

Sun Life Malaysia Increases Focus On Sustainability Commitments

Sustainability is a critical and pressing global issue. The changes in our climate coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic demand greater action to protect our planet and preserve its precious natural resources.

With the call to transition to a low-carbon economy gaining traction, organisations are realigning their business practices and operations to address the social and environmental impacts resulting from climate change.

Investors around the globe are increasingly seeing sustainability as a driver of value. They are now more receptive towards adopting Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) thematic investing with climate-related investments as one of their strategic focuses.

According to Sun Life Malaysia (Sun Life Malaysia Assurance Berhad and Sun Life Malaysia Takaful Berhad), a life insurance and family takaful company, there is a growing realisation of the importance of sustainability and ESG considerations as critical components of long-term business resiliency and value creation for stakeholders.

Raymond Lew, CEO and President/ Country Head of Sun Life Malaysia, said, "Sun Life Malaysia views sustainability as more than being accountable. It is about transforming the way we think, act and operate in order

Financial security Sustainable investing Healthier lives



Trusted and responsible business

to create new value for our Clients, employees, advisors and communities over the long term."

"We are committed to championing sustainability in three key areas in which we can have the greatest impacts - advancing sustainable investing, fostering healthier lives, and increasing financial security through innovative insurance and takaful products. These areas support the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and align to our business Purpose of helping our Clients achieve lifetime financial security and live healthier lives," Lew explained.

Sun Life Malaysia is a member of Sun Life, a leading international financial services organisation with over 157 years of experience in providing insurance, wealth and asset management solutions.

As a global financial services leader, Sun Life constantly seeks new ways to increase its sustainability efforts. The first sustainability strategy was launched in 2014 and the company has earned a spot in the Corporate Knights' Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World for 13 consecutive years.

In 2021, it announced a goal to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 in both operations and investments, with interim targets to be established in 2022. The company also sets a goal in 2021 of \$20 billion in new sustainable investments by 2025. Its current portfolio value of sustainable investments is \$65 billion.

BOLSTERING ESG INVESTING EFFORTS

By championing sustainability and ESG values, Sun Life Malaysia can contribute to a more sustainable world, have a positive impact in the lives of Clients and communities, and earn its position as a trusted and responsible company.

“Effectively, this reinforces our commitment to embed sustainability into every decision we make across our business strategies, operations and culture. This commitment has also guided our investment and product innovation approach,” Lew said.

In July 2021, the **Sun Life Malaysia Global Sustainable Fund** was launched - Malaysia’s first sustainable investment-linked fund. The fund is designed to provide Malaysians with access into ESG investing at an affordable entry point via investment-linked insurance plans.

The fund, which is a collaboration between Sun Life Malaysia and Nomura Asset Management Malaysia Sdn Bhd, also sets out to meet Clients’ financial needs through investment-linked insurance plans with built-in protection benefits. Clients can choose to invest in this fund when they purchase selected investment-linked products. As at 31 December 2021, the fund has grown to reach RM9.5 million.

Recently, Sun Life Malaysia launched its first Shariah-compliant investment-linked Takaful ESG fund, the **Sun Life Malaysia Islamic Global Sustainable Fund**, to help Clients grow their wealth without comprising on their faiths and values. By giving Clients a choice to have ESG Factors considered in their investments, Sun Life Malaysia



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is empowering them to play a part in developing a sustainable economy and at the same time meet their financial and protection goals.

With sustainable investment remaining a key theme for 2022, Sun Life Malaysia is launching additional ESG funds to meet the growing demand from Clients, including a new Takaful ESG fund, the Sun Life Malaysia Islamic Global Sustainable Fund.

Sun Life Malaysia’s takaful arm, Sun Life Malaysia Takaful Berhad, is an active participant in the Value Based Intermediation for Takaful (VBIT) Framework launched by the Malaysian Takaful Association (MTA) and aimed at creating growth that is sustainable

and meaningful for all stakeholders. This is in line with the company’s aspiration be a lifetime partner in providing inclusive Takaful protection for Malaysians.

For Sun Life Malaysia, the commitment to champion sustainability builds trusted relationships with Clients and empowers them to take positive financial and health actions which contribute towards a healthier, more financially resilient, environmentally secure, and economically prosperous world.

Find out more about Sun Life Malaysia and its sustainability efforts at www.sunlifemalaysia.com