

A company listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Stock code: 806 HK

# **2021 Final Results**

For the year ended 31 December 2021

Results Presentation, 10 March 2022



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#### **Presenters**





June WONG President Nikita NG Finance Director

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#### **Financial Review**



#### **Business and Strategy Updates**

- Industry Macro Trends
- Value Partners' Key Strategies

## **2021 Key Highlights**



#### **Financial Performance**

- Achieved net profit of HK\$458mn against challenging market environment
- Disciplined cost control with total expense decreased 36.9% yoy
- Strong balance sheet with net cash of HK\$1.7bn and house investments of HK\$3.5bn
- Recommended dividend 8 HK cents per share



- Continued strengthening of sales & marketing channels
- Progress in asset class and product themes expansion
- Capturing opportunities from China's market opening

# **Financial Review**

Ms. Nikita NG

Finance Director

基理集團 Value Partners Group

		2021 (HK\$ million)	2020 (HK\$ million)	% Change
	Total revenue	1,281.6	2,561.5	-50.0%
Revenue	Gross management fees	926.7	1,013.2	-8.5%
	Gross performance fees	200.5	1,468.1	-86.3%
Cost	Total expenses	520.7	824.8	-36.9%
	Operating profit – core operation	360.3	1,308.5	-72.5%
Earnings	Net Profit	457.8	1,379.5	-66.8%
	Basic earnings per share (HK cents)	24.7	74.4	-66.8%
Dividend	Total dividends per share (HK cents)	8	34	-76.5%
Dividend	Dividend payout ratio (%)	32%	46%	
Return	Return on Equity RoE (%)	8.6%	28.1%	

# Assets under management ("AUM")



Stable net management fee margin amid volatile market





#### **Divergence in asset class:**

- <u>Fixed income:</u> 2021 net outflow mainly from our Greater China High Yield Strategy (US\$1.5 bn outflow) due to weak market sentiment
- <u>Multi-asset:</u> Strong demand for our Asian Multi-Asset Strategy with AUM grew 4.0x in 2021 to US\$347mn
- <u>Equities:</u> Inflows into flagship
   Great China Equity Strategies &
   thematic Healthcare Strategy.
   One-off termination of a whitelabel product

#### Fee margin:

 Net management fee margin remained stable for 2021 despite volatile market dragged down the performance fee

#### **AUM analysis**

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Classification by brand	2021	2020	2021
Own Branded Funds	82%	73%	-2020
White Label & Co-branded Funds	18%	27%	
Classification by strategy			
Absolute Return Long-biased Funds	72%	67%	-2020
Fixed Income Funds	23%	30%	
Alternative Funds	3%	2%	
Quantitative Funds & ETF	2%	1%	
Client analysis by			
geographical region	2021	2020	
Hong Kong SAR	60%	64%	-2020
Europe	12%	10%	2021
Mainland China	9%	10%	
Singapore	6%	6%	
💻 Japan	6%	3%	
<ul> <li>United States</li> </ul>	3%	4%	
- Others	4%	3%	

### **Stringent cost control**







1. Fixed expenses mainly represent fixed salaries and benefits, rent, investment research, other administrative and office expenses for asset management business. 2. Others includes depreciation and non-recurring expenses.

3. Other compensation and benefits includes the management bonus and staff rebates.

### Strong balance sheet and cash deployment strategy

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(In HK\$ million)	31 Dec 2021	31 Dec 2020	% Change
Net Assets	5,265	5,418	-2.8%
Cash & cash equivalents	1,666	1,974	-15.6%
<ul> <li>Investments<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	3,461	2,417	+43.2%



- Maintain very strong balance sheet with cash rich position and zero debt
- Continue to deploy cash to seed and incubate new products as we continue to expand our product suite to capture new investor demands
- House investment portfolio is diversified for risk mitigation

# **Business and Strategy Updates**

Ms. June WONG

President

# **Industry macro trend 1:**



### Asia wealth management growth is significant, particularly in China

APAC Asset & wealth management AUM is expected to grow to US\$ 65 trillion by 2025...

Asia total client assets and asset & wealth management (AWM) growth (USD trillion)

...particularly driven by China, with private and mutual funds being the fastest growing categories





Source: PwC "Asset & Wealth Management 2025 – The Asian Awakening". 1. AWM AUM is the sum of client assets held by HNWI and Mass affluent segments

Source: Goldman Sachs research, AMAC, CSRC, CBIRC, SAC. Include segments outside of asset & wealth management industry including insurance, banking sectors etc.

