

For Immediate Release

## **Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad Enhances Income Offering with Launch of Manulife Global Emerging Markets Multi-Asset Income Fund Capturing long-term growth from burgeoning economies around the world**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 6 March 2019** – Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad (MAMSB) announced today the launch of the Manulife Global Emerging Markets Multi-Asset Income Fund (the ‘Fund’). The Fund aims to help investors reap benefits from the increasing role that emerging markets (EM) play in driving global economic growth. The Fund is a wholesale feeder fund that invests at least 95% of its net asset value into the HSBC Global Investment Funds–Global Emerging Markets Multi-Asset Income Fund (the ‘Target Fund’), which focuses on providing income and moderate capital growth through an active asset allocation in a diversified portfolio of fixed income securities and equity securities, money market and cash instruments and other instruments in emerging markets. The fund’s asset allocation is constructed for a medium risk profile (long-term volatility of 11%), making emerging market investments accessible for investors of a balanced risk budget.

“We could be seeing some interesting investment opportunities stemming from emerging markets over the medium to long term. EM is expected to contribute about 70% to global economic growth by 2021<sup>\*</sup>, and coupled with its growing middle class and favourable demographics, EM is likely to remain the world’s growth engine in the years to come. That said, Malaysian investors must also keep in mind that market cycles do happen, and it has been occurring more frequently in recent history. That is why we believe using an active asset allocation investment approach could mitigate single asset class risk, and give investors a smoother ride as they capture income and growth opportunities from various assets during different stages of the economy,” said Jason Chong, CEO of Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad.

As of 31 December 2018, 72.5% of the Target Fund’s assets are investment in EM fixed income securities, 23.6% in EM equities, and 4% in cash<sup>†</sup>.

The EM bond universe continues to expand and evolve, as demonstrated by Malaysia’s recent announcement of issuing Samurai bonds in March 2019 and its potential to offer Panda bonds in the near future. On the EM equities front, some economies have remained strong with good fundamentals in the form of corporate earnings, despite growth cooling in a number of regions.

<sup>\*</sup> International Monetary Fund, April 2017.

<sup>†</sup> HSBC Global Asset Management, 31 December 2018.

“Emerging markets bonds continue to offer attractive yields. For instance, EM sovereign bonds, whether issued in US dollar or local currency, have been offering yields of above 5%. Similarly, EM investment grade corporate bonds have been offering yields of 4.5%.<sup>‡</sup> This underscores the favourable factors for investors to include EM bonds as a source of investment diversification,” said Chze How Ng, Head of Retail Wealth Distribution, Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad.

“Current EM equities valuations also look attractive, in particular after the difficult year 2018, when the MSCI Emerging Markets Index lost 20% (total return in USD). Combined with EM economic growth around long-term trend levels, this further strengthens the narrative for investing in EM assets and the investment potential that these markets have to offer,” Chze How concluded.

The Fund is available to Sophisticated Investors who seek a combination of income and capital appreciation, wish to participate in a diversified portfolio of assets in the global emerging markets and have a long-term investment horizon.

The Fund aims to distribute all or part of its distributable income on a quarterly basis. The classes that are offered for subscription by the Fund are RM Hedged-Class and USD Class at RM1.0000 and USD1.0000 respectively during the initial offer period from 6 March until 26 March 2019. The minimum initial investment amount for the Fund is RM5,000 or USD5,000, and the minimum additional investment amount is RM1,000 or USD1,000. The Fund is distributed through HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad starting on 6 March 2019.

For more information about the Manulife Global Emerging Markets Multi-Asset Income Fund, visit [manulifeinvestment.com.my](http://manulifeinvestment.com.my).

– End –

#### **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 49 unit trust and PRS funds in the asset classes of equity, fixed income and money market. Since 2010, MAMSB has bagged 41 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 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

---

<sup>‡</sup> Bloomberg, 12 September 2018.

classes, as well as asset allocation solutions. We also provide portfolio management for affiliated retail Manulife and John Hancock product offerings.

