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# Equity Market's Fundamentals Relatively Positive Next 3-5 Years

Premalatha Jayaraman  
Monday, March 27, 2017

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Malaysian equity market's fundamentals are relatively positive for the next three to five years, in line with other emerging markets (EMs), says Morningstar Inc MD of research strategy for Asia Pacific Anthony Serhan.

Serhan said the positive fundamentals are led by good valuations and strong economic performance of the country.

Over the next few years, he said, the expected returns in Asian markets including Malaysia will be higher compared to developed markets.

"Within Asia, the growth rates tend to be higher compared to other markets. It helps the growth of the equity markets," he told reporters after Morningstar announced winners of 2017 Malaysia Fund Awards last Friday in Kuala Lumpur.

Morningstar is a leading provider of independent investment research in North America, Europe, Australia and Asia with operations in 27 countries. It also offers investment management services through its investment advisory subsidiaries, with more than US\$200 billion (RM885.1 billion) in assets under advisement and management as of Dec 31, 2016.

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In 2016, Serhan said there were strong flows into EMs due to volatile performance particularly in the developed markets.

He said Donald Trump's election as the US president had also marked dramatic reversal in EMs.

At the annual Morningstar award ceremony, Affin Hwang Select Opportunity Fund was awarded the Best

Malaysia Large-Cap Equity Fund, while Public Ittikal won Best Malaysia Large-Cap Equity (Shariah) Fund and AmDynamic Bond was awarded the Best Malaysia Bond Fund.

Public Islamic Bond received the Best Malaysia Bond (Shariah) Fund and Affin Hwang Select Asia (ex-Japan) Quantum Fund awarded the Best Asia-Pacific Equity Fund.

The Morningstar Malaysia Fund Awards are designed to help investors identify retail funds that added the most value for investors within the context of their relevant peer group in 2016 and over longer time periods.

Morningstar selects the winners using a quantitative methodology with a qualitative overlay that considers the one-year, three-year and five-year performance history of all eligible funds and adjusts returns for risk using Morningstar Risk, a measure that imposes a higher penalty for downside variation in a fund's return than it does for upside volatility.

"All of the winners delivered strong three-year and five-year returns after adjusting for risk, in addition to outperformance of their peers during the last 12 months. These funds have demonstrated that they have the ability to earn strong returns over the long term without undue risk," Serhan said.

Separately, AmInvest said the award is a testament to the proven expertise of its fixed income team and capabilities of proprietary credit research unit, who continue to deliver added value to investors.

"Looking ahead, we remain focussed on continuously growing our investors' investments by not only delivering consistent investment performance, but at the same time providing investment solutions that can capitalise on opportunities in all market conditions," AmInvest CEO Datin Maznah Mahbob said in a statement, following the firm's win.

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MID RATES AT NOON	9 Jan	6 Jan
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CNY	0.6460	0.6473
GBP	5.4844	5.5414
EUR	4.7159	4.7359
JPY100	3.8152	3.8631
SGD	3.1078	3.1241
HKD100	57.7513	57.6766
AUD	3.2747	3.2779

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