

press release

10 June 2010

Andy Parsons, Advice team manager at The Share Centre, highlights two funds that offer exposure to a region of the world, that will not be far from our minds over the next four weeks.

“For many, investing in emerging markets will mean exposure to the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) economies. However, the emerging market story is far more widespread, as investors could also benefit from exposure to countries such as South Africa.

“Whilst we wouldn’t want to have significant exposure to this region, we do believe that it should be included via a broader mandated emerging markets fund for its rich abundance of natural resource.

“South Africa has a wealth of natural resources such as gold, platinum and palladium. To gain access to this region, investors could consider one of the following two funds.

Investec Global Gold fund offers investors the opportunity to not only participate and invest indirectly in precious metals, but to also help geographically diversify their portfolio. As of 30 April 2010 the fund had a regional weighting of 8.9% in South Africa.

The fund aims to achieve long-term capital growth primarily through investment in equities issued by companies around the globe involved in gold mining. However, despite the name the fund does not solely invest in gold. At least two thirds of its total assets are invested in companies that are involved with the mining of other precious metals and minerals such as platinum, silver and diamonds.

“The fund is overseen by Bradley George and Daniel Sacks who take a bottom-up approach to investing. Individual stock selection is driven by their belief company share prices are determined by characteristics over time, such as a strong balance sheet with high returns on investment capital. This approach will mean the managers are not as concerned with company performance in relation to the forecast economic landscape.

"In terms of performance, the fund has a strong track record, having returned 75.8% over a 3 year cumulative period and 21.1% year-to-date. Both performance figures have it ranked 1st quartile, with it currently ranked 1st in its sector for year-to-date performance.

"The **Aberdeen Emerging Markets fund** is ideal for more adventurous investors who want broad emerging market exposure, with access to more than just the BRIC economies, in a well diversified portfolio. It currently has a regional weighting of 5.10% to South Africa as at 30 April 2010.

"Unlike the vast majority of funds, this fund has no single manager at the helm. Instead it is managed on a 'team' basis by Aberdeen's emerging market specialists, with its managers and analysts being involved with the participants of these markets on a daily basis.

"The fund invests in approximately 50-to-60 stocks, favouring a blend of large and mid cap companies, with the emphasis on investments being held for the longer term rather than being traded. The team applies a bottom up approach with an emphasis on absolute returns rather than the benchmark.

"In terms of performance the fund has a strong track record, having returned 182.71% over a 5 year cumulative period to 9 June 2010. Year-to-date the fund has returned 8.30%, ranking 1st quartile in both of these periods.

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Note to editors:

Both the Investec Global Gold fund and the Aberdeen Emerging Markets fund feature in The Share Centre's Platinum 120.

About The Share Centre's Platinum 120 range:

The Share Centre launched its Platinum 120 funds range in June 2009 in order to help investors identify the funds with the best long-term prospects and strong management. Customers who invest in a Platinum 120 fund will benefit from no purchase commission on all funds and no initial charge on almost 90%. Please visit www.share.com/p120 to view the full Platinum 120 range. Please be aware that this may require registration.

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Risk Warnings:

Investing in general, and the products and services mentioned above may not be suitable for all: if in doubt, individuals should seek independent financial advice. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and investors may not get back their original investment. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

The bases and levels of taxation relating to ISAs, CTFs and SIPPs are subject to change and the value of these tax allowances may depend upon the circumstances of the individual.

About The Share Centre:

The Share Centre was established in 1990 to provide value-for-money share services for private investors. Its range of services includes buying and selling shares (by Internet, telephone and post) and a comprehensive share administration and safe custody service. Tax-efficient investment 'wrappers' including ISAs, CTFs and SIPPs are also available.

The Share Centre's Advice team provides comment on market sectors, individual shares and funds on www.share.com. Access is available to customers and registered users of the site. Registration is free. To understand how our Advice team arrive at their views please read our [Investment Research Policy](#)

In addition, account customers can receive individual telephone advice on UK-listed shares and on funds traded via the CoFunds trading platform.

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