



News Release

15 October 2021

SGX and UOBAM partner to launch yield-focused iEdge-UOB APAC Green REIT index, supported by GRESB data

- Index tracks the performance of APAC-listed high-yield REITs with positive environmental attributes based on the GRESB assessment framework
- The launch comes as global investors increasingly consider environmental factors in investment decision-making while continuing to hunt for yield

Singapore Exchange (SGX) and UOB Asset Management (UOBAM) today jointly launched the iEdge-UOB APAC Yield Focus Green REIT Index that tracks Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) listed across the Asia-Pacific region with higher dividend yields and positive environmental attributes.

Developed by SGX as part of the SGX iEdge product suite, in collaboration with UOBAM, the index covers 50 higher-yielding REITs that display relatively better environmental performance based on GRESB's real estate assessment, while also meeting liquidity requirements.

GRESB is the global leader for ESG research of real assets, covering over 1,500 property companies, REITs, funds and developers with US\$5.7 trillion in assets under management. For this index, the underlying REITs are weighted by their relative environmental performance using GRESB data for indicators such as energy and water consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and green building certifications, in addition to their ESG performance.

Ng Kin Yee, Managing Director and Head of Data, Connectivity and Indices, SGX, said, "Sustainable investing is now a key consideration in portfolio allocation, and this is driving demand and innovation in partnership with iEdge's indexing services. Since the establishment of iEdge, we have been customising and developing proprietary indices for our global clients, in a well-governed manner through purpose-driven design, strong research and data partnerships."

"This new index in partnership with UOBAM and GRESB is uniquely underpinned by Singapore's position as the most international REIT hub globally, and we look forward to this index becoming investible for market participants who are increasingly environmentally focused," he added.

Thio Boon Kiat, Chief Executive Officer, UOBAM, said, "The APAC Green REIT Index seeks to respond to market demand for ESG-focused investment products and aligns with UOB Asset Management's aim of driving sustainability by putting environment, social and governance (ESG) impact at the heart of our business. While investors are keen to put their money in quality companies that are sustainable and score highly on ESG metrics, data on the companies' ESG performance can be difficult to discern. UOBAM brings more than three decades of investment expertise in Asia to incorporate ESG factors and considerations into REITs investments and this rigorously constructed index will help investors to invest for both profit and purpose."

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Sebastien Roussotte, CEO of GRESB, said, “Transitioning to a sustainable world is a fundamental challenge that we must face together. GRESB is pleased to partner with SGX and UOBAM to support the growth in sustainable real estate across the Asia-Pacific region and provide global investors with the critical data needed to align their investment allocations with ESG integration practices.”

For more details on the index, please visit: <https://www.sgx.com/indices/products/agreitsn>

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About Singapore Exchange

Singapore Exchange is Asia’s leading and trusted securities and derivatives market infrastructure, operating equity, fixed income, currency and commodity markets to the highest regulatory standards. It also operates a multi-asset sustainability platform, SGX FIRST or Future in Reshaping Sustainability Together (sgx.com/first).

SGX is committed to facilitating economic growth in a sustainable manner leveraging its roles as a key player in the ecosystem, a business, regulator and listed company. With climate action as a key priority, SGX aims to be a leading sustainable and transition financing and trading hub offering trusted, quality, end-to-end products and solutions.

As Asia’s most international, multi-asset exchange, SGX provides listing, trading, clearing, settlement, depository and data services, with about 40% of listed companies and over 80% of listed bonds originating outside of Singapore. SGX is the world’s most liquid international market for the benchmark equity indices of China, India, Japan and ASEAN. Headquartered in AAA-rated Singapore, SGX is globally recognised for its risk management and clearing capabilities. For more information, please visit www.sgx.com.

About UOB Asset Management Ltd

UOB Asset Management Ltd (UOBAM) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of United Overseas Bank Limited. Established in 1986, UOBAM has been managing collective investment schemes and discretionary funds in Singapore for more than 30 years. We are one of the largest unit trust managers in terms of assets under management. As at 31 August 2021, we managed 60 unit trusts in Singapore and together with our subsidiaries, managed over S\$37.9 billion in clients' assets.

UOBAM has an extensive presence in Asia with regional business and investment offices in Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Our network includes UOB Islamic Asset Management Sdn Bhd in Malaysia. We have a joint venture with Ping An Fund Management Company Limited (China) and we have also forged strategic alliances with UTI International (India) and Wellington Management Singapore.

UOBAM is one of the most awarded fund management companies, winning several awards at the Asia Asset Management Best of the Best Awards 2021 and 2020. UOBAM was named ‘Best Asset Management House (Singapore)’ in 2021 and ‘Best Asset Management House (Regional)’ in 2020. Our robo-adviser, UOBAM Invest, also won ‘Best Fintech Innovation in Asset Management’ in Malaysia and Singapore respectively in 2021 and 2020, as well as ‘Best Digital Wealth Management’ in Thailand in 2021. UOBAM Brunei has also been named ‘Best Sukuk Manager’ in 2021 after two consecutive wins of ‘Best Investor Education’ in 2020 and 2019.

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About GRESB

GRESB is a mission-driven and industry-led organisation providing standardised and validated Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) data to financial markets. Established in 2009, GRESB has become the leading ESG benchmark for real estate and infrastructure investments across the world, used by 140 institutional and financial investors to inform decision-making. Learn more at www.GRESB.com.

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