

THE EDGETM
MALAYSIA

ESG

Awards

2024

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Editor's note

THE EDGE MALAYSIA ESG Awards 2024 was significant, thanks to the wider range of public listed companies (PLCs) in the fray and new award categories.

In the first ESG Awards two years ago, only FBM EMAS Index PLCs were eligible since only these companies had FTSE ESG scores. Bursa Malaysia Bhd soon announced that all PLCs would automatically be given an ESG score by FTSE Russell; thus, the second ESG Awards had more than 300 PLCs, including non-EMAS constituents, participating.

This year, 779 of the 802 Main Market PLCs had received their FTSE ESG scores and were part of the ESG Awards. This inclusion was celebrated with a new category — the “emerging star” — to recognise the best performers among PLCs that received an ESG score for the first time in the past year.

The funds category also saw some action. Most of the Malaysian Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI) funds were established in 2021 and 2022. This

means that many of these funds now have a two- to three-year financial track record.

Therefore, a new category was introduced to consider both the financial and sustainability performance of funds, using Morningstar's methodology. This is an important addition because, ultimately, investors are seeking financial returns that are generated sustainably.

The full methodology for the awards is explained in the following pages. The report also features stories on the winners — their challenges and what they hope to see from stakeholders — that we hope will spark discussion and inspire others to do more. **E**

Tan Zhai Yun
Editor
 ESG, *The Edge Malaysia*



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Driving decarbonisation through innovation and resilience

BY GRACE YAP ERN HUI

AS the pressure for businesses to adopt ESG continues, the private sector and investors play a crucial role in the transition towards a low carbon economy, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Transition and Water Transformation Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof said at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024.

The annual event, which recognises ESG leaders among public-listed companies (PLCs) and asset management firms in Malaysia, was held at the Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur on Oct 14.

“Fund managers who incorporate ESG factors into their investing decisions can mitigate risks that arise from climate change, while taking advantage of opportunities in emerging sectors like renewable energy,” said Fadillah, who was the guest of honour.

While the government is committed to establishing the regulatory frameworks, incentives and support necessary for this transition, it is the resilience and innovation of private sector players that will truly leverage these resources and drive the decarbonisation efforts forward, he added.

Datuk Ho Kay Tat, publisher and group CEO of The Edge Media Group, said the pressure for businesses to adopt ESG is still there despite pushback in some regions, competing priorities in addressing cost-of-living issues, and disruptions due to war and other factors, including climate change.

“Many regulations and frameworks, such as carbon pricing regimes and sustainability reporting requirements, are on the horizon and will affect businesses that do not comply,” he added.

A total of 62 awards were presented to 48 companies during the gala dinner, which was attended by 370 representatives from various companies and organisations.

STARTING FROM THE TOP

The primary source of greenhouse gas emissions in Malaysia, and for most companies, is energy use, particularly in electricity generation and transport. Therefore, a just and smooth energy transition is crucial, Fadillah highlighted.

“In alignment with this goal, our government has embarked on a strategic decarbonisation effort through the National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) to achieve 70% renewable energy in our installed power capacity.”

The government has embarked on decarbonising the sector through the NETR and introduced

The Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry, or Petra, has embarked on numerous initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable economic growth. We are dedicated to ensuring an ample supply of renewable energy for both local corporations and foreign investors, while also reinforcing robust water infrastructure.

Fadillah

many programmes and incentives such as the Net Energy Metering scheme, Corporate Green Power Programme and most recently, the Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme, to make this possible, the minister said.

Additionally, many PLCs are already tracking water usage and the recycling of water as part of their ESG efforts, which helps to ensure water security in Malaysia.

“This presents a win-win proposition for all of you, especially for those of you in which your company has set ambitious net zero targets. By reducing energy emissions, you not only accelerate your path towards sustainability, but also benefit from significant savings on energy costs, particularly in light of the recent adjustment to electricity tariffs,” said Fadillah.

“The Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry, or Petra, has embarked on numerous initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable economic growth. We are dedicated to ensuring an ample supply of renewable energy for both local corporations and foreign investors, while also reinforcing robust water infrastructure.”

CONTINUES ON PAGE 6





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Emerging star award introduced to recognise best new performers

FROM PAGE 4

VITROX, BIMB INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT AND RHB WIN BIG

The biggest winner in the PLC category was Vitrox Corporation Bhd (KL:VITROX), which took home two gold awards for being the best performer in the technology sector and for the most improved ESG performance over a three-year period for companies with a market capitalisation of over RM5 billion.

In the funds category, BIMB Investment Management Bhd took home three gold awards in the best E, S and G categories and a silver award for the best allocation fund category.

RHB Islamic Asset Management won two gold awards in the best overall fund and best equity fund categories. RHB Asset Management, meanwhile, took home the gold award in the allocation fund category and the silver award in the best impact resource security category.

This year, 779 PLCs were appraised by FTSE Russell for their ESG performance, making them eligible to be considered for the awards under the PLC category, compared with 356 PLCs last year.

The PLC category is judged based on FTSE4Good's ESG ratings model, which looks at 14 themes and is underpinned by over 300 indicators. An average of 125 indicators are applied per company.

An exposure level of high, medium, low or negligible to each theme is applied to the business, depending on which sector the company is in.

PLCs are assessed on how well they are mitigating their ESG risks according to the relevant indicators. This assessment is done by FTSE Russell using the PLCs' publicly disclosed information.

PLCs do not have to apply for the awards, as any company that has an ESG score from FTSE and is listed on the Bursa Malaysia Main Market will automatically qualify.

Under the funds category, the number of funds designated as sustainable and responsible investment (SRI) funds in Malaysia increased from 69 last year to 80 as at July 31, 2024, according to the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC).

"2024 is an exciting year for the ESG Awards because this is the first time almost all Main Board companies on Bursa Malaysia were in the running for a trophy," said Ho.

With a much bigger universe of PLCs competing this year, a new category — the emerging star — was introduced to recognise the best new performers.

"In the funds category, many of the SRI funds now have at least three years of financial track

record, seeing that the majority of Malaysia's SRI funds were established in 2021. That's why we are introducing a new category this year that doesn't just consider the funds' ESG performance but, also, their financial returns," Ho said.

The introduction of the new category sends a message that it is essential for the funds to not only adhere to the high standards of ESG compliance but also generate good returns for investors, he added.

For the funds category, only those that are under the SC's SRI list are considered, and they must be launched the year before the awards.

From this universe, only funds that receive the Morningstar Sustainability Rating of three or more "globes" — which represent ESG risk — are eligible for the awards.

The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024 is organised in partnership with Bursa Malaysia and FTSE Russell, with Morningstar as the knowledge partner for the funds category and Deloitte as the auditor. UOB Malaysia is once again the main partner for this year's awards. **E**

2024 is an exciting year for the ESG Awards because this is the first time almost all Main Board companies on Bursa Malaysia were in the running for a trophy

Ho





THANK YOU

YANG AMAT BERHORMAT
 DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF
 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER & MINISTER OF ENERGY TRANSITION
 AND WATER TRANSFORMATION

FOR GRACING



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WINNERS LIST



PUBLIC-LISTED COMPANIES (PLC)

BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR

CONSTRUCTION

- GOLD**
- GEORGE KENT (M) BHD

- SILVER**
- MGB BHD

CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- GOLD**
- KAREX BHD

- SILVER**
- NESTLÉ (M) BHD

ENERGY

- GOLD**
- DELEUM BHD

- SILVER**
- WASCO BHD

FINANCIAL SERVICES

- GOLD**
- CIMB GROUP HOLDINGS BHD

- SILVER**
- ALLIANZ MALAYSIA BHD

HEALTHCARE

- GOLD**
- DUOPHARMA BIOTECH BHD

- SILVER**
- HARTALEGA HOLDINGS BHD

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- GOLD**
- PRESS METAL ALUMINIUM HOLDINGS BHD

- SILVER**
- PETRONAS CHEMICALS GROUP BHD

PLANTATION

- GOLD**
- IOI CORP BHD

- GOLD**
- SD GUTHRIE BHD

PROPERTY

- GOLD**
- IOI PROPERTIES GROUP BHD

- SILVER**
- MAH SING GROUP BHD

REIT

- GOLD**
- SUNWAY REIT

- SILVER**
- AXIS REIT

TECHNOLOGY

- GOLD**
- VITROX CORP BHD

- SILVER**
- MALAYSIAN PACIFIC INDUSTRIES BHD

TELECOMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

- GOLD**
- MEDIA CHINESE INTERNATIONAL LTD

- SILVER**
- TELEKOM MALAYSIA BHD

TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS

- GOLD**
- WESTPORTS HOLDINGS BHD

- SILVER**
- MISC BHD

UTILITIES

- GOLD**
- PETRONAS GAS BHD

- GOLD**
- TENAGA NASIONAL BHD

MOST CONSISTENT PERFORMER OVER 5 YEARS

- GOLD**
- MALAYSIAN RESOURCES CORP BHD

- SILVER**
- DELEUM BHD

OUTSTANDING ESG & DIVIDEND RETURN

- GOLD**
- HEKTAR REIT

- SILVER**
- KPJ HEALTHCARE BHD

EMERGING STAR

- GOLD**
- HEXSTAR RETAIL BHD

- SILVER**
- ADVANCE SYNERGY BHD



MOST IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS

MARKET CAP OVER RM5 BILLION

- GOLD**
- VITROX CORP BHD

- SILVER**
- FRONTKEN CORP BHD

MARKET CAP BETWEEN RM800 MILLION AND RM5 BILLION

- GOLD**
- KELINGTON GROUP BHD

- SILVER**
- WASCO BHD

MARKET CAP BETWEEN RM300 MILLION AND RM800 MILLION

- GOLD**
- SOUTHERN STEEL BHD

- SILVER**
- KAWAN FOOD BHD

MARKET CAP LESS THAN RM300 MILLION

- GOLD**
- MALAYSIA STEEL WORKS (KL) BHD

- SILVER**
- TOMYPAK HOLDINGS BHD



WINNERS LIST

FUNDS

BEST OVERALL WINNER

GOLD

- RHB I-SUSTAINABLE FUTURE TECHNOLOGY (RHB ISLAMIC ASSET MANAGEMENT)

SILVER

- PRINCIPAL GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE GROWTH (PRINCIPAL MALAYSIA)

BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS

FIXED INCOME

GOLD

- AHAM ESG SGD BOND SGD (AHAM ASSET MANAGEMENT)

SILVER

- UNITED SUSTAINABLE SERIES GLOBAL CREDIT MYRH (UOB ASSET MANAGEMENT MALAYSIA)

EQUITY

GOLD

- RHB I-SUSTAINABLE FUTURE TECHNOLOGY (RHB ISLAMIC ASSET MANAGEMENT)

SILVER

- PRINCIPAL GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE GROWTH (PRINCIPAL MALAYSIA)

ALLOCATION

GOLD

- RHB ESG MULTI-ASSET RM HEDGED (RHB ASSET MANAGEMENT)

SILVER

- MAKMUR MYWAKAF RM (BIMB INVESTMENT)

BEST IN E, S AND G

ENVIRONMENT

GOLD

- MAKMUR MYWAKAF RM (BIMB INVESTMENT)

SILVER

- AHAM ESG SGD BOND SGD (AHAM ASSET MANAGEMENT)

SOCIAL

GOLD

- MAKMUR MYWAKAF RM (BIMB INVESTMENT)

SILVER

- MIDF AMANAH ESG MUSTADAMAH (MIDF AMANAH ASSET MANAGEMENT)

GOVERNANCE

GOLD

- MAKMUR MYWAKAF RM (BIMB INVESTMENT)

SILVER

- MIDF AMANAH ESG MUSTADAMAH (MIDF AMANAH ASSET MANAGEMENT)

BEST IMPACT

CLIMATE ACTION

GOLD

- PUBLIC E-CARBON EFFICIENT (PUBLIC MUTUAL)

SILVER

- PUBLIC E-ISLAMIC SUSTAINABLE MILLENNIAL (PUBLIC MUTUAL)

RESOURCE SECURITY

GOLD

- MANULIFE GLOBAL AQUA A RMH (MANULIFE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT)

SILVER

- RHB CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS MYR HEDGED (RHB ASSET MANAGEMENT)

BASIC NEEDS

GOLD

- MANULIFE GLOBAL AQUA A RMH (MANULIFE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT)

SILVER

- AMSUSTAINABLE SERIES - POSITIVE CHANGE MYRH (AMFUNDS MANAGEMENT BHD)

BEST ESG PERFORMANCE AND RETURNS

GOLD

- NOMURA GLOBAL SHARIAH SUSTAINABLE EQUITY (NOMURA ASSET MANAGEMENT MALAYSIA)

SILVER

- MAYBANK GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TECH (MAYBANK ASSET MANAGEMENT)





Awards methodology

INTRODUCTION

- The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards is aimed at acknowledging public-listed companies (PLCs) and asset management firms that are leaders in the environmental, social and governance (ESG) space in Malaysia.
- There are two categories to the awards:
 - PLCs: *The Edge Malaysia* works with Bursa Malaysia and FTSE Russell (FTSE) to recognise best-performing PLCs using FTSE's methodology; and
 - Funds: *The Edge Malaysia* works with Morningstar to reward the best-performing asset management firms using the latter's methodology.
- An awards ceremony was held on Oct 14, 2024, to acknowledge the winners.
- The winner's list is published in *The Edge Malaysia*.
- There is no application process to participate in the awards. Companies that are in the eligible universe will be considered.
 - The eligible universe for the PLCs category is companies that have been assessed by FTSE, which at the time of the awards, consists of almost all Main Market PLCs.
 - The eligible universe for the funds category is funds that are recognised as Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI) Funds by the Securities Commission Malaysia.

- PLCs that do not meet the minimum climate change score thresholds as per the FTSE4Good Index series inclusion rules. These thresholds are determined by the FTSE classification for emerging markets according to the FTSE Country Classification scheme, and by the PLCs' Industry Classification Benchmark (ICB) Subsector level assignment;
- PLCs that have ESG scores below the overall average;
- PLCs whose ESG score has declined from the last assessment; and
- Bursa Malaysia Bhd recuses itself from the awards.

ICB SUBSECTOR IMPACT CATEGORIES	MINIMUM CLIMATE CHANGE SCORES
Primary Impact Subsectors (carbon-intensive sectors)	Score of 3 required
Secondary Impact Subsectors	Score of 1 required

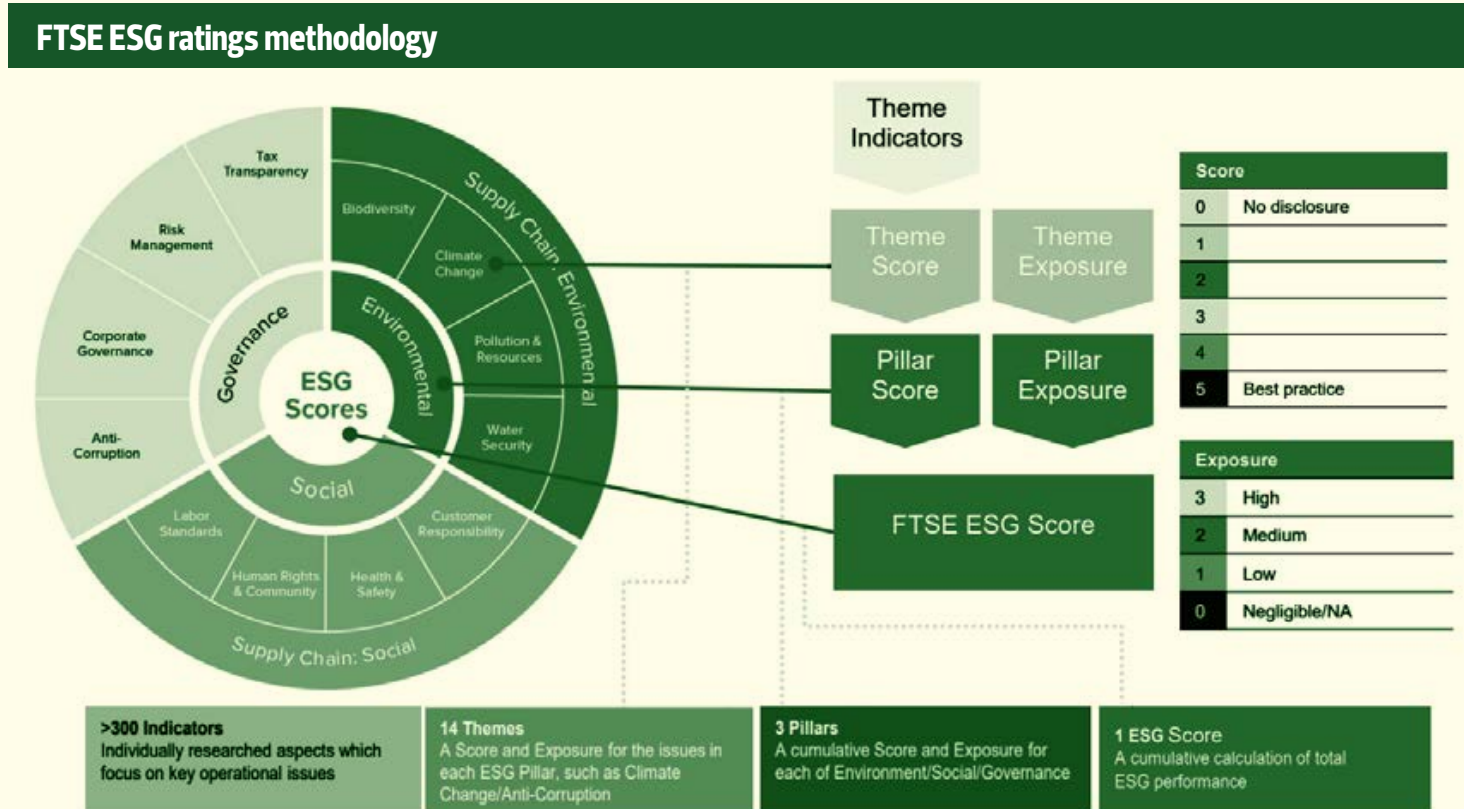
- Awards categories:
 - Best performing company by sector;
 - Most improved ESG performance by market capitalisation;
 - Most consistent performer in the last 5 years;
 - Outstanding ESG and dividend return;
 - Emerging star.

- Methodology:
 - For *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards held in October 2024, the FTSE4Good ESG rating score as at June 30, 2024, which is the latest available data, will be used as the measurement. The PLCs' ESG rating score is updated annually.
 - The FTSE4Good ESG ratings model looks at 14 themes, which are underpinned by more than 300 indicators. An exposure level of high, medium, low or negligible to each theme is applied to the PLC, based on the PLC's line of business.
 - The PLC is then assessed and scored using the relevant indicators to see how well it is mitigating its ESG risks.
 - The Climate Change score thresholds are based on the enhanced FTSE4Good Index series Ground Rules. Thresholds are determined by FTSE's classification of developed and emerging markets, as well as by PLCs' ICB Industry level classification.
 - The assessment is carried out by FTSE Russell based on publicly-disclosed information, and a risk exposure weighted ESG score will be computed accordingly.
 - For more information: <https://www.ftserussell.com/data/sustainability-and-esg-data/esg-ratings>
- Best performer by sector
 - Thirteen awards will be given to the PLCs with the highest overall ESG score according to Bursa Malaysia Sector classification. The sectors are:
 - Construction;
 - Consumer products and services;
 - Energy;
 - Financial services;
 - Healthcare;
 - Industrial products and services;
 - Plantation;
 - Property;
 - Real estate investment trusts (REITs);
 - Technology;
 - Telecommunications and media;
 - Transportation and logistics;
 - Utility.
 - If more than one PLC in the same sector has the same ESG score, the PLC with the highest three-year ESG score compound annual growth rate (CAGR) will be selected. Companies with a negative CAGR will be disqualified.
 - The sector classification used is the Bursa Malaysia Sector Classification as at June 2024.
- Most improved ESG performance over 3 years
 - Four awards will be given to PLCs in four market capitalisation ranges that have the highest ESG score CAGR over the last three years.



THE EDGE ESG AWARDS PLC CATEGORY

- Eligibility:
 - PLCs on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia with an FTSE4Good ESG Score updated as at December 2023 or June 2024.
 - Excluded:
 - Manufacturers of tobacco, coal and weapons;
 - PLCs that are excluded from the FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia (F4GBM) Index due to controversies;
 - PLCs that are suspended, under the stock exchange's watchlist or subsequently delisted prior to the date of *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards;
 - PLCs that have significant adverse news related to ESG in the past 12 months. These PLCs will only be eligible for reassessment after a two-year period from the date of exclusion. The reassessment criteria includes, but is not limited to, demonstrated resolution of ESG issues and board oversight to



CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE WINNERS OF



FUNDS CATEGORY

- | | |
|--|--|
| AHAM ASSET MANAGEMENT BHD | NOMURA ASSET MANAGEMENT MALAYSIA SDN BHD |
| AMFUNDS MANAGEMENT BHD | PRINCIPAL ASSET MANAGEMENT BHD |
| BIMB INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT BHD | PUBLIC MUTUAL BHD |
| MANULIFE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT (M) BHD | RHB ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD |
| MAYBANK ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD | RHB ISLAMIC INTERNATIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT BHD |
| MIDF AMANAH ASSET MANAGEMENT BHD | UOB ASSET MANAGEMENT MALAYSIA |

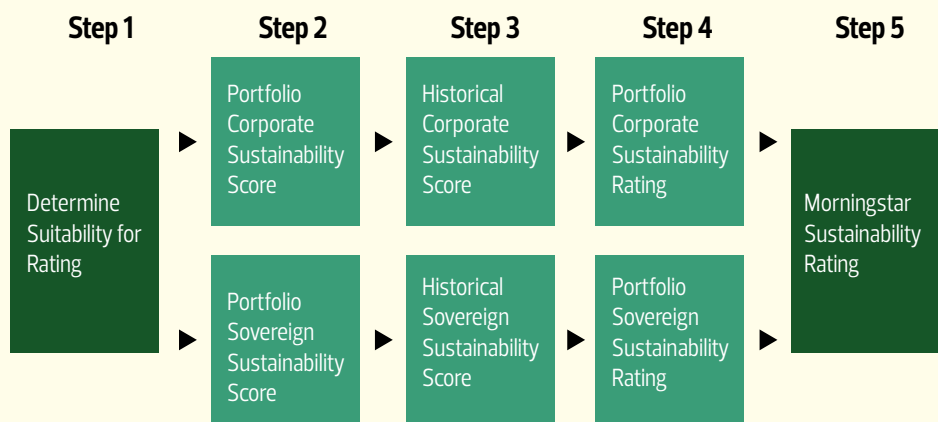
EQUITIES CATEGORY

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ADVANCE SYNERGY BHD | KAREX BHD | PETRONAS GAS BHD |
| ALLIANZ MALAYSIA BHD | KAWAN FOOD BHD | PRESS METAL ALUMINIUM HOLDINGS BHD |
| AXIS REIT | KELINGTON GROUP BHD | SD GUTHRIE BHD |
| CIMB GROUP HOLDINGS BHD | KPJ HEALTHCARE BHD | SOUTHERN STEEL BHD |
| DELEUM BHD | MAH SING GROUP BHD | SUNWAY REIT |
| DUOPHARMA BIOTECH BHD | MALAYSIAN PACIFIC INDUSTRIES BHD | TELEKOM MALAYSIA BHD |
| FRONTKEN CORPORATION BHD | MALAYSIAN RESOURCES CORPORATION BHD | TENAGA NASIONAL BHD |
| GEORGE KENT (M) BHD | MALAYSIA STEEL WORKS (KL) BHD | TOMYPAK HOLDINGS BHD |
| HARTALEGA HOLDINGS BHD | MEDIA CHINESE INTERNATIONAL LTD | VITROX CORPORATION BHD |
| HEKTAR REIT | MGB BHD | WASCO BHD |
| HEXTAR RETAIL BHD | MISC BHD | WESTPORTS HOLDINGS BHD |
| IOI CORPORATION BHD | NESTLÉ (M) BHD | |
| IOI PROPERTIES GROUP BHD | PETRONAS CHEMICALS GROUP BHD | |



Awards methodology

Simplified Morningstar Sustainability Rating calculation steps



- b. The market capitalisation will be segmented into 4 ranges:
 - i. More than RM5 billion;
 - ii. Between RM800 million and RM5 billion;
 - iii. Between RM300 million and RM800 million;
 - iv. Less than RM300 million.
 - c. The market capitalisation as at June 30, 2024, was used.
 - d. If more than one PLC has the same 3-year CAGR for its ESG score, the PLC with the highest growth in the last assessment cycle will be selected.
6. Most consistent performer over 5 years
- a. Shortlisted PLCs for this award category are defined as PLCs that have consistently maintained their membership in the F4GBM Index for the last 10 review cycles (five years).
 - b. One award will be given to the shortlisted PLC with the highest ESG score CAGR in the last five years. Companies with a negative CAGR will be disqualified.
7. Outstanding ESG performance and dividend return
- a. Shortlisted PLCs for this award category have paid dividends over the last three years (data is based on availability of common dividends declared per share figures, sourced from S&P Capital IQ).
 - b. A composite score is computed for the shortlisted PLCs. The composite score is based on the weighted average between the ESG score (50%) and dividend growth (50%). The dividend growth is calculated based on the three-year CAGR of common dividends declared per share for financial year 2021 to 2023.
 - c. The awards will be given to PLCs with

- d. the highest composite score.
 - d. If two PLCs have the same composite score, the PLC with the higher F4G ESG score will be prioritised.
8. Emerging star
- a. Shortlisted PLCs for this award category are those that are new to the universe or are assessed by FTSE for the first time in the last review cycles (December 2023 or June 2024).
 - b. The award will be given to shortlisted PLCs with the highest overall F4G ESG score.

