# Schroder Japan Growth Fund plc

Half Yearly Report to 31 January 2010



# Investment Objective

The Company's principal investment objective is to achieve capital growth from an actively managed portfolio principally comprising securities listed on the Japanese stock markets, with the aim of achieving growth in excess of the TSE First Section Total Return Index over the longer term.

# Directors

Jonathan Taylor (Chairman) Richard Greer Jan Kingzett Peter Lyon John Scott Yoshindo Takahashi

## Advisers

#### **Investment Manager and Company Secretary**

Schroder Investment Management Limited 31 Gresham Street London EC2V 7QA

Telephone: 020 7658 3206

## **Registered Office**

Schroder Investment Management Limited 31 Gresham Street London EC2V 7QA

#### **Bankers**

JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. 1 Chaseside Bournemouth BH7 7DB

ING Bank N.V. 60 London Wall London EC2M 5TQ

#### Custodian

JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. 1 Chaseside Bournemouth BH7 7DB

#### **Independent Auditors**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Hay's Galleria 1 Hay's Lane London SE1 2RD

## Registrar

Equiniti Limited Aspect House Spencer Road Lancing West Sussex BN99 6DA

Shareholder Helpline 0871 384 2450

Website: www.shareview.co.uk

#### Stockbrokers

Matrix Corporate Capital LLP One Vine Street London W1J 0AH

# Contents

Financial Highlights	2
Ten Largest Investments	3
Sector Analysis	4
Chairman's Statement	5
Investment Manager's Review	6
Income Statement	7
Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds	8
Balance Sheet	9
Cash Flow Statement	10
Notes to the Accounts	11
Company Summary	12

# Financial Highlights

	31 January 2010	31 July 2009	% Change
Total assets (£'000)*	133,592	126,333	5.7
Borrowings (£'000)	(20,652)	(19,009)	8.6
Shareholders' funds (£'000)	112,940	107,324	5.2
Shares in issue ('000)	125,008	125,008	_
Net Asset Value per share	90.35p	85.85p	5.2
Share price	77.25p	71.25p	8.4
Share price discount	14.50%	17.01%	_
TSE First Section Index Total Return (in sterling terms)**			3.8
Yen rate to Sterling	145.27	157.82	(8.0)
Market capitalisation (£'000)	96,569	89,068	8.4

<sup>\*</sup> Calculated in accordance with AIC guidance and comprises shareholders' funds plus gearing used for investment purposes.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Source: Thomson Financial Datastream.

# Ten Largest Investments

## As at 31 January 2010

Company and Activities	Market Value of Holding £'000	% of Shareholders' Funds
<b>Toyota Motor</b> Automobile manufacturer	7,015	6.21
<b>Mitsui</b> General trading company	5,960	5.28
Nidec Small & mid size motor manufacturer	3,978	3.52
East Japan Railway Railway company	3,970	3.51
<b>Ricoh</b> Copiers and printers manufacturer	3,830	3.39
<b>Tachihi Enterprise</b> Real estate investment	3,824	3.39
Jupiter Telecommunications Cable network operator	3,458	3.06
<b>SK Kaken</b> Paint manufacturer for construction	3,375	2.99
<b>Takeda Pharmaceutical</b> Pharmaceutical products	3,280	2.90
Sompo Japan Insurance Non-life and life insurance	3,011	2.67
Total	41,701	36.92

At 31 July 2009, the ten largest investments represented 36.04% of Shareholders' Funds.

Analysis of the Portfolio Sector Distribution with the TSE First Section Index (%) as at 31 January 2010.

