

## INSURANCE ASIA NEWS

Institutional Asset Management Awards  
2023



## Best Islamic Fund Manager and Insurance Fund House of the Year - Malaysia

### AmlInvest

**The growth of Islamic assets has been very strong, particularly those investments linked to Private Retirement Scheme (PRS) contributions.**

**AmlInvest has proved its expertise in Shariah-compliant portfolio management, with a full range of fund offerings cutting across asset classes, strategies, currencies and geographical exposure. AmlInvest is the brand name for the funds management business of AmFunds Management Berhad and AmlIslamic Funds Management Sdn. Bhd.**

As one of the largest fund houses in Malaysia, AmlInvest has over 40 years of experience in the funds management business and holds 10% of the total market share. It manages Shariah-compliant assets worth approximately \$1.8 billion, representing 18% of its total assets under management (AUM). The portfolios are largely (78%) Sukuk and money market funds, with equity funds making up 21% of AUM and Mixed assets making up the remainder.

The growth of Islamic assets has been very strong, particularly those investments linked to Private Retirement Scheme (PRS) contributions. Over the last three years, Islamic PRS assets have grown by 74%.

AmlInvest's commitment to be a full-service Islamic solutions provider, with a full range of fund offerings cutting across asset classes, strategies, currencies and geographical exposure involves working with a selection of the best global fund managers. This allows them to offer unique fund themes to local investors, such as Precious Metals Securities in association with German group DWS.

AmlInvest's best-selling Sukuk fund, AmAl-Amin has also achieved impressive growth. Over a three-year period, it has put on 472% growth in AUM. An indication of AmlInvest's leading position is its Islamic PRS AUM growth of 74% over 3 years. The company was selected by the regulator on the basis of its expertise in investment, experience in global pension management, financial strength and governance structure.

In 2018, AmlInvest launched an in-house managed Shariah-compliant equity fund, e.g. AmlIslamic Global SRI which incorporates the principles of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) in securities selection.

In February this year, AmlInvest launched the AmlIslamic China Equity Fund, to meet the growing awareness and demand for Shariah-compliant investments. The Islamic Finance Development Indicator Report estimated the global Islamic finance industry to grow to USD 5.9 trillion by year 2026 and projected the global Islamic fund AUM growth of 34% to USD 238 billion by the same year.

Once again, AmlInvest has shown resilience and consistent growth in insurance assets, delivering outperformance across asset classes. Its digitalisation programme across front and back office continues apace and there has been a notable reduction in its cost-to-income ratio.

AmlInvest manages insurance assets totalling \$2.3 billion, consisting of insurance company mandates and unit trust funds from insurance companies, covering both conventional and Shariah-compliant across asset classes. This represented about 22% of AmlInvest's total AUM at the end of 2022.

Over 3 years, these insurance mandates have grown by around 13% in asset terms and over five years by 25%.



Ms. Goh Wee Peng, Chief Executive Officer,  
AmFunds Management Berhad



**Its cost-to-income ratio fell from the high of 60% in financial year 2020 to 45% in December 2022. This is a notable achievement in business control management.**

Profit before tax achieved a 3-year growth of 34.4% and most importantly, AmlInvest has also been successful in managing costs. Its cost-to-income ratio fell from the high of 60% in financial year 2020 to 45% in December 2022. This is a notable achievement in business control management.

AmlInvest is under the leadership of Ms. Goh Wee Peng, Chief Executive Officer of AmFunds Management Berhad who has more than 25 years of experience in asset management industry.

Over the years, AmlInvest's innovative spirit has led to a series of first-mover products across asset classes as well as services. For example, in 2021 it launched Hong Kong Tech Index Fund, the first feeder into the ETF that tracks the Hang Seng Tech Index.

AmlInvest launched Malaysia's first robotech fund, the country's first PRS REITs offering, and its first PRS bond offerings.

The client services team has conducted value-added investment training and thematic seminars exclusively for institutional clients. Sessions are customised based on their knowledge levels. Training is also provided based on a client's mandates or proposed mandates.

In 2021, amid the pandemic and local/global headwinds, AmlInvest accelerated its journey towards digitalisation of front-end, middle office and back-end operations. It managed to create a seamless customer journey, with increased accessibility of PRS funds via collaboration with Private Pension Administrator Malaysia.

AmlInvest treats the ESG movement seriously and has committed resources and time to ensure that this is integral to its business strategy for the long run. AmlInvest's foray into sustainable investing started in 2018 with the launch of AmlIslamic Global SRI, which incorporates the principles of ESG in securities selection.

Since May 2021, it launched a series of SRI-qualified sustainable feeder funds with different strategies (e.g. ESG integration, sustainable thematic investment), by partnering with some of the best-in-class global target fund managers.

In 2022, AmlInvest launched three funds under the Sustainable Series, namely the Nutrition Fund, Health Fund and Sustainable Outcomes Global Equity Fund, with other sustainable funds in the pipeline. The methodology for constructing the benchmark of the firm's bond ETF was also changed to reflect the inclusion of green bonds.

ESG engagements with clients include conducting a 4-day training on corporate social responsibility and ESG practices. An 'all-women' client event was another highlight of 2022, focused on promoting wellbeing and image of women. AmlInvest also participated in sponsorship for charity drive which offers palliative care to those with life-limiting illnesses.

Both AmFunds Management Berhad and AmlIslamic Funds Management Sdn. Bhd. have this year been approved as signatories of the United Nations supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). They are also members of the Institutional Investors Council Malaysia since December 2021 to promote better corporate governance culture, growing global awareness and urgency to manage environmental change, and improve social inequality.