HD **Singaporean Fund Manager Eyes Korea, China, Australia**

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WC 318 words

PD 29 April 2014

SN Global Money Management

SC GLOMM

LA English

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Lion Global Investors, a Singaporean fund manager, has picked Australia, China and South Korea to grow assets as its Asia Pacific equity strategy has beat the broad market over the past half year. The manager, which has SGD29.4 billion (GBP14.7 billion) in assets under management, is looking to China's urbanization as an economic growth engine. More than half the world's largest population lives in cities, a boon to consumer spending.

More details on that urbanization are expected in November after the Communist Party plenum, the 27-year-old fund manager said in its fourth quarter outlook on Oct. 18. It also hints of relief from China's economic slowdown since 2011. "We expect the improving data trend in China to continue over the next few months, with Premier Li [Keqiang] likely to continue his pro-growth stance until there is confidence that growth in the second half of 2013 will be around 7.5%," the outlook stated.

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In South Korea, domestic consumption and "proven global brand names and exporters" give Lion cause to "remain positive" on equities, the outlook continued. Those brands include Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics, both of which market research firm Gartner ranks among the world's top five smart-phone sellers.

Australia looks better because with the Coalition government's return "the key uncertainty of unpredictable and business unfriendly policies has been removed," the quarterly outlook reported. As a result, Lion favours cyclical exposure to companies "with a strong domestic franchise." The firm is also bullish on real estate and construction in Japan as Tokyo builds up ahead of the 2020 Olympics. It takes a more cautious approach to Southeast Asia.

Lion's Asia Pacific equities strategy picks stocks that are underweight to markets and sectors, such as finance and energy, and that may be exposed to China's economy.

IN i83107 : Portfolio/Fund/Asset Management | i831 : Financial Investments | ifinal : Financial Services | iinv : Investing/Securities

NS ccat : Corporate/Industrial News

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PUB Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC

AN Document GLOMM00020140520ea4t000jx