FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

_____

RHB ISLAMIC BANK AND MALAYSIAN TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SDN BHD (MTDC) SIGNS EXCLUSIVE SME FINANCING AGREEMENT.

_____

Kuala Lumpur, 6 Mar 2015 – RHB Islamic Bank (RHB Islamic) today signed a Collaboration Agreement with the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation Sdn Bhd (MTDC) for the exclusive financing of Bumiputera Technology-Based SMEs under the Bumiputera Expansion Fund (BEF) Scheme. RHB Islamic is the first Bank to collaborate with MTDC on the BEF Scheme.

BEF is an initiative by the Malaysian Government to support Technology-Based Bumiputera companies by providing facilitation funding to expand their operations in Malaysia and overseas. MTDC manages the RM150mil fund for the BEF Scheme entrusted by the Government via Unit Peneraju Agenda Bumiputera (TERAJU); a strategic unit in the Prime Minister's Department with the purpose of leading, driving and coordinating the Bumiputera agenda as part of the National Transformation Plan.

Under the terms of agreement, RHB Islamic will be the custodian of the fund which will be placed in RHB Islamic Bank's Commodity Murabahah Deposit-I (CMD-i) account. The fund is expected to raise financing of at least RM300mil to eligible Bumiputera companies.

During the signing ceremony, Dato' Khairussaleh Ramli, Deputy Group Managing Director, RHB Banking Group said, "The collaboration between RHB Islamic and MTDC is in line with the government's call to empower the SME and we are confident that it will bring Malaysia a step closer towards achieving its aspiration of becoming a high-income nation by 2020."

 "According to Government statistics, SMEs are amongst the key pillars of the country's economic development, accounting for more than 90% of the total business establishments in the country. It provides about 60% of total employment and contributes 32% to Malaysia's GDP and 19% of exports," he added.

Dato' Khairussaleh added that the SME industry remains one of the RHB Banking Group's key focus areas and that the Group is in support of the Government's initiative to accelerate the sector's growth locally and internationally.

RHB Islamic will also have the exclusivity to serve the pre-qualified SMEs which have undergone a rigorous selection process by MTDC to enable them to be eligible for the BEF scheme.

MTDC's Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Norhalim Yunus said that "such collaboration offers a unique market proposition and generate better value for local technology-based companies to expand their business both local and international. This is the first of many other MTDC's funding programs that we will work and evaluate together with RHB Islamic".

RHB Islamic Bank had first entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with MTDC earlier in December 2012 to facilitate access to funding and advisory services to the SMEs. The latest Collaboration Agreement further reinforces RHB Banking Group's focus on building its SME Business.

Issued on behalf of RHB Bank Berhad by the Corporate Communications Division, RHB Capital Berhad. For more information, please call Lois Kam at 03-9280 5089.

About the RHB Banking Group

The RHB Banking Group is the fourth largest fully integrated financial services group in Malaysia. The Group's core businesses are streamlined into three main business pillars, namely Group Retail and Commercial Banking, Group International Business and Group Corporate and Investment Banking. These businesses are offered through its main subsidiaries -RHB Bank Berhad, RHB Investment Bank Berhad, RHB Insurance Berhad and RHB Islamic Bank Berhad, while its asset management and unit trust businesses are undertaken by RHB Asset Management Sdn. Bhd. and RHB Islamic International Asset Management Berhad. The Group's regional presence now spans ten countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Myanmar. It is RHB Banking Group's aspiration to continue to deliver superior customer experience and shareholder value; and to be recognised as a Leading Multinational Financial Services Group.