# CHINABANK BALANCED FUND



#### **KEY INFORMATION AND INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT** As of December 20, 2023

AS OF December 29, 2023					
FUND FACTS					
Classification:	Multi-Asset Fund	Net Asset Valu	e per Unit (NAVPu):	1.61428	4
Launch Date:	February 18, 2011	Total Fund Net	Asset Value (NAV):	Php296.	46 million
Minimum Investment:	Php5,000.00	Dealing Day:		Daily up	to 12:00nn
Additional Investment:	At least Php1,000.00	Redemption Se	ettlement:	3 bankin notificati	g days from date of on
Minimum Holding Period:	30 calendar days	Early Redempt	ion Fee:	1.0% of	the proceeds
FEES <sup>1</sup>					
Trustee Fees: 0.0805%	Custodianship Fees: 0.0008%		External Auditor: 0.0018%		Other Fees: None
China Bank – Trust and	Deutsche Bank AG, Manila Branch		SGV & Co.		
Asset Management Group	Philippine Depository & Trust Corp.				
<sup>1</sup> As a percentage of average daily N	NAV for the month valued at H	Php293.86 million.			
INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE	AND STRATEGY				

The Chinabank Balanced Fund intends to achieve capital appreciation as well as a steady income stream by investing in a diversified portfolio of high-grade tradable fixed income securities issued by the Philippine government and local corporations and choice equity issues listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE). Up to 60% of the Fund may be invested in equity issues at any point in time while the balance shall be in fixed income securities with a weighted average portfolio modified duration of not more than ten (10) years. The Fund aims to outperform its benchmark which is 60% PSE Index (PSEi) + 40% Bloomberg Philippine Sovereign Bond Index 1 to 5 Year (BPHIL15 Index).

# **CLIENT SUITABILITY**

A client profiling process shall be performed prior to participating in the Fund to guide the prospective investor if the Fund is suited to his/her investment objectives and risk tolerance. Before deciding to invest, clients are advised to read the Declaration of Trust, a copy of which is available at the Trustee's principal office.

The Chinabank Balanced Fund is suitable only for investors who:

have an aggressive risk appetite;

- are willing to accept higher risks involving volatility of returns and possible erosion of principal in return for capital appreciation and potentially better long-term results; and,
- have an investment horizon of at least one (1) year.

### **KEY RISKS AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

The client should not invest in this Fund if the client does not understand or is not comfortable with the accompanying risks.

- Interest Rate Risk. This is the possibility for an investor to experience losses due to changes in interest rates. The purchase and sale of a debt instrument may result in profit or loss because the value of a debt instrument changes inversely with prevailing interest rates.
- Market/Price Risk. This is the possibility for an investor to experience losses due to changes in the market price of securities. It is the exposure to the uncertain market value of a portfolio due to price fluctuations. Given that the Fund may be invested up to 60% in equity issues at any point in time, investors are deemed to be more exposed to this risk.
- Liquidity Risk. This is the possibility for an investor to experience losses due to the inability to sell or convert assets into cash immediately or in instances where conversion to cash is possible but at a loss. These may be caused by different reasons such as trading in securities with small or few outstanding issues, absence of buyers, limited buy/sell activity or underdeveloped capital market.
- Credit/Default Risk. This is the possibility for an investor to experience losses due to a borrower's failure to pay principal and/or interest in a timely manner on instruments such as bonds, loans or other forms of security which the borrower issued. It also includes risk on a counterparty (a party the Trustee trades with) defaulting on a contract to deliver its obligation either in cash or securities.
- Reinvestment Risk. This is the possibility for an investor to have lower returns or earnings when maturing funds or the interest earnings of funds are reinvested.

The Trustee only transacts with reputable counterparties and invests in debt securities issued by prime corporate borrowers which have undergone a rigorous accreditation and evaluation process. Internal and regulatory exposure limits as well as the Fund's average duration for its fixed-income investments are monitored regularly to ensure that exposures are managed. The Fund also employs risk management measures to monitor significant declines in the Fund's NAVPu and alert the Trustee to review current strategies and take corrective action as necessary. Furthermore, the Fund undergoes an annual review to ensure that it is equipped to fund any redemption requirement in a timely manner and at a reasonable cost during times of financial stress.

