

News Release

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Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad launches Global Healthcare Fund to capture opportunities from the dynamic shifts in the healthcare landscape

Kuala Lumpur – Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad today announced the launch of the Manulife Global Healthcare Fund (the “Fund”), which offers investors in Malaysia the opportunity to contribute to the progress in the global healthcare industry while at the same time capture potential medium to long-term capital growth in healthcare-related companies globally.

The Covid-19 pandemic and unprecedented market volatility in 2020 have brought the global healthcare and pharmaceuticals sectors into the limelight, not only reminding investors of the importance of medical innovation but also the long-term investment opportunities the industry could bring. The healthcare sector has been one of the most recession resistant areas of the economy, proving to be a defensive stalwart during times of enhanced volatility and economic uncertainty. Historically, healthcare has delivered strong performance, particularly during economic downturns. Over the past 25 years (1995–2020), global healthcare equities have on average outperformed global equities¹. These excess returns have been more pronounced during periods of heightened market volatility or economic distress.

“We believe companies with products and services that were guided by unique principles should see unprecedented demand, such as innovative companies that offer ground-breaking medical advancements. The performance of healthcare is not limited to favourable cyclical drivers associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. In fact, we have seen three secular trends that could create long-term opportunities for the sector – increasing medical needs as the world population ages and living longer, solving ongoing health issues and challenges, and striving for medical breakthroughs,” said Jason Chong, CEO, Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad.

“Despite the positive news of Covid-19 vaccines, which is expected to help bring the global economy to recovery in 2021, investors should consider adding diversity in their portfolio and pay closer attention to specific verticals in healthcare that can benefit from ongoing demographic and industry trends. Based on market conditions, we seek to build a diversified portfolio of healthcare companies while ensuring active positions that are aligned with strength of conviction, intrinsic valuation, and appropriate risk parameters. This can provide the potential long-term capital growth that investors

¹ Source: MSCI World Health Care Index posted 11.32% annualised returns versus 8.24% for MSCI World from 12/31/1994 to 12/31/2020.

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seek from their investments, as well as contribute to medical innovations that benefits humanity.” said Ng Chze How, Head of Retail Wealth Distribution, Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad.

The Fund will invest at least 95% of the Fund’s NAV in Share class I3 of Manulife Global Fund – Healthcare Fund (the “Target Fund”), which capitalises on growth potential of the healthcare sector and invests in diversified sub-sector positioning to capture three global secular trends: ageing populations, medical advancements and unmet medical needs. The remaining NAV of the Fund will be in liquid assets.

The Target Fund is managed by Manulife Investment Management’s well-resourced investment team with deep sector expertise averaging 27 years of experience in investment management and healthcare. The Target Fund also has a key feature of medium- to long-term investment with a high conviction portfolio, guided by a differentiated investment approach.

The Fund is suitable for investors who seek capital appreciation, with a medium- to long-term investment horizon and wish to seek investment exposure in healthcare-related companies globally.

Distribution of income by the Fund, if any, is incidental. It is available in A (RM-Hedged) class, with minimum initial investment of RM1,000 and minimum additional investment of RM100. The Fund is now available for subscription through the unit trust advisers of Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad.

For more information about the Manulife Global Healthcare Fund, please visit manulifeinvestment.com.my.

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About Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad

Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad Registration No: 200801033087 (834424-U) (“Manulife IM (Malaysia)”) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Holdings Berhad (listed on Bursa Malaysia), which is majority owned by Canada-based Manulife Financial Corporation. Manulife IM (Malaysia) offers a comprehensive range of 59 unit trust and PRS funds in the asset classes of equity, fixed income and money market. Since 2010, Manulife IM (Malaysia) has bagged 47 awards in total; with the four most significant house awards being won in 2017 & 2018, namely the Best Overall Award Malaysia Provident for EPF-Approved Funds by The Edge | Thomson Reuters Lipper Fund Awards 2017, the Most Outstanding Islamic Asset Management Company by KLIFF Islamic Finance Awards 2017, Top Investment House Malaysia - Rank 5 in Asian Local Currency Bonds by The Asset Benchmark Research Awards 2017 and the Best Group Over 3 Years - Mixed Assets by Thomson Reuters Lipper Global Islamic Fund Award 2018. Visit us online at manulifeinvestment.com.my.

About Manulife Investment Management

Manulife Investment Management is the global wealth and asset management segment of Manulife Financial Corporation. We draw on more than a century of financial stewardship and the full resources of our parent company to serve individuals, institutions, and retirement plan members worldwide. Headquartered in Toronto, our leading capabilities in public and private markets are strengthened by an investment footprint that spans 17 countries and territories. We complement these capabilities by providing access to a network of unaffiliated asset managers from around the world. We’re committed to investing responsibly across our businesses. We develop innovative global frameworks for sustainable investing, collaboratively engage with companies in our securities portfolios, and maintain a high standard of stewardship where we own and operate assets, and we believe in supporting financial well-being

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through our workplace retirement plans. Today, plan sponsors around the world rely on our retirement plan administration and investment expertise to help their employees plan for, save for, and live a better retirement.

As of June 30, 2020, Manulife Investment Management had CAD\$900 billion (US\$660 billion) in assets under management and administration. Not all offerings are available in all jurisdictions. For additional information, please visit manulifeim.com.

About Manulife

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services group that helps people make their decisions easier and lives better. With our global headquarters in Toronto, Canada, we operate as Manulife across our offices in Canada, Asia, and Europe, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States. We provide financial advice, insurance, and wealth and asset management solutions for individuals, groups and institutions. At the end of 2019, we had more than 35,000 employees, over 98,000 agents, and thousands of distribution partners, serving almost 30 million customers. As of June 30, 2020, we had \$1.2 trillion (US\$0.9 trillion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made \$30.6 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 155 years. We trade as 'MFC' on the Toronto, New York, and the Philippine stock exchanges and under '945' in Hong Kong.

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