# **Baillie Gifford Japanese Smaller Companies Fund**

a sub-fund of Baillie Gifford Overseas Growth Funds ICVC



# Authorised Corporate Director's Annual Short Report for the year ended 30th April 2014

#### **Investment Objective**

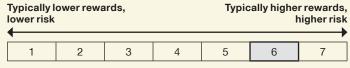
The Fund aims to achieve capital growth.

#### **Investment Policy**

To invest in any economic sector in Japan, either directly or indirectly. Investment will be mainly in shares of smaller companies. We will decide what constitutes smaller companies.

#### Risk and Reward Profile<sup>1</sup>

The Risk and Reward Indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the Risk and Reward Indicator



Please note that even the lowest risk class can lose you money and that extreme adverse market circumstances can mean you suffer severe losses in all cases. The Fund is classified in the category above because it invests in company shares which generally provide higher rewards and higher risks than other investments such as bonds or cash. The indicator does not take into account the following relevant material risks: Investment markets can go down as well as up and market conditions can change rapidly. The value of an investment in the Fund, and any income from it, can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the amount invested. Custody of assets may involve a risk of loss if the custodian becomes insolvent or breaches duties of care. The Fund's exposure to a single market and currency may increase share price movements. Where possible, all charges are taken from the Fund's revenue. Where there is insufficient revenue, the remainder will be taken from capital. This will reduce the capital value of the Fund. We are aware that the Scottish

Referendum Vote in September 2014 introduces elements of political uncertainty which may have practical consequences. We will continue to closely monitor these developments.

#### **Investment Report**

For the year to 30th April 2014 the return on A Net Accumulation Shares was -8.2%<sup>2</sup> compared to the return on the MSCI Japan Small Cap Index of -9.6%<sup>3</sup>, in sterling terms. We believe that shorter-term performance measurements are of limited relevance in assessing investment ability and would suggest that five years is a more sensible time frame over which to judge performance.

The Japanese market underperformed global markets, particularly since the start of the calendar year, as worries emerged that the reformist efforts of the government were slowing and that the increase in the consumption tax that came into effect in April could destabilise the economic recovery. However, inflation figures have turned positive after years of deflation in Japan and there are signs that wages are starting to rise.

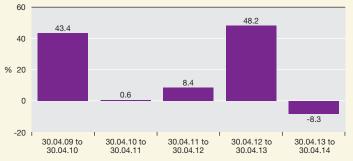
Amongst the best performing stocks over the period was Next, a real estate website, that aggregates information on properties for sale and available for renting. The stock earns a fee when a house is sold or let, so earnings have benefited as the property market has recovered. IRISO Electronics was another good performer as demand recovered for the electronic components that it manufacturers for the car industry. Endo Lighting Corp, the energy efficient lighting manufacturer was a weak performer, as the move in the currency increased the costs of manufacturing overseas.

Given the Fund's long-term investment horizon, turnover within the portfolio remains low. However, several new holdings were taken. Zuiko makes the vast and surprisingly complex diaper manufacturing machines that are being installed around the developing world by diaper makers, as income and hygiene levels increase. Yume No Machi operates a website that aggregates menus for restaurants that do food deliveries. The company's new app is proving to be very popular and the company has established an industry leading position.

We continue to find what we believe are attractively valued, well managed smaller companies in Japan with exciting growth prospects and the Fund continues to focus on the highest growth areas within the Japanese market.

John MacDougall, 16th May 2014

#### Past Performance<sup>4</sup>



The performance figures shown in this graph are for Class A Net Accumulation Shares. Performance figures reflect the ACD's annual fee of 1.5%, but exclude any initial charge paid. Please note these returns differ from the return quoted in the Investment Report, which is based on the closing net asset value at the year end. Performance figures for the other share classes in issue can be obtained by calling Client Relations. Your call may be recorded for training or monitoring purposes. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

#### Net Asset Values (as at the Year End)

Share Class	Net Asset Value per Share	Net Asset Value per Share
	30.04.14	30.04.13
A Net Accumulation	1507p	1641p
B Net Income	1579p	1712p
B Net Accumulation	1695p	1828p
C Net Income	1589p	1724p
C Net Accumulation	1823p	1956p

#### Distributions (for the Calendar Year)

Share Class	Net Income per Share	Net Income per Share
	Period to 30.04.14	Year to 31.12.13
A Net Accumulation	0.00p	0.00p
B Net Income	8.18p	9.83p
B Net Accumulation	8.61p	10.07p
C Net Income	17.77p	17.08p
C Net Accumulation	20.14p	19.21p

# Ongoing Charges Figures (for the Financial Year)<sup>5</sup>

Share Class	Ongoing Charges Figure	Ongoing Charges Figure
	30.04.14	30.04.13
A Net Accumulation	1.54%	1.47%
B Net Income	0.59%6	0.65%
B Net Accumulation	0.60% <sup>6</sup>	0.60%
C Net Income	0.06%	0.09%
C Net Accumulation	0.06%	0.09%

# Highest and Lowest Prices (for the Calendar Year)

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Share Class	Highest Price	Lowest Price	<b>Highest Price</b>	Lowest Price
	per Share	per Share	per Share	per Share
	2014	2014	2013	2013
A Net Accumulation	1749p	1512p	1781p	1155p
B Net Income	1837p	1592p	1867p	1210p
B Net Accumulation	1962p	1700p	1993p	1284p
C Net Income	1858p	1611p	1885p	1221p
C Net Accumulation	2107p	1828p	2138p	1371p

<sup>1</sup>Further details of the risks associated with investing in the Fund can be found in the Prospectus which is available by calling Client Relations on 0800 917 2113.