- THE UITF IS A TRUST PRODUCT AND NOT A DEPOSIT ACCOUNT, AND IS NOT INSURED NOR GOVERNED BY THE PDIC.
- THE UITF IS NOT AN OBLIGATION OF, NOR GUARANTEED, NOR INSURED BY THE TRUST ENTITY OR ITS AFFILIATES . **OR SUBSIDIARIES.**
- DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE INVESTMENTS OF A UITF, THE RETURNS/YIELDS CANNOT BE GUARANTEED. HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE, WHEN PRESENTED, IS PURELY FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES AND IS NOT A **GUARANTEE OF SIMILAR FUTURE PERFORMANCE.**
- ANY LOSSES AND INCOME ARISING FROM MARKET FLUCTUATIONS AND PRICE VOLATILITY OF THE SECURITIES HELD BY THE UITF, EVEN IF INVESTED IN GOVERNMENT SECURITIES, ARE FOR THE ACCOUNT OF THE CLIENT. AS SUCH, THE UNITS OF PARTICIPATION OF THE CLIENT IN THE UITF, WHEN REDEEMED, MAY BE WORTH MORE OR WORTH LESS THAN HIS/HER INITIAL INVESTMENT/CONTRIBUTION.
- THE TRUSTEE IS NOT LIABLE FOR LOSSES UNLESS UPON WILLFUL DEFAULT, BAD FAITH OR GROSS NEGLIGENCE. THE INVESTOR MUST READ THE COMPLETE DETAILS OF THE FUND IN THE UITF'S PLAN, MAKE HIS/HER OWN RISK ASSESSMENT, AND WHEN NECESSARY, SEEK AN INDEPENDENT/PROFESSIONAL OPINION BEFORE MAKING AN INVESTMENT.

# FUND PERFORMANCE AND STATISTICS AS OF DECEMBER 29, 2023

(Purely for reference purposes and is not a guarantee of future results)

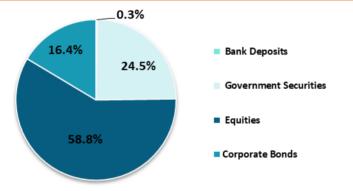


CUMULATIVE PERFORMANCE (%)					
Period	1mo	3mos	6mos	1yr	3yrs
Fund	3.10%	3.84%	3.00%	5.03%	4.39%
Benchmark	2.47%	2.09%	1.12%	1.18%	-4.00%

The PSEi is a composite index that tracks the performance of the top 30 publicly listed companies in the Philippines based on market capitalization and is computed using a free-float, market capitalization-weighted methodology. It includes a diversified range of companies from various sectors of the economy including financials, property, industrials, services and holdings firms, among others.

The BPHIL15 Index is a systematically designed, rules-based, market valueweighted index that measures the performance of fixed-rate and zerocoupon local currency securities that are publicly issued in the Philippines. It includes a diversified range of fixed income securities with different coupon rates, maturities of between 1 to 5 years, minimum par amounts of Php3.0Bn, and are traded in the Philippine market.

### **PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION**



SECTOR HOLDINGS (%)	
Holding	28%
Property	20%
Financial	19%
Industrial	18%
Services	14%
Mining	1%
OTHER DISCLOSURES	

### **RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Fund has deposits with the Bank Proper, amounting to Php844.54 thousand, which were approved by the Board of Directors/Trust Investment Committee. Likewise, all related parties transactions are conducted on an arm's length basis.

#### **OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY**

Global markets finished the year strong in December as participants increased bets that we have already seen peak interest rates. The MSCI All-Country Weighted Index, a broad measure of equity performance was up by +4.70% during the month. Meanwhile, the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index, a barometer for fixed income performance was up by +4.16%. Markets cheered as inflation continue to soften, with November readings for the Philippines and U.S. coming in at 4.1% and 3.1%, respectively. Additionally, both the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and the US Federal Reserve (Fed) kept policy rates on hold during their respective board meetings. More importantly, the Fed shared their updated dot plot for policy rates, showing that median projections of voting members call for a 75bps cut in 2024 and a 100bps cut in 2025. Meanwhile, the futures market continued to position for a more aggressive path of reduction in policy rates, pricing in nearly 158bps cut in 2024 alone, with the first move starting as early as March 2024.

