

## Hong Kong:Insurance industry working to secure better returns

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Top insurance industry executives will converge at a summit in Hong Kong from 26 - 27 November to deliberate on ways to secure better returns and assume balanced risk portfolios as the industry threads through changing regulatory landscapes and slow economic growth.

The 4th Asia Investment Management Summit for Insurance, themed “Diversifying Growth in a Period of Uncertainty, Volatility and Convergence”, will explore attractive investment opportunities in an increasingly challenging investment environment characterised by negative bond yields, tight spreads, and prevalent financial market volatility.

Lead sponsor Avicennia Capital, the insurance holding company of Khazanah Nasional Berhad (KHB), Malaysia's sovereign wealth fund, hopes to attract prospective partners as part of its expansion plans in Asia at the two-day conference which is organised by Asia Insurance Review.

“As a company specialised in the insurance industry, we have the experience, knowledge, skills and talents to make precise valuations while creating sustainable value for the stakeholders jointly with the management teams of future subsidiaries,” said Mr Alexander Ankel, Avicennia Capital CEO.

One of Mr Ankel's goals is to reach out to people in emerging economies to provide access to sustainable healthcare programmes and facilities, particularly to the middle and lower-middle income segments

Mr Ankel's keynote address will focus on “Investing in the Insurance Industry – Perspective from a Sovereign Wealth Fund”. Other key speakers include Kenneth Wong, Avicennia Capital's Chief Risk Officer and Chief Actuary; Joseph Dominic Silva, Khazanah Nasional's Executive Director and Head of Investments; Boris Moutier, AXA Asia Pacific Holdings Regional Investment Officer, and Sally Yim, Vice President – Senior Credit Officer Financial Institutions Group, Hong Kong, Moody's Investors Service.

### **Opportune time**

“This is an opportune time for insurers to acclimatise to evolving market trends and capitalise on new investment prospects,” said Mr Ankel. “The world economy is undergoing a cyclical spin but the signs of recovery and realignment are already starting to bear fruit. Our fundamentals are strong, and we are firmly committed building profitable business partnerships for the long haul.”

With China working on arresting its slowing economy, India facing a slower pace of enacting key reforms, and other emerging Asian markets confronting currency pressures and capital outflows, the Summit has set its sights on discussing strategies that can limit risk and deliver better returns, and network with industry leaders to build critical business relationships.

The conference, targeting Chief Investment Officers, Chief Financial Officers, Portfolio Managers, and CEOs of insurance companies, aims to unravel insights into investing for short and long-term returns.

Avicennia Capital is Khazanah Nasional's insurance holding company which owns a majority stake in Sun Life Malaysia Assurance and Sun Life Malaysia Takaful. Avicennia Capital also owns a 90% stake in Acibadem Saglik ve Hayat Sigorta, one of Turkey's top-ranked health insurance services companies. The company plans to expand its footprint across Asean, particularly in Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Singapore through acquisitions or joint ventures.

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