

News Release

UOB Asset Management and Mirae Asset collaborate to boost ETF offerings for investors in the region

Singapore, 29 March 2022 – UOB Asset Management Ltd (UOBAM) today announced that it will partner Mirae Asset Global Investments (Hong Kong) Limited (Mirae Asset) on deepening its exchange-traded fund (ETF) capabilities and the joint roll-out of ETFs across Asia over the next three years. Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the two companies, UOBAM will collaborate with Mirae Asset, the manager of Global X ETFs series in Hong Kong, across Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia, where UOBAM has a presence.

Thematic ETFs, which aim to capture the growth of a sector such as clean energy or cloud computing, first gained popularity in the United States and Europe¹, and subsequently gained traction in the Asia Pacific. According to ETFGI², total ETF investments in the Asia Pacific (excluding Japan) recorded US\$543.1 billion, with 2,467 listings on 20 exchanges as at the end of November 2021. Data from Singapore Exchange (SGX) showed that total assets under management of SGX-listed ETFs increased almost 50 per cent year to S\$12.6 billion as at 31 December 2021.

To step up its participation in the growing ETF space, UOBAM will receive ETF consulting services and training from Mirae Asset, which has expertise in thematic investing and a diverse line-up of nearly 400 ETFs globally. The two companies will tap UOBAM's insights³ into three megatrends in Asia – changing demographics, go green and the digital economy – that have the potential to put the region at the helm of future global growth to develop innovative ETFs. UOBAM will then distribute these ETFs through its established marketing channels, tapping its extensive Asian network, as well as expertise and experience built up over more than 35 years. The collaboration brings together the expertise of UOBAM and Mirae Asset to provide investors with a broader range of investment options.

¹ Source: "The Rise of Thematic ETFs", Morningstar, 18 January 2021, <https://www.morningstar.co.uk/uk/news/208785/the-rise-of-thematic-etfs.aspx>.

² ETFGI is a leading independent research and consultancy firm covering trends in the global ETF and exchange-traded product ecosystem.

³ Source: *From Powerhouse to PowerCentre: The Megatrends Shaping Asia's Economic Leadership in a Post-Covid World*, UOBAM, 1 March 2022, <https://www.uobam.com.sg/insights/2022-investment-outlook.page?path=data/uobam/2022-io>

News Release

Mr Thio Boon Kiat, Chief Executive Officer, UOBAM, said, “UOBAM is excited to be partnering Mirae Asset through their Global X ETFs series, to co-create and launch innovative ETFs which can help more investors build diversified portfolios that capture growth opportunities in the region. Investors will also find it simpler to ride on long-term investment trends, from financial technology to renewable energy, which were identified in our megatrend report, that appeal to them. Working with like-minded partners such as Mirae Asset enables us to elevate UOBAM’s product offerings, provide investors with more investing options and contribute to the vibrancy of the region’s ETF markets.”

Mr Jung-Ho Rhee, Chief Executive Officer, Mirae Asset Global Investments, said, “We are delighted to collaborate with UOB Asset Management to provide Asian investors with greater access to our intelligent and innovative ETF solutions. Amongst other initiatives, we will be working to offer investors in South East Asia and beyond a wide range of high quality thematic growth strategies focusing on companies at the cutting edge of disruptive innovation and reshaping the global economy”.

In 2021, UOBAM (Thailand) and Mirae Asset jointly launched the United Hero ETF (UHERO ETF), which invests in the Global X Video Games and E-sports ETF that tracks the Solactive Video Games & E-sports Index (SOLHERO⁴). The collaboration enables Thai investors to gain exposure to opportunities in the global e-sports sector through Global X ETFs.

Noting the increasing popularity of ETFs among investors, last year UOBAM also listed on SGX the world’s first Asia Pacific green real estate investment trust (REIT) ETF, the UOB APAC Green REIT ETF. The UOB APAC Green REIT ETF gives investors in Singapore access to quality green REITs across the region. The ETF attracted more than S\$80 million in assets during the initial offering period from 5 to 18 November 2021.

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⁴SOLHERO consists of stocks of 30 to 40 companies generating income from video games and e-sport related businesses, including the producers of software and hardware, distributors, streaming service providers and tournament organisers.

News Release

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 35 years. We are one of the largest unit trust managers in terms of assets under management. As at 31 December 2021, we managed 61 unit trusts in Singapore and together with our subsidiaries, managed more than S\$38.7 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 (Singapore) 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 2022, 2021 and 2020. Our robo-adviser, UOBAM Invest, also won 'Fintech Innovation in Asset Management' in Malaysia and Singapore respectively in 2021 and 2020, as well as 'Best Digital Wealth Management' in Thailand for two consecutive years in 2022 and 2021. UOBAM Brunei has also been named 'Best Institutional House' in 2022, 'Best Sukuk Manager' in 2021, as well as the 'Best Investor Education' in 2022, 2020 and 2019. In 2021, UOBAM was awarded the prestigious Asia Fund House of the Year Award by Asian Investor for three consecutive years from 2019 to 2021.

For media queries, please contact:

Lau Liang Tong
Group Strategic Communications and Brand
Email: Lau.LiangTong@UOBGroup.com
Tel: (65) 6539 3986

Olanda Low
Group Strategic Communications and Brand
Email: Olanda.low@UOBGroup.com
Tel: (65) 6539 3981

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News Release

UOBAM. The value of Units and the income from them, if any, may fall as well as rise, and is likely to have high volatility due to the investment policies and/or portfolio management techniques employed by the Fund. Investments in Units involve risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested, and are not obligations of, deposits in, or guaranteed or insured by United Overseas Bank Limited (“UOB”), UOBAM, or any of their subsidiary, associate or affiliate (“UOB Group”) or distributors of the Fund. The Fund may use or invest in financial derivative instruments and you should be aware of the risks associated with investments in financial derivative instruments which are described in the Fund's prospectus. The UOB Group may have interests in the Units and may also perform or seek to perform brokering and other investment or securities-related services for the Fund.

Investors should note that the Fund is not like a conventional unit trust in that an investor cannot redeem his Units directly with UOBAM and can only do so through the participating dealers, either directly or through a stockbroker if his redemption amount satisfies a prescribed minimum that will be comparatively larger than that required for redemptions of units in a conventional unit trust. The list of participating dealers can be found at www.uobam.com.sg. An investor may therefore only be able to realise the value of his Units by selling the Units on the Singapore Exchange Limited (“SGX”). Investors should also note that any listing and quotation of Units on the SGX does not guarantee a liquid market for the Units.

An investment in unit trusts is subject to investment risks and foreign exchange risks, including the possible loss of the principal amount invested. Investors should read the Fund's prospectus, which is available and may be obtained from UOBAM or any of its appointed agents or distributors, before deciding whether to subscribe for or purchase any Units. You may wish to seek advice from a financial adviser before making a commitment to invest in any Units, and in the event that you choose not to do so, you should consider carefully whether the Fund is suitable for you.

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UOB Asset Management Ltd. Company Reg. No. 198600120Z

