

For Immediate Release

Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad Launches ASEAN Equity Fund to Capture “4G” Opportunities in the Region

KUALA LUMPUR, 21 October, 2019 – Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad (MAMSB) announced today the launch of the Manulife ASEAN Equity Fund (the ‘Fund’), which aims to answer Malaysian investors’ demand for capitalising on burgeoning opportunities from ASEAN’s Growing Significance, Growing Economy, Growing Investment, and Growing Population – the “4Gs”. The Fund is a wholesale feeder fund that invests at least 95% of its net asset value into the JPMorgan Funds - ASEAN Equity Fund (the ‘Target Fund’) that focuses on providing long-term capital growth by investing primarily in companies of countries which are members of ASEAN.

“ASEAN has gone through a healthy economic reset and is embarking on an improved, more sustainable growth path. It now presents a very compelling growth story in what we dub the ‘4Gs’, and offers a strong medium to long term investment proposition,” said Jason Chong, CEO of Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad.

The ASEAN trade bloc is becoming a significant trade center as companies shift their supply chain to the region for its cost and competitive advantage. It is expected to become the fourth largest economy in the world by 2030, and its 10 member states are projected to generate GDP growth of between 3% to 8% from 2017 to 2021. It is also the world’s third largest recipient of foreign direct investment, of which the funds are invested in a diverse range of industries including manufacturing, wholesale and retail services, healthcare, R&D, e-commerce, and Fintech. Lastly, ASEAN has the third largest market in the world at over 650 million people and with an expanding workforce and a growing middle class, meaning ample supply of labour and consumer to fuel its economy.

“ASEAN’s supportive macroeconomic backdrop, strong fundamentals, and improving corporate earnings all help paint a rosy outlook for the sub-region. This is a phenomenon that has been in the making for some time, and we feel that it now presents a clear and stable path for Malaysian investors to reap the benefits from our neighbouring countries’ economic success,” Jason Chong added.

“ASEAN has become the focal point for many global companies and investors. For companies, many have already been shifting their manufacturing base and sourcing needs to ASEAN, and Sino-US trade tension may have accelerated the process. These are long-term business commitments that bring positive impact

to local economies in the form of job creation, improved household income and quality of life, all of which will have a trickle down effect on various local businesses – big or small,” said Ng Chze How, Head of Retail Wealth Distribution, Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad.

“The Fund will focus on long-term opportunities from long-term compounders and domestic champions of tomorrow, which are companies that can weather different economic cycles and are market leaders in their fields. It also aims to capture medium-term cyclical and tactical opportunities that could further add value to the portfolio. This strategy has enabled the Target Fund to consistently outperform its benchmark over the years, and which is why we believe our latest offering could provide the long-term returns that Malaysians investors seek from investing in the ASEAN region,” Chze How concluded.

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

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 17 October until 6 November 2019. The minimum initial investment amount for the Fund is RM5,000 (for RM Hedged-Class) or USD5,000 (for USD Class), and the minimum additional investment amount is RM1,000 or USD1,000. The Fund is distributed through Citibank Malaysia and unit trust advisers of Manulife Asset Management Services Berhad.

For more information about the Manulife ASEAN Equity Fund, visit manulifeinvestment.com.my.

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