THE EDGE ESG AWARDS FUNDS CATEGORY

1. Eligibility:
 - a. Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI) Funds recognised by the Securities Commission Malaysia;
 - b. Possess the Morningstar Sustainability Rating of 3 globes and above; and
 - c. Launched before the year of award.
2. Awards categories:
 - a. Best overall winner;
 - b. Best fund based on asset class (3 categories);
 - c. Best E, S and G award (3 categories);
 - d. Best impact award (5 categories); and
 - e. Best ESG and returns award.
3. Fund size and financial performance are not considered in the assessment of four award categories (excluding Best ESG and returns award). However, if the winning funds generate abnormally negative financial returns relative to the overall market conditions, the event organisers will have the discretion to adjust the results.

4. The assessments are based on latest information of the funds as at June 30, 2024, for *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024*.
5. Morningstar Sustainability Rating methodology:
 - a. Aims to help investors evaluate relative ESG risks within portfolios. The ratings are determined using a bottom-up assessment of underlying holdings within a fund, underpinned by Morningstar Sustainalytics' methodology for assessing corporate and sovereign ESG risk (see 5d). The rating is issued on a monthly basis.
 - b. The calculation of the rating score involves several steps to represent the relative risk within each portfolio. The output of the rating is a category of 1 to 5 "globes" for each eligible portfolio.
 - c. The higher the number of "globes", the lower the portfolio's ESG risk, relative to other funds in the same category.
 - d. The Morningstar Sustainability Rating is calculated using Sustainalytics' ESG Risk Ratings for corporate issuers and Sustainalytics' Country Risk Ratings for sovereign issuers, and is based on historical holdings.
 - i. Sustainalytics' ESG Risk Ratings measure a company's exposure to industry-specific material ESG risks and how well the company is managing those risks.
 - ii. Sustainalytics' Country Risk Ratings assess a sovereign entity's socioeconomic wellbeing by combining an assessment of the government entity's current stock of capital with an assessment of its ability to manage the wealth in a sustainable manner.
 - iii. For more information https://www.morningstar.com/content/dam/marketing/shared/research/methodology/744156_Morningstar_Sustainability_Rating_for_Funds_Methodology.pdf
6. Best overall winner
 - a. The award will be given to the fund with the lowest Portfolio Corporate Sustainability Score and Portfolio Sovereign Sustainability Score across all asset classes.
7. Best fund based on asset class
 - a. Three awards will be given to fixed income, equity and allocation funds with the highest Morningstar Sustainability Rating and lowest ESG risk score (weighted average across corporate and sovereign sleeves) within each asset class.
8. Best E, S and G award
 - a. Three awards will be given to funds across all asset classes with the lowest environmental, social and governance risk scores.
9. Best impact award
 - a. Five awards will be given to funds that score the highest in five impact metrics, which are:
 - i. Human development;
 - ii. Climate action;
 - iii. Healthy ecosystems;
 - iv. Resource security;
 - v. Basic needs.
 - b. Funds that have revenues generated from the impact categories that are considered too insignificant will be removed.
 - c. Sustainalytics' Impact Metrics is a set of company-level metrics that provides investors with useful measures of companies' environmental and social impact.
 - d. The metrics are aligned to Sustainalytics' proprietary ESG Impact Framework and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 - e. The Framework includes five environmental and social themes, which are mapped onto the SDGs.
 - f. The impact metric scores are calculated by the average percentage of portfolio revenues related to the themes.
 - g. For more information <https://www.sustainalytics.com/impact-metrics>
10. Best ESG and returns
 - a. The award will be given to funds with the best Morningstar risk-adjusted returns for a two-year period and the lowest Portfolio Corporate Sustainability Score and Portfolio Sovereign Sustainability Score.
 - b. The funds must have a two-year financial track record and three globes in the Morningstar Sustainability Rating.
 - c. The financial and sustainability performance are weighted at 50% respectively.



MahSing

BUILDING A GREENER TOMORROW: MAH SING'S COMMITMENT TO ESG AND CLIMATE ACTION



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We are thrilled to share that Mah Sing has been awarded the prestigious Silver Award in the Property Sector under the Equities category at The Edge Malaysia's ESG Awards 2024. This recognition reflects the Group's unwavering dedication to sustainability and excellence in Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices. We sincerely thank our stakeholders for their continuous support and partnership on this transformative journey.

Onward with Our Sustainable Strategies

Mah Sing is strengthening its sustainability efforts by integrating ESG metrics across all operations. We are addressing practice gaps and exploring new solutions, starting with our township projects, while enhancing the sustainability of our headquarters. As we expand our operations, we remain focused on driving positive impacts.

Maneuvering the Climate Change Agenda

Our climate action journey continues to be guided by our Climate Change Policy. After adopting the TCFD framework, we are now conducting climate scenario analyses and developing our decarbonisation roadmap, reaffirming our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint.

Steadfast in Our Sustainable Practices

We have made great strides in sustainability by addressing critical environmental, social, and governance issues. Nonetheless, we remain dedicated to advancing our sustainability agenda by partnering with like-minded business partners to address both local and global sustainability needs, while reinforcing our long-term commitment.

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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • CONSTRUCTION

George Kent bags gold in construction sector

BY PATHMA SUBRAMANIAM

GEORGE KENT (M) BHD's (KL:GKENT) dedication to sustainability has been rewarded with a gold win in the construction category of *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024*.

Over the past year, the company has made significant strides in renewable energy, energy conservation and water security. Key achievements include installing solar panels at its facilities, integrating automation to reduce energy use and waste, and implementing rainwater harvesting for more sustainable water management, says chief operations officer C K Teoh.

"Equally important is the integration of automation in our manufacturing operations, which allows us to conserve energy more efficiently, cutting operational costs as well as reducing waste," he says.

"These accomplishments were made possible by our commitment to innovation, investment in green technologies and strong partnerships with stakeholders who share our sustainability goals. We plan to continue to expand these initiatives as we strive to make a positive environmental impact."

However, George Kent's sustainability journey has not been without challenges. One of the toughest hurdles has been addressing its Scope 3 emissions, which are indirect emissions that occur across its supply chain. The company has taken



At George Kent, our ESG strategy is not just a set of isolated initiatives but a comprehensive, deeply integrated part of our overall business approach

GEORGE KENT
Teoh

proactive measures to tackle this issue by offering financial incentives, in partnership with Alliance Bank, for suppliers who demonstrate a commitment to environmental, social and governance (ESG) practices.

"We also conducted a materiality assessment for our suppliers to better understand their ESG performance and identify areas that needed improvement," says Teoh.

To foster collaboration and raise awareness, the company organised an ESG-focused event with the United Nations Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei (UNGCMYB) and Alliance Bank, bringing together key suppliers and vendors for a workshop on Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions.



George Kent conducts materiality assessment for its suppliers to better understand their ESG performance

As for the wider ESG landscape in Malaysia, Teoh believes stakeholders — including the government, consumers, investors and businesses — must all play a role in creating an ecosystem that supports sustainability.

"The government should offer practical, actionable insights that companies can use to adopt ESG principles more effectively. It is also vital to create platforms where businesses can exchange experiences and best practices to navigate the challenges of ESG implementation."

Recognition through awards and accreditations will further motivate companies to continue advancing their ESG efforts, says Teoh.

"At George Kent, our ESG strategy is not just a set of isolated initiatives but a comprehensive, deeply integrated part of our overall business approach," he adds, pointing out that ESG principles are embedded into the company's strategy, culture and day-to-day operations. **E**



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • CONSTRUCTION

MGB Bhd wins silver award two years in a row

BY KUEK SER KWANG ZHE

MGB BHD (KL: MGB) has won the silver award in the construction category for the second year in a row at *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024*.

Its CEO Lim Lit Chek attributes the win to the successful implementation of sustainable construction practices through the adoption of the industrialised building system (IBS) technology. The adoption of IBS is one of the firm's proudest achievements.

"Using IBS, MGB has significantly reduced construction waste, energy consumption and our overall carbon footprint. Additionally, by installing solar panels at some

of our [construction] sites, we have managed to enhance energy efficiency, and thus reduce greenhouse gas emissions," he says.

The success of the firm's ESG initiatives is largely due to the dedication and hard work of its frontline staff, Lim highlights.

"They are the heart of the company's ability to achieve its environmental goals as they actively implement green technologies and uphold MGB's sustainability standards in day-to-day operations."

The biggest challenge the company faced in maintaining its ESG performance in the past year was to strike a balance between cost efficiency and sustainability.

Lim says the firm allocated resources to invest in technologies that are more environmentally friendly, which could mean a higher cost of doing business.

"Despite facing cost pressures, MGB innovates within our supply chain to find cost-effective green solutions and educates our teams on the long-term financial and environmental benefits of ESG adherence."

Moving forward, he hopes to see stronger collaboration with and support from key stakeholders, such as the gov-



Using IBS, MGB has significantly reduced construction waste, energy consumption and overall carbon footprint

LOW YEN YEING/THE EDGE
Lim

ernment, consumers and investors to further advance ESG adoption within the industry.

In addition, he would like to see more comprehensive green financing schemes in the market, tax incentives and grants that encourage sustainable construction practices or investment into green technologies.

"We also look forward to seeing greater awareness from consumers, which translates into stronger demand for sustainable products and services, and makes more companies adopt ESG principles."

Besides IBS, Lim says MGB comprehensively integrates ESG practices into its business operations. For instance, it has a zero-plastic policy on construction sites and provides training for its workforce on sustainability matters. The company

also emphasises affordable housing and community engagement, which are socially impactful. **E**



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CÉPAGES		2019: 15%
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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Karex Bhd focuses on hiring and retaining local talent

BY VANESSA GOMES

THE EDGE MALAYSIA ESG AWARDS 2024 sees first-time winner Karex Bhd (KL:KAREX) taking home gold for being the best performer in the consumer products and services sector. Its CEO Goh Miah Kiat attributes the win to the company shifting away from its reliance on migrant workers, having frozen the hiring of new migrant workers since 2019.

This initiative supports the company's commitment to empowering local communities and fostering a responsible supply chain free from exploitative practices. "In an industry where reliance on migrant labour is often the norm, this approach sets us apart and has proven especially impactful," says Goh.

"By prioritising local recruitment, we are not only creating jobs but also enhancing social cohesion, community engagement and economic resilience."



By prioritising local recruitment, we are not only creating jobs but also enhancing social cohesion, community engagement and economic resilience

Goh

To ensure success, Goh says the company has implemented robust workforce development programmes that upskill local talent, resulting in improvements to operational efficiency while maintaining high standards of quality and productivity.

"This ambitious approach, driven by strong support from senior leadership, showcases our dedication to sustainable growth and ethical business practices."

For Karex, ESG sustainability is an integral part of its business strategy, rather than a supplementary focus. Goh says this approach, driven by the company's own values and principles, has facilitated faster adoption of new initiatives, which



BLOOMBERG

Karex is the global leader in condom and lubricant manufacturing with operations across the US, UK, Malaysia and Thailand

have certainly set it apart from many of its peers.

"As the motivation for change comes from within, every part of the organisation — from leadership to operations — is empowered to respond with agility, thereby fostering a culture of continuous improvement and innovation," Gan shares.

"More importantly, we believe that this mindset has enabled us to adapt quicker to the changing needs of our customers and the regulatory environment that has undergone substantial changes over the past few years."

Goh says Karex's biggest challenge has been to search

for the diminishing gaps in its reporting that it can feasibly fill.

"Some of the data collection, especially pertaining to emissions data, proved to be quite challenging initially, but thankfully, changes in regulatory frameworks and standards have made the process more practical for listed corporations," he says.

Goh adds that in his experience, ESG adoption is most often hindered when there is ambiguity with regard to the long-term benefits of a particular project. A more structured approach towards incentivising companies to deliver long-term value and sustainable results for stakeholders would be helpful.

"Additionally, by clearly demonstrating the benefits of these ESG efforts, we can effectively convince smaller partners of the value proposition, especially in building resilience against market shifts," he says. **E**



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Nestlé Malaysia champions the circular economy

BY SACHA CHRISTOPHER

NESTLÉ (M) BHD (KL:NESTLE), which emerged as a silver award winner in the consumer products and services sector at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024, has been championing initiatives such as its Project Save that manage post-consumer waste, emphasise plastic neutrality and drive the transition towards a circular economy.

"We have a strong multi-stakeholder engagement approach that involves municipal councils and concessionaires and active community participation," says CEO Juan Aranols. Since its inception in 2020, Project Save has reached about 200,000 households across six cities, with five initiatives across different sectors.



The success of initiatives like Project Save highlights the importance of partnerships with governments and NGOs as well as active community engagement

THE EDGE

Aranols

To support the programme's expansion, Nestlé Malaysia funded the installation of a semi-automated material recovery facility for its partner, KPT Recycle. "This has enabled us to sort up to 30 tonnes of recyclables per day," says Aranols.

The company is aware that the road ahead is not easy. For example, a key challenge it faces is addressing Scope 3 emissions, which account for around 90% of its total emissions. Scope 3 emissions come from the supply chain, and for Nestlé Malaysia, many of these are small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that lack the resources and capability to adopt green practices.

To mitigate this, Nestlé Malaysia has adopted a multi-pronged approach that fosters mindset change and capacity building, sharing best practices and providing support to suppliers.

When asked about making ESG adoption more effective in Malaysia, Aranols says a shift in mindset and more wholehearted involvement from all stakeholders are needed.

"We hope for increased collaboration among key stakeholders ... The success of initiatives like Project Save highlights the importance of partnerships with governments and NGOs as well as active community engagement in developing a robust recycling infrastructure," he says.

Aranols believes that placing more emphasis on communication, education and public awareness efforts would drive the positive behavioural change needed for improved ESG adoption.



NESTLÉ MALAYSIA ANNUAL REPORT

Nestlé uses 100% recycled polyethylene terephthalate bottles for its iced barista-style coffee beverage

"If we are to move towards a waste-free future for the nation, more companies will need to take proactive steps in adopting sustainable practices ... As a founding member of the Malaysian Recycling Alliance, Nestlé welcomes other companies to join collaborative efforts to address Malaysia's shared sustainability challenges," he says. **E**



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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • ENERGY



MOST CONSISTENT PERFORMER OVER 5 YEARS

Deleum prioritises ESG principles to drive operational efficiency

BY RAVINYAA RAVIMALAR

FOR the second year running, Deleum Bhd (KL:DELEUM) has emerged as the gold winner in the energy sector at *The Edge Malaysia's* ESG Awards 2024, thanks to its commitment to integrating ESG principles to achieve optimum operational efficiency.

Group CEO Ramanrao Abdullah observes that the win was achieved by improving its FTSE4Good score and focusing on key sustainability initiatives, including investments in people, technology and refining operational processes.

“By integrating ESG principles into every aspect of our business and prioritising sustainable growth, we achieved operational efficiency while advancing our ESG targets,” he says.

The company’s main challenge was setting a baseline for performance data in its sustainability reporting journey. This included managing data to ensure accuracy and consistency while addressing the potential for errors in the process.

“We embraced this as a learning opportunity, refining our data collection and monitoring systems. By continuously improving our approach and staying committed to transparency, we made significant progress towards enhancing ESG performance despite the complexity involved,” says Ramanrao.

According to Deleum’s 2023 annual report, the company took proactive measures to integrate sustainability into its risk management framework and practices, including meeting with a unified committee overseeing sustainability, risk and compliance governance to support the sustainability agenda and ensure seamless reporting.



PATRICK GOH / THE EDGE
Ramanrao

By continuously improving our approach and staying committed to transparency, we made significant progress towards enhancing ESG performance

The group also conducts a sustainability gap assessment and internal audit of the sustainability reporting process as required.

COLLABORATION IS KEY

As an energy services company, Deleum operates in a sector that faces significant scrutiny because of its inherently energy- and carbon-intensive nature. Navigating these challenges cannot be done alone, however, and requires a commitment from multiple stakeholders, emphasises Ramanrao.

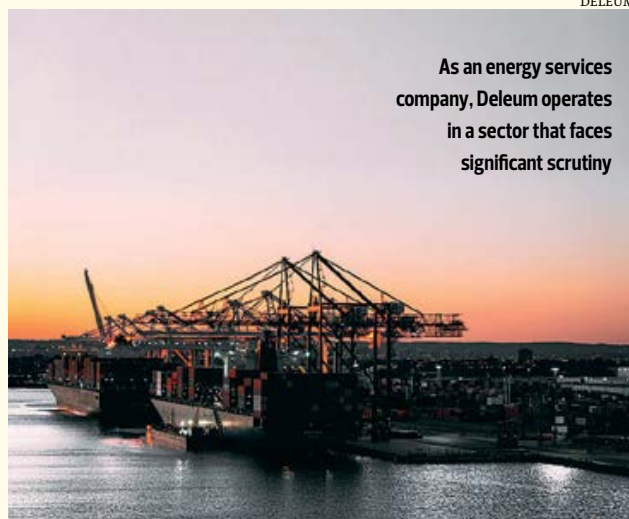
He observes that customers and investors who prioritise companies committed to ESG principles are just as crucial as government policies promoting green initiatives.

“Collaboration across supply chains will ensure that ESG practices are embedded at every level, leading to more meaningful and lasting change. Everyone has a part to play in creating a sustainable future,” he adds.

In its journey towards sustainability, the company has collaborated with LatConnect 60 to promote eMission60, a methane emissions monitoring solution that uses satellite data analytics. This enables precise tracking of emissions to support environmental goals.

“Deleum’s ESG strategy is built around long-term, measurable impact. We are committed to creating sustainable value by prioritising local employment and investing in community welfare, education and biodiversity conservation,” says Ramanrao.

“What sets us apart is our hands-on approach to integrating ESG into our core business operations, driving both financial and social value and remaining adaptable in an evolving market.”



DELEUM
As an energy services company, Deleum operates in a sector that faces significant scrutiny



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • ENERGY



MOST IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS • MARKET CAP BETWEEN RM800 MILLION AND RM5 BILLION

Wasco aims for responsible and sustainable practices

BY CHELSEA LEE JIA SHI

WASCO BHD (KL:WASCO) has won two silver awards in *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024, for best performer in the energy sector and most improved ESG performance over three years for companies with a market cap between RM800 million and RM5 billion.

Recalling the past year, Wasco managing director and group CEO Gian Carlo Maccagno attributes the company’s most significant ESG-related achievement to its inclusion in the FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia (FTSE4GBM) and FTSE-4Good Bursa Malaysia Syariah (F4GBMS) indices.

“This recognition, while not directly contributing to our financial performance, has increased our visibility among sustainability-focused and shariah-compliant investors

and has strengthened our competitive position by attracting clients who value partnerships with sustainable organisations,” says Maccagno.

He shares that this recognition of Wasco’s ongoing efforts has motivated the company to continuously enhance its sustainability efforts, such as reducing emissions intensity, increasing the use of renewable energy, promoting workplace diversity and staff training and development, to name a few examples.

While many in the industry focus on carbon offsets, he says Wasco prioritises operational efficiencies and sustainable practices, as well as providing tailored solutions to help clients realise their sustainability targets.

This is also in line with Wasco’s ambitious target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2026. “Today we are actively engaging with industrial clients to lower emissions by using biomass waste as fuel for energy. We are also promoters of the circular economy, providing clients with alternative solutions to minimise usage of materials.”

The biggest current challenge for Wasco was balancing growth and sustainability amid fluctuating global energy prices and evolving regulatory requirements.

The company approached this obstacle by integrating ESG considerations into its core strategy, strengthening governance through an internal sustainability steering



Today we are actively engaging with industrial clients to lower emissions by using biomass waste as fuel for energy

Maccagno

committee, and implementing a comprehensive emissions reduction plan.

These actions include using renewable energy, subscribing to green energy tariffs and adopting energy-efficient practices, such as replacing diesel air compressors with electric ones to reduce carbon emissions.

Wasco has also introduced a circular economy-focused initiative that recycles discarded polyethylene (PE) and polypropylene (PP) from its three-layer anti-corrosion coating process.

