

# News Release

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## **Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad launches Global Low Volatility Equity Fund to help investors capture quality stable growth**

*New fund aims to unlock opportunities in long-term sustainable businesses globally*

Kuala Lumpur – Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad (‘Manulife’) announced today the launch of the Manulife Global Low Volatility Equity Fund (the ‘Fund’), which aims to provide Malaysian investors with stable capital growth over the long run through investments in global companies with sustainable business models, while seeking to limit volatility and emphasize downside protection. The Fund is a retail feeder fund that invests at least 95% of its net asset value into Alliance Bernstein’s SICAV I – Low Volatility Equity Portfolio (the “Target Fund”), which follows the disciplined approach and investment philosophy of QSP – investing in high-Quality, Sutable companies at the right Price to beat the market and cushion downside.

“Equity markets around the world continue to be volatile as the global pandemic rages on and relationships between major economic powers intensify. While we have seen strong market recoveries over the few past months, we can expect these issues to continue to influence the market directions. As investors, we can only mitigate the associated risks by searching further and wider for opportunities. Taking a global perspective and focusing on the potential long-term success of companies allows investors to cut through short-term market noises and stay on course to achieving their financial objectives,” said Jason Chong, CEO, Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad.

Companies that produce predictable earnings patterns could potentially outperform the market and have better risk profiles in the longer term. It is also important not forget to buy at a reasonable price and avoid crowded trades as that may quickly reverse.

This sets the basis for the Target Fund that aims to protect against downside risk and beat the market at the same time, It does so by positioning the portfolio so that it is prepared for downturns and poised for recovery – it seeks to capture 90% of the market’s gains in rising markets, and seek to capture only 70% of the market’s declines during down markets. Performance would smooth out over a long-term cycle, and this has allowed the Target Fund to consistently outperform the MSCI World Index benchmark and with less volatility in both up and down markets since its inception in December 2012.

“Volatility creates anxiety, which can cause investors to lose sight of their investment objectives. Short-term market drops may tempt investors to cut losses, but doing so also means potentially missing out on the market’s eventual recovery. It is imperative that investors always maintain a cool head, stay invested and ride out short-term volatility. As such, adapting an investment strategy that focuses on the sustainable growth of companies allows investors the opportunity to capture the long-term upside and mitigate downside,” said Chze How Ng, Head of Retail Wealth Distribution, Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad.

“The coronavirus pandemic and subsequent movement restrictions has brought to light what is truly essential businesses, as evidenced by 2020 Q1 earnings of companies on the S&P 500. Healthcare, technology, staples, communications services and utilities – which are growth and non-cyclicals sectors and make up 65% of the index – on average recorded 5% growth in sales and earnings per share (EPS), whereas cyclical sectors on average experienced 3% drop in sales and 39% drop in EPS. This comes to show that the combination of growth and defensive stocks are essential in any long-term investment portfolio,” Jason Chong added.

The Fund is suitable for investors who seek capital appreciation, wish to participate in global equity markets and have a long-term investment horizon.

The classes that are offered for subscription by the Fund are A (RM Hedged) Class and A (USD) Class at RM0.5000 and USD0.5000 respectively during the initial offer period from 29 July until 18 August 2020. The minimum initial investment amount for the Fund is RM1,000 (for A (RM Hedged) Class) or USD1,000 (for A (USD) Class), and the minimum additional investment amount is RM100 or USD100. The Fund is distributed through unit trust advisers of Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad.

For more information about the Manulife Global Low Volatility Equity Fund, visit

**About Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad**

Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad (formerly known as Manulife Asset Management Services 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 57 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](http://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 150 years of financial stewardship to partner with clients across our institutional, retail, and retirement businesses globally. Our specialist approach to money management includes the highly differentiated strategies of our fixed-income, specialized equity, multi-asset solutions, and private markets teams—along with access to specialized, unaffiliated asset managers from around the world through our multimanager model. Our personalized, data-driven approach to retirement is focused on delivering financial wellness in retirement plans of all sizes to help plan participants and members retire with dignity.

Headquartered in Toronto, we operate as Manulife Investment Management throughout the world, with the exception of the United States, where the retail and retirement businesses operate as John Hancock Investment Management and John Hancock, respectively; and in Asia and Canada, where the retirement business operates as Manulife. Manulife Investment Management had CAD\$832 billion (US\$586 billion) in assets under management and administration.\*Not all offerings are available in all jurisdictions. For additional information, please visit our website at [www.manulifeim.com](http://www.manulifeim.com).

\* MFC financials in CAD. Global Wealth and Asset Management AUMA as of March 31, 2020, was \$832 billion and includes \$195 billion of assets managed on behalf of other segments and \$139 billion of assets under administration.

**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 March 31, 2020, we had \$1.2 trillion (US\$0.8 trillion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made \$30.4 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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