

***For immediate release***

**UOBAM (Malaysia) launches its first Shariah-compliant ESG fund  
to help retail investors benefit from sustainable investments**

*The United-i Asia ESG Income Fund combines Shariah principles and ESG considerations  
to invest in companies that do well by doing good*

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 26 January 2021** – UOB Asset Management (Malaysia) (UOBAM (Malaysia)) today launched the United-*i* Asia ESG Income Fund (UiAIF), which seeks to provide retail investors with income dividends and capital appreciation over the medium to long term through sustainable investments. The fund invests in a diversified portfolio of equities and debt instruments issued by companies across Asia (excluding Japan) region that comply with Shariah principles and adopt environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into their business models and practices.

As both Shariah principles and sustainable investing promote governance stewardship and value creation, combining these approaches will create a stronger portfolio for investors' long-term benefit. Shariah-based investing prohibits interest, security lending and short-selling. It also incorporates negative screening to exclude sectors such as tobacco, alcohol and breweries, weapons and armaments, as well as other non-*halal* products. This will be complemented by sustainable investing that uses positive screening as a means of selecting the best performing companies that offer environmentally-friendly products and services, or have socially-responsible business practices.

Ms Lim Suet Ling, Chief Executive Officer of UOBAM (Malaysia), said, "The launch of the UiAIF is timely as the COVID-19 pandemic has given everyone a good reason to reassess the importance of being sustainable in what we do and how we invest. With the disruption to our daily activities, from where we go to how we interact with others, comes opportunities to reimagine what is possible to ensure that create a better future.

“At UOBAM (Malaysia), we have enhanced our research and investment processes with the integration of ESG considerations and by pairing fundamental analysis with the use of technology such as artificial intelligence for our portfolio construction. In performing our fiduciary duties to our investors, it is imperative that we play our part in addressing the social and environmental risks and opportunities which the world is facing. To help businesses advance responsibly, we also engage with our portfolio companies to help improve the sustainability of their practices. We will continue to offer more ESG-focused funds that will align with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1</sup> so that together with our partners and investors, we will forge a sustainable future for all.”

With sustainable investing becoming a major force across global financial markets<sup>2</sup>, UOB Asset Management is committed to providing sustainable investment solutions to creating long-term returns for investors across Asia. In January 2020, UOB Asset Management Ltd, the parent company of UOBAM (Malaysia), became a signatory of the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment<sup>3</sup>, which were developed by an international group of institutional investors to encourage the increasing relevance of ESG issues to investment practices.

The UiAIF is suitable for retail investors who have a moderate risk profile. It is available in Malaysian Ringgit, Australian Dollar and US Dollar with an initial minimum investment of RM1,000, AUD1,000 and US\$1,000 respectively. UOBAM (Malaysia) is the manager of the UiAIF, while UOB Islamic Asset Management Sdn Bhd is the investment manager.

The UiAIF is available for subscription at selected distributors nationwide. For more information, please visit [www.uobam.com.my](http://www.uobam.com.my).

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please refer to <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

<sup>2</sup> Sustainable investing assets in the five major markets (Europe, US, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) stood at \$30.7 trillion at the start of 2018, a 34 percent increase from 2016. Source: Global Sustainable Investment Alliance Report, April 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Refers to an international network of investors working together to put the six principles for responsible investment into practice. For more information please refer to <https://www.unpri.org/>



#### **About UOB Asset Management (Malaysia) Berhad**

UOB Asset Management (Malaysia) Berhad (UOBAM (Malaysia)) is a subsidiary of Singapore-headquartered UOB Asset Management Ltd (UOBAM) and is part of UOB Group. UOBAM (Malaysia) has held the Capital Markets and Services Licence for fund management in Malaysia under the Capital Market and Services Act since January 1997. In January 2014, UOBAM (Malaysia) obtained approval from the Securities Commission to deal in securities restricted to unit trust products. UOBAM (Malaysia) has more than 20 years of experience in providing fund management and fund advisory services for both institutional and retail clients. With more than 30 years of experience managing collective investment schemes and discretionary funds, UOBAM and its subsidiaries manage about S\$35.6 billion (US\$26 billion) in clients' assets as at 31 December 2020.

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