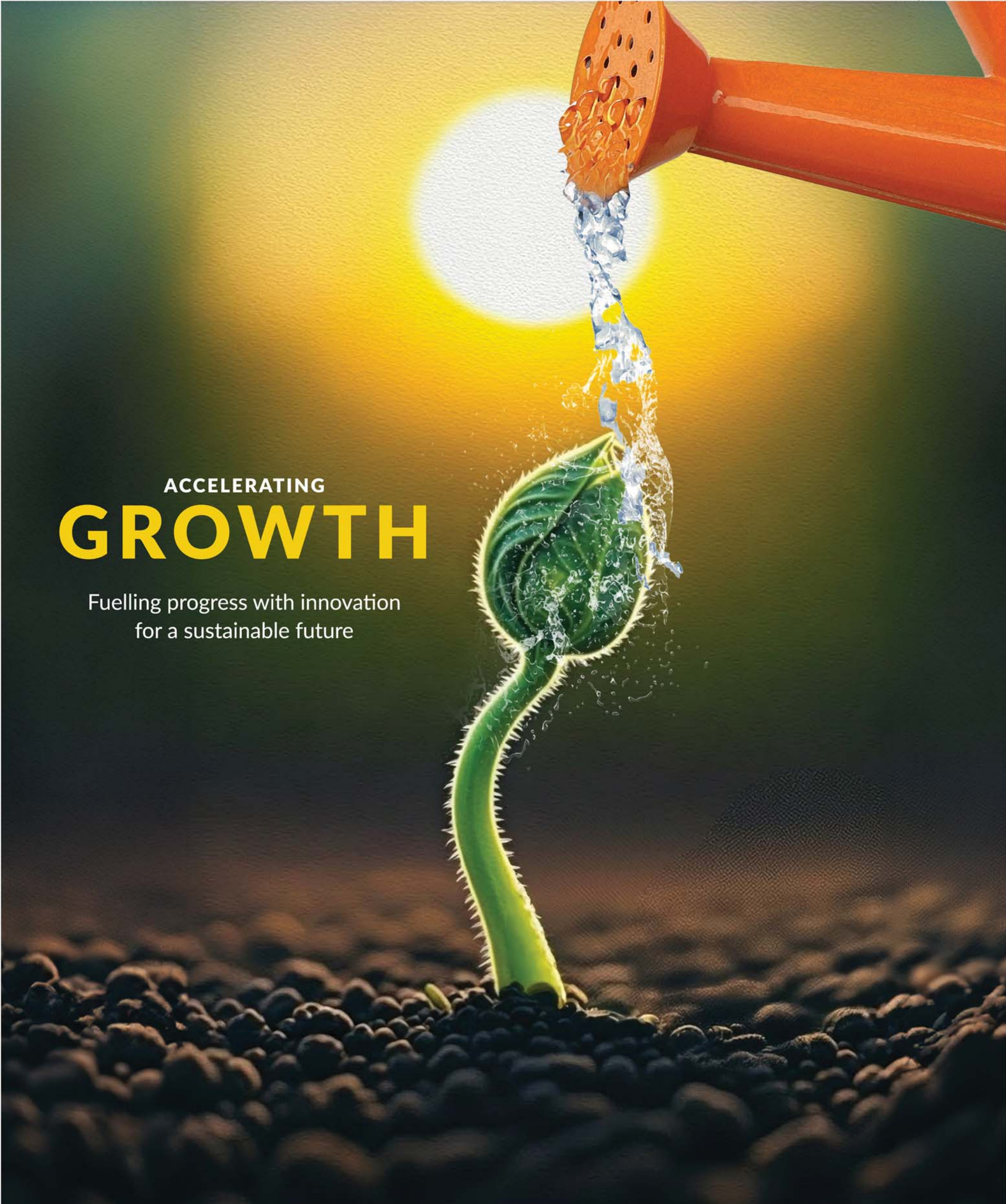
The recycled materials are then reprocessed into resin to keep the company’s machinery clean and production-ready, and it has achieved significant cost savings by replacing a

portion of the virgin materials previously required with the recycled materials.

With consumers playing a more crucial role by actively supporting businesses with verifiable ESG credentials, Maccagno says he hopes to see greater regulatory clarity and incentives from the government to help support sustainable business practices in the coming years, along with a stronger push for standardised ESG reporting for transparency and trust in the market.



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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • FINANCIAL SERVICES

CIMB sees sustainable finance from an ecosystem perspective

BY ARIS RIZA NOOR BAHARIN

CIMB GROUP (KL:CIMB) took home the gold award in the financial services category at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024. The company attributed the win to its focus on finding ways to systematically create synergy across its value chain.

An example would be the bank's approach to sustainable supply chain financing, whereby it engages with large corporations to support the decarbonisation efforts of their small and medium enterprise (SME) suppliers.

"We try to look at sustainable finance from an ecosystem perspective, offering end-to-end solutions that go beyond just financing," says Luanne Sieh, group chief sustainability officer of CIMB Group.

One solution is the GreenBizReady programme, which supports SMEs in navigating the evolving regulatory landscape of our low-carbon future through complimentary capacity building, advisory services and loan interest rebates.

This award is one of the sustainability milestones CIMB is celebrating this year. Another is becoming the first emerging



Ultimately, achieving systemic and widespread ESG adoption will require enhanced collaboration, financial support and continued education to drive sustainability across Malaysia and the Asean region

Sieh



CIMB offers sustainable supply chain financing by engaging with large corporations to support the decarbonisation efforts of its suppliers

market bank in Asean to set and complete its Paris-aligned 2030 decarbonisation targets for high-emitting sectors, according to Sieh.

"Overall, 60% of our total financed emissions and 47% of our total financing and investment portfolios are aligned to a 1.5° pathway," she adds.

"Notably, we were the first bank globally to set a 2030 net zero-reduction target for our palm oil portfolio and the first Malaysian bank to establish targets for our coal, cement, power, real estate and oil and gas portfolios."

CIMB intends to maintain this momentum through its range of sustainable finance solutions, guided by its Green, Social, Sustainable Impact Products and Services framework, an internal taxonomy set by the banking group to deliver impactful sustainable finance.

"Last year, we tripled our sustainable finance target to RM100 billion by

2024, a substantial increase from the RM30 billion target announced in 2021, and we are well on track to achieving this target," says Sieh.

She adds, however, that CIMB has faced several setbacks and hurdles in meeting its net-zero agenda. One is the lack of disclosure of carbon emissions by companies in Malaysia and many other Asean countries.

Another is the perception that sustainability investments are too expensive or unnecessary for smaller companies, despite the potential long-term cost savings and opportunities such as improved risk management and operational and supply chain resilience.

Solutions to these challenges will come from increased regulation that guides businesses, like the to-be-implemented National Sustainability Reporting Framework, which will in turn increase overall knowledge of sustainable practices.

"Ultimately, achieving systemic and widespread ESG adoption will require enhanced collaboration, financial support and continued education to drive sustainability across Malaysia and the Asean region," says Sieh. **E**



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • FINANCIAL SERVICES

Sustainability more than just a tick in the box for Allianz

BY GRACE YAP ERN HUI

ALLIANZ MALAYSIA BHD (KL:ALLIANZ) won the silver award in the financial services sector at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024. This is thanks to the company's team spirit and the commitment of its stakeholders, namely the board, senior management and operational managers.

"Pulling all these stakeholders together and ensuring that the parties involved clearly understand the objective and aims of our actions ultimately boosted the teamwork needed for this achievement. Clear direction and support from top management was also one of the key success factors,"

says Allianz Malaysia Bhd CEO Sean Wang.

Key milestones include the adoption of its inaugural annual integrated report, with 60 non-financial (ESG) indicators assured by external parties. This achievement demonstrates the company's aspiration towards integrating sustainability and ensuring more transparent disclosure.

Success consists of a lot more trials along the way. Allianz Malaysia believes that good ESG practices involve everyone in an organisation. However, creating a culture of sustainability was by far the toughest challenge.

"The operating environment we are experiencing is ever evolving, and the subject of ESG is expanding faster than ever. Hence, closing the gap on increasing regulatory requirements, building climate resilience and responding to society's needs, while remaining a responsible insurer that delivers on time, are among our key challenges," says Wang.

Sound judgement from top management, coupled with a clear governance structure, is a key factor that allowed us to successfully implement our strategic ESG objectives, says Wang. He adds that developing accurate targets and adopting a periodic performance management reporting mechanism ensure that the company



Embrace and holistically take the lead in the adoption of ESG, whether it be for the macroeconomy, investment decisions, or the way business and daily life are carried out

Wang

achieves its deliverables on time and continually improves itself.

"ESG should not just be a box-ticking exercise that is isolated from business and our day-to-day lives. Embrace and holistically take the lead in the adoption of ESG, whether it be for the macroeconomy, investment decisions, or the way business and daily life are carried out," says Wang.

Allianz Malaysia is pleased that it achieved its 2023 target of 100% renewable energy in its operations, thanks to the i-Renewable Energy Certificates.

Based on Allianz's integrated annual report 2023, the company is also committed locally to a 30% reduction in emission intensity in its proprietary investment portfolio for listed equity and corporate bonds by 2025, based on

the 2019 baseline and net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the said investment portfolio by 2050.

Ultimately, Allianz is continuing to work towards reducing emissions in its own operations by 50% by 2025. **E**



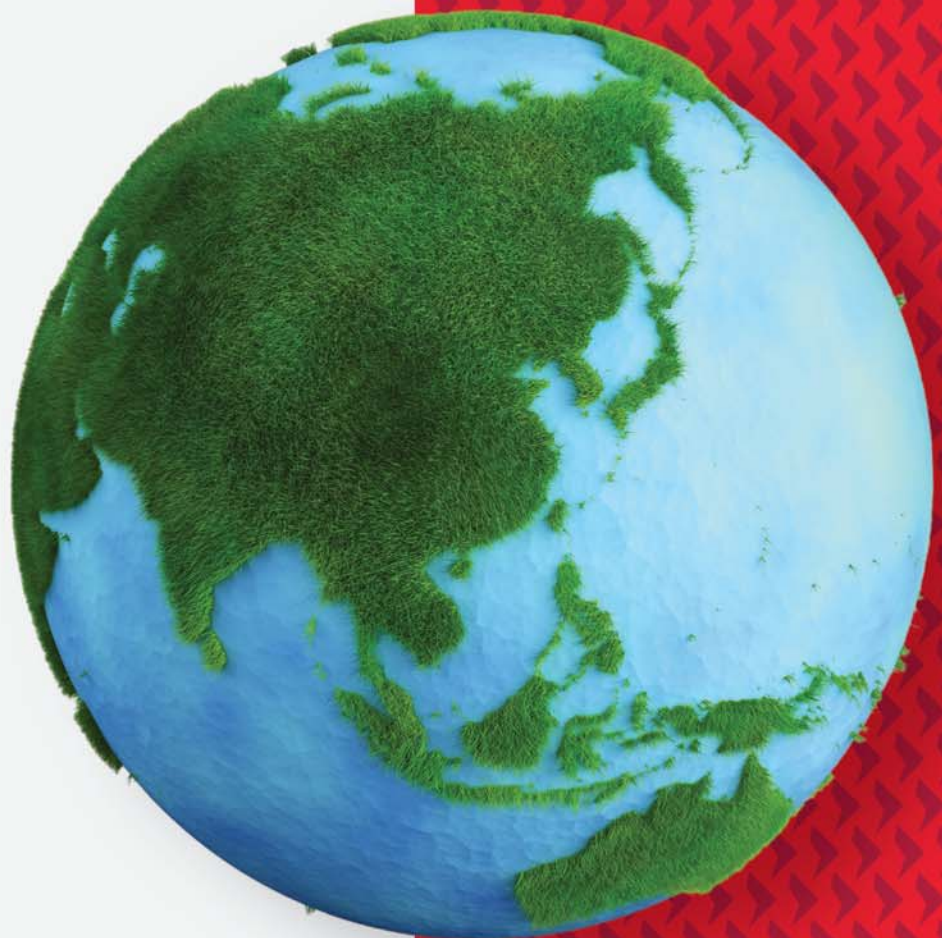
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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • HEALTHCARE

Duopharma gets closer to net zero goals

BY TAN ZHAI YUN

FOR the second year in a row, Duopharma Biotech Bhd (KLSE:DPHARMA) has won gold in the healthcare sector at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024. Group managing director Leonard Ariff Abdul Shatar says one of the achievements he is proudest of is the progress made in the company's climate action efforts.

In 2022, Duopharma pledged to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Last year, it established its net zero transition plan, a road map outlining key emission reduction initiatives and targets.

"What's particularly exciting is that we've already begun rolling out impactful changes. For instance, we've installed solar panels across all our manufacturing sites and established greenhouse gas Scope 3 emissions," says Leonard.

"This is a critical piece because it involves reducing not just our direct emissions but also those from our entire supply chain. It's a comprehensive approach that ensures we're addressing climate change from all angles."

These initiatives are driving the company closer to its long-term net zero goals, and this reflects its deep commitment to sustainability, he adds.



If consumers increasingly choose to support companies that demonstrate a strong ESG commitment, it sends a powerful signal to the market. I think this can be amplified through greater transparency in ESG reporting.

Leonard

Adapting to regulatory standards and frameworks while ensuring that ESG principles are fully integrated into every aspect of its business is challenging, Leonard acknowledges. "Navigating this rapidly evolving landscape, along with meeting the rising expectations of our stakeholders, has undoubtedly been one of our biggest challenges this past year."

The company is prioritising cross-functional collaboration and support to tackle these challenges, led by its Sustainability Management

Council. Additionally, the introduction of group-wide ESG-related key performance indicators has accelerated the progress towards achieving its goals.

Leonard says the company remains committed to continuous investment in employee training, which is crucial to fostering deep understanding of its ESG objectives.

"This empowerment allows our workforce to contribute meaningfully to the company's broader sustainability efforts. I'm proud of how we've navigated these challenges together, and I believe it positions us well for the future," he adds.

Collaboration with all stakeholders will be needed to enhance ESG adoption in the country. Clear, actionable frameworks are required from the government to lay out long-term ESG objectives, Leonard adds.



Duopharma pledges to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050

This should be accompanied by support mechanisms such as tax incentives and subsidies. He also sees great potential in fostering public-private partnerships to drive innovation and accelerate the adoption of sustainable practices.

Consumers have a role to play as well through their purchasing decisions. "If consumers increasingly choose to support companies that demonstrate a strong ESG commitment, it sends a powerful signal to the market. I think this can be amplified through greater transparency in ESG reporting," says Leonard. "When consumers have access to clear information, they can make informed choices. This, in turn, encourages more businesses to adopt sustainable practices, creating a positive feedback loop."

Investors should also commit to making ESG criteria central to their investment strategies, he says, because it pushes businesses to think beyond short-term profits. "At the heart of our organisation lies a commitment to sustainability that drives our unique ESG strategy, which requires more than just compliance. It should drive meaningful change and be woven into the very fabric of our operations." **E**



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • HEALTHCARE

Hartalega sets new industry benchmark

BY SREEREMA BANOO

FOR Hartalega Holdings Bhd (KL:HARTA), which emerged as the silver winner in *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 healthcare category, a significant milestone in 2024 was becoming the first in the glove industry to announce third-party reviewed carbon footprint data for three of its core products. This has set a new industry ESG benchmark.

The glove maker's ESG strategies, CEO Kuan Mun Leong says, are built on the pillars of environmental sustainability, social responsibility and organisational governance.

"What sets us apart is our holistic approach that integrates these strategies into our core business operations. This alignment, rather than treating them as separate initiatives, allows us to drive meaningful change while delivering long-term value to our stakeholders. Our commitment to innovation and transparency, as reflected by our industry-first life cycle assessment (LCA) disclosure, further distinguishes our approach to ESG," he says.

The LCA results for BDG Nitrile Biodegradable Gloves, Standard Nitrile Gloves and COATS Colloidal Oatmeal Coated Gloves were independently reviewed by TÜV SÜD, a global specialist in testing, inspection and certification.

Kuan says the initiative involved close collaboration across departments to ensure timely and accurate information gathering and reporting.

In maintaining the company's ESG performance in the past year, Hartalega is faced with changes in regulatory requirements and customer demands.

"Keeping abreast of these developments is key to sustaining our position as an ESG leader. We continue to practise an open-door policy with our stakeholders, engaging with them regularly and welcoming their feedback on matters that are important to them," he says, adding that this approach has allowed it "to stay agile and responsive to changing ESG expectations while continuing to set new benchmarks for the industry, such as our LCA announcement".

To drive more effective ESG adoption in Malaysia, it is important to foster a collaborative environment where all stakeholders recognise the long-term value of ESG and sustainable practices.

"All stakeholders play a crucial role in driving ESG forward. We hope to see continued strengthening of regula-



We continue to practise an open-door policy with our stakeholders, engaging with them regularly and welcoming their feedback on matters that are important to them

Kuan

tory frameworks by the government, providing clear guidelines on reporting requirements and potentially introducing incentives for companies that excel in sustainability benchmarks. This could help create a more supportive ecosystem for ESG initiatives.

"Consumers also have a significant part to play.

As awareness grows about the importance of responsible practices, we anticipate a further shift towards purchasing decisions that prioritise sustainability alongside cost considerations. This evolving consumer mindset can be a powerful driver for positive change. Among investors, we look forward to seeing an increased focus on long-term value creation," he says, pointing out that investment decisions that consider genuine commitment to

sustainability and social responsibility can encourage more companies to prioritise ESG practices.

A more cohesive ESG ecosystem can be created by collaboration and the sharing of best practices, resources and knowledge.

"This collaborative approach has the potential to foster innovation and drive improvements that benefit both businesses and society in Malaysia," he says. **E**

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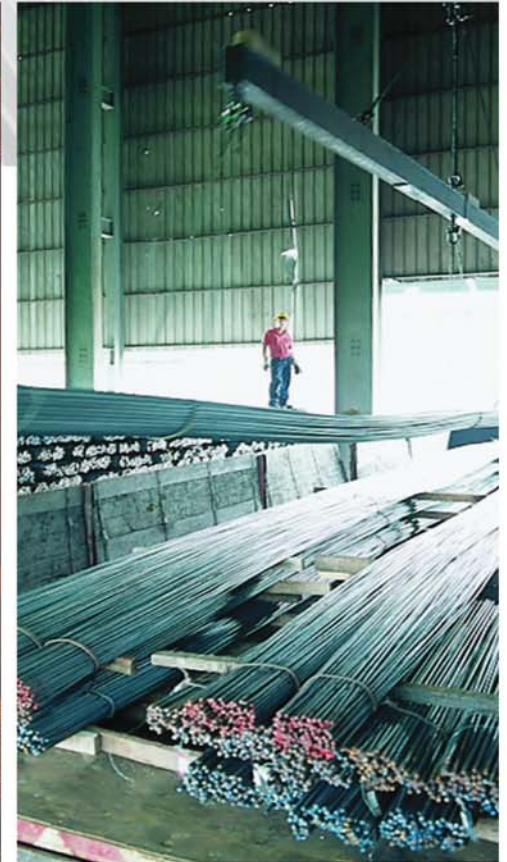
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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Press Metal guides suppliers to adopt ESG

BY HAZEL VINCENT DE PAUL

PRESS METAL ALUMINIUM HOLDINGS BHD (KL:PMETAL) secured the gold award in the industrial products and services category at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024.

One of the company's proudest achievements in 2023 was earning the coveted ASI Performance Standard certification, an achievement that involved conducting rigorous audits, impact assessments across its facilities, setting time-bound targets and close collaboration with various stakeholders to reduce carbon emissions, enhance resource efficiency and protect biodiversity.

"All our smelters and extrusion facilities in China are now ASI-certified, which reflects our unwavering commitment to responsible production. As a result, we have significantly advanced our sustainability roadmap, improved our disclosures and enhanced our tracking systems for better circular economy outcomes," says Ivan Gan, Press Metal's head of group sustainability.

Like any company striving for sustainability, Press Metal's key hurdle in maintaining its ESG performance over the past year lay in extending its strong



We encourage stakeholders to share best practices, experiences and insights, fostering a collective approach towards ESG adoption

Gan



All of Press Metal's smelters and extrusion facilities in China are now ASI-certified, which reflects its commitment to responsible production

internal sustainability culture to its broader supply chain.

"We took a further step by introducing our Responsible Sourcing Standards in 2023, aligning our procurement practices with our sustainability goals," says Gan, adding that the standards now serve as a comprehensive framework to guide engagement with suppliers, contractors, service providers and consultants.

"Our Responsible Sourcing Policy outlines key commitments, including compliance with legal and ethical business practices, human rights protections and environmental responsibility. It sets the expectations for all suppliers to support and respect labour and human rights — such as freedom of association, fair treatment and the elimination of forced

or child labour — while ensuring safe and healthy working conditions."

While the journey is far from over, Press Metal has successfully encouraged its partners to align with the company's sustainability goals. This addresses one of the most complex challenges corporations face today, which is ensuring the entire value chain upholds strong ESG practices.

"To make ESG adoption more effective, we believe collaboration among stakeholders is crucial," says Gan.

Not only does the government play a pivotal role in setting the tone through the implementation of optimal policies and incentives to promote sustainability, while fostering green technologies adoption, consumers too can be drivers of change.

"Consumers can choose eco-friendly products, pushing companies to maintain high ESG standards. Investors, in turn, can prioritise long-term value by supporting companies with strong ESG commitments," he points out. **E**



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

PetChem drives innovations in plastics circularity

BY HAZEL VINCENT DE PAUL

PETRONAS CHEMICALS GROUP BHD (KL:PCHEM) has won the silver award in the industrial products and services category at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024.

One of the company's most significant achievements over the past year is the progress made on the advanced chemical recycling plant in Pengerang, Johor. The plant, when operational, will transform end-of-life plastics into pyrolysis oil, which can be used as chemical feedstock for producing sustainable plastics, reducing the dependency on virgin materials.

"Guided by our New Plastics Economy framework, the construction of the



The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions is a key priority for PetChem and its progress is guided by our Net Zero Carbon Emissions 2050 Pathway

Mazuin

advanced chemical recycling plant is part of our conscious effort to drive the transition from a linear to circular waste plastic management process," says Mazuin Ismail, managing director and CEO of PetChem.

"We are also driving innovation across the plastics value chain in Malaysia, while creating opportunities for all parties through collaborations with different players, from waste collectors to manufacturers, to jointly contribute to the circular plastics economy."

Despite its successes, PetChem has faced significant challenges in maintaining its ESG performance in the past year, particularly in the area of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

"The reduction of GHG emissions is a key priority for PetChem and its progress is guided by our Net Zero Carbon Emissions 2050 Pathway. Last year, our plant operations encountered reliability challenges that led to a rise in GHG emissions from flaring, which we have addressed through enhanced operational control processes and by implementing programmes to improve plant reliability," says Mazuin.

Alongside these operational movements, PetChem continues to explore energy efficiency measures and low-carbon technologies within its assets. These efforts include a shift towards integrating more renewable energy into the mix, as



Petronas Chemicals' most significant achievement in the past year is the progress made on its advanced chemical recycling plant in Pengerang, Johor

well as improving energy efficiency across all operations.

"In 2023, we achieved an overall GHG emission reduction of more than 146,000 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent through flare reduction, efficiency improvement measures and purchase of renewable energy," he says. **E**



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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • PLANTATION

IOI Corp wins through methodical and holistic approach to sustainability

BY SREEREMA BANOO

IOI CORP BHD (KL:IOICORP), which emerged as the gold winner in the plantation sector of *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024, has achieved the short-term goal of its climate change action initiative one year ahead of the target year of 2025.

Group managing director and chief executive Datuk Lee Yeow Chor attributes the group's success in reducing Scope 1 and 2 greenhouse gas emissions by 40% compared with the 2015 baseline to the systematic implementation of the decarbonisation and circularity strategies.

