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Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad Launches Manulife Investment Shariah Progress Plus Fund

New fund delivers benefits of multi-market exposure

Kuala Lumpur – Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad (MAMSB) today announced the launch of the **Manulife Investment Shariah Progress Plus Fund** (the Fund), a fund specifically designed for investors seeking diversified Shariah-compliant equity opportunities within the booming economy in the Asia Pacific region.

The Fund can invest up to 30% of its net asset value (NAV) in Shariah-compliant equities in regional markets, including but not limited to Malaysia, Australia, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and Thailand.

It has a similar investment strategy to the Manulife Investment Shariah Progress Fund which taps into increasing growth opportunities of Shariah-compliant companies, but features wider exposure to the broader Asia Pacific region.

Jason Chong, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MAMSB, said, “The new Manulife Investment Shariah Progress Plus Fund is designed to provide investors access to the vast Islamic equity investment opportunities in the region’s small to medium sized companies.”

The Fund’s investments mainly comprise a diversified portfolio of Malaysian Shariah-compliant equities, with emphasis on the high growth potential of smaller companies which in aggregate tend to grow faster than larger companies.

“By offering a Shariah-compliant unit trust investment option with expanded geographical exposure, while sharing similar characteristics with our existing Manulife Investment Shariah Progress Fund, MAMSB demonstrates flexibility in responding to changing market needs and growing demand from investors with different investment and risk appetites,” explained Chong.

In addition to investment diversification, the Fund seeks to gain exposure to the small and mid-cap companies which offer more attractive valuation, as well as those holding a niche position in global supply chains.

The Manulife Investment Shariah Progress Plus Fund will be priced at RM0.25 per unit during the initial offer period from 13 April 2018 – 3 May 2018 (21 days).

The minimum initial investment for Manulife Investment Shariah Progress Plus Fund is RM1,000 while the minimum additional investment is RM500.

For the past eight years, MAMSB’s Shariah-compliant funds¹ have been award winners and these funds have won a total of 15 “Best Fund” awards for 3-Year &/or 5-Year fund performances from esteemed bodies like Kuala Lumpur Islamic Finance Forum - Islamic Finance Awards, Thomson Reuters Lipper Fund Award - Global Islamic and The Edge | Thomson Reuters Lipper Malaysia Fund Awards.



About Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad

Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad (“MAMSB”) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Holdings Berhad (listed on Bursa Malaysia), which is majority owned by Canada-based Manulife Financial Corporation. MAMSB offers a comprehensive range of 46 unit trust and PRS funds in the asset classes of equity, fixed income and money market. In 2017, MAMSB has won a total of 15 awards, the most notable being the Best Overall Award Malaysia Provident for EPF-Approved Funds by The Edge | Thomson Reuters Lipper Fund Awards and the Most Outstanding Islamic Asset Management Company by Kuala Lumpur Islamic Finance Forum - Islamic Finance Awards. Visit us online at www.manulifeinvestment.com.my.

About Manulife Asset Management

Manulife Asset Management is the global asset management arm of Manulife Financial Corporation (“Manulife”). We provide comprehensive asset management solutions for investors across a broad range of public and private asset classes, as well as asset allocation solutions. We also provide portfolio management for affiliated retail Manulife and John Hancock product offerings.

Our investment solutions include public and private equity and fixed income, real estate and infrastructure equity and debt, timberland and farmland, oil and gas, renewable energy, and mezzanine financing. We operate in the United States, Canada, Brazil, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, as well as through a China joint venture, Manulife TEDA. We also serve investors in select European, Middle Eastern, and Latin American markets.

As at December 31, 2017, assets under management for Manulife Asset Management were approximately C\$491 billion (US\$392 billion, GBP£290 billion, EUR€327 billion). Additional information may be found at ManulifeAM.com.

About Manulife

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services group that helps people achieve their dreams and aspirations by putting customers' needs first and providing the right advice and solutions. We operate primarily as John Hancock in the United States and Manulife elsewhere. We provide financial advice, insurance, as well as wealth and asset management solutions for individuals, groups and institutions. At the end of 2017, we had approximately 34,000 employees, 73,000 agents, and thousands of distribution partners, serving more than 26 million customers. As of December 31, 2017, we had over \$1.04 trillion (US\$829.4 billion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made \$26.7 billion in payments to our customers. Our principal operations are in Asia, Canada and the United States where we have served customers for more than 100 years. With our global headquarters in Toronto, Canada, we trade as 'MFC' on the Toronto, New York, and the Philippine stock exchanges and under '945' in Hong Kong.

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ⁱ The four Funds include Manulife Investment Al-Fauzan, Manulife Investment Shariah Progress, Manulife Investment-CM Shariah Flexi and Manulife Investment Al-Umran