

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad launches Manulife Global Energy Transition Fund to capture opportunities arising from the global shift towards a low carbon economy

Kuala Lumpur – Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad announces today the launch of Manulife Global Energy Transition Fund (the “Fund”) that aims to support the move towards a carbon neutral economy and mitigate the impact of climate change. The Fund will be established as a wholesale feeder fund that aims to provide capital appreciation by investing at least 95% of the Fund’s NAV in BNP Paribas Funds Energy Transition (“Target Fund”), which is managed by BNP Paribas Asset Management Luxembourg, and the remaining NAV of the Fund will be invested in liquid assets. The Target Fund invests in three key areas of the global energy transition story – decarbonization, digitalization and decentralization, all of which present diverse investment opportunities in the US\$115 trillion transition of the global energy system¹.

- **Decarbonisation:** Companies developing, transporting or integrating renewable energy such as solar, wind, hydrogen and alternative fuels.
- **Digitalisation:** Companies harnessing digital solutions, new technology or advanced materials to facilitate decarbonisation and energy efficiency such as battery materials, energy optimisation controls and green building technologies.
- **Decentralisation:** Companies focused on bringing power sources closer to the site of consumption or promoting more sustainable modes of transportation such as solar roof panels, electric vehicles and power infrastructure.

Jason Chong, CEO, Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad said: “As a leading provider of investment solutions in Malaysia, we are pleased to be collaborating with our long-time partner Standard Chartered Bank for the launch of this new Fund. We share the same mission of doing good for society and for our clients, and we believe energy transition is one of the most effective methods for investors to take part in the global effort towards net-zero. Energy transition is not just about sorting renewable energy sources. We need to think about the wider implications of that, such as the technologies and materials involved, and how such energy can be stored, transported, and consumed. This presents a diverse range of global investment opportunities for investors in Malaysia and enabling them to play a key role in achieving a sustainable world.”

Sammeer Sharma, Managing Director and Head of Wealth Management, Standard Chartered Malaysia said: “Sustainable investing is fast gaining traction among investors. Over the next three years, 43% of investors in Asia said they are considering putting 5 to 15% of their funds in sustainable investments². However even as interest levels are growing, investors are also apprehensive about getting started and one of the reasons for this is the concern around green washing. This is why our ESG Select curation process is such a critical one. Amidst the current lack of universal standards, it provides investors confidence that in-depth due diligence has been conducted on our list of high conviction sustainable funds. Today, I am pleased that we are adding the BNP Paribas Energy Transition Fund to our ESG Select suite and together with Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad, we look forward to offering our clients the opportunity to easily invest in a sustainable future while seeking returns on their investments.”

Angelia Chin-Sharpe, Chief Executive Officer, Country Head Malaysia, BNP Paribas Asset Management said: “2020 was a phenomenal year for companies involved in the global energy transition. We expect the opportunities in this theme to remain strong for the years ahead, as technological innovation and policy support to achieve net zero by 2050 continue to fuel the growth of these companies. This is indeed a multi-decade opportunity not to be missed. As part of BNP Paribas Asset Management’s forward-looking sustainability approach, we will continue to leverage on the deep experience of our global investment teams and strong investment track record to ensure that our energy transition strategy continues to meet the financial and social goals of our clients.”

The Fund is exclusively distributed to Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia clients. The Fund is suitable for sophisticated investors who are willing to accept higher market risks and can tolerate volatility, wish to seek capital appreciation and investment exposure in global equity markets with a focus on companies that engage in the energy transition.

The portfolio has a truly global exposure, tilted towards the major hubs for environmental innovation; as of 30 June 2021, the top countries that the Target Fund invests in are companies in the United States (58.83%), China (11.43%) and Spain (5.93%)³. The Target Fund is industry-agnostic and seeks out best-in-class environmental solutions regardless of sector. As of 30 June 2021, the top three were industrials (42.83%), utilities (13.68%) and information technology (12.64%)³.

Employing an all-cap strategy enables the Target Fund to select best-in-class companies regardless of market size and allocate capital to young, high-growth disruptors to accelerate innovation in the environmental space.

The Target Fund was recognised as one of the top-performing active equity funds of 2020 by the *Financial Times*⁴ and raised EUR 1.8 billion in 2020 alone.⁵

Distribution of income by the Fund, if any, is incidental. Based in Euro, the Fund will be offered in RM-Hedged Class and USD-Hedged Class.

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

¹Source: IRENA, International Renewable Energy Agency, World Energy Transitions Outlook, April 2021.

²Source: Standard Chartered Private Bank's Sustainable Investing Review 2020. [Click here to download the report.](#)

³ Source: BNP Paribas Asset Management, as of 30 June 2021.

⁴ Source: Financial Times, "The best and worst-performing equity funds of 2020", January 2021 and Morningstar, measured against funds globally with assets of at least \$1bn. Past performance is not an indication of future performance. You are advised not to solely rely upon the ratings or rankings disclosed herein in making an investment decision. The ratings or rankings disclosed herein are current; the same may change in the future.

⁵ Source: BNP Paribas Asset Management, as of December 2020

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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 61 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 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 March 31, 2021, Manulife Investment Management had CAD \$764.1 billion (US \$607.6 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 provider 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 our global wealth and asset management segment, Manulife Investment Management, serves individuals, institutions and retirement plan members worldwide. At the end of 2020, we had more than 37,000 employees, over 118,000 agents, and thousands of distribution partners, serving over 30 million customers. As of March 31, 2021, we had CAD\$1.3 trillion (US\$1.0 trillion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made \$31.3 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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