

# ASEAN Fixed Income Summit Timely as Region Prepares for Banking Regulatory Reform to Promote Capital Market Development

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 29 September 2014 – The ASEAN Fixed Income Summit held today in Sasana Kijang serves as a platform to discuss issues and challenges in promoting liquidity and market transparency in the region. Participants will gain insights and be updated on recent developments in ASEAN Financial Integration, in particular, in promoting ASEAN as the fixed income investment destination.

Organised by Cagamas Berhad, in collaboration with Bank Negara Malaysia, the ACI -Financial Markets Association of Malaysia and the Malaysian Association of Corporate Treasurers (MACT), the summit will focus on the developments, challenges and opportunities in Asia's cross-border bond market.

Prominent speakers comprising of issuers, investors, banks, and policymakers from Asia's leading financial institutions will gather to discuss and share insights on issues confronting the development of the cross border bond market in Asia as well as the prospects of investing in local currency bonds issued by neighbouring countries.

The panel sessions will focus on the challenges in cross border issuance – including regional regulation, obstacles to bond issuance and investors' appetite for non-domestic securities. The Summit will conclude with an outlook for ASEAN bond markets in 2015. The ADB will provide an update on the ASEAN economic integration in a session entitled 'Towards ASEAN Financial Integration'.

The event, organised in collaboration with IFR (International Financing Review), is free-toattend but strictly by invitation only to senior members of the Asian investment banking community.



#### About Bank Negara Malaysia

Bank Negara Malaysia, the Central Bank of Malaysia, is a statutory body which came into operation on 26 January 1959. Today, it is governed by the Central Bank of Malaysia Act 2009. The principal objects of Bank Negara Malaysia are to promote monetary stability and financial stability that is conducive to the sustainable growth of the Malaysian economy.

The primary objective of the Bank Negara Malaysia's monetary policy is to maintain price stability while giving due regard to the economic growth. The Bank has also initiated efforts in bringing about financial system stability and fostering a sound and progressive financial sector that has resulted in a well-diversified and resilient financial sector and which has now become a growth driver in the economy. The Central Bank has also made efforts in the deepening and strengthening of the financial markets, including the foreign exchange market.

The Bank plays a significant developmental role, including the development of financial system infrastructure and the active promotion of financial inclusion, leading to improved access to financial services for all economic sectors and segments of the society. The Bank also ensures the effective and efficient delivery of its services to its various stakeholders, including the public.

Other important roles of the Bank are being a banker and adviser to the Government, playing an active role in advising on macroeconomic policies and managing the public debt. It is also the sole authority in issuing currency as well as in managing the country's international reserves.



#### **About Cagamas**

Cagamas Berhad (Cagamas), the National Mortgage Corporation of Malaysia, was established in 1986 to promote the broader spread of house ownership and growth of the secondary mortgage market in Malaysia. It issues debt securities to finance the purchase of housing loans from financial institutions and non-financial institutions. The provision of liquidity to financial institutions at a reasonable cost to the primary lenders of housing loans encourages further expansion of financing for houses at an affordable cost.

The Cagamas model is well regarded by the World Bank as the most successful secondary mortgage liquidity facility. Cagamas is the second largest issuer of debt instruments after the Government of Malaysia and the largest issuer of AAA debt securities in the market. Since incorporation in 1986, Cagamas has cumulatively issued RM266.9 billion of conventional bonds and Sukuk.

Cagamas' debt securities continue to be assigned the highest ratings of AAA and P1 by RAM Rating Services Berhad and AAA/AAAID and MARC-1/MARC-1ID by Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad, denoting its strong credit quality. Cagamas is also well regarded internationally and has been assigned local and foreign currency long-term issuer ratings of A3 positive by Moody's Investors Service Inc. that are in line with Malaysian sovereign ratings.

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#### About ACI-The Financial Markets Association of Malaysia

The Persatuan Pasaran Kewangan Malaysia (PPKM or ACI-The Financial Markets Association of Malaysia) was established in 1974 with the objectives of providing an association for those who are actively engaged in the wholesale Treasury and Debt Capital markets in Malaysia. Beside acting as a body to provide certification program for its members, PPKM is also actively involved in organizing seminars to develop and enhance the knowledge and technical skills of its members. PKKM also hold constant dialogues with regulators with the aim to promote a sound and prudent market place where we operate.



# About The Malaysian Association of Corporate Treasurers (MACT)

The Malaysian Association of Corporate Treasurers (MACT) was established in 1996 by its founding members including MISC Berhad, Sime Darby Berhad, Tenaga Nasional Berhad, Telekom Malaysia, Malaysia Airline System (MAS) and the Axiata Group (erstwhile Celcom).

The MACT has now been reactivated through the initiative of corporate treasurers of major companies in Malaysia.

## **Objectives of MACT as per its Constitution**

- To act as a representative of corporate treasurers while communicating with regulatory bodies in Malaysia.
- To act as a forum for corporate treasurers and encourage exchange of views, facilitate knowledge sharing, improve the existing level of performance and enhance the image of corporate treasurers within Malaysia.
- To encourage and promote the education, knowhow and management practises of corporate treasurers.
- To conduct examinations, provide training and award certification of recognition to those who have achieved relevant levels of proficiency in treasury management.
- To source relevant providers for imparting training skills in treasury management and to advocate dissemination of best practises for treasury management in Malaysia.

#### Note:

- Membership for MACT is open to individuals and corporate members alike.
- Individual membership is open to those involved in treasury and financial services representing their companies/societies.
- Membership shall not be extended to companies/societies registered under the Financial Services Act (FSA).
- Interested parties can contact the MACT through its Webmail address: secretary@actmy.org / mact\_admin@actmy.org