of Chinese speculators shows very clearly that our expectation is not unrealistic, experiencing these kind of price exaggerations in Vietnam too, over the years to come. Retail investors in Vietnam - as almost everywhere in the world - do not take investment decisions on the basis of an international debate about a free trade agreement, such as TPP or an upward revision in GDP growth of 0.2%. Sometimes it's company specific news which triggers their buying interest, but mostly rumors and simple greed for profits - especially if a friend, colleague or neighbor brags about the stock market profits they made.

We are not sure when neighbors will brag about their profits - but we are convinced that it will happen!

The subscription deadline for this month will be on the 27th July, if you would like any assistance with the investment process please be in touch with myself or Andreas Vogelsanger.

Best regards

Andreas Karall, CIO

*The representative of the Fund in Switzerland is Hugo Fund Services SA, 6 Cours de Rive, 1204 Geneva. The distribution of Shares in Switzerland must exclusively be made to qualified investors. The place of performance and jurisdiction for Shares in the Fund distributed in Switzerland are at the registered office of the Representative.

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