

**For Immediate Release**

18 August 2016

## **Manulife Asset Management Sees Silver Linings in Dark Clouds, Launches New Flexible Allocation Fund**

**Kuala Lumpur** – Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad (“MAMSB”) today announced the launch of **Manulife Flexi Growth & Income Fund** (“the Fund”) for clients of Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia (“Standard Chartered”). The mixed-asset, growth and income fund seeks to provide income\* and capital appreciation over a medium to long term period by adopting a flexible asset allocation strategy. It is the seventh fund in MAMSB’s well-received Flexi Series of unit trusts to be launched, and the first in the series to be offered to a banking distribution partner’s clients.

The Fund is an all-weather fund that aims to provide steady returns through changing economic cycles. It has the flexibility to switch between equities, fixed income securities and money market instruments, enabling it to capitalise on investment opportunities from upside trends and protect its capital during adverse market conditions.

“We are pleased to launch this fund for the clients of Standard Chartered, our valued banking distribution partner,” said Mr. Wong Boon Choy, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad. “We felt it has been long overdue that clients of Standard Chartered have access to a fund in our Flexi Series which allows them to invest with peace of mind while also offering the potential for a reasonable rate of return. The Fund adopts a flexible asset allocation strategy under which our investment professionals draw on their expertise to tactically adjust exposure to asset classes and markets, taking this responsibility out of the hands of individual investors.”

Pramod Veturi, Managing Director and Head of Wealth Management, Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia, said: “We are proud to be the first bank distribution partner of a fund under Manulife’s Flexi Series. Last year, we launched three funds with Manulife that were well received by our clients. We are confident that the Manulife Flexi Growth & Income Fund will be equally popular. In an environment of low interest rates globally, our focus has been on helping clients find diversified sources of income via a multi-asset income strategy. Over the past 20 years, history suggests that multi asset strategy is more rewarding with better return in relation to the risk that it took on, compared to investing solely in one asset class locally. This is a solid long term investment strategy that has confronted volatility from the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, 2000 Dotcom meltdown, September 11 attacks, 2008 Global Financial Crisis, European Debt Crisis and recent Brexit.”

Mr. Jason Chong, Chief Investment Officer and Managing Director of Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad said, “Today, we are facing a resemblance of the market four years ago, where the world economy was forecasted to show lackluster growth. In view of the persistent low-growth, low-interest rate, and highly volatile macroeconomic outlook, a flexible investment approach will make an ideal all-weather fund through



the market cycles. Such is the feature of the Manulife Flexi Growth & Income Fund, allowing for switching between growth and income-rotation strategies and diversifying investments abroad opportunistically.”

Commenting on the global market environment, Mr. Chong added, “With anemic growth prospects clouding the major economies of the Eurozone, China and Japan, the macroeconomic uncertainties have cast a long shadow on global financial markets. However, ample liquidity arising from quantitative easing measures by central bankers could cushion the downside risk bias as investors need to search for returns in a low interest rate environment. Such erratic liquidity flows will continue to drive market volatility around the world.”

The Fund invests in a diversified portfolio of equities, fixed income securities and money market instruments. The Manager aims to achieve the objective of the Fund by adopting a flexible asset allocation strategy depending on the Manager’s tactical view. The Fund will concentrate on investing in asset classes which offer prospects of capital growth and income distribution. There are no fixed sectoral weightings in the allocation of assets for the Fund. It may invest up to 98% of its NAV in a single asset class of equities or fixed income securities (including money market instruments), and a minimum of 2% in liquid assets.

Investors of the Fund also gain exposure to investment opportunities in the Asia region as the Fund may invest up to 30% of its NAV in the Asia region, including but not limited to Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, India, Hong Kong, China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The Fund is suitable for investors who are willing to accept a medium to high level of risk, seek capital appreciation and a steady income stream over a medium to long term investment horizon.

During the 21-day initial offer period, which runs from 18 August until 7 September 2016, the initial offer price is RM0.10 per unit. The minimum initial investment is RM1,000 and the minimum additional investment is RM100.

*\* Income will be distributed by way of reinvestment as additional Units or by payment in cash.*

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#### **About Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad**

Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad (“MAMSB”) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Holdings Berhad, which is majority owned by Canada-based Manulife Financial Corporation. MAMSB operates under the brand name of Manulife Asset Management and offers a comprehensive range of more than 40 unit trust funds in the asset classes of equity, fixed income and money market. Led by a highly experienced senior management team, MAMSB is well-positioned to build the most professional unit trust force in Malaysia. Our award-winning MHO Mobile application is available on the iPad, iPhone and Android smartphones. MHO Mobile empowers investors to monitor and manage their unit trust investments at any time, from anywhere. Visit us at [www.manulifeinvestment.com.my](http://www.manulifeinvestment.com.my).

