

Building a China fund business

Competitive forces on the rise

September 2017



Executive summary: Opportunity and rising competition

China is open and global asset managers are moving at unprecedented speed

What began as a set of trial programs is now the industry norm. In just over a year the total number of global managers licensed to operate locally in China has risen to 33; more firms are set to arrive, with at least 50 projected by end-2018.

- The focus today is on successful execution
 - It is now a race to see who can move along the learning curve the quickest. Speed will be dependent on whether those tasked regionally to execute have committed capital (USD5m-USD10m) and the full support of headquarters.
- Early success will be achieved through smart staffing choices
 In an industry already operating with shortages of qualified professionals, filling key roles will act as the largest barrier to successful execution. The first global managers to address this issue will gain a competitive advantage.
- Full commitment to the end objective: Entry into retail mutual funds
 Access to China's retail fund market remains the goal. Advantages have been identified for the early movers, while late adopters could be faced with delays in retail fund access to the year 2022 or beyond.



Executive summary: Ambitions defined by market sizing

China is the only market that can move the AUM needle

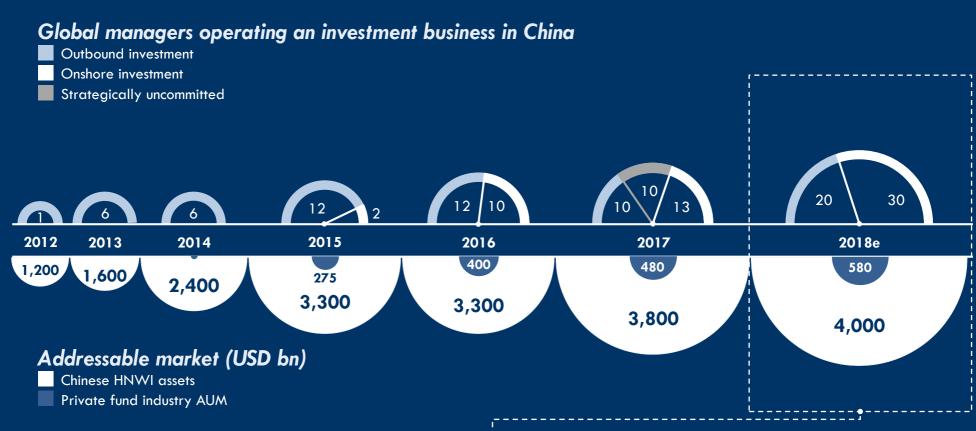
The current opportunity is the USD400bn private fund market. The real opportunity, however, is the USD1,500bn retail mutual fund market which is projected to grow at a five year CAGR of 15% and reach USD3,000bn by 2022.

- Global managers do operate with competitive advantages
 The market is highly balkanized with 30,000+ local players. And yet, in this crowded space, global managers have real advantages. To actually gain AUM and market share will require a narrow and client-centric focus.
- Onshore China is a far larger opportunity than outbound (QDLP, QDII)
 Most global managers are setting up in China solely to target investors' outbound demand. While understandable, it may be short-sighted; the onshore market is larger, faster growing and operates with better economics.
- The drivers of future AUM growth in China are significant

 Chinese investors have proven open to investing with third-party managers. Disintermediation has driven AUM growth in the past. Pension reform and other long-term saving schemes will (conservatively) double retail AUM by 2022.



Executive summary: Private fund industry highlights



There remains uncertainty about whether both the onshore and outbound businesses can be run under one entity — this makes platform choice and structure all the more important.

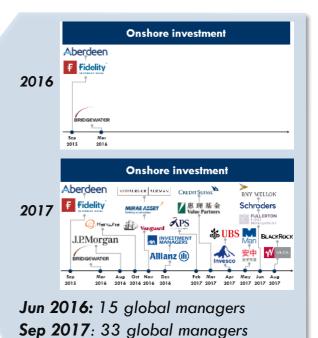


ANALYTICAL FINDINGS

A detailed guide to operating a China money management business

A Competitive Update

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2018: We expect it to be 50.



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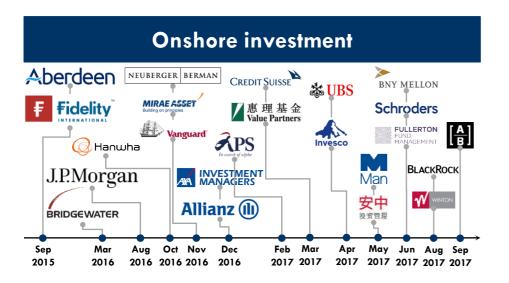


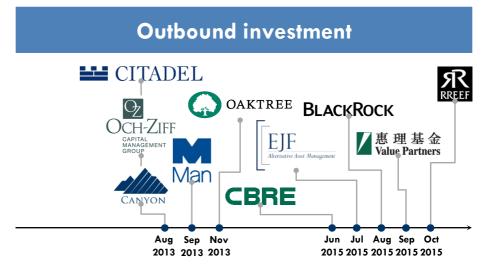


with investment businesses in China.

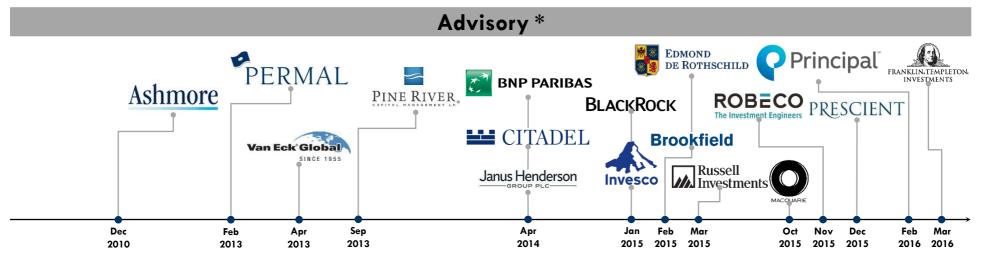


Global managers in China: 2017





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^{*} Restrictions now in place. Selective, not exhaustive, list



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Z-Ben Advisors is pleased to introduce the 2017 **Building a China fund business, Competitive forces on the rise**. The research included will be of value to both global managers currently planning to enter the China market as well as those firms already licensed and established in China.

The research was compiled to meet a clear and rising need within the global asset management community. Another objective was to build the research in such a way that it fully complemented Z-Ben Advisors' 2016 **Redefining the China option,**Targeting Chinese investors. In last year's report the focus was on "how" to build onshore in China and included a detailed project timeline and implementation plan. It remains a roadmap for navigating the entire process that is just as relevant today as when it was first created.

For more details and to inquire about purchasing either of these reports, please contact Trey Archer at trey@z-ben.com.

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