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index (PSEi) joined the "everything rally", adding +226.31pts or +3.64% to close at the 6450.04 level. In terms of sector performance, Services (+5.91%), Property (+4.84%), Industrials (+4.46%), Mining and Oil (+3.44%), and Holding Firms (+3.30%) pushed the market higher. Financials (-0.21%) meanwhile bucked the trend, declining for the month. In terms of individual stock performance, AGI (+16.85%), ICT (+14.37%), JFC (+10.94%), MER (+10.83%), and AC (+10.42%) led

STATISTICS	
Weighted Average Duration	4.46
Volatility, Past 1 year <sup>2</sup>	4.30%
Sharpe Ratio <sup>3</sup>	0.15
Information Ratio <sup>4</sup>	5.60

<sup>2</sup>**Volatility** measures the degree to which the Fund fluctuates vis-à-vis its average return over a period of time. This is computed by getting the standard deviation of the yearly returns for the past 12 mos.

<sup>3</sup>Sharpe Ratio is used to characterize how well the return of a Fund compensates the investor for the level of risk taken. The higher the number, the better. This is computed by dividing the excess return of the fund against the risk-free rate over the fund's volatility.

<sup>4</sup>Information Ratio measures the reward-to-risk efficiency of the portfolio relative to the benchmark. The higher the number, the higher the reward per unit of risk. This is computed by dividing the excess return of the fund against the benchmark over the fund's volatility.

TOP TEN HOLDINGS (%)	
SM	9.7%
SMPH	6.6%
FXTN 25-07	6.2%
SMCGP 04-24 R22	6.0%
FXTN 25-06	5.1%
ALI	5.1%
BDO	5.0%
AC	5.0%
ICT	4.9%
VLL 24 R23	4.3%

the rally with double digit returns. On the other hand, ACEN (-8.75%), SMC (-5.46%), AEV (-4.70%), BDO (-1.58%), and WLCON (-1.18%) lagged. A rebalancing exercise on the FTSE index occurred during the month, with upweights seen on the likes of BLOOM, CNPF, and SMC providing added flows. Overall however, market activity was low due to holiday shortened trading weeks. On valuation, the PSEi closed the month trading at an 11.13x forward P/E on consensus estimates for 2024 earnings. This is equivalent to an earnings yield of 8.98%, which is on the cheaper end relative to bond yields. Recall that bond yields have already come off their highs, with the PH 10Y continuing to ease to 6.023% from 6.24%, while the US 10Y slid to 3.866% from 4.33%.

With the rally during the month, the PSEi's Q4 2023 performance stood at +2.04%, in line with the seasonally strong returns observed in past periods. Full year performance meanwhile was at -1.77%, marking the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of negative returns for the local equities market. Nonetheless, finishing just shy of the previous year's closing level considering the number of headwinds in 2023 is no easy feat. Looking into the New Year, the index's Q1 performance have historically been more volatile. Macro data and Q4 report cards of PSEi members will start to come in as early as January, which will determine if the recent market excitement has room to run.

In the fixed income space, the yield curve continued its descent on expectations of further rate cuts in 2024 and the lack of additional bond supply for the month. Yields declined by an average of 15 basis points (bps) across the curve. All benchmark tenor rates declined, save for the 1-year rate which rose 7 bps to 5.8674%, as the short-end fell by 9 bps on average. The long-end outperformed, falling by 20 bps on average, with the 10-year rate down 23 bps to 6.0012%. Meanwhile, the belly declined by 16 bps on average, with the 5-year rate down 20 bps to 5.9386% and the 2-year rate down 5 bps to 5.914%. Total traded volume for December amounted to Php416.454 billion, down by 40% versus November's volume. This was driven by a decline in trading volume for all security types, with FXTNs declining by 55% and t-bills by 58%. Majority of traded volume came from FXTNs and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) bills both accounting for 33% each.