<sup>2</sup>Source: Baillie Gifford & Co Ltd, closing net asset value, net income accumulated. <sup>3</sup>Source: FE, net income. <sup>4</sup>Source: FE, 10am dealing prices, net income accumulated. <sup>5</sup>The ongoing charges figure is based on the expenses for the financial year and may vary from year to year. It excludes the cost of buying and selling assets for the Fund. Until 31st March 2014 the ACD's annual fee was calculated on a monthly basis which could lead to distortions in the calculated ongoing charges figure when a share class was expanding or contracting. From 1st April 2014 the ACD's annual fee is calculated on a daily basis. <sup>6</sup>The ACD considers 0.66% to be a more indicative rate for the ongoing charges figure for Class B Net Income Shares and Class B Net Accumulation Shares. You should be aware that past performance is not a guide to future performance.

#### **Major Holdings**

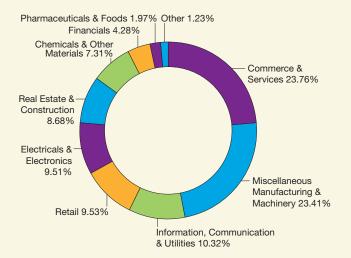
The Fund's 10 largest holdings at the end of this year and the previous year end are shown below.

Holdings		% of Fund Value
		as at 30.04.14
1	Nihon M&A Center Inc	2.87
2	Next Co Ltd	2.69
3	Asics Corp	2.29
4	Start Today Co Ltd	2.25
5	M3 Inc	2.22
6	Sysmex Corp	2.15
7	Nabtesco Corp	2.13
8	Enplas Corp	2.07
9	Nifco Inc	2.00
10	CyberAgent Inc	1.99

Holdings		% of Fund Value
		as at 30.04.13
1	Nihon M&A Center Inc	3.19
2	Japan Exchange Group	3.13
3	Hajime Construction Co Ltd	2.83
4	Don Quijote	2.61
5	MonotaRO Co	2.56
6	Pigeon	2.56
7	Nakanishi Inc	2.55
8	Digital Garage	2.44
9	Sysmex Corp	2.40
10	Tokyu Livable Inc	2.35

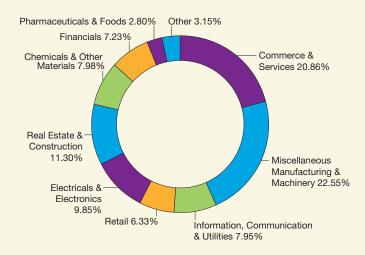
# Classification of Investments

#### 30th April 2014



Net assets: £162,555,000

#### 30th April 2013



Net assets: £84,534,000

# Report and Accounts

Copies of the annual and interim Long Report and Financial Statements of the Fund are available free of charge on request by calling Client Relations.

#### **Protected Cell Regime**

With effect from 12th December 2013, the ACD moved the ICVC to the 'protected cell regime'. The new rules limit the recourse of creditors to just the assets of the relevant sub-fund and not all the sub-funds of the umbrella company.

#### Other Information

The Fund is a UCITS retail scheme under the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook ('COLL'). Shareholders are not liable for the debts of the Fund beyond the amount subscribed. The information in this report is designed to enable shareholders to make an informed judgement on the activities of the Fund during the year it covers and the result of those activities at the end of the year. For more information about the activities and performance of the Fund during this and previous years, please call Client Relations: 0800 917 2113 (fax 0131 275 3955) or visit our website at www.bailliegifford.com or email us at trustenquiries@bailliegifford.com. Any comments expressed in this report should not be taken as a recommendation or advice.

#### Amendment to the Depositary's Fee

With effect from 1st February 2014, the fee charged by the Depositary was reduced from a rate of 0.045% plus VAT per annum of the first £50,000,000 and a sliding scale thereafter, to a flat rate of 0.01% plus VAT per annum.

# **Fund Charges and Costs**

We are obliged to quote performance based on the Class A Shares, which have the highest ACD's annual fee. Our Class B Shares carry a lower ACD's annual fee as well as a lower initial charge, than the equivalent Class A Shares, and associated distributions may be higher than the equivalent Class A Shares. If you have any questions on the merits of a conversion to the Class B Shares we would suggest that you contact a financial adviser. Performance numbers for Class B Shares are available by contacting the Client Relations Team on 0800 917 2113.

A further explanation of charges and costs relating to the Fund can be found in the Enhanced Disclosure of Fund Charges and Costs document on our website.

#### **Fund Facts**

XD Date: 30th April.

Distribution Payment Date: 30th June.

#### **Minimum Investment Levels**

The minimum initial investment is £1,000 for Class A Shares (£50 per month for the Monthly Savings Plan) and £10,000 for Class B Shares (£500 per month for the Monthly Savings Plan). Class C Shares are only available to persons to whom an associate of the ACD provides services under an investment management agreement. Details of the minimum holding and redemption levels can be found in the Supplementary Information Document and Prospectus.

# **Authorised Corporate Director ('ACD')**

Baillie Gifford & Co Limited (Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register No. 119179) Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh EH1 3AN

#### Depositary

National Westminster Bank Plc (Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority, Financial Services Register No. 121878) Trustee & Depositary Services, The Younger Building, 3 Redheughs Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 9RH

#### Investment Manager

Baillie Gifford & Co (Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register No. 142597) Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh EH1 3AN

# Auditor

KPMG Audit Plc Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EG

# Registrar

Baillie Gifford Savings Management Limited (Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register No. 150233) Calton Square, 1 Greenside Row, Edinburgh EH1 3AN