

30 June 2025



Investment Update

Platinum Investment Bond - Platinum Asia Fund (PIBPAF)



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Overview

- South Korean stocks were the outstanding performers during the June quarter thanks to a reduction in political instability after Jae-myung Lee's clear victory in the Presidential election.
- Indian and Indonesian stock also did well. India's economy is domestically focused and this
 protects that country from some of the tariff uncertainty that affected global markets in the
 quarter. Monetary policy shifts supported the Indonesian market. Thailand, bedevilled by political
 instability, was notably weak.

Performance

Please refer to www.australianunity.com.au/wealth/ platinum for the latest performance information.

This commentary relates to the underlying fund, the Platinum Asia Fund (PAF).

The quarter was characterised by a significant divergence in market performance across the region, with constant background noise surrounding US trade policy. After an initial bout of weakness sparked by renewed tariff discussions, Asian markets re-found their footing as the US dollar softened, providing regional central banks with greater monetary policy flexibility.

South Korea was the standout market, buoyed by postelection optimism and positive developments across several key industries. India and Indonesia also delivered strong returns. In contrast, Thailand was notably weak, weighed down by political uncertainty and soft economic data.

We initiated two new positions during the quarter, **Mayora Indah**, a high-quality Indonesian consumer snack foods company and **EO Technics**, a Korean laser company serving the technology industry. We trimmed a handful of holdings that had performed strongly.

Commentary - dollar weakness, Asian strength

The quarter began with global markets fixated on escalating trade tensions. The announcement of a new round of US tariffs in early April sent a brief but sharp tremor through risk assets. However, the subsequent decision to pause the implementation of the most severe measures allowed markets to regain composure. While this 90-day pause provided a temporary reprieve, the fundamental issues remain unresolved. There is deep ambiguity around the goal of these tariffs. Is it revenue generation, the reshoring of manufacturing, or geopolitical leverage? This creates a challenging environment for businesses.

Despite this uncertainty, aspects of the macroeconomic backdrop for Asia improved as the quarter progressed. A notable weakening of the US Dollar Index (DXY) was a significant tailwind. For the past few years, sustained dollar strength has constrained the ability of Asian central banks to manage their domestic economies, as cutting interest rates risked currency depreciation, which would in turn fuel inflation through higher commodity import costs.

The recent shift in the dollar has eased these concerns, giving Asian policymakers the room to pursue more independent and accommodative monetary policies tailored to local conditions. This newfound flexibility was a key factor in improving sentiment towards the region, giving investors

reasons to look beyond the policy uncertainty emanating from the US.

Market Highlights – innovation in Korea, confidence in India

South Korea was the region's top-performing market. The conclusion of the presidential election, with Jae-myung Lee securing victory, removed a layer of political uncertainty. The new administration's centrist policy platform has been well-received and there is positive momentum in several sectors. These include the nuclear power, defence, ship building, Al and semiconductor sectors.

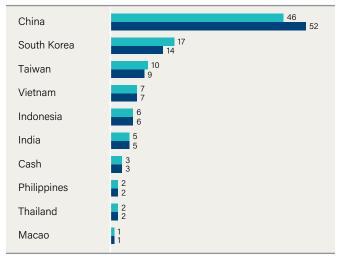
During a visit to Korea this quarter, we met with a range of companies. The growing strength and innovation within the country's biotech sector impressed us. This is rapidly becoming a second pillar of growth alongside its long-standing dominance in semiconductors. The positive market environment flowed through to our holdings, with **SK hynix** (up nearly 50%), **HD Hyundai Marine Solution** (+47%) and **Coway** (+22%) all amongst the top contributors to Fund performance.

India continued to be a source of strength. Its big domestically focused economy is largely insulated from trade concerns and, powered by soaring investor confidence, is humming along. Similarly, Indonesia delivered an impressive performance as the government worked to reassure markets about their fiscal position and the Bank of Indonesia cut rates to support the economy.

