

**For Immediate Release
January 18, 2010**

Manulife Strength-Equity Dividend Fund to pay dividend of THB 0.55

Bangkok - Manulife Asset Management (Thailand) Company Limited (MAMT) today announces a dividend payment of the **Manulife Strength-Equity Dividend Fund**.

Mr. Sukkawat Prasurtying, CFA, Chief Investment Officer, Acting Chief Executive Officer said: "We are delighted to announce the Manulife Strength-Equity Dividend Fund's dividend payment of THB 0.55 per unit. The book closing date is January 18, 2010 and the payment date is January 25, 2010."

The dividend payment is the second since the fund was launched in August 2009. The Fund invests in stocks listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand and is available for both retail and institutional investors. The fund offers institutional investors tax privileges on dividends as any dividends received from the fund are tax-exempt for listed companies. For non-listed companies, only 50% of dividends from the fund are subjected to corporate tax¹.

Mr. Panukorn Chantaraprab, CFA, FRM, Director, Equities, Manulife Asset Management Thailand explained why he believes that despite the prospect of some market volatility, there are good opportunities for investors in the Thai stock market. He said: "We are cautiously optimistic on the outlook for the Thai equity market in 2010. Latest economic data has continued to suggest that economic activity remains solid and we are forecasting 2010 GDP growth of between 3.0-3.5 percent. The Price-to-Earnings ratio is around 30% lower than other countries in region. However, we believe that investors should prepare themselves for continued high volatility in the markets. The key concern for many investors in 2010 is likely to still be political instability and this continues to pose a short-term risk for the market. Despite this, we believe that the Thai domestic story remains intact and we expect to see the economy improving in 2010, driven largely by the government stimulus package and a better outlook for exports. We expect the SET index to trade between 730-850 in the year ahead."

Investors who are interested in MAMT funds can contact MAMT directly at Tel. (66) 0-2354-1001, (66) 0-2246-7650 (press '2' for asset management) or via selling agents e.g. Standard Chartered Bank (Thai) PCL., Deutsche Bank AG, Bangkok and Phatra Securities PCL, KGI (Thailand) Securities PCL, Merchant Partner Securities Co., Ltd. and Phillip Securities (Thailand) Co., Ltd.

Manulife Asset Management Thailand is part of MFC Global Investment Management, the asset management division of Manulife Financial Corporation. Representing over 100 years of Asia asset management experience, MFC Global Investment Management (MFC GIM) has developed a strong presence across the region. Locally-based investment professionals in 10 locations in Asia – including Thailand – offer extensive knowledge of local markets and exceptional investment expertise.

-30-

Notes to editors:

¹The company must hold investment units at least three months before and after the XD date.

The Fund invests, on average, no less than 65 per cent of the net asset value in stocks listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand. The remaining funds are invested in other assets to seek investment returns as stipulated or approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) or the Office of the SEC. The investment ratios can be adjusted by the fund managers as appropriate in order to help maximize returns to investors.

The Fund has a policy of paying dividend to unitholders a maximum of 12 times per year at a rate up to a maximum of 70% of fund's retained earnings or net profits which include realized gains and unrealized gains or increases in net assets resulting from operations. Dividends paid from net profits or an increase in net assets resulting from operations may not include unrealized gains. So, unitholders will have a chance to realize profits without redemption.

In addition, the management company shall reserve the right not to pay dividend if the dividend to be paid is less than Bath 0.10 /Unit in each accounting period or if the dividend payment causes the fund to accumulate a loss in that accounting period.

About Manulife Financial

Manulife Financial is a leading Canadian-based financial services group serving millions of customers in 19 countries and territories worldwide. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia, and primarily through John Hancock in the United States, the Company offers clients a diverse range of financial protection products and wealth management services through its extensive network of employees, agents and distribution partners. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were Cdn\$437 billion (US\$407 billion) as at September 30, 2009.

Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at www.manulife.com.

For further information, please contact:

In Thailand:

Chananthima Pinngoen

Head of Marketing,

Manulife Asset Management Thailand

Phone: (662) 2246-7650 Ext. 8611

Email: chananthima_pinngoen@manulife.com

Panwadee Pintuyothin

Assistant Manager, Marketing & Sales

Manulife Asset Management Thailand

Phone: (662) 2246-7650 Ext. 8608

Email: panwadee_pintuyothin@manulife.com

Investments contain risks. Investor should study prospectus before making decision to invest.

Past performance is not a guarantee of future result. The information and views expressed herein are those of Manulife Asset Management (Thailand) Company Limited and its affiliates ("Manulife") as of [January 18, 2010], and are subject to change based on market and other conditions. The information in this document including statements concerning financial market trends, are based on current market conditions, which will fluctuate and may be superseded by subsequent market events or for other reasons. Some of the information in this document may contain projections or other forward looking statements regarding future events or future financial performance of countries or markets. There is no assurance that such events will occur, and may be significantly different than that shown here. Manulife disclaims any responsibility to update such information. All overviews and commentary are intended to be general in nature and for current interest. While helpful, these overviews are no substitute for professional tax, investment or legal advice. Clients should seek professional advice for their particular situation. Neither Manulife nor any of their affiliates or representatives is providing tax, investment or legal advice. Investments contain risks. Past performance does not guarantee future results. This material was prepared solely for informational purposes, does not constitute an offer or an invitation by or on behalf of Manulife to any person to buy or sell any investment. Investments contain risks. Investor should review the prospectus before making decision to invest.