	Market Value £'000	% of Portfolio	% of Index
Chemicals	12,354	9.87	5.8
Wholesale Trade	11,567	9.24	5.1
Transportation Equipment	11,130	8.89	10.0
Electrical Appliances	10,771	8.61	14.9
Banks	9,885	7.90	9.9
Retail Trade	7,776	6.21	3.5
Real Estate	7,702	6.16	2.3
Machinery	7,209	5.76	4.5
Land Transportation	7,032	5.62	3.9
Pharmaceutical	5,459	4.36	4.3
Information & Communication	5,411	4.32	5.6
Services	5,337	4.27	1.6
Insurance	5,319	4.25	2.1
Rubber Products	2,918	2.33	0.5
Securities & Commodity Futures	2,907	2.32	1.9
Glass & Ceramic Products	2,744	2.19	1.2
Precision Instruments	2,499	2.00	1.6
Construction	2,320	1.85	2.0
Oil & Coal Products	1,386	1.11	0.6
Other Financing Business	1,060	0.85	0.7
Other Products	1,010	0.81	2.3
Iron & Steel	696	0.56	2.5
Non-Ferrous Metals	655	0.52	1.2
Electric Power & Gas	_	_	5.1
Textiles & Apparels	_	_	3.4
Warehousing & Harbour Transport	_	_	0.9
Metal Products	_	_	0.7
Marine Transportation	_	_	0.5
Air Transportation	_	_	0.4
Mining	_	_	0.4
Pulp & Paper	_	_	0.3
Fishery, Agriculture & Forestry	_	_	0.2
Foods	_	_	0.1
Total	125,147	100.00	100.00

## Chairman's Statement

#### Performance

The six-month period to 31 January 2010 was a poor one for the Japanese market which fell by 4.5% in local currency terms. At the same time, the yen strengthened against sterling over the period so that the net effect was that, measured in sterling terms, the TSE First Section Index produced a positive total return of 3.8% over the period. The Company's net asset value per share out-performed the Index, increasing by 5.2% (from 85.85p per share to 90.35p per share).

The Company's share price increased by 8.4% as the discount narrowed from 17.0% to 14.5%. This was better than the peer group average, which ended the period on a discount of 16.7%.

Further comment on performance and investment policy may be found in the Manager's Review.

#### **Gearing Policy**

During the period the Company maintained its borrowings at ¥3 billion. All of the borrowings were obtained via a revolving credit facility to provide flexibility. The gearing continues to be operated within the limits agreed by the Board. At the beginning of the period, the effective gearing ratio (borrowings less cash and short-term deposits as a percentage of net assets) was 10.40% and the level was not significantly different at 31 January 2010 (10.42%).

#### **Continuation Vote**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 5 November 2009, the ordinary resolution proposing that the Company should continue as an investment trust for a further five year period was passed by shareholders.

#### Outlook

At a time when most other stock markets have continued to build on the recovery of a year ago, the Japanese stock market remains largely unloved by domestic and international investors alike. We can see reasons why this might change. In contrast to most other stock markets, the Japanese market is the same level today as it was at the end of 2008. Then the economic and corporate news was bad and clearly was going to get worse: today it is good and going to get better, as companies benefit from the cost cutting of the last 18 months and a gentle improvement in sales volumes.

There are always risks that this does not turn into market strength, as the Manager's Review discusses. The Company's investment policy, however, is increasingly being based on the expectation of a better operating environment for Japanese companies, and ultimately one where the market rises from current levels.

Jonathan Taylor Chairman

30 March 2010

# Investment Manager's Review

#### Market Background

The Japanese stock market fell 4.5% in yen terms during the 6 months ended 31 January 2010. The market strengthened initially, in part on hopes for political change following the general election but then retreated as those hopes dissipated, the yen strengthened and an excess of new equity was issued. The trough was the end of November following which a sharp rebound ensued triggered by expectations that the Bank of Japan would loosen monetary policy and mitigate upward pressure on the yen as a consequence. The yen strengthened against sterling during the period with the result that the market total return was a positive 3.8% in currency adjusted terms.

The best performing sectors were generally in cyclical or technology related parts of the market such as trading companies and electronics. By contrast the weakest areas were financial sectors which suffered concerns about capital adequacy and new equity issuance. Smaller companies generally lagged the main market.