In stark contrast, Thailand was the region's laggard with its market falling around 9% during the quarter. The weakness was broad-based and driven by a confluence of negative factors. Lingering political uncertainty continues to weigh on sentiment, while key economic indicators disappointed. The much-hoped-for recovery in Chinese tourism has been weaker than expected, hurting Thailand's services sector. Furthermore, data from parts of the retail sector has been poor, with major companies reporting significant negative same-store sales growth. The property market also shows signs of stress. All these factors are contributing to a downbeat outlook for the domestic economy.

China and Hong Kong had a volatile quarter, initially selling off on the tariff news before recovering to finish just in positive territory. The performance of our Chinese holdings was mixed. Some of our holdings in the financial sector – like **China Merchants** and **Noah Holdings** – performed well. Counterbalancing this we saw weakness in e-commerce and logistics-related holdings, including **JD.com**, **Alibaba**, **ZTO Express** and **Trip.com**.

Disposition of Assets of PAF %



■ 30 JUN 2025 ■ 31 MAR 2025

See note 1, page 7. Numerical figures have been subject to rounding. Source: Platinum Investment Management Limited.

Net Sector Exposures of PAF %



■ 30 JUN 2025 ■ 31 MAR 2025

See note 2, page 7. Numerical figures have been subject to rounding. Source: Platinum Investment Management Limited.

Top 10 Holdings of PAF

COMPANY	COUNTRY	INDUSTRY	WEIGHT
Taiwan Semiconductor	Taiwan	Info Technology	9.8%
SK hynix Inc	South Korea	Info Technology	6.3%
Tencent Holdings Ltd	China	Comm Services	5.1%
Vietnam Enterprise Inv	Vietnam	Other	4.7%
JD.com Inc	China	Cons Discretionary	4.4%
Samsung Electronics Co	South Korea	Info Technology	4.1%
Ping An Insurance Group	China	Financials	3.8%
ZTO Express Cayman Inc	China	Industrials	3.3%
China Resources Land Ltd	China	Real Estate	3.1%
InterGlobe Aviation Ltd	India	Industrials	2.9%

As at 30 June 2025. See note 3, page 7.

Source: Platinum Investment Management Limited.

Portfolio Activity

During the quarter we initiated a position in Mayora Indah, a leading Indonesian consumer food company. Mayora owns a portfolio of iconic snack food brands with formidable distribution across both traditional "mom-and-pop" shops and modern retail channels. The company has a successful track record of expanding its footprint across Southeast Asia. A recent increase in sales and marketing expenditure aimed at driving long-term growth led to a short-term dip in earnings estimates. The stock price fell. We saw this as an attractive opportunity to invest in a high-quality, resilient business at a compelling valuation.

We also added EO Technics to the portfolio. EO is a South Korean company and a global leader in laser marking and other laser-based applications for the semiconductor industry. For years, the company has been expanding its technological capabilities from simple marking into more advanced processes like wafer dicing and annealing.

We believe EO Technics is now at an inflection point. The increasing complexity and miniaturisation of semiconductors necessitate the cleaner, more precise cuts that its laser dicing technology provides. At the same time, demand for marking is set to grow with the trend towards chip-scale marking, while newer annealing applications are also gaining traction. The company can capture growth from these multiple, durable tailwinds.

Exited Positions

We exited our position in Chinese property developer **China Vanke**. The decision followed recent regulatory moves around the pre-sales system for new homes. Developers are increasingly unable to rely on customer down payments to fund a significant portion of their construction costs. Given Vanke's relatively weak balance sheet compared to some state-owned peers, we felt it was prudent to exit the stock. We retained our holdings in the more resilient, state-backed developers **China Resources Land** and **China Overseas Land**.

Trimmed Positions

We trimmed several holdings that enjoyed strong share price appreciation during the quarter. These included China Merchants Bank, Coway, SK hynix, and **TSMC**. In each case, our fundamental view on the business remains positive, but we realised some profits to manage our position sizes after the strong run-up in their stock prices.

