

**PRESS RELEASE
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Kenanga Investors Launches World Quality ESG Fund

The Kenanga Sustainability Series: World Quality ESG Fund seeks to provide capital growth for investors



John McCareins, Managing Executive & Head, Asia Pacific, Northern Trust Asset Management, **Ismitz Mathew De Alwis**, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, Kenanga Investors Berhad, and **Ranjit Gill**, Head of Product Development, Kenanga Investors Berhad at the launch of the Kenanga Sustainability Series: World Quality ESG Fund.

Kuala Lumpur, 6 September 2022: Kenanga Investors Berhad ("Kenanga Investors") has announced the launch of the **Kenanga Sustainability Series: World Quality ESG Fund** ("Fund"). The Fund seeks to provide capital growth by investing in the NT World Quality ESG Fund ("Target Fund") managed by Northern Trust Asset Management.

The Target Fund aims to deliver long-term capital growth by investing in securities which exhibit quality and favourable ESG characteristics, and excluding securities that do not meet certain ESG criteria.

"The Fund is one of the highlights of our 2022 roll-outs, and is something we have been working closely on with Northern Trust Asset Management for a substantial part of the year. We are excited to expand our range of solutions to investors that can assist them in diversifying their investment risks and returns, thus allowing them to navigate various market conditions, all while investing responsibly. The Fund adopts a unique "Doing Good, Doing Well" approach which emphasises profitability and sustainability by targeting companies that are ESG leaders and have robust financial fundamentals. The holistic integration of

sustainability alongside financials challenges the notion ‘*ESG investing compromises performance*’ and research shows that investing in high quality and high ESG leads to improved risk-adjusted returns. Quality and ESG, taken together, can best be understood as two dimensions of the same underlying theme: sustainability. Ultimately, a sustainable company is one that produces strong results when measured using traditional financial measures as well as ESG related information”, says Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Ismitz Matthew De Alwis.

According to Northern Trust Asset Management’s Head of Asia Pacific, John McCareins, the target fund’s strategy integrates both financial and pre-financial indicators.

“We believe material environmental, social and governance factors are pre-financial indicators that can affect a company’s future financial viability and clients’ long-term risk-adjusted investment returns.” He says “We seek out high quality companies that are ESG leaders, these companies have relatively low carbon emissions, are highly profitable and have strong cashflows. By evaluating companies’ performance using ESG criteria enhances our forward-looking view of risks and opportunities. This analysis bolsters our ability to future-proof portfolios and grow clients’ capital”, he says.

With presence around the globe, Northern Trust Asset Management is a leading global investment manager with over three decades of managing socially responsible portfolios through a multi-dimensional approach of integrating sustainable investing objectives, investment acumen and stewardship for long-term value creation.

The strategic partnership between Kenanga Investors and Northern Trust Asset Management has seen an uptick in impact investing efforts from the local asset and wealth manager. The Fund is the second product launched in partnership with Northern Trust Asset Management following the ***Kenanga Sustainability Series: High Yield Bond Fund*** which was introduced in March this year. It is also the third in a series of ESG-centric funds which began with the launch of the ***Kenanga Sustainability Series: Frontier Fund*** in 2021. The ***Kenanga Sustainability Series*** is a suite of multi-asset class products rooted in sustainability considerations to advance long-term financial growth for investors and to generate social and financial value for surrounding communities.

In January of this year, both Kenanga Investors and Northern Trust Asset Management were recognised by Asia Asset Management’s 2022 Best of the Best Awards for their achievements in SRI and ESG policy integration and execution: Kenanga Investors was named *Malaysia Best Impact Investing Manager* and *Best Application of ESG (ASEAN)* while Northern Trust Asset Management won *Best Application of ESG (APAC)* and *Best ESG Manager in Asia*.

Benchmarked against the MSCI World Index, the Fund is suitable for Sophisticated Investors who seek capital growth through exposure across developed market equities, have a medium to long term investment horizon and are able to withstand medium to high volatility. It has a minimum initial investment amount of RM5,000 and USD1,000.

For more information about Kenanga Investors Berhad, please visit www.kenangainvestors.com.my.

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About Kenanga Investors Berhad

We provide investment solutions ranging from collective investment schemes, portfolio management services, and alternative investments for retail, corporate, institutional, and high net worth clients via a multi-distribution network.

The Kenanga Growth Fund Series 2 won Best Malaysia Large-Cap Equity Fund at the **2022 Morningstar Awards Malaysia**.

At the **Refinitiv Lipper Fund Awards Malaysia 2022**, KIB won overall best Mixed Assets - Malaysia Pension Funds Group award for the third time. Accompanying this were individual fund wins awarded to:

- Kenanga Growth Fund for best Equity Malaysia Fund over 10 Years
- Kenanga Malaysian Inc Fund for best Equity Malaysia Diversified over 3 Years
- Kenanga Growth Opportunities Fund for best Equity Malaysia Small & Mid Cap over 5 Years
- Kenanga Diversified Fund for best Mixed Asset MYR Flexible over 10 Years

The Hong Kong-based Asia Asset Management's **2022 Best of the Best Awards** awarded KIB under the following categories, Malaysia Best Impact Investing Manager, Best Application of ESG (ASEAN), Malaysia - Best Equity Manager, Malaysia CEO of the Year, Malaysia CIO of the Year, and Malaysia Best House for Alternatives.

Additionally, the **FSMOne Recommended Unit Trusts Awards 2022/2023**, named Kenanga Growth Fund Series 2 as "Sector Equity – Malaysia Focused" and Kenanga Shariah Growth Opportunities Fund as "Sector Equity - Malaysia Small to Medium Companies (Islamic)".

For the fifth consecutive year, KIB was affirmed an investment manager rating of **IMR-2** by Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad, since first rated in 2017. The IMR rating on KIB reflects the fund management company's well-established investment processes and sound risk management practices. During the first half of 2021, KIB's 20 largest unit trust funds outperformed its benchmarks for the one-year, three-year and five-year periods.

This Press Release was issued by Kenanga Group's Marketing & Communications department.

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