These include efforts in methane capture and power generation through biogas power plants in its mills, and rehabilitation and reforestation activities at riparian buffer zones and conservation areas



Our structured approach has ensured that we achieve each sustainability milestone successfully before advancing to the next, allowing us to build on our success and continuously improve our practices over time

PATRICK GOH/THE EDGE
Lee

in and around the group's plantations.

"Our laran tree planting project, for example, has played a crucial role in enhancing our carbon sequestration capacity, while contributing to the restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem enhancement. Our circularity initiatives in recycling organic waste and repurposing felled oil palm trunks have also helped us optimise the management of waste and natural resources, further strengthening our sustainability practices at every stage of our operations," he says.

The group, he adds, takes pride in its methodical and holistic approach to sustainability. "Our structured approach has ensured that we achieve each sustainability milestone successfully before advancing to the next, allowing us to build on our successes and continuously improve our practices over time," he says, adding that what sets the group apart from others in the sector is its first-mover advantage.

Still, the ESG journey has not been without challenges. "To meet the requirements of the latest ESG frameworks and various rating standards, we have been disclosing a lot of information about our ESG performance and progress. However, managing a large wealth of ESG data across our many operating units presents its own set of challenges, particularly in ensuring the transparency of collection, compilation and consolidation of information," he says.

"To address this, we have introduced the IOI ESG Digitalisation Platform, a



IOI Corp attributes the group's success in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the systematic implementation of decarbonisation and circularity strategies

centralised system to help us efficiently monitor and analyse these data to ensure credible reporting and auditability on critical areas, such as carbon footprint, resource management and labour practices, [and] ensure that all data are traceable, verifiable and compliant with international reporting standards."

Lee hopes for closer engagement between government agencies and businesses to develop ESG frameworks that are practical and achievable not only for large corporations but also for small players.

"We advocate for greater consumer awareness through education, socialisation and capacity-building initiatives so that the public can make informed and realistic demands regarding sustainability practices. For investors, we hope to see them broaden their perspectives beyond the financial metrics of ESG performance and consider the broader impacts of social equity, environmental resilience and long-term value creation," he says. **E**



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • PLANTATION

ESG strategies drive SD Guthrie's long-term sustainability success

BY TAN SIEW MUNG

SD GUTHRIE BHD (KL:SDG) has won the silver award at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 in the plantation sector, a recognition attributed to its robust ESG strategy rooted in long-term sustainability.

"As a company with more than 200 years of history, we have survived and succeeded in what we do because we have always anticipated and responded to shifting expectations and changing landscapes," says SD Guthrie group managing director Datuk Mohamad Helmy Othman Basha.

A cornerstone of the firm's strategy is the mechanisation, automation and digitalisation (MAD) of its plantation operations. While some industry players remain hesitant, the company has made significant investments in these advancements, even at the expense of short-term profits.

"By implementing MAD, we believe the industry's current land-to-man ratio (LMR) of 8ha to 9ha per worker can be increased to 11ha to 12ha, leading to a 30% reduction in workforce or 30% higher efficiency," Mohamad Helmy says, adding that he anticipates a reduction in dependency on foreign labour.

Through concerted efforts over the past four years, the firm is approaching an LMR of 13ha per worker. It is also close to achieving a workforce composition of 30% local workers and 70% foreign workers.

Among its recent accomplishments, the firm is particularly proud of having its net-zero targets approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi), making it the world's first palm oil company to achieve this milestone. According to Mohamad Helmy, the introduction of SBTi provided an opportunity to reassess the company's efforts and obtain independent evaluation confirming that its targets are ambitious and aligned with the latest climate science.

However, maintaining ESG performance has not been without its challenges. The firm faces a continuously evolving regulatory landscape, exemplified by the European Union



We have survived and succeeded in what we do, because we have always anticipated and responded to shifting expectations and changing landscapes

SD GUTHRIE
Mohamad Helmy

Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), which was due to take effect this December but has now been delayed by a year.

In anticipation of this, the firm has established EUDR-compliant supply chains in Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. It is also piloting projects with EU customers to streamline document sharing and compliance reporting, underscoring the importance of ongoing customer engagement in its strategy.

To further promote ESG adoption in Malaysia, Mohamad Helmy advocates stronger collaboration in modernising the industry by investing in technology that promotes MAD. He also points out that consumers play a critical role in driving demand for sustainable and ethically produced palm oil.

"Greater awareness of social issues such as labour rights and community welfare tied to certified sustainable palm oil will encourage responsible sourcing practices. When consumers prioritise ethically sourced products, it generates pressure across the supply chain, compelling businesses to improve their social impact," he says.

Mohamad Helmy also calls on investors and global partners to continue supporting companies committed to social responsibility within their ESG frameworks. **E**



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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • PROPERTY

IOI Properties committed to decarbonisation

BY TAN ZHAI YUN

IOI PROPERTIES GROUP BHD (IOIPG) (KL:IOIPG) won gold in the property sector for the second year running at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024.

Lee Yeow Seng, group CEO of IOIPG, says the company's proudest ESG achievement in the past year is walking the talk on decarbonisation. It continued to invest in solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in managed assets, such as retail malls, office towers, sales galleries and golf clubs, which will be commissioned this year.

"We have expanded the solar PV capacity at IOI City Mall, the largest shopping mall in Malaysia, from 3.56MWp (megawatt peak) to 7.9MWp, making it the largest solar capacity at a retail mall. This sustainability initiative has increased the group's avoided emissions from 3,422 tCO₂ (total carbon dioxide) a year in FY2023, to 4,221 tCO₂ a year in FY2024," says Lee.

Obtaining quality data from the value chain that forms Scope 3 emissions is challenging. Therefore, IOIPG has been educating and working closely with its value chain, including through ESG awareness sessions.

It has also completed two embodied carbon assessments for Gems Residence, a high-rise building, and Marvela, which consists of 2-storey houses, to understand the carbon footprint of its products.

"This enables us to look into alternative lower-embodied carbon materials, of which we have started engaging our suppliers to source for the relevant materials. We re-



IOIPG added solar PV capacity at IOI City Mall, making it the largest solar capacity at a retail mall

main committed to engaging with the value chain of the real estate sector to minimise the Scope 3 emissions," says Lee.

He adds that the company is committed to environmental stewardship and delivering social impact, which is driven by a sense of purpose to create long-term value.

This strategic integration of economic, environmental, social and governance (EESG) factors into business strategies is integral to the company's mission and business goals, Lee adds.

"In order to encourage sustainability ownership among our employees and drive ESG performance, the group's annual performance appraisals for remuneration and bonus considerations take ESG performance into account."

To have further adoption of ESG in Malaysia, deeper understanding of the complexity of



With the launch of the National Sustainability Reporting Framework, National Climate Change Policy 2.0 and National Energy Transition Roadmap, we support the government's commitment to net zero and nationally determined contributions

Lee

integrating the pillars of EESG factors into business strategies and decision-making is necessary, Lee believes. This requires relevant expertise, the availability of low-carbon materials in the market and cost efficiency in business operations.

"With the launch of the National Sustainability Reporting Framework, National Climate Change Policy 2.0 and National Energy Transition Roadmap, we support the government's commitment to net zero and nationally determined contributions," says Lee.

"We look forward to new directions from the government on the implementation of decarbonisation initiatives that would help drive the net zero transition across the value chain of the real estate sector." ■



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • PROPERTY

Mah Sing sets new standards

BY HAZEL VINCENT DE PAUL

MAH SING GROUP BHD (KL:MAHSING) won the silver award in the property sector at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024.

The company's notable ESG achievements in the past year were driven by its focus on integrating sustainable practices, such as the use of certified green building materials, installation of LED lighting, roof insulation and energy-efficient ACVVVF lifts, as well as maximising natural ventilation and daylighting to minimise energy consumption.

Mah Sing also actively promotes recycling within its projects and adheres to green building standards. "We improved our FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia Index rating in 2023, with significant progress in our environmental disclosures. This



Mah Sing is currently developing a dedicated ESG metric to be pilot tested at one of our township projects. Once successful, the methodology will be replicated in other projects, further enhancing project-level ESG implementation

Leong

success can be attributed to our commitment to ESG data management and comprehensive reporting," says Tan Sri Leong Hoy Kum, Mah Sing's founder and group managing director.

Transparency and ethical business practices are key pillars of the company's ESG strategy, and it operates under a robust framework that ensures it meets local and international green standards. However, Mah Sing has faced challenges, particularly in maintaining its ESG performance while managing cost constraints and tight project timelines, all of which has required careful coordination and innovation.

"Receiving updates in an orderly and timely manner was one of the challenges we faced. We hope that the digitisation of data compilation, which has been underway since 2023, will allow us to strengthen and further improve our ESG performance monitoring," says Leong.

"The ESG data entered into the software is sourced from Mah Sing's property and manufacturing divisions. Additionally, four new project developments from our M-Series will be included in the ESG data measurement and tracking as part of our efforts to ensure that all active project sites are accounted for in the company's ESG performance monitoring."

The company is also placing greater emphasis on putting sustainability into practice. For starters, Mah Sing has piloted an ESG awareness campaign among end buyers at its Azure sales gallery.

"Mah Sing is currently developing a dedicated ESG metric to be pilot tested at one of our township projects. Once successful, the methodology will be replicated in other projects, further enhancing project-level ESG implementation," he says.

Looking ahead, the company is focused on driving broader ESG adoption throughout its supply chain, particularly among vendors. Recognising that SMEs face challenges in implementing sustainable practices, Mah Sing has engaged these partners in ESG briefings to provide foundational knowledge on sustainability.

"With SMEs making up more than 97% of the country's businesses and contributing an estimated 38% to the GDP, it is imperative that proper facilities and tools are made available to them for successful ESG adoption. Additionally, the government may consider employing a similar effort with younger audiences. They will eventually become end-users and can influence the demand for sustainable building and development, triggering a domino effect throughout the supply chain," says Leong. ■



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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • REIT

Sunway REIT wants to expand portfolio of green buildings

BY PATHMA SUBRAMANIAM

SUNWAY REIT MANAGEMENT SDN BHD, the manager of Sunway Real Estate Investment Trust (KL:SUNREIT), has clinched gold in the REIT sector at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024. This recognition highlights the company's strong commitment to ESG principles, which have been a cornerstone of its strategy.

Its CEO Clement Chen attributes this success to the launch of its Green Lease Partnership Programme, the first initiative in the industry to promote sustainability among tenants.

The programme, which achieved an 82% participation rate for retail and office tenants and 100% participation for hotel lessees as at 2023, aims to create a unified approach to sustainability.

"The partnership programme was mooted with the realisation that we can only do so much as a single organisation. By uniting tenants to create awareness and share environmental responsibility, we can achieve larger gains," says Chen.

Through the Green Lease Partnership Programme, Sunway REIT collaborated with various stakeholders to provide training, capital and systems to



PATRICK GOH/THE EDGE

... as awareness of ESG grows, green building certifications will become necessary requisites for tenants in leasing decisions

Chen

enable tenants to fulfil their sustainability obligations.

Sunway REIT also engaged UOB Malaysia to provide sustainable financing solutions, offering preferential rates for tenants that commit to eco-friendly practices. The company further developed an integrated sustainability data management system to track energy consumption, water usage and waste management, enabling more effective conservation measures.

However, maintaining ESG performance amid the country's post-Covid-19 recovery presented unique challenges.

"As economic activities picked up, so did the demand for energy and cooling in our properties in line with increased footfall. Coupled with deferred capital expenditure during Covid, which meant less efficient equipment had not been replaced, we were looking at the potential increase in Building Energy Intensity (BEI) figures," says Chen. BEI is a metric used to measure the energy efficiency of a building or facility.

To mitigate this, Sunway REIT put in place several strategies, including engaging with tenants to concentrate on energy efficiency, upgrading ageing equipment, conducting energy audits and expanding the adoption of renewable energy, especially solar, across its portfolio.

Despite these efforts, Chen believes that broader stakeholder support is crucial to further drive ESG adoption in Malaysia. The level of ESG awareness in Malaysia is quite high and the government has been at the forefront of introducing critical policies.

Nevertheless, Chen suggests that additional incentives could help accelerate the adoption of green technologies.



Five of Sunway REIT's properties, including Sunway Resort Hotel, Sunway Carnival Mall and Sunway Pinnacle, have obtained green certifications

"Such shifts to new technology are typically expensive and capital-intensive but will drive the economy up the value chain, and by providing some financial assistance, the government will help the private sector adopt green technology early and develop competitive advantages," he says, adding that consumers and investors also have a role to play.

Going forward, Sunway REIT is focused on expanding its portfolio of green-certified buildings. "Earlier this year, Sunway REIT launched its 10-year Green Building Roadmap with a commitment to achieve green building certifications for all of its properties by 2034," says Chen.

Currently, five of its properties, representing 34% of its portfolio's gross floor area, have obtained green certifications, including Sunway Resort Hotel, Sunway Carnival Mall and Sunway Pinnacle.

Chen says that while green buildings may require higher initial investments, they yield long-term benefits such as lower utility bills and reduced maintenance costs.

"More importantly, as awareness of ESG grows, green building certifications will become necessary requisites for tenants in leasing decisions. By being ahead of the industry in securing relevant green certifications, we are future-proofing our portfolio," he says.



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • REIT

Axis REIT wins its first ESG award

BY KUEK SER KWANG ZHE

AXIS REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (REIT) (KL:AXREIT) took to the stage for the first time at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 after clinching the silver award in the REIT category.

Its CEO Leong Kit May says one of the firm's biggest achievements, when it comes to sustainability, is obtaining five green building certifications, encompassing over three million sq ft of space.

Leong says a lot of engagement and collaboration is required to obtain green building certification. All of the company's achievements, she adds, can be attributed to the ambitious targets it set in 2023.

They include the reduction of its combined Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to as close to zero



PATRICK GOH/THE EDGE

In 2023, we took an additional step to enhance the credibility of our ESG disclosures by securing independent limited assurance for selected environmental and social metrics

Leong

as possible, or achieving net zero by 2050 or earlier.

Furthermore, the firm aimed to secure one new green building certification every year while meeting explicit reduction goals for energy consumption, water usage, GHG emissions and waste. Such a strategic focus enhances the firm's sustainability credentials and reinforces its commitment to environmental stewardship.

The key challenge for Leong and Axis REIT in maintaining its ESG performance in the past year was obtaining comprehensive data for analysis and reporting.

To address this, the firm actively engaged internal and external shareholders throughout the year to ensure it gathered transparent and accurate data.

"In 2023, we took an additional step to enhance the credibility of our ESG disclosures by securing independent limited assurance for selected environmental and social metrics. This initiative is crucial for reinforcing trust in our ESG reporting and ensuring the integrity of the information we provide," she says.

Asked what is one of the key aspects that sets Axis REIT apart from its peers in its ESG practices, Leong says it is the firm's comprehensive approach in incorporating ESG criteria into its due diligence checklist for new property acquisition.



Axis REIT's Bukit Raja Distribution Centre 2, a certified green building, was completed in 2023

In the fourth quarter of last year, the firm further enhanced its due diligence checklist for new property acquisition by including vulnerability assessment for climate risks. This is to ensure the firm rigorously evaluates its potential acquisition targets.

Looking ahead, Leong hopes to see the regulators continue to enhance their efforts at raising awareness of ESG standards.

"As ESG requirements for public listed companies like us continue to evolve, it will be crucial for the entire supply chain to follow suit. This collective effort will support a more comprehensive approach to achieving Malaysia's ESG goals," says Leong.



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ViTrox wins two gold awards

BY VANESSA GOMES

FOR the second year running, ViTrox Corp Bhd (KL:VITROX) has clinched the gold award at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 in the most improved performance over three years category among companies with market capitalisation exceeding RM5 billion. The company also won gold as the best performer in the technology sector for the first time.

ViTrox president and CEO Datuk Chu Jenn Weng says one of the ESG-related achievements the company is most proud of over the past year is being ranked in the top 3% percentile by FTSE Russell, with an ESG score of 4.7 out of 5.

“In addition to this milestone, we have deliberately set ambitious goals to drive ESG excellence. By establishing high benchmarks, we ensure our efforts remain impactful, forward-looking and continuously foster innovation and improvement,” he says.

“This achievement was the result of disciplined strategic planning, cross-functional collaboration and a shared dedication across ViTrox to not only meet but also exceed industry standards in ESG performance.”



We don't pursue ESG initiatives merely for compliance ... By living our values daily, we're building a sustainable, innovative business that creates real value not just for our company but also for society as a whole.

Chu



ViTrox is a well-recognised automated machine vision inspection solution provider, with a global customer base

Chu adds that the company's ESG strategy comes from the heart, driven by its “inside-out” philosophy and core values: integrity, accountability, courage, trust and respect, gratitude and care.

“We don't pursue ESG initiatives merely for compliance; we do it because we genuinely believe in their value. These values guide us to do what's right. In every decision, we consider the broader ESG impact. By living our values daily, we're building a sustainable, innovative business that creates real value not just for our company but

also for society as a whole.”

Chu says last year was challenging as the global economy was marked by high inflation, overstock issues and geopolitical tensions between major powers. Despite these obstacles, ViTrox remained steadfast in its commitment to sustainability, understanding that the health of the business is inseparable from that of the planet.

“To sustain our ESG performance, we reassessed and realigned our sustainability targets to address critical issues. This included holding quarterly ESG meetings to improve cross-department collaboration and refine our strategies in alignment with our set goals,” Chu explains.

Looking ahead, Chu believes that to enhance ESG adoption in Malaysia, greater collaboration between the private sector and the government is essential. The government could offer monetary incentives and ESG-related training, particularly for listed issuers and small and medium enterprises, while also strengthening regulatory frameworks.

“Incorporating ESG awareness into our education system, with topics like green engineering and waste management, will build future generations who value sustainability. Public awareness should also be raised to appreciate companies prioritising sustainability over profitability,” he says.

BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • TECHNOLOGY

Malaysian Pacific Industries wins silver in technology category

BY SACHA CHRISTOPHER

MALAYSIAN PACIFIC INDUSTRIES BHD (KL:MPI) became a third-time winner at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024. This time, MPI won the silver award in the technology sector. For MPI, a big part of its ESG approach is managing the impact of its operations on the climate.

Manuel Zarauza, MPI's group managing director, says the company's biggest achievement in 2024 is the significant improvement in its FTSE rating on climate change.

MPI has provided constant internal and external training to improve understanding of issues and explore possible



More detailed information regarding the REC verification process is required for establishing trust and credibility among companies to consider it as a potential solution

Zarauza

mitigation actions to be applied to its operations. Increased data quality has helped with redefining performance targets within the company, which in turn allows for appropriate corrective actions.

“These actions have translated into tangible impact in terms of robust performance in intensity reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, which has been consistently well below the baseline,” says Zarauza.

However, MPI has also faced various hurdles in maintaining its ESG performance. “The requirements and expectations regarding reporting and actions on environment-related topics are getting more stringent than ever,” says Zarauza. “Scrutiny is at an all-time high, and it is only going to go up.”

Moving forward, Zarauza hopes to see more pragmatic policies and efficient processes from the government. “This lack of standardisation of requirements and processes makes an already complicated situation more ambiguous,” he says, adding that this puts more of a burden on companies that are already working with limited resources.

“It will also help if companies are provided due time and space to evaluate and execute, rather than being completely prescriptive to them ... There is no one-size-fits-all solution as different organisations, sometimes even within the same industry, might have different challenges at any given time.”

Furthermore, clarity on emission reduction and offset solutions such as



MALAYSIAN PACIFIC INDUSTRIES

A big part of MPI's strategy is managing the impact of its operations on the climate

renewable energy certificates (REC) is needed.

“More detailed information regarding the REC verification process is required for establishing trust and credibility among companies to consider it as a potential solution ... and for better planning, clarity on carbon policy and carbon tax would be beneficial,” he says.



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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Media Chinese prioritises reducing energy and water consumption

BY RAVINYAA RAVIMALAR

FOR Media Chinese International Ltd (KL:MEDIAC), employee engagement, technical upgrades and resource optimisation are key to achieving sustainable operations. Thanks to this commitment, the company clinched the gold award at *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024* in the telecommunications and media category.

“One of our proudest ESG achievements in the past year was reducing energy and water usage, achieving a 10% reduction in water consumption and intensity, and a 4% reduction in energy usage, which helped lower greenhouse gas [GHG] emissions,” says the company’s executive director and group CEO Francis Tiong Kiew Chiong.

According to its 2023/2024 annual report, the company aims to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. To reach this target, its GHG reduction strategy primarily focuses on implementing energy-saving initiatives and raising employee awareness of saving energy in their daily work routines.

Although improvements were seen in certain areas, Tiong highlights challenges in waste management.



Media Chinese International achieved a 10% reduction in water consumption and intensity, and a 4% reduction in energy usage

“Our most significant challenge was a 21% increase in hazardous waste generation, primarily due to the closure of two waste treatment plants, forcing us to use external waste collectors for non-halogenated organic solvent waste,” says Tiong. “While this shift posed logistical and regulatory difficulties, we remained compliant with hazardous waste regulations and are actively exploring long-term solutions, such as reopening waste treatment facilities and implementing waste reduction strategies.”

This is done by storing hazardous waste separately in designated holding areas until it is collected and recycled by licensed waste collectors, in compliance with regulations in Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Non-hazardous waste is sold to recycling companies. The company strives to minimise general office waste by seeking ways to reuse electronic and office equipment through repair and refurbishment.



Consumers can drive change by demanding sustainable products, while investors should prioritise ESG factors in their investment decisions, encouraging businesses to focus on sustainability

Tiong

Media Chinese aspires to set itself apart through ethical business practices, says Tiong, by focusing on accurate reporting, unbiased content and responsible advertising. The company also wants to use its platform to promote social good, education and humanitarian efforts. Additionally, Media Chinese wants to build strong relationships with the community through various engagement activities.

To improve ESG adoption in Malaysia, Tiong believes it is important to have a multipronged approach through government efforts and consumer-driven change.

“All stakeholders must take an active role. Government regulations and incentives are vital in promoting sustainable business practices, including clearer guidelines and financial incentives. Consumers can drive change by demanding

sustainable products, while investors should prioritise ESG factors in their investment decisions, encouraging businesses to focus on sustainability,” he says.



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

Telekom Malaysia walking hand in hand with ESG

BY CHELSEA LEE JIA SHI

TELEKOM MALAYSIA BHD (TM) (KL:TM) was awarded the silver prize for the best performer in the telecommunications and media sector at *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024*.

TM has achieved several milestones, such as creating over 8,000 public WiFi sites and attaining 3.1 million home and micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) subscribers.

This is in line with its mission to become a digital powerhouse and to build a digital Malaysia, where connectivity and digital opportunities are accessible to everyone regardless of location or background.

Being a telecommunications company, connectivity is one its core aspects. The company is working towards a more inclusive society by providing equal opportunities through access to digital infrastructure and tools.

For instance, TM helped MSMEs with digitalisation in 2023 and provided resource hubs, alongside accessible and affordable digital business solutions.

For its environmental efforts, TM also achieved a 22% reduction in carbon emissions in 2023, compared with its



TM has helped MSMEs with digitalisation and provided resource hubs, and accessible and affordable digital business solutions

2019 baseline, through energy-efficiency initiatives and by increasing its renewable energy mix, particularly in its networks and data centres.

