

# News Release

For Immediate Release  
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## **Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad Introduces Singapore Equity Fund as Reforms Broaden Singapore’s Equity Opportunity Set**

**Kuala Lumpur** – Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad (“Manulife IM (Malaysia)”) today announced the launch of the **Manulife Singapore Equity Fund** (the “Fund”), an all-cap investment strategy that offers investors in Malaysia timely access to income and long-term capital growth opportunities emerging from Singapore’s evolving equity market as structural reforms improve liquidity and broaden investor participation.

The Fund is a feeder fund that invests into the Manulife Singapore Opportunities Income Fund (the “Target Fund”), which is actively managed on the ground by Manulife Investment Management (Singapore) Pte. Ltd.

### **A structural turning point: Capitalizing on the Monetary Authority of Singapore’s EQDP catalyst**

The launch of the Fund is strategically timed to coincide with a fundamental shift in Singapore’s capital markets. Historically, while Singapore has been recognised as a safe-haven market with deep structural protections, exceptional regulatory frameworks, and stable currency trends, many fundamentally strong companies — particularly in the small- and mid-cap (SMID) segments — remained overlooked and trading at deep valuation discounts due to limited analyst coverage and low market liquidity.

This dynamic is now being reshaped by the Monetary Authority of Singapore’s (“MAS”) SGD 6.5 billion Equity Market Development Programme (“EQDP”), which is designed to channel long-term capital into Singapore equities, enhance market liquidity, broaden investor participation, and support improved research coverage and fair valuation of quality companies. In November 2025, Manulife Investment Management was appointed by MAS as one of the asset managers under the programme.

“For investors in Malaysia, Singapore’s equity market can play a complementary role within portfolios, offering diversification alongside domestic and global equity exposures,” said **Jason Chong, Chief Executive Officer of Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad**. “Market reforms in Singapore are broadening the opportunity set well beyond the largest index constituents, particularly within small- and mid-cap companies where valuation gaps remain meaningful. As liquidity improves and investor participation increases, active management led by a Singapore-based equities team with deep on-the-ground experience becomes critical in identifying quality businesses positioned to benefit from this shift.”

### **Strategic access to Singapore’s re-rating potential**

**Hock Fai Chan, Head of Equities, Singapore, Manulife Investment Management**, said: “From an investment perspective, the opportunity lies in how improving liquidity and broader investor participation allow share prices to better reflect underlying fundamentals, particularly among companies that were previously overlooked. The strategy takes an all-cap approach,

typically allocating around 60% to established large-cap leaders for resilience and 40% to the highly responsive small and mid-cap segment, where valuation discounts can narrow as price discovery improves. This positions the portfolio to participate in re-rating opportunities as Singapore's equity market continues to evolve."

The Target Fund currently offers a portfolio yield of approximately 4.2%, providing investors with stable, recurring income alongside participation in longer-term equity growth.

### **Active discipline: The GCMV framework**

The Target Fund is actively managed using a disciplined, bottom-up investment approach guided by its GCMV (Growth, Cash Flow, Management, Valuation) framework. This process focuses on identifying companies with sustainable business models, strong cash flows and clear catalysts, supporting disciplined stock selection across market cycles.

Investors in Malaysia also benefit from an experienced Singapore-based equities team, which has a long track record of investing across market cycles and navigating opportunities within the SMID segment.

The Fund is suitable for investors who seek capital appreciation and income, have a long-term investment horizon, and wish to seek exposure to the Singapore equity market.

The Fund's initial offer period runs for 21 days from June 10, 2026, to June 30, 2026, and is available in SGD, RM, RM-hedged share classes. Income distributions for all classes, if any, will be paid on a quarterly basis.

For more information about the **Manulife Singapore Equity Fund**, visit [www.manulifeim.com.my](http://www.manulifeim.com.my).

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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 received 105 awards in total; with the fourteen most significant house awards being won in 2025, 2024, 2023, 2018 & 2017, 2012, namely Best Mixed Assets Fund Family Group Over Three Years, Malaysia Islamic Funds and Best Mixed Assets Fund Family Group Over Three Years, Global Islamic Funds by The 2025 LSEG Lipper Fund Awards; Best Equity Fund Family Group Over Three Years, Malaysia, Best Mixed Asset Fund Family Group Over Three Years, Malaysia Provident Funds and Best Equity Fund Family Group Over Three Years, Malaysia Islamic Funds, by The 2024 LSEG Lipper Fund Awards; Best Equity Fund Family Group Over Three Years, Malaysia, Best Bond Fund Family Group Over Three Years, Malaysia Provident Funds, Best Mixed Assets Fund Family Group Over Three Years, Malaysia Islamic Funds and Best Mixed Assets Fund Family Group Over Three Years, Global Islamic Funds by The 2023 Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards; Best Group Over 3 Years - Mixed Assets by Thomson Reuters Lipper Global Islamic Fund Award 2018; 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 Best Mixed Assets Fund Group by The Edge-Lipper Malaysia Fund Awards 2012. Visit us online at [manulifeim.com.my](http://manulifeim.com.my).

The awards herein are granted by Refinitiv Lipper, Thomson Reuters, Kuala Lumpur Islamic Finance Forum and The Asset with whom Manulife IM (Malaysia) is not related to.

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#### Disclaimer

The above information has not been reviewed by the Securities Commission Malaysia (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 Singapore Equity Fund dated 10 June 2026 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 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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