

News Release

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Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund wins at 2021 Global Islamic Finance Awards

*Award underscores Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad's
commitment to investors in Malaysia*

Kuala Lumpur – Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad announced that the Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund has won the Best Emerging Islamic REIT Fund 2021 at this year's Global Islamic Finance Awards.

Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund ("The Fund") invests in Shariah-compliant real estate investment opportunities from across the globe, potentially providing Malaysian investors with more diversified sources of income and medium- to long-term returns.

Mr. Jason Chong, Chief Executive Officer, Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad said, "We are honoured to receive this recognition from Global Islamic Finance Award for the success of the Manulife Shariah Global REIT Fund. It is a testament to our commitment in providing investors with unique global investment solutions that meet their financial goals. We must thank our investment team for all their hard work and producing strong fund performances for our clients. The Award reinforces our team's capability in capitalising on long-term growth opportunities despite the challenges we have been experiencing in the past couple of years."

"REITs can provide diversification and liquidity benefits for investors due to its relatively low correlation to other assets. With exposure to emerging secular trends across the globe which support the long-term growth trajectory for the real estate market, such as the increasing adoption of digital technology that would require more data centers, the Fund can potentially offer investors a stable source of income (aim to provide regular dividend payouts) in different market cycles."

The Fund is focused on residential, industrial and necessity-based retail REITs, which are expected to take advantage of the projected global economic recovery and post COVID-19 impact; healthcare REITs, such as medical centers and retirement homes, which are areas of growth in face of the world's aging population; infrastructure REITs, which in nature capture potentially higher growth opportunities stemming from "new economy" sectors like e-commerce, self-driving cars, Internet of Things, and other technology-related sectors.

When compared to physical properties, REITs are free of worry related to illiquidity and are also proven to be a more resilient asset class throughout different stages of an economic cycle. Historically, Shariah REITs have also generated higher total returns than conventional REITs, partly due to the Shariah screening requirements that limit the companies' debt-to-equity ratio to 33%. Between 2010 and 2021, IdealRatings® Global REITs Islamic Select Malaysia Index (the Fund's benchmark) recorded a total return of 302.7%, compared to the S&P Global REIT Index return of 204.6%¹.

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

Berhad said: "With the US Federal Reserve signalling withdrawal of its stimulus program at the end of 2021 and raising interest rates starting in 2022², REITs, as proxies to real estate, are good inflation hedges and may benefit from the continued asset reflation theme. This is mainly because some lease structures have built-in annual step-ups or rental increases linked to Consumer Prices Index. This may potentially create higher income for REIT investors."

"Our long-term outlook for Shariah Global REITs is positive. Global REITs have remained resilient and are attractive in the current environment given their favourable distribution yields and steady cash flows. Although there is pressure in some parts of the world due to rising COVID-19 cases and the emergence of the "Delta Variant", we remain optimistic that the continued rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine will keep the global economic recovery on track."

Through active management, the REITs team in Manulife Investment Management (M) Berhad combines top-down sub-sector and regional insights with a fundamentally driven, bottom-up security selection process. The team also looks at 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 manulifeinvestment.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 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

¹ Morningstar & IdealRatings as of 31 July 2021. Past performance does not guarantee future results.

² <https://www.ft.com/content/719c11ec-fb24-40b3-a661-518aa3bc6028?emailId=614b6e6d0fef090004230fae&segmentId=3d08be62-315f-7330-5bbd-af33dc531acb>

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 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 June 30, 2021, Manulife Investment Management's assets under management and administration, including assets managed for Manulife's other segments, totaled CAD \$1.0 trillion (US \$834 billion). 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 June 30, 2021, we had CAD\$1.3 trillion (US\$1.1 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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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 Master Prospectus dated 10 August 2020, its First Supplemental Master Prospectus dated 10 August 2020, its Second Supplemental Master Prospectus dated 27 January 2021, its Third Supplemental Master Prospectus dated 5 April 2021 and its Fourth Supplemental Master Prospectus dated 13 September 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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Manulife Investment Management

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