Diversity, equity and inclusion is another ESG pillar for TM as it has launched a year-long leadership development initiative for 30 aspiring women leaders to harness the unique insights and experiences of women to drive innovation and enrich TM’s long-term sustainability.

The company has also been actively supporting the digitalisation of MSMEs and empowering future talents, including providing close to 18,000 scholarships for upper secondary and university education, and introducing a programme to facilitate digital skills in secondary schools.

In the process of integrating sustainable practices across the business, TM faced challenges in shifting the mindset and culture to one that is sustainability-driven. Thus, the past year has been focused on raising awareness of ESG principles among its staff and employees while also building capabilities to apply ESG considerations within each individual’s function and roles.

Planning ahead, TM says it will continue on its journey on sustainability with its framework that is designed to meet global standards like the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Reporting Initiative, and the Carbon Disclosure Project, ensuring its strategies are both ambitious and impactful.

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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

SHAHRILL BASRI/THE EDGE

Westports expands use of renewable energy

BY ARIS RIZA NOOR BAHARIN

WESTPORTS HOLDINGS BHD (KL:WPRTS) took home the gold award for the second year in a row at *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024* in the transport and logistics sector, under the public-listed companies' best performer category.

This win comes as Westports continues its efforts to reach its sustainability goals, with its most proud achievement being its first major solar panel installation on the roof of Dewan Tan Sri Gnanalingam.

"[This solar panel installation] generated 233MWh in 2023 for the adjacent Westports Business Centre, which houses some government agencies that



PATRICK GOH/THE EDGE

Carbon-intensive nations must shoulder their proportionate cost to steer the critical trajectory towards lower greenhouse gas emissions and eventually, a net-zero world

Ruben

service the port users," says Datuk Ruben Emir Gnanalingam Abdullah, executive chairman and group managing director of Westports.

Since then, Westports has expanded its solar panel installation to the Westports Logistics Centre and completed another more extensive installation on the roofs of one of its four warehouses. There are plans to invest in more solar facilities, with the goal of producing renewable energy exceeding 16,000MWh from two warehouses.

"Though sizeable compared with the first installation, the total MWh required by the port is multiple times more. Therefore, we will invest in more solar installations to increase the proportion of clean energy we use," he says.

Ruben notes a major challenge Westports faced this past year was the slower pace of decarbonisation due to costs and technological bottlenecks, despite increased awareness on climate change.

This was further exacerbated by developed



Westports has expanded its solar panel installation to the Westports Logistics Centre

nations, which have historically emitted and continue to use a disproportionately large share of the global carbon allowance, setting regulations that require all countries to decarbonise.

Adding to the fact that these developed nations' financial contributions have not matched their initial commitments, Ruben says some lower-income and island-based nations are already experiencing a disproportionate impact of climate change.

"Carbon-intensive nations must shoulder their proportionate cost to steer the critical trajectory towards lower greenhouse gas emissions and eventually, a net-zero world," he adds. **E**



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS

MISC pushes for sustainable shipping

BY GRACE YAP ERN HUI

MISC BHD (KL:MISC) won silver at *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024* in the transport and logistics category, thanks to the company's proactive strategies in driving the industry forward, and through collaborating with industry partners.

"We have been actively advocating and advancing the use of dual-fuel vessels, alternative fuels, and sustainable ship designs, including the world's first ammonia dual-fuel Aframax vessels with near-zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions," says MISC president and group CEO Zahid Osman.

MISC is committed to its 2030 Aspiration, which focuses on achieving a 50% reduction in total GHG emissions (compared to 2008 levels), a 50% improvement in operational cash flows and generating 25% of cash flows from New Energy Solutions by 2030.



We recognise that achieving decarbonisation requires maturing the value chain, driving customer demand, and ensuring technology and infrastructure readiness. Currently, the cost of carbon is not reflected in many markets, leading to hesitation from customers and society to absorb the higher costs of lower-carbon solutions.

Zahid

Through its petroleum and products shipping arm AET, MISC has introduced the use of liquefied natural gas dual-fuel vessels since taking delivery of its first asset in 2019, marking a step in supporting the maritime industry's transition to lower-carbon fuels.

"As of January 2024, we own 15 dual-fuel vessels. Additionally, we entered into contracts with Petco Trading Labuan for the world's first ammonia dual-fuel Aframax tankers, a milestone in zero-emission shipping," says Zahid.

MISC's marine and heavy engineering segment, MHB, also expanded into the offshore wind sector, securing subcontracts for two high voltage direct current offshore substations.

"We recognise that achieving decarbonisation requires maturing the value chain, driving customer demand, and ensuring technology and infrastructure readiness. Currently, the cost of carbon is not reflected in many markets, leading to hesitation from customers and society to absorb the higher costs of lower-carbon solutions," says Zahid.

This reluctance, coupled with the absence of mechanisms to address the costs, presents challenges for the adoption of near-zero or zero-emission solutions. Regulatory frameworks are essential to driving demand and enabling greater supply of low-carbon options, he adds.

MISC aims to invest in assets with lower GHG emissions but still faces challenges in securing financing. Hard-to-abate industries, such as shipbuilding, offshore oil, and gas, are characterised by high capital costs, limited asset lifespans and a concentration of clients.

Despite these challenges, MISC has made progress through industry collaborations to advance the ammonia value chain and has actively engaged in global efforts, including the 4th Energy Transition Working Group Meeting under India's G20



MISC

MISC is actively advocating and advancing the use of alternative fuels and sustainable ship designs

Presidency and the International Chamber of Shipping's Shaping the Future of Shipping task force at the Conference of Parties (COP28).

"We strongly believe that collaborative action across the maritime and energy value chain is a clear example of how everyone needs to work together to achieve shared targets," says Zahid.

MISC believes clearer regulations and closer collaboration between public-private sectors are necessary to make ESG adoption more effective.

"Malaysia's New Energy Transition Roadmap and the upcoming National Climate Change bill will similarly create a more enabling environment to drive companies to achieve their climate pledges," says Zahid. **E**



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BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • UTILITIES

Petronas Gas adapts to emerging requirements

BY KIRAN JACOB

PETRONAS GAS BHD (KL:PETGAS) (PGB) has won gold at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 in the utilities sector category, thanks to the rate at which it has been able to adapt to emerging requirements and effectively address stakeholder disclosure. Its managing director and CEO Abdul Aziz Othman says the focus is on conducting PGB's businesses sustainably and transparently.

The company achieved an FTSE4Good rating of 4.1 out of 5, according to PGB's FY2022 report, which marks a 46% improvement from the previous score of 2.8 the year before, he says.

"This success stemmed from our ability to leverage data related to the declaration indicators to maximise our sustainability disclosures in climate change, water security, biodiversity, labour standards, health and safety, human



By leveraging our sustainability working committee, we empower employees at all levels to champion and implement PGB's four sustainability lenses — sustainability value creation, safeguard the environment, positive social impact and responsible governance at their respective assets

Abdul Aziz

rights and community, risk management and corruption, within the given time and manpower constraints," Abdul Aziz says.

"By ensuring maximum disclosure and meeting achievable requirements, PGB secured the highest ratings among our peers in the industry. With our sustainability blueprint targeting a score of 4.0 by 2025, our achievement of this milestone ahead of schedule reflects positively on our ongoing sustainability journey."

Abdul Aziz acknowledges that the dynamic sustainability regulations in Malaysia present significant challenges in aligning the company's internal strategies with the complex

landscape. To address this issue, PGB is focused on enhancing ESG expertise in the company and providing comprehensive support across the workforce.

"By leveraging our sustainability working committee, we empower employees at all levels to champion and implement PGB's four sustainability lenses — sustainability value creation, safeguard the environment, positive social impact and responsible governance at their respective assets," says Abdul Aziz.

"This inclusive approach equips our entire workforce to adapt effectively to



PGB is guided by its sustainability blueprint and Petronas' goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050

new expectations and emerging regulations."

It is crucial for all stakeholders to understand their roles and impacts on sustainability, he adds. To do this, each stakeholder should define a clear path and maintain a sustainable pace to ensure efforts are targeted and effective. This understanding will be able to align all stakeholders and facilitate better collaboration towards shared sustainability goals.

Meanwhile, PGB will continue to ensure alignment to the government's climate change agenda through the PGB sustainability blueprint and Petronas' goal of net zero carbon emission by 2050. These factors will guide PGB's approach and provide the company with a roadmap to meet industry and regulator expectations, while delivering positive value across its business footprint. **E**



BEST PERFORMER BY SECTOR • UTILITIES

Tenaga driven by its comprehensive ESG strategies

BY TAN SIEW MUNG

TENAGA NASIONAL BHD (KL:TENAGA) won the silver award at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 in the utilities category, thanks to its comprehensive ESG initiatives, says president and CEO Datuk Megat Jalaluddin Megat Hassan. He emphasises that the company's carbon management strategy, alongside a robust governance framework, is essential for achieving its ambitious sustainability goals.

The utility giant's strategy focuses on two primary areas: Reducing, capturing and offsetting emissions, while expanding its renewable energy (RE) capacity. These actions are part of its commitment to cutting carbon emissions intensity by 5% each year, reaching over a 35% reduction in carbon emissions intensity by 2035, and achieving net zero by 2050.



In partnership with the government, we are advancing the Malaysia Energy Literacy Programme to foster greater awareness and action

Megat Jalaluddin

"We aim to drive progress and make a positive impact on our communities through various corporate social responsibility programmes, allocating 1% of our profit after tax to these initiatives," says Megat Jalaluddin.

The company has strategically invested in RE projects, including centralised Large Scale Solar parks, hybrid hydro-floating, and hydrogen and ammonia co-firing plants, and aims to deliver 3,000MW of RE capacity by 2040.

"We remain committed to achieving our energy transition goals enabled by the smart grid system, which serves as a platform to enable other energy transition investments," he says.

To accelerate ESG adoption in Malaysia, Tenaga seeks collaboration with key stakeholders, including the government, consumers and investors.

"In partnership with the government, we are advancing the Malaysia Energy Literacy Programme to foster greater awareness and action," says Megat Jalaluddin, adding that the company seeks government policies and incentives that encourage RE invest-



Tenaga's strategy focuses on reducing, capturing and offsetting emissions, while expanding its renewable energy capacity

ments and drive sustainable practices across industries.

From consumers, Tenaga hopes to foster greater adoption of energy-efficient solutions and encourage sustainable consumption behaviour. "We also encourage investors to continue prioritising sustainable investment opportunities as their growing confidence in ESG initiatives has **E**



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MOST IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS • MARKET CAP OVER RM5 BILLION

Frontken transitions to greener production

BY HAZEL VINCENT DE PAUL

FRONTKEN CORP BHD (KL:FRONT-KN) has bagged the silver award in the most improved ESG performance over three years category at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024.

Among the various sustainability programmes Frontken has successfully executed, the company is proud of its transition to green production using environmentally friendly chemicals and processes.

“Our R&D team developed new chemistry, materials and processes that minimise environmental impact. We conducted a thorough analysis of our production processes and chemicals consumption across our facilities,” says



The government should establish comprehensive regulations and provide incentives that encourage businesses to adopt ESG practices. This could include tax incentives, grants and subsidies for companies investing in sustainable technologies and practices.

Tay

its executive director and chief scientist Dr Tay Kiang Meng.

“By implementing closed-loop systems and re-engineering processes to use green chemicals, less chemicals ... consume less water, [and] generate less waste, we not only conserved resources but also lowered operational costs. We optimised our manufacturing processes to minimise waste and emissions.”

These advancements were coupled with extensive employee training programmes, ensuring that everyone from management

to the operational staff understood the intricacies of green production and the proper handling of eco-friendly chemicals.

The biggest obstacle the company faced in the past year was maintaining process consistency and ensuring product quality assurance across its operations during the green transition process.

To address potential risks, Frontken implemented a rigorous approach to quality control. It conducted extensive testing and quality checks to ensure the performance



Frontken's R&D team developed new chemistry, materials and processes that minimise environmental impact

of its green production processes met its standards and the expectations of customers.

Employee education also played a crucial role, and comprehensive training sessions and workshops were conducted across all operational levels.

While Frontken has made great strides forward, the broader adoption of ESG requires the involvement of key stakeholders — the government, investors and consumers.

“The government should establish comprehensive regulations and provide incentives that encourage businesses to adopt ESG practices. This could include tax incentives, grants and subsidies for companies investing in sustainable technologies and practices,” says Tay. **E**



MOST IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS • MARKET CAP BETWEEN RM800 MILLION AND RM5 BILLION

Kelington commits to reducing emissions

BY VANESSA GOMES

A first-time winner at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024, Kelington Group Bhd (KL:KGB) takes home gold for the most improved ESG performance over three years among companies with a market capitalisation of between RM800 million and RM5 billion. Its CEO Raymond Gan Hung Keng says the ESG-related achievement the company is most proud of is the carbon recovery plant it launched in 2019.

Driven by the company's commitment to reducing industrial carbon emissions and finding innovative ways to repurpose waste gases, the plant was designed to capture carbon dioxide emissions from nearby petrochemical facilities. “By capturing and repurposing carbon dioxide emissions, the plant significantly reduces the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions released into the atmosphere, contributing to global efforts to combat climate change,” he says.



Through collaboration with industry experts, our customers reduced their emissions and set a new benchmark for sustainability in the manufacturing industry

Gan



Kelington celebrated a significant milestone when it successfully reduced the emissions intensity of its industrial gas division

In early 2023, Kelington launched a new service to help customers design and install tailored GHG reduction systems. That year, Kelington Singapore secured its first contract to install a comprehensive GHG reduction system in the city state.

Gan says this project included upgrading equipment, optimising energy use and implementing advanced monitoring technologies. “Through collaboration with industry experts, our customers reduced their emissions and set a new benchmark for sustainability in the manufacturing industry.”

The company also maintains rigorous ESG reporting standards and ensures transparency in its operations. On top of that, its industrial gas division is actively collaborating with key organisations to explore and unlock potential opportunities for carbon capture, utilisation and storage in Malaysia.

Kelington celebrated a significant milestone when it successfully reduced the emissions intensity of its industrial gas division. This

achievement not only marked a major step forward, but also introduced new challenges as the company set its sights on a more ambitious goal — reaching net zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2050.

To achieve this target, Kelington is now faced with the critical task of investing in renewable energy and renewable energy certificates, says Gan. “However, the path forward is complex. Investing in renewable energy requires significant capital and

a long-term commitment, which we must balance with our operational priorities and financial constraints.” He adds that he hopes to see increased collaboration and support from all stakeholders in the effort to make ESG adoption more widespread in Malaysia.

Gan says clients evaluating tenders should give due recognition to companies that have adopted ESG practices over those that have yet to do so. He believes such a policy will help escalate ESG adoption across the supply chain, encouraging more companies to embrace sustainable practices.

“A clearer regulatory framework and incentives from the government can also encourage sustainable practices. Enhanced infrastructure for renewable energy and waste management would be beneficial too,” he says.

“Consumers can drive change by making informed decisions, preferring products and services from companies that demonstrate a strong ESG commitment.” **E**



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MOST IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS • MARKET CAP BETWEEN RM300 MILLION AND RM800 MILLION

Southern Steel sets clear objectives for sustainability

BY KIRAN JACOB

SOUTHERN STEEL BHD (KL: SSTEEL) won gold at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 in the most improved ESG performance over three years category for public listed companies with a market cap of between RM300 million and RM800 million.

According to the company, this is a result of its clear objectives and action plans to reduce its carbon footprint. These plans are monitored and reviewed periodically, with any issue being addressed expeditiously. The plans are also cascaded down to operational levels across the company to be executed.

“We consistently promote and integrate ESG culture into our operations to foster a sustainable business. We also continuously learn and update our knowledge in ESG reporting by referring to various reporting guides to meet key requirements,” says group managing director Yeoh Choon Kwee.

“We have a committed management team who are all aligned to achieve our



We hope to see the government take the lead to increase the procurement of products with the MyHijau Green Mark in all government-related projects

Yeoh

ESG goals. We also set clear action plans with the aim [of reducing] our carbon footprint. We adopt both top-down and bottom-up [approaches] to encourage total involvement [of the company]. [This is] in order to foster a long-lasting ESG culture and values, thus building our own resilience.”

To make all of this a possibility, Southern Steel conducted ESG awareness training for all its employees. This is because there was insufficient ESG aware-

ness across the entire workforce in the company, notes Yeoh. There was also the mindset that ESG was only the responsibility of the top management.

“We want to educate them on the importance of ESG and how each and every one of us has a role to play. We also reviewed and strengthened our various policies and enhanced our risk management framework,” says Yeoh.

Southern Steel is also exercising care for the environment by embracing eco-friendly and green products. It is the first steel mill in Malaysia to successfully obtain the Sirim Eco-Labeling Certification and the MyHijau Green Mark for the company’s steel bar and wire rod.

“We have also extended the Sirim Eco-Labeling Certification and the



SOUTHERN STEEL

Southern Steel is the first steel mill in Malaysia to successfully obtain the Sirim Eco-Labeling Certification and the MyHijau Green Mark for the company’s steel bar and wire rod

MyHijau Green Mark to eight other products by one of our subsidiaries,” adds Yeoh.

In addition, Southern Steel is also constantly improving process control and exploring new possibilities to decarbonise the company’s operations. This is key as steel is considered a hard-to-abate industry.

To begin with, the company utilises the electric arc furnace (EAF) technology, which uses recycled steel scrap. It is a greener option as compared to blast furnaces, with the EAF technology having at least three times lower carbon dioxide emission intensity, says Yeoh.

He hopes to see the introduction of carbon tax in Malaysia to speed up the adoption of ESG.

“We hope to see the government take the lead to increase the procurement of products with the MyHijau Green Mark in all government-related projects. The government can also provide incentives for private companies to buy green products,” he says. **E**


MOST IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS • MARKET CAP BETWEEN RM300 MILLION AND RM800 MILLION

Kawan Food leads with environmentally responsible practices

BY RAVINYAA RAVIMALAR

KAWAN FOOD BHD (KL:KAWAN) took home the silver award at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 in the most improved ESG performance over three years (market capitalisation between RM800 million and RM5 billion) category.

This is thanks to the company’s sustainability team, which prioritises the safety and well-being of its people, promotes environmentally responsible business activities and responds to material sustainability risks, says Kawan Food marketing director Gan Ka Bien.

Gan credits the company’s leadership and sustainability team for the company’s inclusion in the FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia Index and FTSE4Good Bursa Malaysia Shariah Index last December.

She believes these achievements not only underscore the company’s commitment to sustainability but also reflect

the impact of its initiatives on the economy, environment and communities it serves.

“Since embarking on our sustainability journey in 2021, the results of our actions are [now] becoming evident, alongside our guiding principles that inspire us to set a long-term direction for our actions. We have surpassed our targets and continue to deliver our 2024 strategy across our entire business today,” she adds.

Over the past two years, the company has been guided by its Sustainability Strategy Framework 2021-2030. Navigating the challenges was no easy feat, says Gan.

“A primary challenge was the ability to effectively capture and analyse the necessary data to monitor and improve our ESG performance. As big data becomes more prevalent, we will need advanced data and analytics capabilities to capture new data sources needed to respond to the ESG challenge.”



KAWAN FOOD ANNUAL REPORT

Kawan Food is sourcing a system that will collect and centralise its greenhouse gas emissions and other sustainability-related data in real time

To overcome this challenge, the company is sourcing a robust system that will effectively collect and centralise its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other sustainability-related data in real time.

“This will enable decision-makers across the organisation to incorporate ESG considerations into their strategies and operations,” says Gan.

Currently, the frozen food manufacturer has managed to reduce GHG emissions and intensity. According to Kawan Food’s 2023 annual report, a total of 1,649 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) has been avoided through energy-efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy.

The company is committed to focusing on setting measurable targets and key performance indicators to strengthen emissions management in financial year 2024. Gan hopes for mandatory ESG regulations and standards that all businesses can adhere to.

“It is crucial for governments operating at the local, regional, national and global levels to cooperate on setting consistent policies and standards that enable organisations to meet their own ESG goals,” she says.

She believes cross-collaboration among industries is also essential to making a collective impact to improve the nation’s sustainability goals.

“Data should be shared between companies to cooperate effectively in the transition to a sustainable economy. Consumers need to be aware of sustainability and see ESG as a driver for purchase decisions rather than price alone.” **E**



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MOST IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS • MARKET CAP LESS THAN RM300 MILLION

Masteel emphasises responsibility of sustainability

BY CHELSEA LEE JIA SHI

FOR the second year in a row, Malaysia Steel Works (KL) Bhd (Masteel) (KL:MASTEEL) took home the gold award in the best ESG performance over three years category for companies with a market cap below 300 million at *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024*.

Datuk Seri Tai Hean Leng, executive vice-chairman of Masteel, shares that one of the company's most notable achievements for the year is the launch of its inaugural Corporate Green Awards, designed to internalise ESG principles within the company and motivate suppliers to begin sustainability reporting and carbon dioxide emissions calculation.

The initiative demonstrated a collaborative effort to unite Masteel's ecosystem and foster strategic partnerships to recognise the responsibility and future of sustainability.

An example of a successful outcome is Alliance Bank's involvement in conducting pre-assessment surveys to evaluate supplier ESG compliance. According to Tai, this



It is essential for the government to endorse the carbon border adjustment mechanism and green steel standards that integrate carbon intensity as a crucial parameter

Tai

has strengthened the supply chain by providing preferential financing to Corporate Green Award winners.

Masteel also utilised its allocation of finances by making a strategic investment of RM85,320 in Bursa Malaysia's Centralised Sustainability Intelligence Solution platform as well as offering a RM100,000 cash prize to incentivise outstanding ESG adoption among its suppliers and contractors.

Meanwhile, the biggest challenges for Masteel were the additional sustainability reporting disclosures required by Bursa Malay-

sia and high investment costs for technology improvements.

The company's approach to surpassing the challenge was to stay ahead of regulatory expectations by conducting voluntary reports and having its first Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) report ready ahead of Bursa's requirements.

"In 2023, Masteel released its second TCFD report, referencing the International Sustainability Standards Board standards, which are not yet mandated by the Securities Commission or Bursa Malaysia," Tai shares.

As for the high investment costs, the company has committed RM57 million to upgrading its direct hot charge high-speed rolling mill to align with the company's sustainability goals of enhanc-



Masteel specialises in the production of high tensile steel bars, mild steel bars and prime steel billets used for construction and infrastructure works

ing operational efficiency, lowering production costs and contributing to the reduction of 16.89% of CO₂ emissions.

Tai also expresses his expectations for enhancing ESG adoption in Malaysia, which involves industry collaborations, more awareness and sustainable demands from consumers, and more importantly, the right government policies.

"It is essential for the government to endorse the carbon border adjustment mechanism and green steel standards that integrate carbon intensity as a crucial parameter," he says.

"The government should also consider adopting an emissions trading scheme [ETS] instead of a broad base carbon tax to accelerate decarbonisation without causing inflationary pressures on consumers."

He advocates for ETS due to the fostering of innovation and efficiency that can create economic incentives to surpass environmental targets, and this can be achieved by enabling companies to trade surplus emission allowances. ■



MOST IMPROVED PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS • MARKET CAP LESS THAN RM300 MILLION

Tomypak sees collaboration as key sustainability driver

BY ARIS RIZA NOOR BAHARIN

TOMYPAK HOLDINGS BHD (KL:TOMYPAK) won the silver award for the most improved ESG performance over three years category at *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024*, thanks to its incorporation of recyclable and biodegradable materials into its product range, which addresses environmental concerns.

