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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EASTSPRING INVESTMENTS BERHAD LAUNCHES ISLAMIC SMALL-CAP FUND

25 May 2017, Kuala Lumpur – Eastspring Investments Berhad (“Company”) today announced the launch of the Eastspring Investments Islamic Small-cap Fund (“Fund”). This is a Shariah-compliant equity fund that provides another option to diversify into small-cap stocks which can potentially enhance portfolio returns in the long-run.

The initial offer period for the Fund runs for a period of twenty-one (21) days commencing from 25 May 2017 and closing on 14 June 2017.

Units of the Fund are priced at RM0.50 during its initial offer period after which its Net Asset Value (“NAV”) per unit will fluctuate based on market movements. The minimum initial investment (lump sum) is RM1,000. The Fund is available at Eastspring Investments Berhad and its authorised distributors.

The Fund was launched to meet the demands of investors with the appetite for long-term equity growth funds following the soft closure of the Eastspring Investments Small-cap Fund in order for the latter fund to continue to deliver good performance to the existing unit holders.

Although the Fund will be a Shariah-compliant version of the Company’s small-cap fund, the fund managers will adopt the same investment philosophy of stock picking: “We will generally pick companies with good business model that has superior earnings growth. We like companies with solid management who is able to weather through the ups and downs of the business cycle. And these stocks should be accompanied by a strong balance sheet and fundamentally undervalued,” says Ms Tung Yin Wai, Head of Investment, Retail & Institutional Business (Domestic).

Award-winning investment team: The Fund will be managed by the Company’s award-winning equity investment team who are experienced in managing Islamic and small-cap funds.

Eastspring Investments Berhad won 17 awards at The Edge | Thomson Reuters Lipper Malaysia Fund Awards 2017, our industry’s biggest win for the year. This includes our Shariah-compliant and small cap funds.

“We have experienced fund managers and analysts who are very passionate about small-cap investing. As fund managers, we derive a sense of satisfaction from being able to unearth these small-cap gems and help them to discover their true value. And to the companies that we are invested in, we are happy to be a shareholder and proud to be part of their success stories,” says Raymond Tang, Chief Executive Officer

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Potential for enhanced returns: The Fund seeks to provide capital appreciation by investing in small market capitalisation Shariah-compliant securities of companies with growth potential.

“Usually the small-cap universe is under researched and undeservingly traded below their intrinsic value. Fund managers like us use this opportunity to unearth these small-cap gems and exploit these pricing inefficiencies,” says Ms Tung.

“Whilst the general interest is still for income generating funds, small-cap funds have their place in providing good growth potential to one’s investment portfolio,” says Raymond Tang, Chief Executive Officer of Eastspring Investments Berhad. “This can be seen from the inflows we’ve been getting for our existing equity funds,” says Tang.

Opportunities for growth in Malaysia: Malaysia equities are now back in the limelight with improved fundamentals and attractive valuations compared to its regional peers.

In addition, the Malaysian government will introduce the Small and Mid-cap PLC Research Scheme to conduct research on 300 companies. Government-linked Investments Companies (“GLCs”) will be setting aside RM3 billion to be invested in small and medium capitalised stocks.

“We believe that corporate earnings should recover this year and most importantly these corporate captains are again confident enough to expand their capacities. A weakness in the Ringgit is actually a blessing in disguise and have boosted the competitiveness of many of our Malaysian corporates. They are using this window of opportunity to move up the value chain and grab market share,” says Ms Tung.

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ABOUT EASTSPRING INVESTMENTS

Eastspring Investments is a leading asset manager in Asia that manages over US\$146 billion assets (as at 31 December 2016) on behalf of institutional and retail clients. Operating in Asia since 1994 in 10 major markets plus offices in North America and Europe. Eastspring Investments is the Asian asset management business of Prudential plc, one of the world’s largest financial services companies.

ABOUT EASTSPRING INVESTMENTS BERHAD

Established in 2000 and based in Kuala Lumpur, Eastspring Investments Berhad is one of the leading asset management companies in Malaysia in both institutional and retail, with about RM36 billion in assets under management in the country as at 31 December 2016. It manages unit trust funds, wholesale funds as well as private mandates.

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Investors are advised to read and understand the contents of the Eastspring Investments Islamic Small-cap Fund ("Fund") Prospectus dated 25 May 2017 ("Prospectus") and the Fund's Product Highlights Sheet ("PHS") before investing. The Prospectus and PHS are available at offices of Eastspring Investments Berhad or its authorised distributors and investors have the right to request for a copy of the Prospectus and PHS.

The Prospectus has been registered with the Securities Commission Malaysia who takes no responsibility for its contents. Units will only be issued upon receipt of the application form accompanying the Prospectus. Past performance of Eastspring is not an indication of Eastspring's future performance. Unit prices and distributions payable, if any, may go down as well as up. Where a unit split/distribution is declared, investors are advised that following the issue of additional units/distribution, the Net Asset Value ("NAV") per unit will be reduced from pre-unit split NAV/cum-distribution NAV to post-unit split NAV/ex-distribution NAV. Where a unit split is declared, investors are advised that the value of their investment in Malaysian Ringgit will remain unchanged after the issue of the additional units. Investments in the Fund are exposed to equity risk and reclassification of Shariah status risk. Investors are advised to consider these risks and other general risks as elaborated in the Prospectus, as well as the fees, charges and expenses involved before investing.

All fees, charges and expenses payable by the unit holder are subject to Goods and Services Tax ("GST") at a rate of 6% or such other prescribed rate as may be imposed from time to time, and incurred by the unit holder directly when purchasing or redeeming units of the Fund and indirectly when investing in the Fund. The fees, charges and expenses disclosed are exclusive of GST or any other taxes or duties that may be imposed by the government or other authorities from time to time.

Eastspring Investments companies (excluding JV companies) are ultimately wholly-owned/indirect subsidiaries of Prudential plc of the United Kingdom. Eastspring Investments companies (including JV companies) and Prudential plc are not affiliated in any manner with Prudential Financial, Inc., a company whose principal place of business is in the United States of America.