

Nomura i-Income Fund - Class I

January 2023

Fund Manager's Commentary

In January-2023, domestic bond market saw a strong rally, tracking global rates movement as markets began to price in the end of the interest rate hiking cycle. The government bond market rally was also fueled by a surprise pause by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM). We expect BNM to hold rates constant in 1H2023, in order to gauge the extent of the anticipated global economic slowdown. In particular, the Government Investment Issues (GII) 10Y yield fell from 4.13% to 3.94% over the month. Corporate sukuk lagged the government bond rally, leading to wider credit spreads, though we expect this to narrow as domestic investors reach for yield.

In its first Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting of the year, BNM surprised the market with a pause on its rate hike cycle, keeping its Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) unchanged at 2.75%. This would allow BNM to assess the lagged impact of the back-to-back OPR hikes in 2022. In its Monetary Policy Statement (MPS), BNM remained cautious on the global growth outlook while maintaining its positive tone on the domestic economy growth prospects. Nevertheless, BNM kept the door open for further rate hikes as it indicated that "further normalisation to the degree of monetary policy accommodation" will be data dependent.

Strategy-wise, we see value in the present steepness of the belly of the credit curve, particularly as the 3-7 year portion remains fairly steep, making for an attractive rolldown play.

Cumulative Fund Returns (%)

	YTD 31/12/2022 To 31/1/2023	1 Month 31/12/2022 To 31/1/2023	3 Months 31/10/2022 To 31/1/2023	6 Months 31/7/2022 To 31/1/2023
Fund	1.28	1.28	3.12	2.72
Benchmark	0.21	0.21	0.62	1.24

Cumulative Fund Returns (%)

	1 Year 31/1/2022 To 31/1/2023	3 Years 31/1/2020 To 31/1/2023	5 Years 31/1/2018 To 31/1/2023	Since Commencement 5/1/2017 To 31/1/2023
Fund	1.88	6.87	28.18	35.81
Benchmark	2.27	6.74	14.35	18.46

Calendar Year Returns (%)

	2022*	2021	2020	2019	2018
Fund	0.65	0.83	7.01	10.35	6.07
Benchmark	2.22	1.95	2.50	3.45	3.54

Source: Refinitiv Lipper

Notes:

Performance data is calculated based on the changes in the Fund's NAV price per unit for the specified length of time and on the assumption that any dividends declared are reinvested into the Fund. Performance figures are presented in cumulative basis, unless indicated otherwise.

The Fund was launched on 7 November 2012. However, there were no units in circulation for the period between 21 March 2016 and 4 January 2017. As such, the Fund's performance figures are only available from 5 January 2017 onwards.

* The Fund was launched as a single class wholesale fund on 7 November 2012. Following the approval obtained from the unit holders at a unit holders' meeting, the Fund was subsequently converted to a unit trust fund and split to Class I and Class R on 1 October 2022. Hence, performance data prior to 1 October 2022 as shown in this material reflects the performance of the Fund as a single class wholesale fund.

FUND'S PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT AN INDICATION OF ITS FUTURE PERFORMANCE

Investment Objective

The Fund seeks to provide investors with regular income distributions through investments in Islamic deposits, Islamic money market instruments and sukuk.

Benchmark

12-month Malayan Banking Berhad General Investment Account Rate.

Distribution Policy

Distribution of income, if any, is on quarterly basis and may be made from realised gains, realised income and/or out of capital.

Key Facts

Launch Date	07-Nov-12*
Fund Category	Islamic Fixed Income
Year End	31 December
Fund Size	MYR 420.73 million
Class Size	MYR 375.15 million
Units in Circulation (Class I)	340.8 million
NAV per Unit (Class I)	MYR 1.1008
Transaction cut-off time	Daily; 4:00 pm
Redemption Period	T + 3 business days

Sales charge

Nil

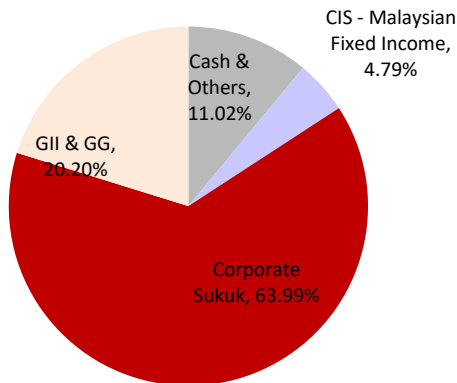
Management fee

Up to 0.25% per annum of the NAV of the Class.

Trustee fee

Up to 0.03% per annum of the NAV of the Fund, subject to a minimum fee of RM12,000 per annum.

Asset Allocation*



*Presented as a % of NAV as at 31 Jan 2023

Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Included in 'Cash & Others' are cash on hand and Islamic deposits and other net current assets/liabilities.

Top Holdings*

Government of Malaysia	16.10%
Infracap Resources Sdn Berhad	7.53%
Zamarad Assets Berhad	4.82%

Rating Profile*

NR (GII & GG)	20.20%
AAA	19.79%
AA2	7.19%
AA3	16.86%
A1	11.96%
A2	3.64%
A3	3.64%
BBB2	0.91%

Sector Breakdown*

Public Administration	23.63%
Financial	19.34%
Real Estate	11.93%
Transportation and Storage	11.46%
Energy and Utilities	9.51%
Consumer Discretionary	4.77%
Communications Services	3.54%

Distribution By Financial Year

	2022*	2021	2020	2019
Distribution (RM)	0.0140	0.0427	0.0486	0.0498
Distribution Yield (%)	1.29	3.90	4.31	4.52

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Disclaimer:

Based on the Fund's portfolio returns as at 31 December 2022, the Volatility Factor (VF) for the Fund is 5.1 and is classified as "Low" (Source: Refinitiv Lipper). "Low" includes funds with VF that are above 4.875 but not more than 11.695. The VF means there is a possibility for the Fund in generating an upside return or downside return around this VF. The Volatility Class (VC) is assigned by Refinitiv Lipper based on quintile ranks of VF for qualified funds. VF is subject to monthly revision and VC will be revised every six months. The Fund's portfolio may have changed since this date and there is no guarantee that the Fund will continue to have the same VF or VC in the future. Presently, only funds launched in the market for at least 36 months will display the VF and its VC.

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