Our investment expertise includes public and private equity and fixed income, real estate and infrastructure equity and debt, timberland and farmland, oil and gas, and mezzanine debt. 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, 2018, assets under management for Manulife Asset Management were approximately US\$364 billion. Additional information may be found at [ManulifeAM.com](http://ManulifeAM.com).

### **About Manulife**

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services group that helps people make their decisions easier and lives better. 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 2018, we had more than 34,000 employees, over 82,000 agents, and thousands of distribution partners, serving almost 28 million customers. As of December 31, 2018, we had over \$1.1 trillion (US\$794 billion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made \$29.0 billion in payments to our customers. Our principal operations in Asia, Canada and the United States are 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.

### **Disclaimer**

Manulife Asset Management is the asset management division of Manulife Financial. The information and/or analysis contained in this material have been compiled or arrived at from sources believed to be reliable but Manulife Asset Management does not make any representation as to their accuracy, correctness, usefulness or completeness and does not accept liability for any loss arising from the use hereof or the information and/or analysis contained herein. Neither Manulife Asset Management or its affiliates, nor any of their directors, officers or employees shall assume any liability or responsibility for any direct or indirect loss or damage or any other consequence of any person acting or not acting in reliance on the information contained herein.

This material was prepared solely for educational and informational purposes and does not constitute a recommendation, professional advice, an offer, solicitation or an invitation by or on behalf of Manulife Asset Management to any person to buy or sell any security. Nothing in this material constitutes investment, legal, accounting or tax advice, or a representation that any investment or strategy is suitable or appropriate to your individual circumstances, or otherwise constitutes a personal recommendation to you. The economic trend analysis expressed in this material does not indicate any future investment performance result. This material was produced by and the opinions expressed are those of Manulife Asset Management as of the date of this publication, and are subject to change based on market and other conditions. Past performance is not an indication of future results. Investment involves risk, including the loss of principal. In considering any investment, if you are in doubt on the action to be taken, you should consult professional advisers.

Proprietary Information – Please note that this material must not be wholly or partially reproduced, distributed, circulated, disseminated, published or disclosed, in any form and for any purpose, to any third party without prior approval from Manulife Asset Management.

These materials have not been reviewed by, are not registered with any securities or other regulatory authority, and may, where appropriate, be distributed by the following Manulife entities in their respective jurisdictions.

**Indonesia:** PT Manulife AsetManajmenIndonesia. **Malaysia:** Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad. **Thailand:** Manulife Asset Management (Thailand) Company Limited. **Singapore:** Manulife Asset Management (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (Company Registration Number: 200709952G). **Vietnam:** Manulife Asset Management (Vietnam) Company Ltd. **Australia, South Korea and Hong Kong:** Manulife Asset Management (Hong Kong) Limited in Hong Kong and has not been reviewed by the HK Securities and Futures Commission (SFC). **Philippines:** Manulife Asset Management and Trust Corporation **Japan:** Manulife Asset Management (Japan) Limited. **Taiwan:** Manulife Asset Management (Taiwan) Pte. Ltd. (Investment is not protected by deposit insurance, insurance guaranty fund or other protection mechanism in Taiwan. For the disputes resulted from the investment, you may file a complaint to the Securities Investment Trust & Consulting Association of the R.O.C. or Financial Ombudsman Institution. License No. 106 Jin-Guan-Tou-Xin-Xin-008 "Independently operated by Manulife Asset Management (Taiwan) Co., Ltd." /6F., No.89, Songren Rd., Taipei, Taiwan 11073, Tel: (02)2757-5999, Customer Service: 0800-070-998.)

For media enquiries, please contact:

Karen Yap  
Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad  
Phone: +60 3 2719 9228  
Email: karen\_ck\_yap@manulife.com

Theresa Lam  
LUMOS PR  
Phone: +60 3 2770 6846  
Email: theresa.lam@lumosp.net