



T. ROWE PRICE FUNDS OEIC

Japanese Equity Fund – ESG Report

Providing transparency on Environment, Social and Governance aspects of the fund

As at 30 June 2020

ESG INTEGRATION APPROACH

- The Japanese Equity Fund uses ESG integration as part of its investment process. This means incorporating environmental, social and governance factors to enhance investment decisions. Our central mission is to help our clients reach their long-term financial goals and we believe that incorporating ESG factors into our investment process alongside financials, valuation, macro-economics and other factors is consistent with that objective. Our philosophy is that ESG factors are a component of the investment decision – meaning that they are not the sole driver of an investment decision, nor are they considered separately from more traditional analysis.
- The process of ESG integration takes place on two levels: first, with our research analysts as they incorporate environmental, social, and governance factors into company valuations and ratings; and, second, with the portfolio manager as he balances these ESG factor exposures at the portfolio level. Both the analysts and portfolio manager are able to leverage dedicated, in-house resources to assist them in analyzing ESG criteria.
- Our ESG specialist teams provide investment research on ESG issues at the company level and on thematic topics. Additionally, they have built tools to help pro-actively and systematically analyze the environmental, social and governance factors that could impact our investments. The foundation of the analysis is a proprietary flagging tool called the Responsible Investing Indicator Model (RIIM). It covers approximately 14,000 securities and pulls from data sets that are not in the wheelhouse of traditional financial analysis. These data sets include:
 - ESG performance data (i.e. number of accidents, carbon emissions, strength of whistle-blower programs);
 - ESG targets (i.e. plans to reduce carbon emissions, increase diversity, etc.)
 - ESG incidents and controversies (i.e. environmental fines paid, local community controversies/protests against a company, etc.)
- Our Japanese Equity Fund applies an active, growth-oriented approach in order to identify companies with the potential for either growth or relative improvement. We look for such opportunities in industries where we believe the outlook over time is becoming more attractive and is conducive to profitable growth. As such, our primary emphasis is on company fundamentals, which include the consideration of environmental, social and governance factors. We find that this process tends to yield an ESG-friendly set of companies; however, we also screen the portfolio using T. Rowe Price's proprietary RIIM analysis at regular intervals. This helps us understand the ESG characteristics of the portfolio and makes us aware of any elevated exposures to specific ESG factors.

RECENT COMPANY ENGAGEMENTS

We maintain a regular dialogue with the management teams of companies represented across the portfolio. Our investment-driven engagement program frequently identifies targets through our proprietary RIIM analysis, governance screening and analysts' fundamental research. While we engage with companies in a variety of different contexts, ESG engagement focuses on learning about, influencing or exchanging perspectives on the environmental practices, corporate governance or social issues affecting their business.

While most of the meetings we hold with company managements will include some discussion of ESG topics, we differentiate meetings held with a heavy focus on ESG, meaning ESG issues were the sole items on the agenda or made up a meaningful part of the meeting. Agenda items are classified as "meaningful" when they take up a significant portion of the meeting or are a significant factor in the investment case.

The following are selected examples of recent engagements with companies held in or considered for the portfolio. The examples are not meant to be representative of every engagement held, but to illustrate the types of ESG engagements we are having with the managements of our investment companies.

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SoftBank Group (4th Quarter 2019)

Focus	Social
Company Description	SoftBank is a telecommunications and internet conglomerate.
Engagement Objective	In a meeting with Softbank, we covered a range of ESG topics, including gender diversity.
Participants	A T. Rowe Price Portfolio Manager engaged with an Investor Relations representative from SoftBank Group.
Engagement Outcome	<p>Softbank Group appears to be very receptive to ESG matters and is working on improving disclosure and implementing best practices. The company published a Global Code of Conduct in June 2019 that is available on its website, both in Japanese and in English.</p> <p>We asked the company why it no longer has a majority of outsiders on its board (it has five outsiders out of 12).</p> <p>There are also no women on the board. Nevertheless, the company asserts that it is committed to gender diversity at all levels. There are two women (out of five members) on the executive committee.</p> <p>According to the company, it is a very female-friendly workplace by Japanese standards. In particular, it is easy to work from home and take childcare leave when necessary.</p> <p>Our view is that, while there are no female board members, this is partially offset by having 2/5 women at executive level. We gained confidence that SoftBank Group is receptive to ESG matters.</p>

The specific securities identified and described do not represent all of the securities purchased, sold, or recommended for the OEIC sub-fund, and no assumption should be made that the securities identified and discussed were or will be profitable.

Takeda Pharmaceutical (1st Quarter 2020)

Focus	Social
Company Description	Takeda Pharmaceutical is a Japanese pharmaceutical company with global operations.
Engagement Objective	We engaged with Takeda Pharmaceutical on some recent labour controversies.
Participants	A T. Rowe Price Investment Analyst, Responsible Investing Analyst, and Portfolio Specialist engaged with an Investor Relations representative from Takeda Pharmaceutical.
Engagement Outcome	<p>Our RIIM analysis highlighted some labour controversies at Takeda. The company was found by the Labor Standards Inspection Office to be in violation of Japan's overtime laws.</p> <p>Takeda Pharmaceutical has a strong track record of focusing on human capital topics. The company acknowledged that the incident of overtime limits being exceeded was extremely disappointing and was being taken very seriously.</p> <p>Takeda demonstrated progress on a range of labour metrics.</p> <p>Takeda outlined a number of measures designed to prevent overtime incidents, including electronic time tracking to alert managers early in the month of employee overtime, further employee training, and executive communication.</p> <p>As a result of the engagement, we gained confidence that Takeda Pharmaceutical was not materially affected by the incident. The company has demonstrated that it has robust training and procedures in place to prevent further overtime violations.</p>

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Risks - The following risks are materially relevant to the fund (refer to prospectus for further details):

Currency risk - changes in currency exchange rates could reduce investment gains or increase investment losses. **Small and mid-cap risk** - stocks of small and mid-size companies can be more volatile than stocks of larger companies. **Style risk** - different investment styles typically go in and out of favour depending on market conditions and investor sentiment. **Volatility risk** - the performance of the fund has a risk of high volatility.

General fund risks - to be read in conjunction with the fund specific risks above. **Capital risk** - the value of your investment will vary and is not guaranteed. It will be affected by changes in the exchange rate between the base currency of the fund and the currency in which you subscribed, if different. **Equity risk** - in general, equities involve higher risks than bonds or money market instruments. **Geographic concentration risk** - to the extent that a fund invests a large portion of its assets in a particular geographic area, its performance will be more strongly affected by events within that area. **Hedging risk** - a Fund's attempts to reduce or eliminate certain risks through hedging may not work as intended. **Investment fund risk** - investing in funds involves certain risks an investor would not face if investing in markets directly. **Management risk** - the investment manager or its designees may at times find their obligations to a fund to be in conflict with their obligations to other investment portfolios they manage (although in such cases, all portfolios will be dealt with equitably). **Operational risk** - operational failures could lead to disruptions of fund operations or financial losses.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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