The company's NAV rose 5.2% in sterling terms. Outperformance against the benchmark was due to overweight positions in sectors such as trading companies and technology and from stock selection within the retail area. This more than offset a negative contribution from the financials exposure, especially the overweight position in insurance.

#### Outlook

The prospect of a gradual withdrawal of economic stimulus outside Japan and the possibility of sovereign debt defaults represent an uncertain global backdrop. Nevertheless we expect Japan's economic recovery to continue and to broaden beyond the manufacturing export upturn seen hitherto. The Japanese economic cycle this time is distinct in that marginal change in policy in 2010 is likely to be stimulatory. For example the focus of monetary policy debate is likely to be whether quantitative easing policies are enhanced, not withdrawn. This in turn should weaken the exchange rate and contribute to another year of strong profits growth. Given how Japan lagged most global markets in 2009 this degree of profits improvement does not yet appear to be reflected in valuations which remain attractive on a number of measures.

#### **Investment Policy**

Policy continues to have a moderate pro-cyclical bias by dint of overweighting trading companies and avoiding utilities and food companies. We are also seeing interesting opportunities in domestic areas such as retail and housing. The environment remains tough in these industries but this is reflected in depressed share prices which would respond positively to signs of a bottoming out of activity. This could occur if we are correct in assuming that Japan's economic recovery increasingly broadens out. We have also added selectively to financials given their generally dire share price performance over the last year, which has left some valuations looking attractive. The valuation attraction of small companies remains and this is reflected in the continued over weight position.

In view of our broadly positive view of prospects we are maintaining some gearing in the portfolio. Net gearing was 10.42% at the end of January 2010.

## Schroder Investment Management Limited

30 March 2010

# Income Statement

_		(Unaudited) For the six months ended 31 January 2010		(Unaudited) For the six months ended 31 January 2009		(Audited) For the year ended 31 July 2009		09		
	Note	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000	Revenue £'000	Capital £'000	Total £'000
Gains on investments held at fair value		_	6,745	6.745	_	2,182	2.182	_	3,290	3,290
Other currency losses Income	2	1,035	(1,021) -	(1,021) 1,035	- 1,628	(9,373)	(9,373) 1,628	- 2,865	(6,875)	(6,875) 2,865
Investment management fee Administrative expense	es	(614) (226)	-	(614) (226)	(562) (208)	-	(562) (208)	(1,121) (442)	-	(1,121) (442)
Net return/(loss) before finance costs		(220)		(==0)	(200)		(200)	()		(* )
and taxation Interest payable and		195	5,724	5,919	858	(7,191)	(6,333)	1,302	(3,585)	(2,283)
similar charges  Net return/(loss) on ordinary activities		(231)		(231)	(203)		(203)	(392)		(392)
before taxation Taxation on	•	(36)	5,724	5,688	655	(7,191)	(6,536)	910	(3,585)	(2,675)
ordinary activities		(72)	_	(72)	(110)	_	(110)	(195)	_	(195)
Net return/(loss) attributable to equity shareholders		(108)	5,724	5,616	545	(7,191)	(6,646)	715	(3,585)	(2,870)
Net return/(loss) per ordinary share	4		,	4.49p	0.43p	(5.75)p	, ,	0.57p	(2.87)p	

The Total column of this statement is the profit and loss account of the Company. The Revenue and Capital columns are both provided in accordance with guidance issued by The Association of Investment Companies. The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than those disclosed in the Income Statement and the Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds. Accordingly no Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses is presented.

All revenue and capital items in the above statement derive from continuing operations.

# Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds

## For the six months ended 31 January 2010 (Unaudited)

	Called up Share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Share purchase reserve £'000	Warrant exercise reserve £'000	Capital reserve £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 31 July 2009 Net return from ordinary activities	12,501	7	97,205	3	4,447 5.724	(6,839) (108)	107,324 5,616
At 31 January 2010	12,501	7	97,205	3	10,171	(6,947)	112,940

## For the six months ended 31 January 2009 (Unaudited)

	Called up Share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Share purchase reserve £'000	Warrant exercise reserve £'000	Capital reserve	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 31 July 2008 Net loss from ordinary	12,501	7	97,205	3	8,032	(7,554)	110,194
activities At 31 January 2009	12.501		97.205	3	(7,191) <b>841</b>	545 (7,009)	(6,646) 103,548

#### For the year ended 31 July 2009 (Audited)

	Called up Share capital £'000	Share premium account £'000	Share purchase reserve £'000	Warrant exercise reserve £'000	Capital reserve £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total £'000
At 31 July 2008 Net loss from ordinary activities	12,501	7	97,205	3	8,032 (3,585)	(7,554) 715	110,194
At 31 July 2009	12,501	7	97,205	3	4,447	(6,839)	107,324

# Balance Sheet

		(Unaudited) At 31 January	(Unaudited) At 31 January	(Audited) At 31 July
		2010	2009	2009
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets				
Investments held at fair value through				
profit or loss		125,147	117,805	118,847
		125,147	117,805	118,847
Current assets				
Debtors		530	533	245
Cash at bank and short-term deposits		8,900	9,044	8,507
		9,430	9,577	8,752
Current liabilities				
Creditors – amounts falling due				
within one year	5	(21,637)	(23,834)	(20,275)
Net current liabilities		(12,207)	(14,257)	(11,523)
Net assets		112,940	103,548	107,324
Capital and reserves				
Called up share capital		12,501	12,501	12,501
Share premium account		7	7	7
Share purchase reserve		97,205	97,205	97,205
Warrant exercise reserve		3	3	3
Capital reserve		10,171	841	4,447
Revenue reserve		(6,947)	(7,009)	(6,839)
Equity shareholders' funds		112,940	103,548	107,324
Net asset value per ordinary share	6	90.35p	82.83p	85.85p

# Cash Flow Statement

	(Unaudited) For the six months ended 31 January 2010	(Unaudited) For the six months ended 31 January 2009	(Audited) For the year ended 31 July 2009
Net cash inflow from operating activities	239	854	1,365
Net cash outflow from servicing of finance	(197)	(209)	(384)
Total tax paid	(72)	(110)	(199)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from investment activities	(199)	10,285	11,164
Net cash (outflow)/inflow before financing	(229)	10,820	11,946
Net cash outflow from financing		(11,200)	(12,698)
Net cash outflow	(229)	(380)	(752)
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in n	et debt		
Net cash outflow	(229)	(380)	(752)
Movement in borrowings		11,200	12,698
Movement in net debt resulting from cash flows	(229)	10,820	11,946
Net debt at 1 August	(10,502)	(15,573)	(15,573)
Exchange losses on currency, loans and cash balance	es <b>(1,021)</b>	(9,373)	(6,875)
Net debt carried forward	(11,752)	(14,126)	(10,502)

## Notes to the Accounts

#### 1. Accounting Policies and Responsibility Statement

The Directors confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, this condensed set of financial statements has been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP) and with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Financial Statements of Investment Companies and Venture Capital Trusts (SORP) issued in January 2009 and the Interim Management Report in the form of the Chairman's Statement and Investment Manager's Review include a fair review of the information required by DTR 4.2.7 and 4.2.8 of the FSA's Disclosure and Transparency Rules.

The financial information for each of the six month periods ended 31 January 2010 and 31 January 2009 comprises non-statutory accounts within the meaning of sections 434 - 436 of the Companies Act 2006 as appropriate. The financial information for the year ended 31 July 2009 has been extracted from published accounts that have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies and on which the report of the auditors was unqualified, did not draw attention to any matters by way of emphasis and did not contain a statement under section 498(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Company's principal risks and uncertainties remain unchanged to those described in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2009. The Company's accounting policies have not varied from those described in the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2009.

#### 2 Income

(Unaudited) For the six months ended 31 January 2010		ed For the six months ended For the	(Audited) For the year ended 31 July 2009
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from investments held at fair value through profit of	or loss:		
Overseas dividends	1,034	1,567	2,785
Stock lending fee income	1	28	44
Interest on deposits	-	33	36
Total	1,035	1,628	2,865

## 3. Management fees and interest payable

The investment management fee and finance costs on borrowings for investment purposes are apportioned 100% to the revenue return.