"Through investments in research and collaboration with our stakeholders, we developed flexible packaging solutions that address our clients' needs while reducing the environmental impact," says Lee Kwee Heng, the company's managing director.

Tomypak Holdings, the parent company of the packaging business Tomypak Flexible Packaging Sdn Bhd, revised its material sourcing, testing and production pro-

cesses to ensure its packaging remained functional while being sustainable.

Lee says this is part of Tomypak's ongoing close collaborations with its industry stakeholders and clients in developing sustainable packaging solutions. In the financial year 2024, 33% of Tomypak's commercial stock-keeping units have sustainable structures, with more on the way.

"Additionally, we remain dedicated to expanding our sustainable offerings, having successfully developed Avinya, a high-barrier [polythene] product designed for sustainability," says Lee.

In addition, Tomypak extended its focus to environmental governance by integrating sustainability into its risk management approach, aligning its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions tracking with global standards and setting reduction targets for financial years 2025 to 2030.

Reducing GHG emissions is Tomypak's biggest challenge, especially to track and categorise its emissions to form an accurate baseline.

"To address this, we implemented a step-by-step emissions tracking methodology and worked closely with cross-functional teams to ensure that the data captured was comprehensive and accurate. We also leveraged external expertise to validate our approach and ensure align-



By incorporating ESG performance into their investment criteria, investors can push companies towards sustainable practices, making ESG not just a corporate responsibility but also a market expectation

Lee

ment with international standards," says Lee.

Lee hopes to see stronger collaboration and alignment between the government, industry players and consumers to further drive sustainability efforts.

The government can encourage businesses to be sustainable through benefits like supportive policies and incentives for businesses investing in renewable energy and sustainable practices.

Additionally, investors who prioritise ESG performance in their investment decisions and consumers who demand eco-friendly products will drive companies to further innovate in sustainable solutions.

"A collective effort from all stakeholders will accelerate the shift towards a more sustainable packaging industry. By incorporating ESG performance into their investment cri-

teria, investors can push companies towards sustainable practices, making ESG not just a corporate responsibility but a market expectation," says Lee. ■



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MOST CONSISTENT PERFORMER OVER 5 YEARS

MRCB's ESG strategies yield promising results

BY TAN SIEW MUNG

MALAYSIAN RESOURCES CORP BHD (MRCB)(KL:MRCB) has won the gold award at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 in the most consistent performer over five years category.

According to its group managing director Datuk Imran Salim, one of the group's many initiatives that promise a substantial impact on ESG is the launch of Residensi Tujuh, a residential development with a RM385 million gross development value in Kwasa Damansara City Centre. This is the first residential development in Malaysia to be built with MRCB's more sustainable modular construction technology, MRCB Building System (MBS).

MBS is a proprietary modular construction technology that uses prefabricated pre-finished volumetric construction (PPVC). This system allows for up to 85% of a building to be constructed off-site in a controlled manufacturing environment, which results in much more efficient construction that lowers energy consumption, carbon emis-



We hope the government will continue to promote public awareness about climate change risks and the importance of sustainable development

THEEDGE
Imran

sions and waste that goes to carbon monoxide-emitting landfills.

Modular construction also reduces defects, improves build quality and eliminates most of the health and safety risks in traditional construction.

"MRCB's focus on modular construction represents a significant step towards a more sustainable and efficient construction industry, demonstrating our commitment to delivering high-quality, environmentally friendly buildings while addressing critical industry challenges," says Imran.

Another ESG strategy that sets the firm apart in the industry is its focus on transit-orientated developments (TOD). By developing integrated communities centred on public transportation hubs, the firm is contributing to creating sustainable cities that prioritise accessibility and walkability, reducing reliance on private vehicles.

"By promoting urban densification and reducing the need for extensive infrastructure development, our TODs help mitigate urban sprawl, reduce carbon emissions, and improve overall quality of life," says Imran.

While the firm continually strives to expand its ESG reporting scope and data, Imran says one of its most significant challenges in the past year has been collecting comprehensive ESG data from its supply chain. The diversity and immaturity of our supply chain on ESG matters made it difficult to ensure accurate data collection and reporting, he points out.

To overcome this challenge, he says the firm conducted ESG readiness assessments with its suppliers to evaluate their current practices and identify areas



MRCB's Residensi Tujuh is the first residential development in Malaysia to be built with its modular construction technology, which is more sustainable

for improvement. The firm also extended capacity-building opportunities to its suppliers.

As Malaysia moves towards a more sustainable future, Imran anticipates the upcoming Climate Change Act will play a pivotal role in driving ESG adoption across various sectors.

"We hope that the Act will establish clear and ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and provide a conducive regulatory environment for businesses to invest in sustainable practices. We hope the government will continue to promote public awareness about climate change risks and the importance of sustainable development," he says.

OUTSTANDING ESG & DIVIDEND RETURN

Hektar REIT balances occupancy growth with sustainability initiatives

BY TAN SIEW MUNG

HEKTAR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST (Hektar REIT) (KL: HEKTAR) has won the gold award at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 in the outstanding ESG performance and dividend return category, showcasing its ability to balance occupancy growth with sustainability initiatives.

According to chief operating officer Sabrina Halim, despite a 4.7% increase in occupancy and a 10% rise in footfall across its properties in 2023, the company has maintained energy consumption at 2022 levels, highlighting its commitment to operational efficiency.

She says the company achieved significant environmental gains, reducing diesel reliance by 51.17% and cutting carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 26% in Scope 2. Scope 1 emissions decreased by 40% while water consumption dropped by 3.91%.

As part of its sustainability efforts, the firm has allocated RM18 million to upgrade lifts and escalators at Subang Pa-

rade. This investment aligns with the Principles for Responsible Investment and is a crucial component of the asset enhancement initiatives aimed at repositioning Subang Parade as a family-centric destination while improving the mall's overall ambiance.

The company identified managing energy consumption amid rising tariffs and balancing cash flow with sustainability as its main challenges in maintaining ESG performance over the past year.

According to Sabrina, the increase in energy tariffs and high energy usage, particularly due to ageing infrastructure, have complicated efforts to uphold ESG standards. Chillers, which account for 40% of total energy consumption, have been a major area for optimisation.

To tackle this issue, Hektar REIT partnered with UEM Edgenta for an investment-grade energy audit, launching 15 initiatives to improve efficiency. These include the installation of motion sensor LED lights, optimising air conditioning sequences, and reducing equipment operating hours to cut energy waste.

"Through these efforts, direct energy from diesel consumption was reduced by 50% compared with 2022, avoiding an additional 2.19 tCO₂e (tonnes CO₂ equivalent), showcasing our dedication to reducing both costs and carbon emissions," Sabrina notes.

Balancing business performance with stakeholder returns has also been challenging. However, the company has integrated sustainability measures into its risk management and business continuity plans, ensuring that sustainability



Despite rising costs, we remain dedicated to supporting our tenants and customers, especially given the increasing frequency of heatwaves affecting the region

LINKEDIN
Sabrina

remains a priority even during difficult times.

"Despite rising costs, we remain dedicated to supporting our tenants and customers, especially given the increasing frequency of heatwaves affecting the region. Our malls are committed to providing assistance and ensuring the comfort of all visitors," she adds.

To improve ESG adoption in Malaysia, Sabrina urges the government to enforce sustainability policies more rigorously and provide accessible incentives to the private sector to embrace environmentally conscious practices.

She emphasises the crucial role consumers play in making sustainable choices at home, adding that simple actions such as reducing energy consumption and minimising food waste

can have a significant societal impact.

Sabrina explains that Hektar REIT's sustainability performance is aligned with its business strategy and long-term growth. Investor support has been key in implementing ESG initiatives, and the company seeks continued backing for a sustainable and profitable future.

"Aligning with our sustainability goals for 2050, investor backing will enable us to drive both business and sustainability performance, ensuring economic growth alongside environmental and social responsibility."



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OUTSTANDING ESG & DIVIDEND RETURN

KPJ Healthcare innovates with ESG

BY TAN SIEW MUNG

KPJ HEALTHCARE BHD (KL:KPJ) has won the silver award at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 in the outstanding ESG performance and dividend return category. Its president and managing director Chin Keat Chyuan attributes the win to KPJ Healthcare's future-focused and innovative Green Healthcare framework, which centres on both human and planetary health.

The firm also leads in environmental stewardship, particularly in areas such as energy efficiency and clinical waste management, without compromising on the quality of care, he says.

"Our patient-centric approach to healthcare remains at the forefront, ensuring that our sustainability efforts benefit both the planet and our patients."

The launch of an electric vehicle charging station at Menara KPJ in Kuala Lumpur in January, in partnership with Gentari, stands out as another significant achievement for the firm last year.

Last year, the firm was also recognised by *The Malaysian Book of Records* as the first health-



Increased sustainability advocacy and awareness among consumers will lead to more conscious choices, which is vital in driving change at the grassroots level

KPJ HEALTHCARE
Chin

care provider in the country to implement a clinical waste segregation initiative, a milestone that it achieved through collaboration with Cenviro and the then Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change.

This initiative has significantly reduced landfill waste and turned clinical waste into valuable raw materials, emphasising its dedication to minimising its environmental impact, Chin says.

Another significant milestone for KPJ last year was its first-ever Sustainability Day in October. This event marked the beginning of a more integrated approach to sustainability across the group.

"Strong commitment from both the board and senior management, a robust sustainability governance framework, identification of key material risks and opportunities, integrated into our business operations, and strategic stakeholder engagement to enhance transparency and accountability in all ESG initiatives are key success factors behind our ESG achievements," says Chin.

However, one of the biggest challenges the company faced was ensuring that its ESG goals remained aligned with KPJ's broader business strategy, particularly when balancing short-term financial pressures with long-term sustainability commitments.

"To address this, we incorporated our ESG strategy into the group's strategic planning process, integrating sustainability into our corporate key performance indicators," says Chin.

Another challenge, he says, was managing stakeholder engagement. With varying expectations and con-



KPJ HEALTHCARE

KPJ was recognised by *The Malaysian Book of Records* as the first healthcare provider in Malaysia to implement a clinical waste segregation initiative

cerns, he highlights that it was crucial to maintain alignment between the firm's ESG goals and the needs of its stakeholders.

"We overcame this through strategic stakeholder mapping, effective communication channels and a collaborative approach, ensuring regular feedback and awareness programs that resonated with all our key stakeholders," says Chin.

Chin also opines that public-private partnerships can play a critical role in driving ESG adoption, and KPJ believes more strategic collaborations are essential.

"Furthermore, increased sustainability advocacy and awareness among consumers will lead to more conscious choices, which is vital in driving change at the grassroots level," says Chin. **E**



EMERGING STAR

Hextar Retail wins gold for energy conservation

BY KIRAN JACOB

HEXTAR RETAIL BHD (KL:HEXRTL) emerged as the gold winner in the emerging star category at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 for acknowledging the need to minimise the company's environmental impact from conserving energy and reducing its carbon footprint.

Managing director Eric Vo says this was achieved through a combination of energy-efficiency initiatives, transitioning to renewable energy sources and promoting sustainable practices across the company's operations.

"By engaging key stakeholders and employees, we raised awareness and drove change by investing in solar energy systems and installing energy-efficient LED lighting. These efforts were aligned with our long-term sustainability goals. Energy conservation has emerged as the most notable ESG achievement over the past year for Hextar Retail," he says.



What sets us apart is the seamless alignment of ESG goals with our overall business strategy, ensuring that sustainability is not treated as a side initiative but as a core part of how we create value

HEXTAR RETAIL
Vo

The emerging star category was introduced at the awards this year to reward public-listed companies that received ESG scores by FTSE Russell for the first time in the past year.

Vo says sustainability is integrated into every facet of the company's business operations.

"We've implemented an inclusive workplace policy [that promotes] diversity and equity across all levels. Additionally, we're deeply committed to transparency, [with] detailed ESG reports [published yearly] to keep our stakeholders informed. What sets us apart is the seamless alignment of ESG goals with our overall business strategy, ensuring that sustainability is not treated as a side initiative but as a core part of how we create value," he says.

For Hextar Retail, the biggest challenge over the past year was to stay competitive amid rising operational costs. This is because the shift to sustainable materials and processes requires significant investment, with slow returns on the initial investment.

The company managed to overcome this with the help of tax incentives, government grants, cost-saving meas-



HEXTAR RETAIL

Hextar minimised the company's environmental impact from conserving energy through a combination of energy-efficiency initiatives and transitioning to renewable energy sources

ures and strategic partnerships with suppliers that have a shared sustainability vision, he says.

This is why Vo is hoping for stronger support from the government for ESG adoption to be more effective in Malaysia. For instance, this could be in the form of incentives for companies that invest in sustainable practices.

"Current tax breaks and subsidies for renewable energy adoption are particularly helpful. From investors, we hope for a longer-term perspective on ESG investments, recognising that while the initial costs are high, the long-term value to society and the business is significant. Lastly, consumer demand for sustainable products needs to continue growing, as this drives more businesses to integrate ESG into their core strategies," he says. **E**



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BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS • ALLOCATION

BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS • EQUITY

BEST IMPACT • RESOURCE SECURITY

RHB wins three gold awards in fund category

BY ELAINE BOEY

RHB ISLAMIC INTERNATIONAL ASSET MANAGEMENT's i-Sustainable Future Technology Fund emerged triumphant at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024, securing two gold awards — best overall fund and best fund in the equity asset class.

Meanwhile, RHB Asset Management's ESG Multi-Asset Fund claimed gold in the best fund in the allocation asset class category, while its Climate Change Solutions Fund earned a silver award in the best impact fund under the resource security category.

With a total of three gold and one silver awards, RHB is one of the two biggest winners in the fund category this year.

"Our success stems from our ongoing efforts to refine and enhance our offerings, ensuring they meet the growing



By staying true to our core ESG principles and focusing on long-term sustainability trends, we can transform short-term market fluctuations into strategic opportunities

Ng

demand for sustainable investment solutions while staying at the forefront of emerging trends in responsible investing for Malaysian investors," says Ng Chze How, managing director and CEO of RHB Asset Management.

Ng adds that the asset management company views market volatility as a catalyst for growth and innovation. This year, a significant challenge for fund managers has been navigating global market fluctuations driven by geopolitical tensions, shifting interest rate expectations and the soaring stock performance of the world's largest technology companies.

"By staying true to our core ESG principles and focusing on long-term sustainability trends, we can transform short-term market fluctuations into strategic opportunities. Our commitment to sustainability enables us to invest in critical transitions, such as the shift to a low-carbon economy, which presents resilient growth prospects despite market unpredictability," he says.

The i-Sustainable Future Technology Fund invests in shariah-compliant technology companies that contribute to the development of a sustainable global economy. Ng highlights that the fund centres on critical sustainable technology themes, including low-carbon infrastructure, clean energy solutions, smart cities, data security and digital democratisation.

Meanwhile, RHB ESG Multi-Asset Fund feeds into the BlackRock ESG Multi-Asset Fund, which invests in equities, fixed income, clean

energy, social housing, gold and other hedging strategies.

The RHB Climate Change Solutions Fund feeds into the JP Morgan Asset Management's Climate Change



The i-Sustainable Future Technology Fund invests in shariah-compliant technology companies that contribute to the development of a sustainable global economy

Solutions Fund, which invests in a portfolio of companies developing climate change solutions.

"We remain optimistic about the prospects for our ESG-focused funds, especially as global markets adjust to the recent US Federal Reserve rate cut. While we anticipate that market volatility may continue in the short term, we are confident that our diversified strategies will deliver value and help navigate these fluctuations effectively," says Ng.

BEST IN E, S AND G • ENVIRONMENT

BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS • FIXED INCOME

AHAM Capital reinforces commitment to sustainability

BY ELAINE BOEY

THE AHAM ESG SGD BOND FUND is a familiar winner at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards. For the third consecutive year, it has clinched the gold award in the best fixed income fund category. The fund also won silver in the best "E" (environment) category.

"Our commitment to integrating ESG principles into portfolio management not only strengthens our credit selection process but also aims to deliver better performance versus peers," says Esther Teo, chief of fixed income at AHAM Asset Management Bhd (AHAM Capital).



As the landscape of responsible investing continues to evolve, we have enhanced our internal frameworks for evaluating ESG risks and opportunities across various investment instruments

Teo

The complex economic landscape posed the biggest challenge to the fund manager in the past year.

"Globally, several key developments have influenced the bond markets, including geopolitical tensions, uncertainty surrounding growth and inflation, and shifts in monetary policy across major economies, which have led to increased volatility in global financial markets. In addition, central banks worldwide are grappling with the delicate balance of managing inflation while ensuring relatively healthy economic growth," says Teo.

To mitigate these uncertainties, the fund managers took a conservative approach to the winning fund by tilting its allocation towards high-quality corporate and government bonds, which tend to be more resilient and less volatile in a slowing growth environment.

AHAM ESG SGD Bond Fund adopts a negative screening process to exclude securities issued by companies with principal business activities in alcohol, coal mining, forestry and logging, fossil fuel, gaming, tobacco, military weapons and other businesses. Material ESG issues are then considered in the assessment and securities selection process.

AHAM Capital's recently developed internal sovereign ESG Rating Framework is pivotal to the company's commitment to responsible investing. This framework provides a standardised and comparable measure of a coun-

try's performance in the environmental, social and governance aspects.

"As the landscape of responsible investing continues to evolve, we have enhanced our internal frameworks for evaluating ESG risks and opportunities across various investment instruments. Our commitment to strengthening ESG integration reflects our ongoing journey to champion sustainability," Teo says.

She sees an increased momentum in the ESG and sustainable and responsible investment (SRI) bond issuance landscape.

"This should bring, in tandem, an increase in demand for greater transparency and enhanced disclosures on sustainability outcomes from investors. There is room for growth in investor education and awareness, especially for retail investors unfamiliar with sustainable investing and [who] may find it challenging to identify greenwashing."

This lack of familiarity among investors impacts the overall demand for ESG and SRI funds. Therefore, more educational initiatives are in relation to the long-term financial benefits of ESG and SRI investing.

"We also anticipate increased collaboration between the public and private sectors, particularly involving smaller companies, to facilitate knowledge sharing and promote sustainable practices throughout the supply chain," Teo adds.

Companies should be encouraged to disclose relevant ESG information transparently. Towards this end, she hopes to see continued regulatory support from stakeholders, particularly in establishing comprehensive ESG disclosures and reporting standards guidelines.



FUNDS

BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS • FIXED INCOME

UOB Asset Management integrates local and regional perspectives

BY ELAINE BOEY

TAKING a regional and local perspective has contributed to the company's silver award at *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024* in the best fund based on asset class (fixed income) category, says Lim Suet Ling, CEO of UOB Asset Management.

The winning fund, the United Sustainable Series Global Credit MYR Hedged, is a wholesale feeder fund that focuses on bonds from companies advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

"Our approach combines local and Asean perspectives, enabling us to navigate the unique intricacies of regional ESG practices effectively," says Lim.

"We also invested in continuous education on ESG for our team, coupled with active staff participation in corporate social responsibility initiatives. This fosters a greater appreciation of our community and environmental stewardship."

The biggest challenge in managing the fund last year was identifying value and strategic positioning, and maintaining a high-quality bias in the portfolio.

"Monetary policy and inflation expectations were the dominant forces shaping financial markets in 2024. While government bonds experienced significant volatility, credit markets remained subdued, with spreads staying tight throughout the year. Credit markets seemed to price in a soft landing scenario, leaving little room for error. This be-



Data is the backbone of all research, and we urge companies to gradually disclose meaningful ESG metrics and initiatives, steering clear of the pitfalls of greenwashing

Lim

came evident in early August when a key economic data release [in the US] triggered a surge in volatility, causing spreads to widen almost immediately," says Lim.

She adds that investing in subordinated financial bonds issued by high-quality financial institutions is an example of identifying value in such an environment. In addition, present valuations in credit markets suggest a consensus expectation of a US economic soft landing.

She hopes to see ongoing and active stakeholder engagement to make ESG and SRI funds more mainstream and competitive in the country. This includes a concerted effort to ensure that ESG data is consistent and standardised across the board.

"Data is the backbone of all research, and we urge companies to gradually dis-

close meaningful ESG metrics and initiatives, steering clear of the pitfalls of greenwashing. In the long run, companies demonstrating sound ESG practices should be better positioned in the global supply chain, ultimately creating value and rewarding investors and funds committed to sustainable investment," she says.



BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS • ALLOCATION



BEST E,S AND G • ENVIRONMENT



BEST E,S AND G • SOCIAL



BEST E,S AND G • GOVERNANCE

BIMB Investment emerges as one of the biggest winners

BY ELAINE BOEY

BIMB INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT BHD claimed the most awards for the second consecutive year at *The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024*. Makmur myWakaf Fund (MWF) secured four accolades: the gold award in the best E (environmental), the best S (social) and the best G (governance) fund categories and the silver award in the best allocation fund category.

"In the past year, we enhanced our portfolio to adapt to shifting market conditions and investor preferences. Our goal is to optimise clients' portfolios while reinforcing ESG as a key differentiator in our approach," says BIMB CEO Azdini Nor Azman.

MWF, the first wakaf unit trust fund under the Securities Commission Malaysia's (SC) Waqf-Featured Fund Framework, launched on Nov 12, 2020, is also recognised as a qualified Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI) fund under the SC guidelines.

Wakaf, an Islamic endowment typically tied to social and philanthropic aims, has been central to MWF's mission since its



We also want greater awareness among the industry players in maintaining good reporting standards and discipline to produce reliable and high-integrity data

Azdini

inception in 2021. The Association of Islamic Banking and Financial Institutions Malaysia (AIBIM), the appointed wakaf manager, has distributed nearly RM475,000 from the fund to various projects.

These contributions focus on critical areas such as healthcare, community empowerment and education. Notable projects include the Waqf al-Bayt in Sarawak, the Wakaf Selangor Muamalat-Universiti Malaya Mobile Dental Clinic and haemodialysis centres in Perlis and Terengganu.

"Our investment activities drive long-term benefits for both investors and society by maintaining the environment, addressing societal issues, and promoting good governance," she says.

She also points to increasing efforts among regulators to enhance ESG reporting, citing the recent launch of Bursa Malaysia's National Sustainability Reporting Framework. This framework, which aligns Malaysia with over 20 jurisdictions that have adopted or are moving towards implementing the IFRS S1 and S2 standards, aims to ensure consistent and reliable sustainability information.

"We hope the strengthened ESG landscape and regulatory commitment will boost investor confidence, introducing a new dimension to investment decision-making. While traditional metrics focus on revenue, earnings and market share, ESG or SRI investing looks beyond these factors," Azdini says.



UNIVERSITI MALAYA MOBILE DENTAL CLINIC

The MWF has distributed RM475,000 from the fund to various projects, focusing on critical areas such as healthcare, community empowerment and education

"We also want greater awareness among the industry players in maintaining good reporting standards and discipline to produce reliable and high-integrity data. As investors, we rely heavily on the disclosures and reported data to make good investment decisions."