#### **About Manulife Asset Management**

Manulife Asset Management is the global asset management arm of Manulife, providing comprehensive asset management solutions for investors. This investment expertise extends across a broad range of public and private asset classes, as well as asset allocation solutions. As at June 30, 2016, assets under management for Manulife Asset Management were approximately C\$435 billion (US\$334 billion, GBP£252 billion, EUR€303 billion).

Manulife Asset Management’s public markets units have investment expertise across a broad range of asset classes including public equity and fixed income, and asset allocation strategies. Offices with full investment capabilities are located in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines. In addition, Manulife Asset Management has a joint venture asset management business in China, Manulife TEDA. The public markets units of Manulife Asset Management also provide investment management services to affiliates’ retail clients through product offerings of Manulife and John Hancock. John Hancock Asset Management and Declaration Management and Research are units of Manulife Asset Management.



Additional information about Manulife Asset Management may be found at [ManulifeAM.com](http://ManulifeAM.com).

### **About Manulife**

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services group providing forward-thinking solutions to help people with their big financial decisions. We operate as John Hancock in the United States, and Manulife elsewhere. We provide financial advice, insurance and wealth and asset management solutions for individuals, groups and institutions. At the end of 2015, we had approximately 34,000 employees, 63,000 agents, and thousands of distribution partners, serving 20 million customers. At the end of June 2016, we had \$934 billion (US\$718 billion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made more than \$25.4 billion in benefits, interest and other 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. Follow Manulife on Twitter @ManulifeNews or visit [www.manulife.com](http://www.manulife.com) or [www.johnhancock.com](http://www.johnhancock.com).

### **About Standard Chartered**

We are a leading international banking group, with around 84,000 employees and a 150-year history in some of the world's most dynamic markets. We bank the people and companies driving investment, trade and the creation of wealth across Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Our heritage and values are expressed in our brand promise, Here for good.

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on the London and Hong Kong Stock Exchanges as well as the Bombay and National Stock Exchanges in India.

For more information please visit [www.sc.com](http://www.sc.com). Explore our insights and comment on our blog, [BeyondBorders](#). Follow Standard Chartered on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).

### **Standard Chartered in Malaysia**

Standard Chartered Bank, a member of the Standard Chartered Group was established in Malaysia in 1875 and incorporated as Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad in 1984. As Malaysia's first bank, Standard Chartered leads the way through product innovation and sustainability initiatives. The Bank provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services to corporates, institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises and individuals through its network of branches across Malaysia.

In 2001, Standard Chartered UK established its third global technology & operations centre, Scope International, in Malaysia – the first international bank to do so in the country. Scope International provides software development, banking operations, IT support services and customer service capabilities to the Bank in up to 70 countries. It now houses the biggest software development company in the country, International Software Centre Malaysia (ISCM) and has a total workforce of more than 4,300 people.

Price Solutions Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered Bank UK is also located in Malaysia. The company promotes and markets Standard Chartered's financial products in Malaysia through a network of direct sales agents.

Standard Chartered Saadiq Berhad (Saadiq), Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia's Islamic Banking subsidiary was established in November 2008. It offers a full suite of Syariah-compliant products and services to individuals and corporates through its dedicated branches. In 2012, Saadiq established Kuala Lumpur as its global hub for Islamic consumer banking.

Standard Chartered employs close to 7,000 employees in all its Malaysian operations.

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Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Prospectus of Manulife Flexi Growth & Income Fund dated 18 August 2016 which has been registered with the Securities Commission who takes no responsibility for its contents, before investing. Application for Units can only be made on receipt of the Master Application Form referred to in the Prospectus of Manulife Flexi Growth & Income Fund dated 18 August 2016 which can be obtained at the Manager's registered offices. Investors are further advised to read and understand the Product Highlights Sheet (PHS) before making any investment decision. The PHS is available and investors have the right to request for a PHS from the Manager. Investors should consider the fees and charges involved and note that prices may go down as well as up. The Manager wishes to highlight the specific risks of the Fund which are specific equity risk, default risk, interest rate risk, currency risk and country risk.

The Manager, Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad (MAMSB) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Manulife Holdings Berhad and holds a Capital Markets Services License for fund management, dealing in securities restricted to unit trusts, dealing in private retirement schemes and financial planning under the Capital Markets and Services Act 2007. MAMSB operates under the brand name of Manulife Asset Management - the asset management arm of Manulife Financial.

