Edgar Filing: MATTHEWS INTERNATIONAL FUNDS - Form 497K

MATTHEWS INTERNATIONAL FUNDS Form 497K April 30, 2015

Matthews Korea Fund

SUMMARY PROSPECTUS INVESTOR CLASS

April 30, 2015

TICKER: MAKOX

Before you invest, you may want to review the Fund s Prospectus, which contains more information about the Fund and its risks. You can find the Fund s Prospectus and other information about the Fund online at matthewsasia.com/prospectus. You may also obtain this information at no additional cost by calling 800.789.ASIA (2742) or by sending an e-mail request to prospectus@matthewsasia.com. The Fund s Prospectus and Statement of Additional Information, both dated April 30, 2015, are incorporated by reference into this Summary Prospectus.

Investment Objective

Long-term capital appreciation.

Fees and Expenses of the Fund

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of this Fund.

SHAREHOLDER FEES

(fees paid directly from your investment)

Maximum Account Fee on Redemptions (for wire redemptions only) ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES

\$9

(expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees		0.66%
Distribution (12b-1) Fees		
Other Expenses		0.45%
Administration and Shareholder Servicing Fees	0.14%	
Total Annual Fund Operating Expenses		1.11%
EXAMPLE OF FUND EXPENSES		

This example is intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Fund with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The example assumes that you invest \$10,000 in the Fund for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The example also assumes that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Fund s operating expenses remain the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

Edgar Filing: MATTHEWS INTERNATIONAL FUNDS - Form 497K

One year: \$113 Three years: \$353 Five years: \$612 Ten years: \$1,352

PORTFOLIO TURNOVER

The Fund pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys and sells securities (or turns over its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover may indicate higher transaction costs and may result in higher taxes when Fund shares are held in a taxable account. These costs, which are not reflected in annual fund operating expenses or in the example of fund expenses, affect the Fund s performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Fund s portfolio turnover rate was 17% of the average value of its portfolio.

Principal Investment Strategy

Under normal market conditions, the Matthews Korea Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing at least 80% of its net assets, which include borrowings for investment purposes, in the common and preferred stocks of companies located in South Korea. A company is considered to be located in a country or a region if it has substantial ties to that country or region, and currently, Matthews makes that determination primarily based on one or more of the following five criteria: if the company (i) is organized under the laws of that country or any country in that region; (ii) derives at least 50% of its revenues or profits from goods produced or sold, investments made, or services performed, or has at least 50% of its assets located, within that country or

PS-MAKOX-0415

region; (iii) has the primary trading markets for its securities in that country or region; (iv) has its principal place of business in or is otherwise headquartered in that country or region; or (v) is a governmental entity or an agency, instrumentality or a political subdivision of that country or any country in that region. The Fund may also invest in depositary receipts, including American, European and Global Depositary Receipts.

The Fund seeks to invest in companies capable of sustainable growth based on the fundamental characteristics of those companies, including balance sheet information; number of employees; size and stability of cash flow; management s depth, adaptability and integrity; product lines; marketing strategies; corporate governance; and financial health. Matthews expects that the companies in which the Fund invests typically will be of medium or large size, but the Fund may invest in companies of any size. Matthews measures a company s size with respect to fundamental criteria such as, but not limited to, market capitalization, book value, revenues, profits, cash flow, dividends paid and number of employees.

Principal Risks of Investment

There is no guarantee that your investment in the Fund will increase in value. The value of your investment in the Fund could go down, meaning you could lose money. The principal risks of investing in the Fund are:

Political, Social and Economic Risks: The value of the Fund s assets may be adversely affected by political, economic, social and religious instability; inadequate investor protection; changes in laws or regulations of countries within the Asian region (including countries in which the Fund invests, as well as the broader region); international relations with other nations; natural disasters; corruption and military activity. The Asian region, and particularly China, Japan and South Korea, may be adversely affected by political, military, economic and other factors related to North Korea. In addition, China s long-running conflict over Taiwan, border disputes with many of its neighbors and historically strained relations with Japan could adversely impact economies in the region. The economies of many Asian countries differ from the economies of more developed countries in many respects, such as rate of growth, inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency, financial system stability, the national balance of payments position and sensitivity to changes in global trade. Certain Asian countries are highly dependent upon and may be affected by developments in the United States, Europe and other Asian economies.

Currency Risks: When the Fund conducts securities transactions in a foreign currency, there is the risk of the value of the foreign currency increasing or decreasing against the value of the U.S. dollar. The value of an investment denominated in a foreign currency will decline in dollar terms if that currency weakens against the dollar. While the Fund is permitted to hedge currency risks, Matthews does not anticipate doing so at this time. Additionally, South Korea may utilize formal or informal currency-exchange controls or capital controls. Capital controls may impose restrictions on the Fund s ability to repatriate investments or income. Such controls may also affect the value of the Fund s holdings.

Risks Associated with Emerging and Frontier Markets: Many Asian countries are considered emerging or frontier markets. Such markets are often less stable politically and economically than developed markets such as the United States, and investing in these markets involves different and greater risks. There may be less publicly available information about companies in many Asian countries, and the stock exchanges and brokerage industries in many Asian countries typically do not have the level of government oversight as do those in the United States. Securities markets of many Asian countries are also substantially smaller, less liquid and more volatile than securities markets in the United States.

