

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **RAM SIGNS MOU WITH UNIVERSITI MALAYA**

RAM Holdings Berhad (RAM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Universiti Malaya (UM) to promote industry-academia collaboration between the two organisations. The MoU covers, among others, joint development of training programmes, internship placements, as well as developing and participating in joint projects, research and workshops related to the economy, industry and financial markets.

The MoU was signed by UM Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi Abd Shukor and RAM's Group CEO/Executive Director, Chris W.K. Lee. The strategic partnership will facilitate the melding of RAM's wealth of applied knowledge and insights on the Malaysian capital and financial markets with the excellent research capabilities of UM, the country's top university.

Quoting Chris Lee, "This initiative bodes well for RAM's overall strategy of expanding its business, seeking new opportunities, and supporting innovation in the financial markets. The benefits of this partnership are manifold as RAM continues to diversify. We are also pleased to be able to contribute towards UM's efforts in elevating graduates' employability and its drive to future-proof our young talents."

Prof. Dato' Ir. Dr. Mohd Hamdi highlighted that UM has always prioritised engaging with the industry, knowing well how important such interaction is in broadening the frontiers of knowledge.

"A mismatch between students' skill sets and what is required by the industry has always been the root of unemployment. It is therefore imperative to nurture the industry-academia connection via internships and industry placements. UM researchers will also have the opportunity to collaborate with industry players and take their output to the next level through commercial visibility," quipped the Vice-Chancellor.

RAM is confident of the successful realisation of its inaugural MoU with UM, a public university that ranks 59<sup>th</sup> in the QS World University Rankings 2021.

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### About **Universiti Malaya**

Universiti Malaya (UM) is the country's first university. Following the passing of the University of Malaya Act in 1961 by Parliament, UM was recognised as a public university. UM, as it is known today, was officially made a public university in the Federation of Malaya on 1 January 1962.

UM is supported by two academies, thirteen faculties, three institutes and three academic centres that encompass medicine, science, technology, social sciences and humanities. The university also houses Malaysia's first and biggest teaching hospital - University of Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC). In addition, the Research Cluster had been formed to drive further breakthroughs in knowledge. The emphasis on research is strengthened by the presence of centres of excellence at several of its learning centres.

UM continues to consolidate and solidify its position in both the national and international arenas. It now stands among the world's top 100 universities and is ranked 59<sup>th</sup> in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2021. In the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2020, UM falls within the global band of 141-150. Meanwhile, it has also maintained its 5-star rating in the QS Stars University Rating System. In addition, UM is ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> in the world, 5<sup>th</sup> in Asia and 6<sup>th</sup> in the City Centre Campus Setting of UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2020 based on green campus sustainability and environmental management efforts.

### About **UM Office of Industry and Community Engagement (UM ICE)**

The UM Office of Industry and Community Engagement (UM ICE) helps to establish professional and integral connections between industry, government and community groups that are interested in research, human capital development, commercialisation and outreach activities with the relevant expertise within the University, and vice versa. By helping to connect, to engage and to partner, UM ICE



### About **RAM Holdings Berhad**

The RAM Group is a leading provider of independent credit ratings, economic research, risk management, sustainability and ESG analytics, and data analytics and risk consultancy. Formerly known as Rating Agency Malaysia Berhad, RAM Holdings Berhad was established in November 1990 as a catalyst for the domestic debt capital market and as the nation's first credit rating agency.

The rating service under RAM Ratings is the leading and largest credit rating agency in Malaysia and ASEAN. We have rated over USD400 billion bonds issued by more than 500 entities in Malaysia and other regions. Our rating portfolio encompasses corporates, sovereigns, financial services, project finance and structured finance obligations. RAM's ratings are used by both buy and sell-side investors for capital and asset allocations, risk management, and pricing. RAM Ratings is also the world's leading rating agency for sukuk. Our expertise has won numerous awards, including *Best Rating Agency (South-East Asia)* in 2018 and 2017 by CPI Financial, and *Best Islamic Rating Agency* in 2016 by Islamic Finance News.

We are also active in macroeconomic research in domestic and regional economies, as well as providing data analytics services in risk and related areas.

RAM is also entrenched in green finance and sustainability services via RAM Sustainability Services Sdn Bhd. We provide sustainability ratings, second opinions, gap analysis and ESG ratings for Malaysian corporates. RAM Sustainability is an approved verifier of climate bonds certification in Malaysia, 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN observer of the Green Bond Principles and Social Bond Principles, and member of GRI Community in Malaysia.

For more information, please visit [www.ram.com.my](http://www.ram.com.my)

works closely with relevant internal and external stakeholders towards a conducive collaborative ecosystem.

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