Although her market outlook remains mixed, Azdini anticipates rate cuts and government stimulus will create a more favourable environment for equities. "There's growing interest in companies with strong fundamentals, sustainable practices and resilient growth," she says, adding that market volatility presents risks and opportunities for disciplined, long-term investors.

At least two-thirds of MWF's net asset value is allocated to United Nations Global Compact or ESG-compliant investments. Its equity allocation focuses on dividend stocks, while a portion is reserved for alpha generation opportunities.

"This strategy reflects our commitment to dividend growth as a reliable buffer. Additionally, 50% of MWF's monthly income distributions go towards wakaf, reinforcing our dedication to social responsibility and community development," says Azdini.



FUNDS

BEST IN E, S AND G • SOCIAL

MIDF Amanah AM balances sustainability and returns

BY AHMAD NAQIB IDRIS

MIDF AMANAH ASSET MANAGEMENT (MAAM) has clinched two silver medals in the Best S (social) and G (governance) categories of *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024 with its MIDF ESG Fund (formerly known as the MIDF Amanah ESG Mustadamah Fund).

The fund, which adopts an investment strategy focused on sustainable, high-quality companies, primarily invests in shariah-compliant stocks listed on Bursa Malaysia.

“We achieved this by embedding sustainability into our investment strategies, understanding that today’s markets demand more than just returns; they demand responsibility,” says the MAAM team.

“Our focus on creating investment tools that align with ESG values has not only driven sustainable performance

but also set a benchmark in the industry. This isn’t just about ticking boxes; it’s about redefining what success looks like in the financial landscape.”

MAAM says the turbulent investment landscape, marked by macroeconomic volatility, inflationary pressures and geopolitical uncertainties, has led the fund to adopt a defensive asset allocation strategy to preserve capital while still keeping an eye out for opportunities.

The MIDF ESG Fund was able to evaluate the broader impact of its investments by integrating ESG filters into its process, allowing it to be more cautious and strategic when selecting stocks.

Since the fund’s launch in June 2021, the team has seen a marked shift in the domestic investment landscape towards ESG, with investors increasingly recognising the importance of ESG in driving long-term financial performance.

The fund manager also notes the important role regulators and exchanges have in making ESG investing more accessible, adding that their backing has been crucial in bringing products such as the MIDF ESG Fund out of a niche and into the mainstream.

BEST IN E, S AND G • GOVERNANCE



MAAM says the investment landscape has been turbulent, marked by geopolitical uncertainties and other factors

MAAM says support and active engagement from all stakeholders are required to push ESG investing as the norm and drive the sustainability agenda forward.

Looking ahead, the fund manager is optimistic about the MIDF ESG Fund’s potential to meet its absolute return objectives over the medium to long term, despite ongoing market volatility, by integrating robust ESG assessment criteria with traditional investment approaches to navigate challenges effectively.

“Our commitment to a rigorous investment process ensures that our ESG journey isn’t just aspirational but is genuinely impactful,” says the team. **E**

BEST IMPACT • RESOURCE SECURITY

Manulife IM bags gold again with water sustainability focus

BY AHMAD NAQIB IDRIS

MANULIFE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT’s (Manulife IM) Manulife Global Aqua Fund took the top awards for best impact in the basic needs and resource security fund categories for the second consecutive year at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024.

The unit trust fund invests in companies across the water value chain, including water treatment, distribution and technology, targeting those at the forefront of addressing key global challenges such as water contamination and infrastructure sustainability. Its portfolio includes leading consultants, laboratories and water treatment providers.

At least 85% of the fund’s net asset value (NAV) is invested in the BNP Paribas Funds Aqua fund, which is managed by Impax Asset Management Ltd.

In 2023, based on US\$1 million invested, companies in the BNP Paribas Funds Aqua contributed to 236 megalitres of water treated, saved or provided; 308 tonnes of avoided greenhouse gas emissions; 118 tonnes of materials recovered or waste treated and 26 MWh of renewable electricity generated, according to the fund manager.

BEST IMPACT • BASIC NEEDS



Manulife Global Aqua Fund invests in companies across the water value chain, including in water treatment, distribution and technology

One of its investee companies, Veolia Environnement, designs and provides water, waste and energy management solutions globally — an increasingly crucial endeavour amid growing global populations and scarcer resources.

The fund delivered resilient operational results, which drove share price strength for most portfolio companies, but not without some macro uncertainties thrown in the mix. These included the higher-for-longer interest rate environment, which proved to be a headwind for companies with water products exposed to residential and commercial real estate.

Manulife IM says central banks could lower interest rates going forward, based on the recent supportive inflation data, with bond yields to follow. However, this view must be bal-

anced with cautionary guidance from the US Federal Reserve.

It also says certain end markets remain impacted by the post-Covid downturn, such as the bioprocessing sector, which struggled with a slower-than-expected recovery due to ongoing destocking and has yet to return to its pre-Covid growth rate.

Meanwhile, the slower recovery has been priced into the share prices of companies in the sector, which now seems undervalued compared with its growth potential.

Looking ahead, the fund manager sees significant opportunities for solutions in the water sector, driven by challenges posed by climate change, ageing infrastructure, pollution and meeting the rising demand from growing populations and emerging water-intensive industries. **E**



FUNDS

BEST IMPACT • BASIC NEEDS

AmFunds prioritises ESG in investment decision-making

BY SREEREMA BANOO

AMFUNDS MANAGEMENT BHD (AFM) won silver in the Best Impact (Basic Needs) category for its AmSustainable Series-Positive Change MYRH Fund, which places a strong emphasis on responsible investments by incorporating ESG in its investment decision-making process, says AFM CEO Goh Wee Peng.

AFM and AmIslamic Funds Management Sdn Bhd (AIFM) (collectively known as AmInvest) became signatories to the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) in 2023. In FY2024, AFM re-launched three then-existing funds to align with Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SRI) principles.

The Positive Change Fund, Goh says, is composed of high-quality companies, run by adaptive and strong management teams that have set out to solve major global challenges.

“These strong fundamentals position the portfolio well to deliver over the long run. The target fund manager, Bailie Gifford, believes that strong, fundamental analysis and a bottom-up stock-picking approach will prevail, and that the fund’s unique approach in seeking companies solv-



Goh believes the fund is best placed to benefit from shifts like the energy transition and technology-led healthcare revolution

ing major global challenges means they are well positioned to become some of the most valuable companies of the next decade,” says Goh.

This recent period, she adds, has been difficult for impact and sustainable investors to navigate as a result of a high inflationary and interest rate environment. This has been heightened by geopolitical risks and an incredibly concentrated index, whose gains were dominated by a small number of artificial intelligence-related winners. “As a result, the market underappreciated the growth prospects for



The fund’s two objectives are complementary and can benefit from attractive financial returns while channelling capital purposefully

Goh

holdings within the fund.”

She believes, however, that in the long term, the fund is best placed to benefit from major societal shifts such as the energy transition and technology-led healthcare revolution.

“Today, there is a significant disconnect between the strong operational progress being achieved by many of the portfolio companies and their share prices. Indeed, we cannot remember a time in recent history when the disconnect between disruptive opportunity and growth valuations was so vast, which

we believe places us in an extraordinarily strong position to meet our long-term objective. The fund’s two objectives are complementary and can benefit from attractive financial returns while channelling capital purposefully,” she says.

For ESG and SRI funds to be more commonplace or competitive in Malaysia, Goh hopes to see additional incentives or subsidies to encourage an increase in investable assets or securities in the market and capacity building, as well as the issuance of a standardised sustainability or ESG data reporting framework. **E**



BEST IMPACT • CLIMATE ACTION

Public Mutual driving ESG stewardship

BY SREEREMA BANOO

PUBLIC MUTUAL BHD clinched the gold and silver awards in the Best Impact (Climate Action) category for its Public e-Carbon Efficient Fund (PeCEF) and Public e-Islamic Sustainable Millennial Fund (PeISMF) even as it continues to focus on investments in companies with positive earnings prospects as well as drive ESG stewardship in investee companies.

CEO Chiang Kang Pey says the biggest challenge in managing these funds this year revolved around seeking investment opportunities that suited the funds’ ESG and sustainability requirements, amid an environment of elevated market volatility.

“To overcome this challenge, we continued to focus on investments in companies with positive earnings prospects while rebalancing the funds’ portfolios where appropriate, on top of assessing the investee companies’ sustainable practices.”

He adds that the lack of standardisation in ESG disclosures and transparency in reporting guidelines continued

to hamper its ability to compare investee companies’ sustainability credentials.

“To overcome this lack of a consistent approach to ESG reporting as well as address rising greenwashing concerns, our investment team has developed an internal ESG framework to complement the third-party ESG data used in our investment decision-making process,” he says, adding that it has also driven ESG stewardship by engaging with investee companies that have ESG weaknesses to help them improve their ESG credentials over time.

Chiang expects companies to continue enhancing their ESG strategies and reporting processes. Apart from policymakers and regulators requiring listed companies to enhance their ESG credentials and practices over time to push the ESG agenda, investors also have a role to play in continuously engaging with investee companies via exercising their voting rights at shareholder meetings and encouraging the companies to improve their ESG credentials and practices where possible.

“One way to promote ESG investing among the public is to increase the number and variety of ESG-related product offerings. At Public Mutual, we launched three Islamic Sustainable and Responsible Investment funds in the past 12 months, which invest in the regional, global and domestic markets respectively,” he says.

Looking ahead, he says, the global equity markets and investor sentiment may be underpinned by the major central



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Chiang

banks’ pivot to easing their monetary policies.

“In addition, the US’ economic growth is expected to remain resilient in 2025 on the back of continued strength in consumer spending amid receding inflationary pressures. A resilient US economy, as well as declining bond yields, alongside lower US interest rates, should bode well for the performance of equity funds such as PeCEF and PeISMF, which invest in the global markets,” he says.

As an organisation, he adds, Public Mutual takes pride in its commitment to empowering underserved communities through focused financial education initiatives. In 2023, it held more than 100 financial planning, money management and investment talks specifically designed for the B40 community, upper secondary students, underprivileged children and women to improve their financial literacy. These support the social pillar of ESG.

Chiang says Public Mutual advocates for early and regular investing, adopting a long-term horizon and maintaining a diversified investment portfolio to navigate market uncertainties.

“These concepts are promoted through our social media channels on Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube and TikTok, as well as through electronic direct mailers sent to our investors,” he says.

“Our aim is to increase the financial literacy of our investors and the public, as well as to keep them informed about investment news that may be of interest.” **E**



BEST IMPACT • CLIMATE ACTION



FUNDS

BEST ESG PERFORMANCE AND RETURNS

Nomura Asset Management Malaysia wins gold with shariah-compliant ESG focus

BY AHMAD NAQIB IDRIS

NOMURA ASSET MANAGEMENT MALAYSIA (NAM Malaysia) has received recognition for its commitment to ESG, with the Nomura Global Shariah Sustainable Equity Fund (GSSE) winning the gold award in the best ESG performance and returns category at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024.

GSSE aims to achieve long-term capital growth by investing in shariah-compliant equities and equity-related securities of companies worldwide. It targets investments that align with sustainable development goals, ensuring a positive impact on society while adhering to shariah principles.

Managing an ESG-focused fund like GSSE has presented several challenges, primarily due to the high inflation environment prevalent across major developed economies, according to the Global Equities team of NAM Malaysia, as the US Federal Reserve's aggressive interest rate hikes — totalling 5.25% in less than two years — heightened investor concerns about a potential recession.



Investors are favouring the 'Magnificent Seven' tech stocks and themes like artificial intelligence

This uncertainty led to a narrow market focus, with investors favouring the “Magnificent Seven” stocks — Apple, Microsoft, Alphabet, Amazon.com, Nvidia, Meta Platforms and Tesla — and structural themes like artificial intelligence (AI).

“Although GSSE did not invest in all the Magnificent Seven, we managed to achieve strong positive returns through our disciplined, bottom-up approach, focusing on high-quality companies at reasonable valuations. Despite the challenging macroeconomic environment, these select companies demonstrated resilience, consistently delivering better-than-expected earnings results,” says the global equities team.

While the team remains cautious about recession risks, top-down market discussions on the likelihood and severity of a downturn could present potential opportunities for attractive investments. “Our bottom-up approach will prioritise identifying quality companies capable of outperforming their peers by effectively navigating the volatile business environment and capturing business opportunities.”

tion, which is a non-profit organisation dedicated to improving global access to essential healthcare.

“By providing data and participating in surveys, we hope to see the company contribute to the foundation's efforts to enhance transparency, stimulate innovation and improve public access to medicines, particularly in low- and middle-income countries,” says the team.

NAM Malaysia hopes to see greater acceptance of ESG and sustainable and responsible investment funds in Malaysia, emphasising that ESG is not merely a superficial box-ticking compliance exercise.

The team believes that ESG is not only a tool for positive environmental and social impact but also a catalyst for new business opportunities for companies equipped with the right technology and capabilities.

“ESG and fund performance are not mutually exclusive as ESG helps to develop a virtuous cycle of sustainable business growth. We believe that ESG creates long-term growth opportunities that align with a long-term investment horizon, enabling investors to achieve their desired capital returns.”



BEST ESG PERFORMANCE AND RETURNS

Maybank AM maintains ESG commitment amid AI exuberance

BY AHMAD NAQIB IDRIS

MAYBANK ASSET MANAGEMENT SDN BHD's (Maybank AM) Maybank Global Sustainable Technology Fund has won silver in the new best ESG performance and returns category at *The Edge Malaysia* ESG Awards 2024.

The Maybank Global Sustainable Technology Fund invests in technology companies worldwide, either directly or indirectly. The fund uses the MSCI AC World Custom Technology Index as its performance benchmark and employs a bottom-up approach for security selection, emphasising ESG integration in its research process.

Syhiful Zamri, chief investment officer of Maybank AM, explains that the main challenge this year was managing the excitement around investments in generative artificial intelligence (AI) while dealing with the limited returns achieved so far.

“The exuberance around this space has led to a concentration of performance in those companies seen as the most direct beneficiaries of AI, namely some of the leading tech mega caps and GPU providers,” says Syhiful.

“Narrow market environments can prove challenging for strategies driven by fundamental stock selection such as our fund.”

Syhiful adds that capex cycles in the tech sector are often highly volatile. Still, the team is focused on seizing opportunities, pointing out that the fund has significant exposure to companies expected to benefit from ongoing AI equipment and services investments.

The team uses Wellington's ESG research to assess risks and opportunities in Gen AI, including ethical and social implications, energy consumption, climate impacts of AI data centres, and supply chain resilience in semiconductor companies affected by geopolitics, weather and labour issues.

The domestic ESG and socially responsible investing (SRI) landscape requires collaboration among regulators, corporations and fund managers to become more integrated, according to Syhiful.

He emphasises the need to strengthen regulatory clarity, balance transparency with practicality, enhance tax incentives and raise awareness to support the growth of ESG-focused funds.

Meanwhile, expanding ESG fund options is crucial for fund managers to meet

growing investor demand, attract more investors and drive innovation in sustainable investment offerings.

“By working together to create a supportive environment, encouraging corporate responsibility and expanding the range of investment options, we can make significant strides towards a more sustainable future. This collaborative effort can help transform ESG and SRI investing from a niche interest into a mainstream practice that benefits everyone involved,” he says.

Outlook-wise, Syhiful says the team maintains cautious optimism for the Maybank Global Sustainable Technology Fund.

Technology equities remain attractively valued relative to the broad market, he says, noting opportunities across many tech subsectors, while falling interest rates could be a tailwind for higher growth areas of the market, such as software.

“The cloud hyperscalers have all doubled down on this trend, announcing billions in AI-related capex increases during the quarter. Outside of AI, we are seeing signs of demand bottoming or improving across several key semiconductor end markets, including memory, PCs, handsets, general servers and autos,” he says.

Meanwhile, key risks Maybank AM is monitoring include questions around the consumer's health, continued weakness in enterprise demand, impacts of the US election, including heightening geopolitical tensions, and durability of AI investments.



We encourage stakeholders to share best practices, experiences and insights, fostering a collective approach towards ESG adoption

Syhiful

Starting from the ground up

BY CHELSEA LEE JIA SHI

TO yield good wine, it must come from good soil. With no herbicides, synthetic pesticides, synthetic fungicides or chemical fertilisers used, the soil blooms with vitality. This is the foundation for organic viticulture.

Organic viticulture is the cultivation and harvesting of grapes with an emphasis on healthy and fertile soil. It helps to strengthen the vines while protecting the biodiversity of the area.

Only 5% of the vineyards in the Champagne wine region in France are certified organic. Champagne Telmont, which currently has 74% of its 24.5ha estate in organic agriculture or in the process of conversion, aims to have all of its vineyards certified organic.

This is what the maison has been championing with its Réserve de la Terre, cultivated through organic viticulture.

“Champagne Telmont has demonstrated how to reap the legacy of the land in a globally applicable way. It is taking biodiversity beyond the boardroom,” says Laure Verdeau, director of Agence Bio, the French agency for the development and promotion of organic farming.

The Réserve de la Terre is a testament to Champagne Telmont’s commitment to its craft, having introduced sustainability without compromising on the experience on the palate. The champagne focuses more on the essence of the fruit to reflect



the life of the vineyard, resulting in a low sugar level of 2.5g per litre.

Aged in Champagne Telmont’s cellar for three years, the Réserve de la Terre is a blend of three magnificent years (2020 at 70%, 2019 at 15% and 2018 at 15%) and three perfectly balanced grape varieties (Meunier at 44%, Chardonnay at 34% and Pinot Noir at 22%).

The flavour profile of the champagne has the taste of crisp green apple, mineral and fleshy that then evolves into a versatility with the exotic echoes of yuzu zest. It ends with a long, tangy after-taste, fresh, sparkling and full of vitality, according to the company.

“There will be a before and after Réserve de la Terre. This cuvée is proof by example that it is possible to go further than just respecting biodiversity. We can also combine organic and excellence by doing away with herbicides, pesticides, fungicides and other synthetic fertilisers in the name of Mother Nature,” says Champagne Telmont president Ludovic du Plessis.

All of these efforts are part of the maison’s “In the Name of Mother Nature” programme, under which it has set a goal for itself to be climate positive by 2030 and net positive by 2050 by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 90% and sequestering more than the equivalent of residual emissions.

Champagne Telmont has worked with sustainability consultancy Quantis to measure its Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions under the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. The largest contributor (27%) of the maison’s Scope 3 emissions is the production and supply of its grapes, so it encourages its winegrower houses to transition to organic agriculture, with the ambitious aim of converting 100% of the cultivated area, compared with 49% currently.

All the emissions from shipping were evaluated as well, and Champagne Telmont made the decision to ban air transport for all distribution from July 2021. As of 2024, champagnes bound for the US will be on Neoline ships powered by wind energy to help the company benefit from lower carbon emissions.

The maison also looked into its packaging, which accounted for 4% of its emissions in 2020 and 2021.



“This organic cuvée is one of my greatest victories. It’s the fruit of my long-standing commitment to organic viticulture and respect for the terroir and the vines. A manifesto-cuvée, radiant, luminous, and full of life.”

Bertrand Lhôpital,

Cellar Master and Grapefather of Maison Telmont

“With this new cuvée Réserve de la Terre, Telmont continues to demonstrate the benefits of organic farming for the soil, the winegrowers, and the wine itself. It’s the taste of the future.”

Leonardo DiCaprio, investor in Maison Telmont

“Champagne Telmont has demonstrated how to reap the legacy of the land in a globally applicable way. It’s taking biodiversity beyond the boardroom.”

Laure Verdeau, Director Agence Bio France

While the figure may have seemed insignificant, it decided to take action in any way that it could. The company eventually made the decision to do away with the packaging, leaving only the bottle.

Even the glass bottles, which used to be transparent and made from 0% recycled glass, are now 100% recyclable and made from 85% recycled glass, giving them a green finish. **E**



“There will be a before and after Réserve de la Terre. This cuvée is proof by example that it is possible to go further than just respecting biodiversity. We can also combine organic and excellence by doing away with herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, and other synthetic fertilizers, In the Name of Mother Nature.”

Ludovic du Plessis,

President of Maison Telmont

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN HONOURING MALAYSIA'S BEST ESG LEADERS



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RUSSELL**
An LSEG Business

Main
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Knowledge Partner
(Funds Category)



Auditor





SCENES FROM THE GALA NIGHT

The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024 was held at Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on Oct 14. The photowall was crafted using eco-friendly materials, such as the recycled wood that formed the backbone of the structure. The plants, which were taken home by attendees later, were sourced from Cameron Highlands and Johor.



