

Aberdeen Fund Selector Forum: Davos 2014

Hotel InterContinental, Davos, Switzerland
Thursday 30 - Friday 31 January 2014

Investing for different tomorrows

The economic landscape has changed and we are all making sense of it as global investors.

The Federal Reserve's desire to unwind its unorthodox monetary policy has serious implications for investors who have relied heavily on the enormous amounts of cheap money pumped into the financial system. However, while the dominant topic at present, the US is by no means the only risk out there: the euro crisis, geopolitics and a potential credit bubble in China are all issues that have not gone away.

Assessing the overall impact on portfolios is not straightforward and asset allocation decisions are fraught with danger. With no obvious route map, we ask how investors may effectively anticipate risk and where they can find quality investments in the race for yield-generating assets.

We have gathered some great speakers and world opinion leaders to share their views. Our inaugural fund selector investment conference takes place this year on Thursday 30 January and Friday 31 January 2014 at the Hotel InterContinental in Davos, Switzerland.

Thursday 30 January

Conference Chair: Anne Richards, Chief Investment Officer, Aberdeen Asset Management

10:00 – 11:15 Registration

11:15 – 11:20 Housekeeping

Douglas Connon, Head of Corporate Events, Aberdeen Asset Management.

11:20 – 11:25 Welcome

Anne Richards, Chief Investment Officer, Aberdeen Asset Management.

11:25 – 11:30 Film: Global markets in the spotlight

A round-up of the main issues facing the global economy today.

11:30 – 11:45 Learnings from the World Economic Forum

Our conference chair, Anne Richards, will provide some thoughts after attending the previous week's World Economic Forum on "Reshaping the World".

11:45 – 12:45 Keynote speaker: demographic change and its impact on global economics

Leading commentator, Hans Rosling, Professor of International Health at Sweden's Karolinska Institute, will present on global demographic change and its likely impact on the global economy.

12:45 – 13:45 Lunch

13:45 – 14:30 'The Great Rotation' investment panel

Big asset allocation shifts have been the subject of much debate: bonds to equities, developing markets to developed, low to high yielding assets. Are these long-term trends and how much should they influence investors seeking good quality returns?

BBC presenter, Andrew Neil, chairs a panel of Aberdeen's top fund managers to discuss these issues.

Stephen Docherty, Head of Global Equities

Jeremy Whitley, Head of UK and European Equities

Donald Amstad, Director, Business Development

Greg Hopper, Head of Global High Yield

14:30 – 15:15 Emerging markets: dead or alive?

Devan Kaloo, Head of Global Emerging Markets Equities, performs a health check on these markets.

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 – 16:30 'What if' scenarios

15 minute presentations on:

What if the Federal Reserve's QE exit strategy causes excessive bouts of volatility?

Professor David Blanchflower discusses the impact of the Federal Reserve's tapering policy on global bond markets.

What if Japan manages to sustain prolonged growth?

David Pilling investigates the impact of Abenomics on the wider Asian economy.

What if volatility returns in Europe?

Gillian Tett analyses if investors would show their fickle side and flee the region, reversing the strong performance experienced since ECB President Mario Draghi ushered his calming influence on markets over a year ago.

16:30 – 17:30 The economics debate

A panel of distinguished economists and commentators examine the state of countries, governments and markets around the world and take a look at what the future may hold. Panellists are:

Professor David Blanchflower CBE. Best known for his position on the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee, David is a leading UK economist specialising in the 'everyday' economics of people.

David Pilling. In addition to his time at as a foreign correspondent, senior editor and columnist at the FT, David spent six years in Japan as Tokyo Bureau chief cover as well as writing extensively on Japan's social and economic resilience.

Gillian Tett. A social anthropologist by training, Gillian worked extensively in Soviet-influenced Central Asia and eventually became Tokyo Bureau Chief for the FT. She later became deputy head of the influential Lex column.

17:30 – 17:45 A reflection on the day and close

Anne Richards canvasses opinions from delegates on the content of the day and polls views of future scenarios.

17:45 – 18:45 Break

18:45 – 19:30 Drinks reception

19:30 Dinner

This will be followed by our after dinner speaker, Francois Pienaar, former South African rugby captain.

Friday 31 January

09:00 – 09:30 Coffee

09:30 – 09:45 Welcome

Nicholas Shaw, Head of Business Development - Financial Institutions EMEA, Aberdeen Asset Management

09:45 – 11:00 Best practice in fund selection workshop

Roland Meerdter, Association of Professional Fund Investors.



What is driving the increasing concentration of flows into a narrow group of funds?

Are professional fund investors at risk of creating bubbles as fund selection methodologies at different firms are becoming increasingly homogeneous?

Could scenario planning help to reduce those risks?

The Association of Professional Fund Investors will discuss these issues in an interactive workshop led by founding member Roland Meerdter and with a panel of senior fund selectors. APFI serves as a forum for its members to drive the development and exchange of global best practice in the areas of research, analysis, due diligence and the selection of asset management products.

11:00 – 17:30 Ski resort activities

