

## MEDIA RELEASE

Level 12, Menara Prudential No. 10, Jalan Sultan Ismail 50250 Kuala Lumpur

#### For immediate release

### EASTSPRING INVESTMENTS BERHAD DECLARES INCOME DISTRIBUTION FOR EASTSPRING INVESTMENTS ASIAN HIGH YIELD BOND MY FUND

30 November 2017, Kuala Lumpur - Eastspring Investments Berhad today announced the gross income distribution for Eastspring Investments Asian High Yield Bond MY Fund ("Fund"). The Fund is a wholesale feeder fund which aims to maximise income and capital appreciation by investing in the Eastspring Investments - Asian High Yield Bond Fund ("Target Fund"), which invests primarily in Asian high yield bonds.

The distribution rates for each currency class are as follows:

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Currency Class	Gross Distribution (Respective Currency/Unit)	Dividend Yield (based on net asset value per unit as at 31 October 2017)	Type of Distribution
AUD Hedged- Class	0.0150	3.00%	Quarterly
RM Hedged- Class	0.0108	2.00%	Quarterly
USD Class	0.0102	2.00%	Quarterly

All unit holders who have maintained their unit holdings in the Fund as at 29 November 2017 will be entitled to the income distribution.

### Market Outlook from the Investment Manager of the Target Fund

Over the month, USD-denominated Asian high yield bonds delivered a gain of 0.7%, as proxied by the JPMorgan Asia Credit-Non-Investment Grade index. While the rise in US interest rates weighed on performance of the bond market, this was more than offset by accrual income and a narrowing of credit spreads in the region. During the month, US Treasury (UST) yields drifted higher particularly yields of shorter-dated bonds. The 2-year UST yield rose by 12 bps as to 1.6% as a result, while the 10-year yield rose by 6 bps to 2.4%. Investors remained focussed on the path of interest rate normalisation in the US as economic data there continued to point to robust growth. The passage of the 2018 budget by the US senate also bolstered optimism on tax reform plan and its potential boost to the US economy. Nevertheless, uncertainty with respect to the choice of the next Federal Reserve chairman resulted in some interest rate volatility.

Despite moderately higher US interest rates, performance of Asian high yield bond market remained resilient. Economic data in Asia pointed to sustained growth in manufacturing activities. A targeted cut in Reserve Requirement Ratio and a stable 3Q GDP growth print of 6.8% in China also eased growth concerns there. The 19th Communist Party Congress concluded without major surprises and suggested a continuation rather than a change of course in the reform agenda. There was also no indication of new tightening policies on the housing. In this environment, Chinese high yield corporates fared relatively well, led by property and energy names. Other outperformers included Mongolia and Sri Lanka sovereigns, as well as Indonesian corporates. In contrast, Philippine and Indian high yield corporates underperformed, with the latter weighed down idiosyncratic factors.



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Year-to-date, the Asian high yield bond market has delivered decent returns. Positive carry from Asian high yield bonds continues to attract yield-hungry investors. Improvements in economic growth across Developing and Emerging markets this year, as well as fading concerns over a hard landing in China, were also positive contributors to investor sentiment. High yield sovereign bonds were the best performers over the year-to-date period, led by Mongolia and Sri Lanka. Indonesian high yield corporates led the charge outside the high yield sovereign sector. Chinese high yield industrials as well as select names in the Chinese high yield property space have also chalked up decent returns over the year-to-date period.

\*\*end\*\*

#### **ABOUT EASTSPRING INVESTMENTS**

Eastspring Investments is a leading asset manager in Asia that manages over USD170 billion assets on behalf of institutional and retail clients as at 30 June 2017. 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 over RM40 billion in assets under management in the country as at 30 June 2017. 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 Asian High Yield Bond MY Fund ("Fund") Replacement Information Memorandum dated 2 October 2017 ("Info Memo") and the Fund's Product Highlights Sheet ("PHS") before investing. The Info Memo and PHS are available at offices of Eastspring Investments Berhad or its authorised distributors. Investors have the right to request for a copy of the Info Memo and PHS.

The Info Memo has been deposited with the Securities Commission Malaysia who takes no responsibility for its contents. Units will only be issued upon receipt of the application form. Past performance of the Fund is not an indication of the Fund'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 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 the respective currency class(es), i.e. Malaysian Ringgit, US Dollar and Australian Dollar will remain unchanged after the issue of the additional units.

Investments in the Fund is exposed to fund management of the Target Fund risk, country risk and currency risk. Investors are advised to consider these risks and other general risks as elaborated in the Info Memo as well as fees, charges and expenses involved before investing.

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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.

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