Guest of honour Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof being greeted by The Edge Media Group publisher and group CEO Datuk Ho Kay Tat and UOB Bank Malaysia CEO Ng Wei Wei



Jose Barrock (The Edge) and Raja Azlan Shah Raja Azwa (MISC Bhd)



Leela Barrock (SD Guthrie) and Anna Taing (The Edge)





From left: Sharon Teh (The Edge), Yee Wing Peng (Deloitte Malaysia), Kathy Fong (The Edge), Ng Wei Wei (UOB Malaysia), Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Tan Sri Tong Kooi Ong (The Edge), Datuk Umar Swift (Bursa Malaysia), Datuk Ho Kay Tat (The Edge), Nicolas Gisbert (Morningstar, Inc) and Tan Zhai Yun (The Edge)



Eric Yum from Morningstar, Inc with Jenny Ng from The Edge



Felix Lai and Lee Kwee Heng from Tomypak Holdings Bhd with Darren Lee from Bursa Malaysia



Ng being interviewed by The Edge TV



Chau Chun Seng (UOB Asset Management Bhd) taking a selfie with Michelle Tan (ViTrox Corporation Bhd), Lim Suet Ling (UOB Asset Management Bhd) and Lim Kim Seng (ViTrox Corporation Bhd)



A celebratory moment for Sabrina Halim (in white) and her team from Hektar REIT



Datuk Voon Tin Yow (left) and Lyanna Tew (right) from Mah Sing Group Bhd with Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof



Grace Law, Ng Bee Lien, Rachel Soo and Kam Cai See from Sunway REIT





Ahmad Afandi from ISIS Malaysia



Charlene Lionel, Maggie Wong and Lee Sheung Un from AHAM Asset Management Bhd with Ravinyaa Ravimalar and Grace Yap from The Edge



Leslie Yap (Nomura Asset Management Malaysia Sdn Bhd) being congratulated by Kathy Fong (The Edge)



Tenaga Nasional Bhd's Leo Pui Yong (holding trophy) having a conversation with Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof



Ruben Nair and Brandon Wong from Manulife Investment Management (M) Bhd with Ng Chze How from RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd



Yee Wing Peng (second from right) and Lim Bee Vee (left) from Deloitte Malaysia with Kathy Fong (right) and Irene Ooi (second from left) from The Edge



CC Wong (left) from Bursa Malaysia with Chua Seok Cheng and Yeoh Choon Kwee from Southern Steel Bhd



Chung Yee Wah from Public Mutual with Ng Kai Chong and Ooi Mei Foong from Eastspring Investments Bhd



Tania Davina Yoganathan (CIMB), Joyce Goh (Accenture), Anna Taing (The Edge), Tammy Toh (CIMB) and Gurdip Singh Sidhu (CIMB)



Julianna Lim (Morningstar, Inc), Sharon Teh (The Edge), Nicolas Gisbert (Morningstar, Inc), Robyn Lee (Morningstar, Inc) and Kenny Lim (The Edge)



Rodney Tay (UOB Malaysia), Marie Phang (UOB Malaysia), Moreen Joseph (UOB Malaysia), Lim Suet Ling (UOB Asset Management), Anna Taing (The Edge), Fong Lai Kuan (The Edge) and Anita Tang (UOB Malaysia)



Mohd Haris Mohd Arshad from SD Guthrie Bhd with Tan Zhai Yun and Shannon Leong from The Edge



Datuk Umar Swift (Bursa Malaysia) and Datuk Ho Kay Tat (The Edge)



Noorsazreen Nordin and Azdini Nor Azman from BIMB Investment Management Bhd



Nabilah Doyle and Kishan Buxani from UN Global Compact Network with Abdul Wahid Abu Bakar and Eric Vo from Hextar Global Bhd



Ziling Lim (left) and Hazel Yong (right) from Rémy Cointreau with Sharon Teh (The Edge)



Datuk Adnan Pawanteh preparing to receive an award on behalf of Nestlé (M) Bhd



Geetha Perumal (second from left) with (from left) Md Adha Rahmat, Sarasufia Hamdan and Aminudin Abdul Aziz from SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd



Desmond Ooi, Nor Razi Misran and Ramanrao Abdullah from Deleum Bhd with Wan Ahmad Nizam Wan Mohd Salleh from Duopharma Biotech Bhd



Kristopher Leung from Morningstar, Inc and Muhammad Fadhil Jamaluddin from Principal Asset Management Bhd



Nizam Arop, Ivy Chua and Ann Lim from UOB Malaysia with Bryan Ang from The Edge



Emcee Gabriella Robinson



Simon Wee and Ziling Lim from Rémy Cointreau with Gregory Thu from The Edge



Gan Ka Bien (seated, in green) making a toast with the team from Kawan Food Bhd



Ramanrao Abdullah from Deleum Bhd



Calvin Sew, Bhuvanewary Kisanamy and Goh Jin Aik from IOI Properties Group Bhd



Premavathy Balan from Duopharma Biotech Bhd with Yoon Siew Fei and Munirah Mustapha from Hartalega Holdings Bhd



Kaushal Mathur from Malaysian Pacific Industries Bhd and Chua Seok Cheng from Southern Steel Bhd



Atsushi Ichii and Leslie Yap from Nomura Asset Management Malaysia Sdn Bhd with Edwin Leong from RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd



Liew Sam Ngan (Media Chinese International Ltd) and Wee Tee Fatt (Sin Chew Media Corporation Bhd)



UOB Malaysia's Ng Wei Wei (centre) with Sunita Narenthiranathan and Katy K'ng from Deloitte Malaysia



Raja Shahizad (Bursa Malaysia), Hiro Chai (Mitsusho Sdn Bhd), Julian Hashim (Bursa Malaysia) and Nurnadia Mydin (MRCB)



The Edge's Kuek Ser Kwang Zhe (right) with Jef Lim, Julianna Lim and Zhiyang Chan from Morningstar, Inc



Ivy Wong Abdullah from Permian Global Advisors LLP with Dhiya Durani and Kelvin Diong from IOI Properties Group Bhd



Teoh Cy Kuan from George Kent (M) Bhd posing with a trophy



Chyselle Oh, Lee Ming Siang and Chuah Li Mor from Hartalega Holdings Bhd



Paul Khor from AmFunds Management Bhd and Michael Chang from RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd



Seated, from left: Karen Liew (IOI Properties), Moreen Joseph (UOB Malaysia), Dr Surina Ismail (IOI Corporation)
Standing, from left: Gregory Thu (The Edge), Datuk Ruben Emir Gnanalingam Abdullah and Ahmad Zubir Zahid from Westports Holdings Bhd



Yoong Nin Chin with Mohd Ismadi Mohd Fauzi from Wasco Bhd snapping a photo of the company's award



Yow Thin Thin (centre) from Bursa Malaysia with Jessica Wong (left) and Rebecca Leong (right) from Axis REIT



Kuek Ser Kwang Zhe, Chelsea Lee, Grace Yap, Kiran Jacobs, Anna Taing, Pathmawathy Subramaniam, Vanessa Gomes, Aris Riza, Ravinyaa Ravimalar and Tan Zhai Yun from The Edge





Ng Wei Wei (centre) and Lim Suet Ling (fifth from left, UOB Asset Management Bhd) with the team from UOB Malaysia Bhd



From left: Mohd Najman Md Isa (RHB Islamic International Asset Management Bhd) with Ng Chze How, Michael Chang and Edwin Leong from RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd



Datuk Voon Tin Yow (centre) and Lyanna Tew (third from left) with the team from Mah Sing Group Bhd



Ramanrao Abdullah (centre) with the team from Deleum Bhd



Mohd Haris Mohd Arshad (centre) with the team from SD Guthrie Bhd



Ahmad Zubir Zahid and Datuk Ruben Emir Gnanalingam Abdullah from Westports Holdings Bhd



Shirley Ng (third from left) with the team from Malaysia Steel Works (KL) Bhd



Chung Yee Wah and Hoo Pik Mun from Public Mutual Bhd



Gurdip Singh Sidhu (centre) with Tammy Toh and Tania Davina Yoganathan from CIMB Group Holdings Bhd



Datuk Umar Swift (centre) with the team from Bursa Malaysia



Nicolas Gisbert (fourth from right) with the team from Morningstar, Inc



Leo Pui Yong (centre) with the team from Tenaga Nasional Bhd



Amar Huzaimi Mohd Deris (centre) with the team from Telekom Malaysia Bhd



Teh Chin Guan (fourth from left) with the team from IOI Properties Group Bhd



Jessica Wong and Rebecca Leong from Axis REIT



Gan Ka Bien (third from right) with the team from Kawan Food Bhd



Clement Chen (fourth from left) with the team from Sunway REIT



Chin Keat Chyuan (centre) with the team from KPJ Healthcare Bhd



The Edge's Geetha Perumal (second from left) with Md Adha Rahmat, Sarasufia Hamdan and Aminudin Abdul Aziz from SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd



Brandon Wong and Reuben Nair from Manulife Investment Management (M) Bhd



Nor Aishah Saad and Azlan Azizuddin from MIDF Amanah Asset Management Bhd



Teoh Cy Kuan (fourth from left) and Datuk Thomas Leong (fifth from left) with the team from George Kent (M) Bhd



Shany Lim (fourth from left) and Ong Lek Shoan (fifth from left) with the team from MGB Bhd



Fong Lai Kuan (The Edge), Sunita Narenthiranathan (Deloitte Malaysia), Irene Ooi (The Edge), Lim Bee Vee (Deloitte Malaysia), Datuk Ho Kay Tat (The Edge), Yee Wing Peng (Deloitte Malaysia), Kathy Fong (The Edge), Datuk Peter Lim (Deloitte Malaysia), Sharon Teh (The Edge) and Katy K'ng (Deloitte Malaysia)



Jamalludin Obeng from Perdana Petroleum Bhd (second from right) with Rodney Tay, Moreen Joseph and Anita Tang from UOB Malaysia Bhd



Amarjit Chhina (fourth from left) with the team from Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd



Jolene Chay and Wong Chee Wai from Frontken Corporation Bhd



Karen Liew and Dr Surina Ismail from IOI Corporation Bhd



Kaushal Mathur and Manuel Zarauza Brandulas from Malaysian Pacific Industries Bhd



Maggie Wong (centre) with the team from AHAM Asset Management Bhd



Gretchen Govoni (third from left) with the team from Petronas Chemicals Group Bhd



Raymond Gan (fourth from right) with the team from Kelington Group Bhd



Goh Miah Kiat (fourth from left) with the team from Karex Bhd



Hiro Chai (right) from Mitsusho Sdn Bhd with Darren Lee and Yow Thin Thin from Bursa Malaysia



Lim Kim Seng and Michelle Tan from ViTrox Corporation Bhd



Kevin Wong and Paul Khor from AmFunds Management Bhd



Kuan Mun Keng (fourth from left) and Chyselle Oh (fourth from right) with the team from Hartalega Holdings Bhd



Lee Kwee Heng and Felix Lai from Tomypak Holdings Bhd



Puan Azdini Nor Azman (fourth from left) with the team from BIMB Investment Management Bhd



Muhammad Fadhil Jamaluddin from Principal Asset Management Bhd and Shannon Leong from The Edge



Michele Wong and Nadjihah Dzaiddin from Maybank Asset Management Sdn Bhd



Amanda Lee and Raja Azlan Shah Raja Azwa from MISC Bhd



Atsushi Ichii and Leslie Yap from Nomura Asset Management Malaysia Sdn Bhd



Sabrina Halim (fourth from right) with the team from Hektar REIT



Shahrul Azham Sukaiman (second from right) with the team from Petronas Gas Bhd



Nabilah Doyle and Kishan Buxani from UN Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei (UNGCMYB)



Ng Kai Chong and Ooi Mei Foong from Eastspring Investments Bhd



Ariesza Noor (third from right) with the team from Wasco Bhd



Ooi Beng Guan (fourth from right) with the team from Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd



Shamsul Idham Ahad (fourth from left) with the team from Duopharma Biotech Bhd



Yap Yuen Loo and Charity Lim from Allianz Malaysia Bhd



Amanda Hilary and Libby Low from LSEG



Kenny Lim from The Edge and Josephine Sin from CIMB Group Holdings Bhd



Petah Wazzan Iskandar, Mohamed Syamil Saiful Bahri and Muhammad Zaaba Zakeria from the Deputy Prime Minister's Office



CELEBRATING THE BEST ESG PERFORMERS

The Edge Malaysia ESG Awards 2024 saw a total of 62 awards presented to 48 public listed companies (PLC) and asset management firms during the gala dinner, which was attended by over 300 guests. Two new awards were introduced in the PLC and funds categories – the emerging star award to acknowledge PLCs that just received an ESG score in the past year, and the best ESG and performance award for funds that excelled both in sustainability and providing financial returns.

BEST OVERALL WINNER

GOLD

RHB I-SUSTAINABLE FUTURE TECHNOLOGY



FUNDS | BEST OVERALL WINNER (GOLD)

RHB I-Sustainable Future Technology (Ng Chze How, managing director & CEO, RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd)

BEST OVERALL WINNER

SILVER

PRINCIPAL GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE GROWTH



FUNDS | BEST OVERALL WINNER (SILVER)

Principal Global Sustainable Growth (Muhammad Fadhil Jamaluddin, head of sustainability and investment operations, Principal Asset Management Bhd)



FUNDS | BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS - FIXED INCOME (GOLD)
AHAM ESG SGD Bond SGD (Wendy Foon, assistant portfolio manager (fixed income), AHAM Asset Management Bhd)



FUNDS | BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS - FIXED INCOME (SILVER)
United Sustainable Series Global Credit MYRH (Lim Suet Ling, CEO, UOB Asset Management (Malaysia) Bhd)



FUNDS | BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS - EQUITY (GOLD)
RHB I-Sustainable Future Technology (Ng Chze How, managing director & CEO, RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd)



FUNDS - BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS - EQUITY (SILVER)
Principal Global Sustainable Growth (Muhammad Fadhil Jamaluddin, head of sustainability and investment operations, Principal Asset Management Bhd)



FUNDS | BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS - ALLOCATION (GOLD)
RHB ESG Multi - Asset RM Hedged (Michael Chang, CIO (fixed income investment), RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd)



FUNDS | BEST FUND BASED ON ASSET CLASS - ALLOCATION (SILVER)
Makmur MyWakaf RM (Azdini Nor Azman, CEO, BIMB Investment Management Bhd)



BEST IN E, S & G ENVIRONMENT

GOLD MAKMUR MYWAKAF RM



FUNDS | BEST IN E, S & G - ENVIRONMENT (GOLD)
Makmur MyWakaf RM (Azdini Nor Azman, CEO, BIMB Investment Management Bhd)

BEST IN E, S & G ENVIRONMENT

SILVER AHAM ESG SGD BOND SGD



FUNDS | BEST IN E, S & G - ENVIRONMENT (SILVER)
AHAM ESG SGD Bond SGD (Wendy Foon, assistant portfolio manager (fixed income), AHAM Asset Management Bhd)

BEST IN E, S & G SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE

GOLD MAKMUR MYWAKAF RM



FUNDS | BEST IN E, S & G - SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE (GOLD)
Makmur MyWakaf RM (Azdini Nor Azman, CEO, BIMB Investment Management Bhd)

BEST IN E, S & G SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE

SILVER MIDF ESG FUND



FUNDS | BEST IN E, S & G - SOCIAL & GOVERNANCE (SILVER)
MIDF ESG Fund (Nor Aishah Saad, CIO, MIDF Amanah Asset Management Bhd)

BEST IMPACT CLIMATE ACTION

GOLD PUBLIC E-CARBON EFFICIENT



FUNDS | BEST IMPACT - CLIMATE ACTION (SILVER & GOLD)
Public E-Islamic Sustainable Millennial & Public E-Carbon Efficient (Chung Yee Wah, CIO, Public Mutual Bhd)



BEST IMPACT BASIC NEEDS

GOLD

MANULIFE GLOBAL AQUA A RMH



FUNDS | BEST IMPACT - BASIC NEEDS (GOLD)

Manulife Global Aqua A RMH (Reuben Nair, head of operations, Manulife Investment Management (M) Bhd)

BEST IMPACT BASIC NEEDS

SILVER

AMSUSTAINABLE SERIES - POSITIVE CHANGE



FUNDS | BEST IMPACT - BASIC NEEDS (SILVER)

AmSustainable Series - Positive Change Fund MYRH (Kevin Wong, principal officer & CIO, AmFunds Management Bhd)

BEST IMPACT RESOURCE SECURITY

GOLD

MANULIFE GLOBAL AQUA A RMH



FUNDS | BEST IMPACT - RESOURCE SECURITY (GOLD)

Manulife Global Aqua A RMH (Reuben Nair, head of operations, Manulife Investment Management (M) Bhd)

BEST IMPACT RESOURCE SECURITY

SILVER

RHB CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS MYR



FUNDS | BEST IMPACT - RESOURCE SECURITY (SILVER)

RHB Climate Change Solutions MYR Hedged (Edwin Leong, head, product innovation, RHB Asset Management Sdn Bhd)

BEST ESG PERFORMANCE AND RETURNS

GOLD

NOMURA GLOBAL SHARIAH SUST EQ



FUNDS | BEST ESG PERFORMANCE AND RETURNS (GOLD)

Nomura Global Shariah Sust EQ (Leslie Yap, managing director, Nomura Asset Management Malaysia Sdn Bhd)

BEST ESG PERFORMANCE AND RETURNS

SILVER

MAYBANK GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TECH



FUNDS | BEST ESG PERFORMANCE AND RETURNS (SILVER)

Maybank Global Sustainable Tech (Nadjihah Dzaidin, head of sustainability management, Maybank Asset Management Group)



PLC | CONSTRUCTION (GOLD)
George Kent (M) Bhd (Teoh Cy Kuan, COO)



PLC | CONSTRUCTION (SILVER)
MGB Bhd (Shany Lim, head, group sustainability)



PLC | CONSUMER PRODUCTS & SERVICES (GOLD)
Karex Bhd (Goh Miah Kiat, CEO)



PLC | CONSUMER PRODUCTS & SERVICES (SILVER)
Nestlé (Malaysia) Bhd (Datuk Adnan Pawanteh, executive director, group corporate affairs)



PLC | ENERGY (GOLD)
Deleum Bhd (Ramanrao Abdullah, group CEO)



PLC | ENERGY (SILVER)
Wasco Bhd (Ariesza Noor, chief strategy officer, group strategy)



PLC | FINANCIAL SERVICES (GOLD)
CIMB Group Holdings Bhd (Gurdip Singh Sidhu, CEO, CIMB Malaysia and CIMB Bank Bhd)



PLC | FINANCIAL SERVICES (SILVER)
Allianz Malaysia Bhd (Yap Yuen Loo, head of sustainability)



HEALTHCARE

GOLD DUOPHARMA BIOTECH BHD



PLC | HEALTHCARE (GOLD)

Duopharma Biotech Bhd (Shamsul Idham Ahad, CEO, Duopharma Consumer Healthcare Sdn Bhd)

HEALTHCARE

SILVER HARTALEGA HOLDINGS BHD



PLC | HEALTHCARE (SILVER)

Hartalega Holdings Bhd (Chyselle Oh, general manager, strategy, sustainability & corporate management)

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES

GOLD PRESS METAL ALUMINIUM HOLDINGS BHD



PLC | INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES (GOLD)

Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd (Ooi Beng Guan, deputy CEO)

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES

SILVER PETRONAS CHEMICALS GROUP BHD



PLC | INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES (SILVER)

Petronas Chemicals Group Bhd (Gretchen Govoni, head, sustainability development)

PLANTATION

GOLD IOI CORPORATION BHD



PLC | PLANTATION (GOLD)

IOI Corporation Bhd (Surina Ismail, group chief sustainability officer)

PLANTATION

SILVER SD GUTHRIE BHD



PLC | PLANTATION (SILVER)

SD Guthrie Bhd (Haris Arshad, group COO)

PROPERTY

GOLD IOI PROPERTIES GROUP BHD



PLC | PROPERTY (GOLD)

IOI Properties Group Bhd (Teh Chin Guan, group COO)

PROPERTY

SILVER MAH SING GROUP BHD



PLC | PROPERTY (SILVER)

Mah Sing Group Bhd (Lyanna Tew, head of strategic communications, corporate responsibility and sustainability)



REIT
GOLD
SUNWAY REIT

PLC | REIT (GOLD)
Sunway REIT (Clement Chen, CEO)



REIT
SILVER
AXIS REIT

PLC | REIT (SILVER)
Axis REIT (Rebecca Leong, head of compliance)



TECHNOLOGY
GOLD
VITROX CORPORATION BHD

PLC | TECHNOLOGY (GOLD)
Vitrox Corporation Bhd (Lim Kim Seng, CFO)



TECHNOLOGY
SILVER
MALAYSIAN PACIFIC INDUSTRIES BHD

PLC | TECHNOLOGY (SILVER)
Malaysian Pacific Industries Bhd (Manuel Zarauza Brandulas, group managing director)



TELECOMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA
GOLD
MEDIA CHINESE INTERNATIONAL LTD

PLC | TELECOMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA (GOLD)
Media Chinese International Ltd. (Liew Sam Ngan, executive director)



TELECOMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA
SILVER
TELEKOM MALAYSIA BHD

PLC | TELECOMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA (SILVER)
Telekom Malaysia Bhd (Amar Huzaimi Mohd Deris, managing director & group CEO)



TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS
GOLD
WESTPORTS HOLDINGS BHD

PLC | TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS (GOLD)
Westports Holdings Bhd (Datuk Ruben Emir Gnanalingam Abdullah, executive chairman)



TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS
SILVER
MISC BHD

PLC | TRANSPORTATION & LOGISTICS (SILVER)
MISC Bhd (Yang Mulia Raja Azlan Shah Raja Azwa, vice-president, corporate planning)



PLC | UTILITIES (GOLD)
Petronas Gas Bhd (Shahrul Azham Sukaiman, CFO)



PLC | UTILITIES (SILVER)
Tenaga Nasional Bhd (Leo Pui Yong, chief sustainability officer)



PLC | EMERGING STAR (GOLD)
Hextar Retail Bhd (Eric Vo, managing director)



PLC | MOST IMPROVED ESG PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS (BELOW RM300M MARKET CAPITALISATION) (GOLD)
Malaysia Steel Works (KL) Bhd (Shirley Ng, executive director)



PLC | MOST IMPROVED ESG PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS (BELOW RM300M MARKET CAPITALISATION) (SILVER)
Tomypak Holdings Bhd (Lee Kwee Heng, managing director)



PLC | MOST IMPROVED ESG PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS (RM300M TO RM800M MARKET CAPITALISATION) (GOLD)
Southern Steel Bhd (Yeoh Choon Kwee, group managing director)



PLC | MOST IMPROVED ESG PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS (RM300M TO RM800M MARKET CAPITALISATION) (SILVER)
Kawan Food Bhd (Gan Ka Bien, marketing director)



PLC | MOST IMPROVED ESG PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS (RM800M TO RM5B MARKET CAPITALISATION) (GOLD)
Kelington Group Bhd (Raymond Gan, group CEO and chairman)



PLC | MOST IMPROVED ESG PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS (RM800M TO RM5B MARKET CAPITALISATION) (SILVER)
Wasco Bhd (Ariesza Noor, chief strategy officer, group strategy)



PLC | MOST IMPROVED ESG PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS (ABOVE RM5B MARKET CAPITALISATION) (GOLD)
Vitrox Corporation Bhd (Lim Kim Seng, CFO)



PLC | MOST IMPROVED ESG PERFORMANCE OVER 3 YEARS (ABOVE RM5B MARKET CAPITALISATION) (SILVER)
Frontken Corporation Bhd (Jolene Chay, senior VP, corporate affairs)



PLC | MOST CONSISTENT ESG PERFORMER OVER 5 YEARS (GOLD)
Malaysian Resources Corporation Bhd (Amarjit Chhina, chief corporate officer)



PLC | MOST CONSISTENT ESG PERFORMER OVER 5 YEARS (SILVER)
Deleum Bhd (Ramanrao Abdullah, group CEO)



PLC | OUTSTANDING ESG PERFORMANCE AND DIVIDEND RETURN (GOLD)
Hektar REIT (Sabrina Halim, COO)



PLC | OUTSTANDING ESG PERFORMANCE AND DIVIDEND RETURN (SILVER)
KPJ Healthcare Bhd (Chin Keat Chyuan, president & managing director)



Building Meaningful Places for A Better Tomorrow

Innovation Driving Sustainability

Every project presents an opportunity to build with a conscience. Recognising the urgent need for change in the construction industry, our approach to sustainability and innovation drives us to construct buildings that not only stand the test of time but also serve the needs of future generations.

Our MRCB Building System (MBS), is an innovative modular construction technology that exemplifies our commitment to build more sustainably. This proprietary technology uses Prefabricated Prefinished Volumetric Construction (PPVC). Modules are constructed off-site in a purpose-built facility and prefinished with all interior finishes, including flooring, paintwork, windows and doors, and all electrical and plumbing works. The modules are then transported to the construction site, where they are lifted and fastened into place.

Modular construction is faster and more efficient than conventional construction. It requires less on-site manpower, and fewer vehicles and heavy equipment, which lowers fossil fuel consumption and carbon emissions. It also significantly decreases noise, dust, and other environmental pollution typically associated with conventional construction sites, and more importantly, reduces the waste that goes to landfills. With up to 85% of the build completed indoors in an off-site facility, it ensures material integrity and significantly improves worker health and safety. Construction timelines are also accelerated, allowing purchasers to receive keys to their homes faster, providing quicker returns on investment. Additionally, stringent quality control guarantees a higher standard of construction compared to conventional methods.

MRCB Building System is aligned to five United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and addresses the key sustainability challenges faced by the construction industry today.

MRCB Building System - Shaping the Future of Sustainable Construction





Unlocking Nature's Superpower

INNOVATIVE PLANTATIONS

That's Us



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