Depositary Receipts: Although depositary receipts have risks similar to the securities that they represent, they may also involve higher expenses and may trade at a discount (or premium) to the underlying security. In addition,

Edgar Filing: MATTHEWS INTERNATIONAL FUNDS - Form 497K

depositary receipts may not pass through voting and other shareholder rights, and may be less liquid than the underlying securities listed on an exchange.

Volatility: The smaller size and lower levels of liquidity in emerging markets, as well as other factors, may result in changes in the prices of Asian securities that are more volatile than those of companies in more developed regions. This volatility can cause the price of the Fund s shares (NAV) to go up or down dramatically. Because of this volatility, it is recommended that you invest in the Fund only for the long term (at least five years).

Non-diversified: The Fund is a non-diversified investment company, which means that it may invest a larger portion of its assets in the securities of a single issuer compared with a diversified fund. An investment in the Fund therefore will entail greater risk than an investment in a diversified fund.

Risks Associated with South Korea: Investing in South Korean securities has special risks, including political, economic and social instability, and the potential for increasing militarization in North Korea. The market capitalization and trading volume of issuers in South Korean securities markets are concentrated in a small number of issuers, which results in potentially fewer investment opportunities for the Fund. South Korea s financial sector has shown certain signs of systemic weakness and illiquidity, which, if exacerbated, could prove to be a material risk for any investments in South Korea. South Korea is dependent on foreign sources for its energy needs. A significant increase in energy prices could have an adverse impact on South Korea s economy.

The South Korean government has historically exercised and continues to exercise substantial influence over many aspects of the private sector. The South Korean government from time to time has informally influenced the prices of certain products, encouraged companies to invest or to concentrate in particular industries and induced mergers between companies in industries experiencing excess capacity.

Risks Associated with Medium-Size Companies: Medium-size companies may be subject to a number of risks not associated with larger, more established companies, potentially making their stock prices more volatile and increasing the risk of loss.

2 MATTHEWS KOREA FUND

Past Performance

The bar chart below shows the Fund s performance for the past 10 years and how it has varied from year to year, reflective of the Fund s volatility and some indication of risk. Also shown are the best and worst quarters for this time period. The table below shows the Fund s performance over certain periods of time, along with performance of its benchmark index. The index performance does not take into consideration fees, expenses or taxes. The information presented below is past performance, before and after taxes, and is not a prediction of future results. Both the bar chart and performance table assume reinvestment of all dividends and distributions. For the Fund s most recent month-end performance, please visit matthewsasia.com or call 800.789.ASIA (2742).

ANNUAL RETURNS FOR YEARS ENDED 12/31

AVERAGE ANNUAL TOTAL RETURNS FOR PERIODS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	1 year	5 years	10 years	Since Inception (1/3/95)
Matthews Korea Fund				
Return before taxes	-0.73%	9.10%	9.78%	5.87%
Return after taxes on distributions ¹	-1.76%	8.49%	8.85%	3.86%
Return after taxes on distributions and sale of Fund				
shares ¹	0.40%	7.35%	8.31%	3.92%
Korea Composite Stock Price Index ²				
(reflects no deduction for fees, expenses or taxes)	-7.25%	5.22%	8.98%	3.01%

- 1 After-tax returns are calculated using the highest historical individual federal marginal income tax rates and do not reflect the impact of state and local taxes. Actual after-tax returns depend on an investor s tax situation and may differ from those shown. After-tax returns shown are not relevant to investors who hold their Fund shares through tax-deferred arrangements, such as 401(k) plans or individual retirement accounts.
- 2 Korea Composite Stock Price Index performance data may be readjusted periodically by the Korea Exchange due to certain factors, including the declaration of dividends.

Investment Advisor

Matthews International Capital Management, LLC (Matthews)

Portfolio Managers

Lead Manager: Michael J. Oh, CFA, has been a Portfolio Manager of the Korea Fund since 2007.

Co-Manager: Michael Han, CFA, has been a Portfolio Manager of the Korea Fund since 2008.

Purchase and Sale of Fund Shares

You may purchase and sell Fund shares directly through the Fund s transfer agent by calling 800.789.ASIA (2742) or online at matthewsasia.com. Fund shares may also be purchased and sold through various securities brokers and benefit plan administrators or their sub-agents. You may purchase and redeem Fund shares by electronic bank transfer, check, or wire. The minimum initial and subsequent investment amounts for various types of accounts offered by the Fund are shown below.

Type of Account	Minimum Initial Investment	Subsequent Investments
Non-retirement	\$2,500	\$100
Retirement and Coverdell	\$500	\$50
Tax Information		

The Fund s distributions are taxable, and will be taxed as ordinary income or capital gains, unless you are investing through a tax-deferred arrangement, such as a 401(k) plan or an individual retirement account. Tax-deferred arrangements may be taxed later upon withdrawal from those accounts.

Payments to Broker-Dealers

and Other Financial Intermediaries

If you purchase Fund shares through a broker-dealer or other financial intermediary (such as a bank), Matthews may pay the intermediary for the sale of Fund shares and related services. Shareholders who purchase or hold Fund shares through an intermediary may inquire about such payments from that intermediary. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the broker-dealer or other intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Fund over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary s website for more information.

4 MATTHEWS KOREA FUND