

Kenanga Investors

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Kenanga Investors Maintaining Excellence

Asia Asset Management (May 2024)

Kenanga Investors, one of the top asset managers in Malaysia, has an excellent track record when it comes to Asia Asset Management's Best of the Best Awards. This year, the Kuala Lumpur-based asset manager continues to dominate as it has won eight awards, including Best Impact Investing Manager in ASEAN, and Best Equity Manager (Malaysia), Best House for Alternatives (Malaysia), Best Investor Education (Malaysia), Most Improved Fund House (Malaysia), Best Impact Investing Manager (Malaysia), CEO of the Year (Malaysia) and CIO of the Year (Malaysia).



Ismitz Matthew De Alwis, executive director and chief executive officer of Kenanga Investors, says the company's continued success is driven by "a simple yet powerful mission: to achieve excellence in all that we do".

"With a dedicated team and a passion for innovation, we continuously strive for improvement in every aspect of our work. We strive to uphold the highest ethical standards, prioritise transparency, and nurture strategic partnerships to deliver growth and exceptional results," he says. De Alwis adds that it is Kenanga Investors' commitment to excellence that pushes the company forward, and allows it to be recognised through awards and to earn its clients' trust.

He understands that goals and successes cannot be achieved alone, as they need the backing and support of all the employees, "Our employees are the backbone of our organisation, so supporting them and creating an environment where they can thrive is ultimately the result of our huge success. By investing in our employees' success and satisfaction, we not only cultivate a positive work environment but also drive continuous improvement and innovation across our organisation," he says.

CEO of the Year

On his winning of the 2024 Best of the Best award for CEO of the Year (Malaysia), De Alwis says that being a good leader isn't about winning accolades, but rather being someone who is willing to listen, empower others, and provide an environment where everyone can thrive.

"In my humble opinion, it is about empathy and a realisation that prioritising the needs of the team and the organisation will reap more rewards than any personal recognition can bring," he says.



De Alwis says the company has achieved many “remarkable milestones” over the past decade. He says one of the key milestones took place in 2015, when the company performed an overhaul of its processes and resource optimisation with the aim of enhancing stakeholder value.

“This strategic transformation paved the way for the expansion of our mass retail segment and the establishment of our private wealth unit, both of which are cornerstones of our current market strength,” he says.

Since the transformation, the company has launched several ground-breaking funds, not least the Kenanga Global Unicorn Series, the Kenanga Global Multi Asset Fund, and the Kenanga Sustainability Series.

CIO of the Year

Lee Sook Yee, winner of the CIO of the Year (Malaysia), shares that a successful CIO involves embodying a blend of various key qualities. For a start, one needs to understand the ins and outs of the financial markets and investment strategies.

“That means staying informed about global economic trends, geopolitical developments, and industry-specific factors that could impact investment outcomes. It’s all about continuous learning and staying sharp,” she says.

“There’s also the leadership side of things. As CIO, I need to gather a team of talented professionals who share a common vision and commitment to delivering results. Collaboration and mutual understanding within the team is vital for achieving investment objectives and navigating through various market conditions,” she adds.



She attributes the winning of Malaysia’s Best Equity Manager to its bottom-up stock picking strategy, underpinned by comprehensive industry research.

“Our deep understanding of fundamentals allowed us to size positions effectively across portfolios. Investments in the construction, utilities, and regional technology sectors were particularly successful, and have played a crucial role in our achievement,” she says.

This year, she remains optimistic on the overall market outlook in Malaysia, backed by improving economic fundamentals, as well as rising foreign direct investments.

“Meanwhile, we remain selective globally. One sector we are still positive on is the semiconductor and tech sector due to the increasing demand for artificial intelligence. This presents significant growth potential as AI adoption broadens out and use cases increase,” Lee says.

The company also plans to continue its efforts in investor education, as it believes that investors have the potential to better navigate the complexities of the financial world, and should work to protect themselves from fraudulent schemes.

“Furthermore, continuous investor education contributes to economic stability by promoting market efficiency, liquidity, and investor confidence. Informed investors are more likely to make rational decisions that align with their financial goals, thereby enhancing the overall health of the economy,” De Alwis says.

For more information about Kenanga Trustees, please visit www.kenangainvestors.com.my.

About Kenanga Investors Berhad 199501024358 (353563-P)

We provide investment solutions ranging from collective investment schemes, portfolio management services, and alternative investments for retail, corporate, institutional, and high-net worth clients via a multi-distribution network.

The Hong Kong-based Asia Asset Management's **2024 Best of the Best Awards** awarded KIB under the following categories, Malaysia Best Impact Investing Manager, Best Impact Investing Manager in ASEAN, Malaysia Best Equity Manager, Malaysia CEO of the Year, Malaysia CIO of the Year, Malaysia Best House for Alternatives, Malaysia Most Improved Fund House and Malaysia Best Investor Education.

At the **LSEG Lipper Fund Awards Malaysia 2024**, KIB received awards for the Kenanga Malaysian Inc Fund ("KMIF") under the best Equity Malaysia Diversified – Malaysia Pension Funds over 10 Years and the Kenanga Diversified Fund ("KDF") under the best Mixed Asset MYR Flexible – Malaysia Pension Fund over 10 Years.

The FSMOne Recommended Unit Trusts Awards 2023/2024 named Kenanga Growth Fund Series 2 as "Sector Equity – Malaysia Focused", Kenanga Shariah Growth Opportunities Fund as "Sector Equity - Malaysia Small to Medium Companies (Islamic)" and Kenanga Shariah OnePRS Growth Fund as "Private Retirement Scheme – Growth (Islamic)".

For the seventh consecutive year, KIB was affirmed an investment manager rating of **IMR-2** by Malaysian Rating Corporation Berhad, since first rated in 2017. The IMR rating on KIB reflects the fund management company's well-established investment processes and sound risk management practices. As at end-June 2023, most of KIB's funds had performed better than benchmarks and were comparable to peers.

This Press Release was issued by Kenanga Group's Marketing & Communications department.

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