

Zurich Insurance Malaysia expands foreign funds portfolio; offering customers greater investment opportunities

First insurer in Malaysia to tap into the growing global healthcare sector

Kuala Lumpur, 28 November 2016 – Consumers who are looking to diversify their investment portfolio and gain exposure through foreign equities can now choose to capitalise on Zurich Insurance Malaysia Berhad's (ZIMB) latest suite of offshore equity funds; **Zurich US Edge Fund, Zurich Europe Edge Fund and Zurich Health Care Fund.**

Launched in June this year, the new foreign funds invest in two of the most resilient and developed economies in the world – **U.S.** and **Europe**, as well as the growing **healthcare sector**; allowing consumers to gain long term capital growth whilst ensuring greater fiscal security to their investment strategies.

“Saving for the future and making wise investment choices can be a challenge for Malaysians today. We aim to provide our customers easy access to emerging and developed markets around the globe with different economic cycles that have potential for capital appreciation in the long run. Given today's economic climate, our latest foreign funds are excellent investment vehicles for customers to safeguard their investments against currency devaluation and market depreciation.” said **Mukesh Dhawan, General Manager of Life Insurance** at ZIMB.

The **Zurich Health Care Fund** is the **first** of its kind within the Malaysian market to provide opportunities for customers to invest and profit from a global healthcare industry that is experiencing growth in demand for healthcare products, services and innovations. This feeder fund invests its assets through the **Vanguard Health Care Fund**, which invests into a mix of U.S. as well as global companies who are actively engaged in the development, production and distribution of products and services within the healthcare industry.

“Customers are looking for greater security in their investment strategies, and one of the best ways to achieve this is through the diversification of asset classes. We launched Malaysia’s first health care foreign equity fund because we see a huge potential in pharmaceuticals as well as health care equipment, technology and managed health care companies. This is because health care consumption is growing in tandem with the aging population (60 years old and above) across the world; which is expected to more than double, from **841 million** people in **2013** to more than **2 billion** in **2050**¹,” explained Mukesh.

Customers can also take advantage of the growth of the resilient U.S. economy by capitalising on the **Zurich US Edge Fund**, which invests its assets in the **iShares Core S&P Total U.S. Stock Market Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)**. The fund offers customers with a high risk appetite, capital appreciation over a longer term investment horizon through exposure to a broad range of U.S. companies in various industries.

The **Zurich Europe Edge Fund** on the other hand provides customers with a more stable form of investment growth through exposure to equities and equity-related securities of large or mid-sized companies listed in Europe. The fund invests its assets in the **Schroder International Selection Fund (ISF) – European Opportunities**.

To date, ZIMB has a robust mix of 8 local funds as well as 6 foreign equity funds; all unique in its investment objectives and asset allocation. These three latest additions complement three other foreign funds offering under the **Zurich Edge** equity funds portfolio. The first three foreign funds, namely **Zurich India Edge Fund**, **Zurich China Edge Fund** and **Zurich Global Edge Fund** were launched in 2015 and have performed well since its inception with a total fund size of RM 85.2 million as of July 2016.

¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013). *World Population Ageing 2013*



Page 3

Depending on a customer's risk appetite and investment goals, these professionally-managed funds are attachable to any one of ZIMB's investment-linked plans - **Zurich FlexiLife Plus, Zurich MaxInvest, Zurich EduStart, Zurich TrueLady or Master Investment Plan.** Customers also have the flexibility to switch between funds or top-up their investment value at any time to optimise their investment returns.

For more information on the latest addition of Zurich Edge funds, customers may contact their servicing Sales Advisors or Zurich's Call Centre at 1-300-888-622.

Alternatively, kindly visit www.zurich.com.my/foreignfunds

###

Zurich Insurance Group (Zurich) is a leading multi-line insurer that serves its customers in global and local markets. With about 55,000 employees, it provides a wide range of general insurance and life insurance products and services. Zurich's customers include individuals, small businesses, and mid-sized and large companies, including multinational corporations, in more than 170 countries. The Group is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, where it was founded in 1872. The holding company, Zurich Insurance Group Ltd (ZURN), is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and has a level I American Depositary Receipt (ZURVY) program, which is traded over-the-counter on OTCQX. Further information about Zurich is available at www.zurich.com

Zurich Insurance Malaysia Berhad (ZIMB), as part of Zurich Insurance Group, is an established composite insurer headquartered in Kuala Lumpur with a nationwide presence of approximately 40 branches throughout Malaysia. ZIMB caters to the protection, savings and investment needs of Malaysians by offering a wide range of general and life insurance solutions through its diverse distribution channels. With more than 1,000 dedicated employees supported by a wide network of Life and General Insurance agents, ZIMB is committed in helping customers and other stakeholders understand and protect themselves from risk. Zurich is uniquely positioned within the Malaysian insurance market where it offers a full range of insurance solutions also covering Shariah-compliant products of Family Takaful as well as General Takaful through its sister company, Zurich Takaful Malaysia Berhad. Further information about Zurich in Malaysia, please visit www.zurich.com.my

For further information, please contact:

Zurich Insurance Malaysia Berhad

Alexandra Lee Abraham

Tel : 03 – 21468957

Fax : 03 – 21432124

Email : alexandra.lee@zurich.com.my

Fazrah Fadzil Khan

Tel : 03 – 21468499

Fax : 03 – 21432124

Email : fazrah.fadzil@zurich.com.my

ROOTS PR Sdn Bhd

Sylvester Ting

H/P : 012 – 3220 296

Tel : 03 – 74940292

Email : sylvester.ting@rootsasia.com

John Paul Lam

H/P : 012 – 3741 772

Tel : 03 – 74940292

Email : johnpaul.lam@rootsasia.com