## 4. Return/(loss) per ordinary share

Tribitarii (1000) por oraniary oriare	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
For the	e six months ended	For the six months ended	For the year ended
	31 January 2010	31 January 2009	31 July 2009
Revenue (£'000)	(108)	545	715
Capital (£'000)	5,724	(7,191)	(3,585)
Total (£'000)	5,616	(6,646)	(2,870)
Weighted average number of ordinary shares in issue	125,008,200	125,008,200	125,008,200
Revenue	q(0.09)p	0.43p	0.57p
Capital	4.58p	(5.75)p	(2.87)p
Total	4.49p	(5.32)p	(2.30)p

# 5. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year Included within creditors is the following loan:

	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
	At 31 January 2010	At 31 January 2009	At 31 July 2009	
Yen	3,000,000,000	3,000,000,000	3,000,000,000	
Equivalent to	£20,652,000	£23.170.000	£19.009.000	

The Company has a loan facility of Yen 3 billion with ING Bank N.V.. This facility has a revolving 364 day term, is chargeable at a floating rate linked to the Yen LIBOR, and is unsecured.

## 6. Net asset value per ordinary share

	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
	At 31 January 2010	At 31 January 2009	At 31 July 2009	
Net assets attributable to ordinary shareholders (£'000)	112,940	103,548	107,324	
Ordinary shares in issue at end of period	125,008,200	125,008,200	125,008,200	
Net asset value per ordinary share	90.35p	82.83p	85.85p	

# Company Summary

#### The Company

Schroder Japan Growth Fund plc is an independent investment trust, whose shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange. The Company's assets are managed and it is administered by Schroders. The Company has, since its launch in 1994, measured its performance against the TSE First Section Index in sterling terms. The Company measures its performance on a total return basis.

It is not intended that the Company should have a limited life, but the Directors consider it desirable that the Shareholders should have the opportunity to review the future of the Company at appropriate intervals. Accordingly, the Articles of Association of the Company contain provisions requiring the Directors to put a proposal for the continuation of the Company to Shareholders at the Company's Annual General Meeting in 2014 and thereafter at five yearly intervals.

#### Website and Price Information

The Company has launched a dedicated website, which may be found at <a href="www.schroderjapangrowthfund.com">www.schroderjapangrowthfund.com</a>. The website has been designed to be utilised as the Company's primary method of electronic communication with shareholders. It contains details of the Company's share price (subject to a delay of 15 minutes) and copies of Report and Accounts and other documents published by the Company as well as information on the Directors, Terms of Reference of Committees and other governance arrangements. In addition, the site contains links to announcements made by the Company to the market, Equiniti's shareview service and Schroders' website. There is also a section entitled "How to Invest" which provides details of the Schroder ISA.

The Company releases its Net Asset Value to the market on a daily basis.

Share price information may also be found in the Financial Times and on Schroders' website at www.schroders.co.uk/its.

#### **Registrar Services**

Communications with shareholders are mailed to the address held on the register. Any notifications and enquiries relating to shareholdings, including a change of address or other amendment should be directed to Equiniti Limited at Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing, West Sussex, BN99 6DA. The helpline telephone number of Equiniti Registrars is 0871 384 2450. Calls to this number are charged at 8p per minute from a BT landline. Other telephone providers' costs may vary.

Equiniti maintain a web-based enquiry service for shareholders. Currently the "Shareview" site (address below) contains information available on public registers.

Shareholders will be invited to enter their name, shareholder reference (account number) and post code and will be able to view information on their own holding. Visit www.shareview.co.uk for more details.

#### **Association of Investment Companies**

The Company is a member of the Association of Investment Companies. Further information on this association can be found on its website: www.theaic.co.uk.

www.schroderjapangrowthfund.com