# Industry macro trend 2:



#### More overseas allocators are treating China as a standalone asset class

At full inclusion China ex-A shares and A share would further increase to 40%+ of MSCI Emerging Markets index



Many institutions increasingly looking to create standalone China strategies to bridge exposure gap



# Industry macro trend 3: ESG is emerging to be a key growth driver



ESG is one of the fastest growing trends in industry globally now

Global Sustainable Fund Assets 2019-2021



• Asset managers globally working to repurpose and rebrand conventional products as well as launch new products

# Asia is also picking up on ESG trend, with China as the largest market

#### Asia ex-Japan Sustainable Fund Assets 2019-2021 (US\$ billion)



🔳 China 🔳 HK SAR 👘 📕 India 📒 Indonesia 📕 Malaysia 🔳 Singapore 🔳 South Korea 🔳 Taiwan 📲 Thailand

- Strong interest across all client categories for ESG funds
- Majority new ESG fund launches were active equity funds

#### **Value Partners' 3 key strategies**







Strengthening of sales & marketing channels Asset classes expansion and ESG

Capture opportunities in China's market opening

## **Strengthening of sales & marketing channels**



#### Hong Kong headquarters

 Hong Kong retail funds industry saw HK\$8.8bn net inflows in 2021 (vs HK\$ 5.6bn net redemption in 2020)<sup>1</sup>

\*

- Strong growth in multi-asset and equity funds
- Enhanced management leadership with senior appointments across front, middle and back office functions
- Major initiatives include:
  - Strengthen relationships with key channels
  - Develop relationships with online channels
  - Strengthen Client Portfolio Manager (CPM) team
  - Investment in marketing function resource

#### Europe, Australia and US

- Until now global pension funds and endowments have significantly underweighted China in their portfolios<sup>2,3</sup>
- Inbound requests from institutional investors more than doubled in 2021 from 2020
- Strong brand recognition from GBP 500m M&G mandate



# Strengthening of sales & marketing channels (cont'd)

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Southeast Asia

- Asset management industry growing steadily
- Asset owners in the region have strong interest to increase allocation to China
- Strengthened management team to bolster sales coverage as our market penetration is still low

Malaysia <sup>1</sup>	Thailand <sup>1</sup>
<ul> <li>Khazanah (SWF): US\$31bn</li> <li>Household wealth: US\$550bn</li> <li><i>5-yr growth CAGR: c.6%</i></li> </ul>	<ul> <li>GPF (pension): US\$32bn</li> <li>Household wealth: US\$400bn</li> <li><i>5-yr growth CAGR: c.6%</i></li> </ul>
Singapore <sup>1,2,3</sup> <ul> <li>GIC (SWF): US\$744bn</li> <li>Temasek (SWF): US\$282b</li> <li>Household wealth: US\$2t</li> <li>5-yr growth CAGR: c.12%</li> </ul>	trn+

#### Japan

- AUM contribution increased from only 3% in 2020 to 6% in 2021
- Strong momentum from strategic collaboration with Daiwa Securities:
  - Successfully co-branded 3 thematic Greater China funds, including the latest launch of a thematic product with ESG considerations in October 2021



Source: 1. Deloitte, "Capturing the multi-trillion dollar asset management opportunity in Southeast Asia"; . 2. Monetary Authority of Singapore, Singapore Asset Management Survey; 3. Credit Suisse 2021 Global Wealth Report.

#### **Value Partners' 3 key strategies**







Strengthening of sales & marketing channels Asset classes expansion and ESG



Capture opportunities in China's market opening

# Diversification and growth from product suite expansion La 思 埋 集 團 Value Partners Group



Source: 1. Referring to FY2021 performance, peer group refers to the Morningstar Category of Asia Allocation (HKSFC).

### Success in multi-asset franchise build-out

- Multi-asset is the fastest growing fund category in Hong Kong, market share almost doubled in past 3 years
- We see our Asian multi-asset product with potential to be another flagship billion size product:
  - AUM grew 4.0x in 2021
  - Awarded Best Fund Provider for Multi-asset Solution by Asian Private Banker 2022

#### Multi-asset is almost doubling market share 2019 vs 2021

Hong Kong quarterly retail gross sales breakdown<sup>1</sup>



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A multi-asset product focuses on Asia's innovative industries AUM (US\$ million)



Source: 1: Hong Kong Investment Funds Association; 2. Peer group refers to the Morningstar Category of Asia Allocation (HKSFC).

# Investment in ESG to become long-term competitive advantage

#### Progress and growth plans in 2021

- UNPRI signatory since 2019
- ESG factors incorporated into investment process with **proprietary ESG scorecards** formally adopted
  - 100% proprietary coverage for equities and listed fixed income issuers achieved in 2021
  - Dedicated ESG investment professionals
- Launched first thematic product with ESG considerations s for the Japan market in collaboration with Daiwa Securities
- Plans to further roll out more products with rising client demand in 2022



Value Partners Group

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### Value Partners' 3 key growth strategy







Strengthening of sales & marketing channels Asset classes expansion and ESG

Capture opportunities in China's market opening

# China is the single largest market opportunity for foreign asset managers

Apart from the growing domestic demand for investments...



