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RHB LAUNCHES ITS FIRST SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT FUND IN MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur – RHB Islamic International Asset Management Bhd (“RHBIAM”), a subsidiary of RHB Asset Management Bhd (“RHBAM”), has launched its first Sustainable and Responsible Investment (“SRI”) fund, which is qualified by the Securities Commission. The “RHB i-GLOBAL Sustainable Disruptors Fund” (“Fund”) is a Shariah compliant equities fund that aims to provide investors with capital appreciation over the medium to long-term.

As a SRI Fund, investments by the RHB i-GLOBAL Sustainable Disruptors Fund are subjected to Environmental, Social and Governance (“ESG”) criteria and methodology. The portfolio composition for the Fund includes credible companies that seek opportunities in large addressable markets, enables new technology, and have potential for rapid adoption and scalability, amongst other criteria.

“Investors are increasingly seeking investment opportunities in companies with strong social and environmental values. We believe ESG factors will increasingly determine a company’s ability to operate successfully and to generate sustainable revenue. As such, the integration of ESG factors is critical and should be an important component of the investment process as it will assist in identifying companies that are fundamentally sound. This integrated investment process will identify companies that are ‘structural winners’ within key investment megatrends especially when the global macro outlook remains uncertain. The strategy of RHB i-GLOBAL Sustainable Disruptors Fund matches the needs of our customers and supports current market themes, which allows us to play a more active role in promoting sustainable investment and responsible financing to our investors. As the sole provider of this type of fund, we expect to achieve RM100 million in AUM via this Fund within the first six months,” said Farid Kamarudin, Chief Executive Officer, RHBIAM.

RHBIIAM has also appointed JPMorgan Asset Management (Singapore) Limited (“J.P. Morgan”) as its Investment Adviser for the said Fund.

“Picking a winning investment fund is crucial for any investor, and our strategy’s competitive edge stems from our proprietary information advantage to leverage on the expertise and capabilities of our Investment Adviser, J.P. Morgan. In addition to the due diligence exercise as well as the fundamental and financial analysis, J.P. Morgan will also look at ESG factors when evaluating the companies. This collaboration further strengthens our capabilities for close monitoring of companies and investments, which in turn, provides more valuable insights to our investors,” added Farid.

“We are delighted to partner with RHB Islamic International Asset Management to bring this unique and exciting investment strategy to Malaysian Investors. The strategy seeks to identify investments that will benefit from key long-term structural growth themes including digitalisation, the energy revolution and healthcare innovation. It leverages the insights of JPMorgan Asset Management’s 370+ equity professionals and employs an ESG integrated, unconstrained approach towards identifying these investment opportunities,” said Mr. Supreet Bhan, Executive Director, Head of South East Asia Funds for JPMorgan Asset Management.

The Fund allows customers to invest in any country or region, including countries in emerging markets. This enables adoption of other investment strategies such as sector rotations and the ability to determine stock positions based on highest conviction investment ideas, within a risk-controlled framework.

RHBAM had previously launched its first ESG fund in 2017, “RHB SRI-KEHATI Index Fund” in Indonesia.

RHB launched its Sustainability Framework in November 2019. The Framework spells out the Group’s approach in embedding sustainable or ESG practices into the Group’s business and operations, as well as risk management process, and this forms part of its sustainability vision of Building a Sustainable Future, premised on three key Pillars- Sustainable and Responsible Banking, Embedding Good Practices and Enriching and Empowering Communities.

For more information on the RHB i-GLOBAL Sustainable Disruptors Fund, investors may visit www.rhbgroup.com

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Customers may call our Customer Contact Centre at 03-92068118 for enquiries on RHB's products and services.

About the RHB Banking Group

The RHB Banking Group, with RHB Bank Berhad as the holding company, is the fourth largest fully integrated financial services group in Malaysia. The Group's core businesses are structured into seven main business pillars, namely Group Retail Banking, Group Business & Transaction Banking, Group Wholesale Banking, RHB Singapore, Group Shariah Business, Group International Business and Group Insurance. Group Wholesale Banking comprises Corporate Banking, Investment Banking, Group Treasury & Global Markets, and Asset Management. All the seven business pillars are offered through the Group's main subsidiaries – RHB Investment Bank Berhad, RHB Islamic Bank Berhad and RHB Insurance 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 nine countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

For more information, please visit www.rhbgroup.com