

# News Release

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For Immediate Release

23 November 2021

## Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad launches Manulife Asia Pacific Opportunities Fund to give investors an opportunity to tap into the structural growth stories of Asia

**Kuala Lumpur – Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad** announced today the launch of the Manulife Asia Pacific Opportunities Fund (the “Fund”) that aims to enable investors in Malaysia to reap the benefits of Asia’s long-term structural growth stories. The Fund currently invests mainly in equities of Asia Pacific-based companies, which includes Japan & Australia, that are leading players in their industries and key contributors to the four mega trends: technology, healthcare and medical, industrials and consumption via the Allianz Global Investors Fund – Allianz Oriental Income (the “Target Fund”).

The Fund will invest at least 95% of its net asset value into the Target Fund, a Morningstar 5-star rated fund<sup>1</sup> that is actively managed by Allianz Global Investors GmbH (AGI). The Target Fund aims to outperform the MSCI All Countries Asia Pacific Total Return (Net) over the long term, achieving on average a 10-15% per annum return<sup>2</sup>. Data from Bloomberg shows the Target Fund has consistently outperformed its benchmark since inception, with a cumulative return of 309%, while the MSCI All Countries Asia Pacific Total Return (Net) recorded a return of 158%<sup>3</sup>.

Leveraging AGI’s research platforms, strong local presence and proximity to companies and markets around Asia, the Target Fund focuses on Asia Pacific companies that demonstrate potential upside on growth, quality, and valuation, and takes a benchmark unconstrained approach to flexibly allocate across countries and sectors. It can also potentially provide downside protection through investing in fixed income or cash during volatile market conditions.

**Jason Chong, CEO, Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad said:** “Technology, healthcare and medical, industrials and consumption are the key themes that will be shaping our world, and we see the investment opportunities from this structural growth to be even more prevalent in Asia. For instance, Japan stands out in the technology and industrial sectors, given the country’s strong focus on semiconductor inspection system, manufacturer of automation systems and robots; while China and Australia lead other Asian countries in the healthcare sector given the development of their innovations

<sup>1</sup> Source: Morningstar, as at 31/07/2021.

<sup>2</sup> This refers to the aim of the Target Fund only. There is no guarantee that such an outcome can be achieved

<sup>3</sup> Source: Bloomberg for the period 3 October 2008 – 30 September 2021. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Performance of the strategy is not guaranteed and losses remain possible. The Manulife Asia Pacific Opportunities Fund (“the Fund”) was launched on 16 November 2021. Hence, the Fund’s performance is not available.

## **Manulife** Investment Management

around medical technology and pharmaceutical science. Each country in Asia stands out for its unique capabilities and geographical advantages, and hence it's important to identify the right opportunities through thorough fundamental research risk analysis.”

### **Ng Chze How, Head of Retail Wealth Distribution, Manulife Investment Management (M)**

**Berhad said:** “As the global economy continues to recover and major indices around the world plateauing, we believe the broad Asian equity universe has vast potential for investors in Malaysia. However, it takes an experienced investment team to discover the most appropriate themes and ideas that can help investors capture growth opportunities whilst maintaining a diversified portfolio that can withstand the test of time. By focusing on reasonably valued companies with growth potential, particularly underfollowed small- and mid-cap stocks across Asia, we believe the Fund can provide the type of stable long term returns that investors in Malaysia seek.”

The Fund is suitable for investors who seek capital appreciation, have a medium to long-term investment horizon, and wish to seek investment exposure in the Asia Pacific region.

As of 31 August 2021, the top three markets the Target Fund invests in are Japan (24.7%), Taiwan (21.2%) and China (14%). Sector wise, the top three are IT (40.6%), Healthcare (14.9%) and Industrials (14.4 %)⁴.

Distribution of income by the Fund, if any, is incidental. The classes that are offered for subscription by the Fund are A (USD) Class, A (RM-Hedged) Class, A (AUD-Hedged) Class and A (SGD-Hedged) Class. The Fund is now available for subscription through HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad.

For more information about the Manulife Asia Pacific Opportunities Fund, please visit [manulifeinvestment.com.my](http://manulifeinvestment.com.my).

<sup>4</sup> Source: Allianz Global Investors, data as at 31/8/2021.

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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 more than 60 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 KLIF 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 [www.manulifeinvestment.com.my](http://www.manulifeinvestment.com.my). The awards herein are granted by The Edge|Thomson Reuters Lipper, Kuala Lumpur Islamic Finance Forum, Asset Benchmark Research and Thomson Reuters Lipper with whom we are not related to.

### **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

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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 18 geographies. 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 September 30, 2021, Manulife Investment Management's assets under management and administration, including assets managed for Manulife's other segments, totaled CAD \$1.1 trillion (US \$835 billion). Not all offerings are available in all jurisdictions. For additional information, please visit [manulifeim.com](http://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 provide financial advice and insurance, operating as Manulife across Canada, Asia, and Europe, and primarily as John Hancock in the United States. Through Manulife Investment Management, the global brand for our global wealth and asset management segment, we serve 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 September 30, 2021, we had CAD\$1.4 trillion (US\$1.1 trillion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made CAD\$31.6 billion in payments to our customers. Our principal operations are in Asia and 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. Not all offerings are available in all jurisdictions. For additional information, please visit [manulife.com](http://manulife.com).

### **Disclaimer**

The above information has not been reviewed by the SC and is subject to the relevant warning, disclaimer, qualification or terms and conditions stated herein. Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Prospectus of Manulife Asia Pacific Opportunities Fund dated 16 November 2021 and all the respective Product Highlights Sheet(s) (collectively, the "Offering Documents"), obtainable at our offices or website, before investing. The Offering Documents have been registered with the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC), however the registration with the SC does not amount to nor indicate that the SC has recommended or endorsed the product. There are risks involved with investing in unit trust funds; wholesale funds and/or Private Retirement Schemes. Some of these risks associated with investments in unit trust funds; wholesale funds and/or Private Retirement Schemes are interest rate fluctuation risk, foreign exchange or currency risk, country risk, political risk, credit risk, non-compliance risk, counterparty risk, target fund manager risk, liquidity risk and interest rate risk. For further details on the risk profile of all the funds, please refer to the Risk Factors section in the Offering Documents. The price of units and income distribution may go down as well as up. Investors should compare and consider the fees, charges and costs involved. Investors are advised to conduct own risk assessment and consult the professional advisers if in doubt on the action to be taken.

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