- New Asset Management Rules to be fully implemented from 2021 onwards:
  - disallow implicit guarantees on financial products, and boost demand for fund products
  - set a more favorable playing field for foreign asset managers



#### Having a strong network of business partners is key to success:

Banks and other financial institutions accounts for 80% wealth management sales, alongside growth of digital and third party channels<sup>1</sup>



- Further opening of market to foreign asset managers:
  - Recent change in regulations allows foreign players to gain direct access to the China retail market
  - No longer constrained to existing schemes such as Mutual Recognition of Funds (MRF)

#### China



Southbound Bond Connect and GBA Wealth Connect to cement Hong Kong as the gateway for capital flows in and out of China





### Value Partners' 13-year history in Mainland China



Track record of seizing regulatory tailwinds and has built an industry-recognized franchise



Note: 1. Asia Asset Management Best of the Best Awards recognize a WFOE house's ability to expand in a fast growing market, enhance its product and distribution arrangements, gain market acceptance and raise funds in the past year. 2. The awards are determined by combining performance, scale and other quantitative data calculations, WeChat voting, industry mutual investment, and expert evaluation and qualitative evaluation. 3. This award is determined based on the performance of fund products that raise funds from investors in a public/non-public manner overseas in the past year. 4. Reflects performance of offshore institutions up to 31 December 2020.

# Value Partners China: 4 pillars for growth in 2022

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Institutional

- Settled transitory headwinds in 2021: our current book of business are poised for growth
- FOF/MOM segment growth: achieved +60% growth in 2021, including new collaboration with top SOE banks
- New products/clients: established strong foundation to introduce the full Value Partners capability to new clients



- New QDLP quota granted and product innovation: New US\$50m quota granted, planned to launch the first RMB hedged QDLP product in China with top-tier banks
- Top foreign PFM house: Managing 11 PFM products for top channels



- Two flagship products: Classic and High-Dividend Stocks Fund distributing at 9 retail channels, and we are expanding distribution network further
- New MRF application: Plan to submit for a 3<sup>rd</sup> MRF product in 2022
- Ample room for growth: the existing 2 funds can further raise more than\$1bn before reaching its cap



GBA Wealth Connect

- Officially launched in October 2021: eligible Hong Kong domiciled mutual funds to access 80 million population in GBA, which is more than 10x the size of the HK market
- **2 funds onboarded:** VP Asian Income and Asian Total Return Bond Strategy on various eligible banks
- Anticipate further roll out into new channels and products

**Key drivers for future growth:** Actively seeking to obtain **FMC (fund management company) and WMC (wealth management company) license qualification or partnerships** to gain wider access in both institutional and retail wealth segment in mainland China

# **Appendix: Strengthened management leadership**

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June Wong

President

- Joined in Oct-21, responsible for managing the Group's overall business, corporate strategy and operations
- Three decades of industry experience. Most recently Asia ex-Japan CEO for State Street Global Advisors. Also served as Vice Chairman for Asia Pacific at Columbia Threadneedle and held other senior leadership roles including Senior Managing Director and Head of Asia ex-Japan Institutional Business at AllianceBernstein and Head of Business **Development at HSBC Asset** Management



#### Winnie Lam Managing Director, COO Office

- Joined in Jul-21, responsible for the Group's overall middle and back office functions including finance, IT, operations and administration
- Three decades of industry experience. Most recently served as Head of **Operations, Asia at First Sentier** Investors (formerly known as First State Investments) for 14 years. Before that, she was Head of Settlement and Fund Administration at Lloyd George Management and also held leadership roles in operations at JP Morgan Securities



#### **James Ong**



Managing Director, Head of Southeast Asia and CEO of Singapore

- Joined in Nov-21, responsible for overseeing the Group's business in Southeast Asia
- Over 25 years of sales leadership experience. Most recently, Managing Director and Head of Southeast Asia at State Street Global Advisors where he oversaw the firm's institutional and intermediary businesses in the region. Before SSGA, he was Client Director at HSBC Asset Management and Director at UOB Asset Management



#### Ellen Tsang

Managing Director, Head of Marketing & Communications

- Joined in Feb-22, responsible for overall marketing function, including branding, marketing, corporate communications
- Over 20 years of marketing experience. Most recently Head of Marketing for Asia ex-Japan, with State Street Global Advisors. Also assumed leadership roles in marketing and communications functions at Abrdn (formerly known as Aberdeen Standard), Amundi and Pictet. Before that, she also served fund distributors including BCT Group and YF Life (formerly known as MassMutual)

#### New joiners in the pipeline

- Managing Director, Head of EMEA
- Head of ETF

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