

# News Release

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## Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund Triumphs at the 2023 Global Islamic Finance Awards

**Kuala Lumpur** – Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad announced the achievement of the Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund (“the Fund”), as it secures the prestigious award of "Best Emerging Islamic REIT Fund 2023" at the Global Islamic Finance Awards. This marks the second time that the Fund has received this award, having also claimed the title in 2021.

The Global Islamic Finance Awards is renowned for acknowledging and celebrating outstanding achievements within the Islamic finance industry, honouring governments, institutions, and individuals for their contributions to the sustainability of Islamic finance on a worldwide scale.

The Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund seeks investment opportunities in Shariah-compliant real estate assets worldwide. This strategy aims to offer Malaysian investors an enhanced and diversified income stream, along with the potential for medium- to long-term returns.

**Jason Chong, Chief Executive Officer, Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad** remarked, “We are truly honoured to receive this prestigious award for our Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund, which has consistently demonstrated a strong track record of delivering competitive returns to investors. This recognition is a testament to the dedication and expertise of our investment team, as well as our unwavering commitment to providing ethical and competitive investment solutions in the rapidly growing Islamic finance sector.”

While Shariah Global REITs have consistently outperformed within the real estate investment trust (REIT) sector, the Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund has delivered even greater returns to its clients. The annualised total return of the Fund stands at 9.37%, surpassing the 7.81% annualised total return of non-Islamic S&P Global REITs Index<sup>1</sup>. This remarkable performance positions them as an appealing choice for investors seeking ethical, diversified, and high-performing investment opportunities.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Morningstar, S&P Global REITs Index as of 31 December 2022

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**Mr. Chong added:** “The Fund's exceptional performance can be attributed to its robust balance sheets. These REITs adhere to a conservative financial structure with low leverage and prudent financial management. This steadfast approach equips Shariah REITs with the resilience required to weather economic fluctuations and market volatility, thereby ensuring a higher degree of stability for investors.”

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

**Berhad** said: “Shariah REITs exhibit low correlations with other asset classes and tend to perform independently of traditional investments like stocks and bonds. This low correlation factor adds another layer of diversification to an investor's overall portfolio, making it a valuable addition for those seeking to manage risk and enhance returns.”

“The selection of a diverse range of property types, such as retail, commercial and industrial assets, plays a pivotal role in the success of Shariah REITs. These assets are meticulously chosen in line with strict Shariah principles that prioritise ethical and responsible investment. The emphasis on quality assets not only ensures the ethical integrity of the investments but also contributes to the resilience and long-term value of the portfolio, providing a solid foundation for sustained growth.”

Under the active management of the Manulife Investment Management (US) LLC, which is appointed as Fund Manager of the Fund,, top-down sub-sector and regional insights are combined with a fundamentally driven, bottom-up security selection process. The team meticulously evaluates a basket of both qualitative and quantitative factors to assess the investment metrics of each REIT.

For more information about the Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund, please visit [www.manulifeim.com.my](http://www.manulifeim.com.my)

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