A major driver of the bond market rally was inflation, which saw a continued decline. Inflation in November eased to its lowest level in 20 months, to 4.1% from 4.9% in October and versus 8% in November last year. The figure was also below consensus estimate of 4.3% and was at the lower end of the BSP's forecast range of 4.0% to 4.8%. Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy items, also eased from 5.3% to 4.7% in November, driven by the reduction in food prices, transport, and restaurants and accommodation services. Year-to-date, the average inflation stood at 6.2%, exceeding the BSP's full-year forecast of 6.0%. Meanwhile, the BSP said that it will keep monetary policy tight until a sustained downward trend in inflation becomes evident. The central bank will continue to monitor inflation expectations and second-round effects, ready to take necessary actions to bring inflation back to the target and uphold price stability objectives.

As inflation slowly cooled, the BSP maintained the policy rate at 6.50% in its December rate setting meeting. The BSP anticipates inflation to remain steady in 2024 with a slight downward adjustment in its full year forecast from 4.4% to 4.2%, albeit upside risks remain, coming from transport fare hikes, higher power rates and oil prices. Emphasizing a data-dependent approach, the BSP closely monitors the responses of households and firms to tighter monetary policy when making decisions to achieve the long-term inflation goals of 2-4%.

In the local bond market, the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) only conducted two auctions for the month. Initially scheduled to have 10-year and 15-year auctions for the month, it only pushed through with the 10-year auction, awarding Php20 billion, as programmed. The auction fetched a bid-to-cover ratio of 2.03 times, and an average rate of 6.224%, which was down 56 bps versus the previous month's auction of the same tenor. Meanwhile, the sole T-bill auction for December garnered a bid-to-cover ratio of 3.6 times, with the three tenors – 91-, 182-, and 364-days – fetching average rates of 5.00%, 5.27%, and 5.73%, respectively. The BTr also released its auction schedule for the first quarter of 2024, where it intends to issue Php15 billion weekly bills for the quarter, and Php120 billion worth of bonds in January, Php150 billion in February, and Php120 billion in March.

For the coming month, we expect the market to pick up its volume versus December as market players take position at the start of the year. Yields however are expected to trade sideways as it awaits the release of December's inflation print, which the BSP estimates to settle between 3.6-4.4%. Higher prices of rice and meat are seen as the primary sources of upward price pressures. Meanwhile, lower prices for agricultural items such as vegetables, fruits, and fish along with lower electricity rates and petroleum prices are expected to contribute to downward price pressures. Moreover, market will take its cue from the fresh supply of bills and bonds for month.

# **INVESTMENT POLICY / PROSPECTIVE INVESTMENTS**

The Fund may be invested or reinvested in the following:

- a) Equities listed in the PSE;
- b) Securities issued by or guaranteed by the Philippine government or the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP);
- c) Tradable fixed income securities issued by private and public corporations which are listed and traded in an organized exchange/market such as bonds and notes;
- d) Deposits and tradable money market instruments issued by local banks, including those of the Trustee's own bank, and foreign banks of their Philippine branches or any financial institution in any foreign country;
- e) Financial derivatives instruments solely for the purpose of hedging risk exposures of the existing investments of the Fund, provided that these are accounted for in accordance with existing BSP hedging guidelines as well as the Trustee's risk management and hedging policies duly approved by the Trust Investment Committee and disclosed to participants; and
- f) Such other tradable investment outlets/categories as the BSP may allow.

# **OTHER BASIC FUND FACTS**

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Trust Fee:	1.00% p.a.	Minimum Maintaining Amount:	Php5,000.00
Initial NAVPu:	P1.000000	Minimum Redemption Amount:	None. Partial redemptions shall be allowed provided that the amount redeemed will not result to a balance below the minimum maintaining amount.

# **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

China Banking Corporation (Chinabank) may receive customer complaints, inquiries or any concern about its products and services through Customer Contact Center 24/7 Hotline: (+632) 8885-5888 or email: online@chinabank.ph. Chinabank is regulated by the BSP with contact number (+632) 8708-7087 and email address: consumeraffairs@bsp.gov.ph.