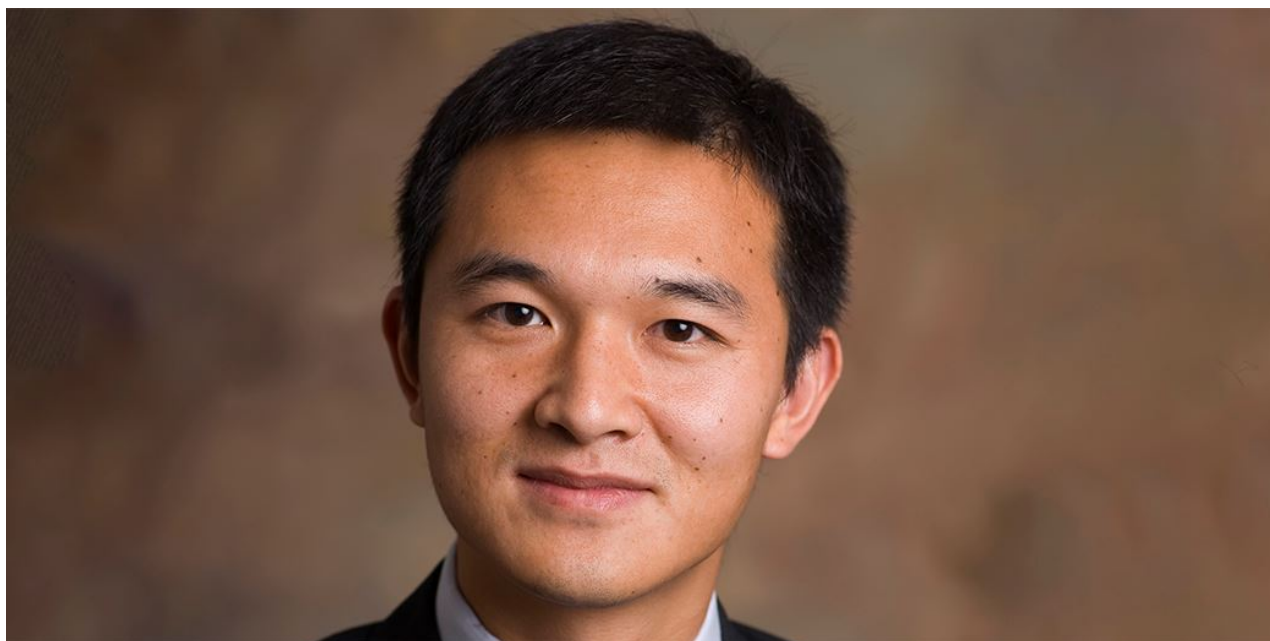


T. Rowe Price seeks out AM to offer China fund

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Caroline Rolle



T. Rowe Price has partnered Maybank Asset Management to offer an equity fund to Malaysia investors looking to enhance returns amid Beijing's economic transition.

The offering is based on T. Rowe Price's China Evolution Equity Strategy fund, which aims to invest in the rising stars of China's secular change beyond its 100 largest listed firms.

Portfolio manager Wenli Zheng (pictured) targets innovative companies climbing the value chain, such as future earning compounders in the service industry and new leading players in niche sectors. The strategy is benchmarked against the MSCI China All Shares Index Net.

'China is a deep market with over 5,500 onshore and offshore-listed companies, offering a huge opportunity set to investors,' said Elsie Chan, head of distribution for Asia ex-Japan at T. Rowe Price.

'It remains a fertile hunting ground for investors seeking sustainable businesses and potential excess return opportunity through bottom-up fundamental research,' she added.

As of 30 Nov, the fund's largest holdings are 5.6% in Country Garden Services Holdings, followed by 4.7% in Jason Furniture Hangzhou and 4.4% in Zhejiang Shuanghuan Driveline. Consumer discretionary remains the largest sector allocation at a quarter of the portfolio.

The fund has returned 15% since inception in August 2020, against its benchmark's 1.3%.

Maybank Asset Management Malaysia CEO Ahmad Najib Nazlan said the fund extends its reach in China ‘into a universe of over 5,500 untapped stocks.’

‘This unique pivot provides us an unconstrained all-China investment approach to pick the best and most valuable upcoming companies; coupled with our ESG fundamentals to ensure business sustainability,’ he said.

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