Outlook

The global trade environment remains uncertain. The lack of clarity on the long-term rules of engagement continue to make it difficult for businesses to commit to multi-year investment plans. This could create a drag on broader economic activity.

Our portfolio strategy reduces exposure to tariff-related risks by focusing on companies geared towards domestic demand. However, no company is entirely immune to a slowdown in the global economy. We find reassurance in the fact that valuations and the cyclical position of businesses across large swathes of the market remain attractive.

This means there is considerable room for domestic recoveries to gather pace independently. We are confident our portfolio of high-quality businesses can navigate the prevailing uncertainties and generate value for investors over the long term.

Highlights from The Journal

Visit www.platinum.com.au/platinum-investment-bonds
to access information about the Platinum Investment Bond

– Platinum Asia Fund including:

- Weekly unit prices
- Monthly updates on performance, portfolio positioning and top 10 holdings
- Announcements.

The Journal section of the Platinum website features articles and videos that help explain recent market moves, explore investing ideas and keep you up to date with our Funds. Here's some recent highlights.



Scottie Scheffler and the 'happy amateur' investor¹

What can investors learn from the distinction between amateur and professional sport?

VIDEC

From cheap trinkets to the DeepSeek moment²

DeepSeek is another symbol of Asia's capacity for change. But what does it mean for investors?

VIDEC

Europe: why President Trump's tough love is a catalyst for change³

Europe is adapting to new geopolitical realities. Which companies could benefit?



ARTICLE

Investment lessons with a pro – the front nine⁴

Douglas Isles draws on 18 years' experience to talk cliches, hype and the perils of past performance.

ARTICI F

Lessons with an investment professional – nine more tips⁵

Douglas Isles returns with nine more investment tips – exploring the hidden dangers of a headline and the power of quality.

¹ www.platinum.com.au/the-journal/scottie-scheffler-and-'happy-amateur'-investors

² www.platinum.com.au/the-journal/from-cheap-trinkets-to-the-deepseek-moment

^{3 &}lt;u>www.platinum.com.au/the-journal/europe-tough-love-and-a-catalyst-for-change</u>

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^{5 &}lt;u>www.platinum.com.au/the-journal/lessons-with-an-investment-pro-the-back-nine</u>

Notes: Unless otherwise specified, all references to "Platinum" in this report are references to Platinum Investment Management Limited (ABN 25 063 565 006, AFSL 221935).

The Platinum Investment Bond ("PIB") is an investment bond issued and administered by Lifeplan Australia Friendly Society Limited ABN 78 087 649 492 AFSL 237989. "PIBPAF" refers to the Platinum Investment Bond - Platinum Asia Fund (APIR code: LIF7284AU), one of the underlying investment options of the Platinum Investment Bond. "PAF" refers to the Platinum Asia Fund (ARSN 104 043 110), the underlying fund into which the PIBPAF invests.

Some numerical figures in this publication have been subject to rounding adjustments. References to individual stock or index performance are in local currency terms, unless otherwise specified.

- 1. The geographic disposition of assets (i.e. other than "cash" and "shorts") shows PAF's exposures to the relevant countries/regions through its long securities positions and long securities/index derivative positions, as a percentage of its portfolio market value. Country classifications for securities reflect Bloomberg's "country of risk" designations. "Shorts" show PAF's exposure to its short securities positions and short securities/index derivative positions, as a percentage of its portfolio market value. "Cash" in this table includes cash at bank, cash payables and receivables and cash exposures through long derivative transactions.
- The table shows PAF's net exposures to the relevant sectors through its
 long and short securities positions and long and short securities/index
 derivative positions, as a percentage of its portfolio market value. Index
 positions (whether through ETFs or derivatives) are only included under
 the relevant sector if they are sector specific, otherwise they are
 included under "Other".
- The table shows PAF's top ten positions as a percentage of its portfolio market value taking into account its long securities positions and long securities derivative positions.

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