

## Avicennia Capital looks for prospective partners for Asia expansion

KUALA LUMPUR (Nov 6): Avicennia Capital Sdn Bhd, an insurance holding company of Khazanah Nasional Bhd, expects to attract prospective partners as part of its expansion plans in Asia in the upcoming Fourth Asia Investment Management Summit for Insurance.

Themed "Diversifying Growth in a Period of Uncertainty, Volatility and Convergence", the two-day conference is organised by the Asia Insurance Review, which will be taking place on Nov 26 and 27 in Hong Kong. Avicennia Capital is the lead sponsor for the event.

The conference, targeting chief investment officers, chief financial officers, portfolio managers, and chief executive officers (CEOs) of insurance companies, aims to unravel insights into investing for short and long-term returns.

The event will also explore attractive investment opportunities in an increasingly challenging investment environment characterised by negative bond yields, tight spreads, and prevalent financial market volatility.

"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," Avicennia Capital CEO Alexander Ankel said in a statement today.

Ankel said one of his 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.

He will be delivering a keynote address on "Investing in the Insurance Industry - Perspective from a Sovereign Wealth Fund". Other key speakers at the conference include Avicennia Capital chief risk officer and chief actuary Kenneth Wong, Khazanah executive director and head of investments Joseph Dominic Silva, AXA Asia Pacific Holdings Ltd regional investment officer Boris Moutier and Moody's investor service vice-president and senior credit officer financial institutions group for Hong Kong Sally Yim.

"This is an opportune time for insurers to acclimatise to evolving market trends and capitalise on new investment prospects," said Ankel, adding that 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," he added.

Aside from that, global insurance industry leaders will deliberate on ways to secure better returns and assume balanced risk portfolios as the industry threads through a changing regulatory landscape and slow economic growth during the conference.