

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Stella Wong, Assistant Manager  
Baker Tilly Corporate Communications  
Baker Tilly MH Tower  
Level 10, Tower 1, Avenue 5  
Bangsar South City  
59200 Kuala Lumpur  
T: 012 – 5320652  
E: stellawong@bakertillymh.com.my

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Baker Tilly (Malaysia) Enters into Strategic Partnership with RHB Bank**

**Kuala Lumpur, 8 December 2016** – Over the years, tax regulations in Malaysia have gone through significant changes, particularly in the context of tax compliance and governance. Under these ever-changing business circumstances, many organisations especially the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are not fully aware of potential tax reliefs, and some of them even have difficulties in dealing with tax-related compliance. In this regard, **Baker Tilly, the 6<sup>th</sup> largest accounting and business advisory network in the Asia Pacific, has entered into a partnership with RHB Bank Berhad. The partnership, which was formalised through an agreement signed at the press conference today, will enable RHB SME customers with RHB Premier relationship to receive exclusive tax “health-check”, as well as gain access to personalised tax and accounting advice from Baker Tilly.**

This partnership represents a joint effort between Baker Tilly and RHB Bank in delivering added value service to RHB Premier customers. Under the agreement, over 34,000 RHB Premier customers nationwide will be able to identify the latest tax incentives and tax planning opportunities by undertaking a simple fact-finding questionnaire developed by Baker Tilly which includes a **Corporate Tax Diagnosis and “Health-Check”, Individual Tax Assessment & Positional Review, and GST positional review and assessment.**

Speaking at the media conference earlier today, Dato’ Heng Ji Keng, Executive Chairman of Baker Tilly Malaysia said, “We are delighted to partner with RHB Bank to support the Malaysian SMEs on their growth journey. Through the bank’s extensive network of over 200 branches and strong branding in Malaysia, armed with our in-depth knowledge and deep industry experience working with SMEs, we genuinely believe that this partnership is the beginning of many great things that will benefit both establishments in the long run.”

“Malaysian SMEs contribute over 36% of the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) currently, and are expected to contribute more than 41% by 2020. The fact is, many SMEs are still facing a variety of challenges and obstacles that prevent them from forging ahead. It is important that SMEs understand their compliance requirements and avail themselves of tax relief and incentives. By forming this strategic partnership with RHB Bank, coupled with our shared vision to contributing to the development of the Malaysian SME sector, we aim to become the trusted partner to offer services that goes well beyond the simple tax returns and financial statements, whilst giving them the assurance that their tax affairs are in safe hands,” Anand Chelliah, Head of Tax at Baker Tilly (Malaysia), added.

“RHB Premier offers a world of privileges which put our customers first by offering them a compilation of exclusive benefits and privileges for them and their loved ones. Our dedicated Relationship Managers are here to provide our customers with personal wealth management and total financial solutions, complete with innovative banking services and opportunities. Through this strategic partnership, the value proposition to our existing RHB SME customers with

RHB Premier relationship is further enhanced with business advisory services on financial matters which affect their business,” said U Chen Hock, Executive Director or Head of Group Retail Banking for RHB Banking Group.

“We look forward to deliver a stronger joint value propositions that will bring great benefits to our customers, as well as strengthen our cooperation for mutual benefits of both organisations,” he added.

To underpin the partnership, Baker Tilly will work closely with RHB Bank to setup a Baker Tilly RHB Help Desk at their main office at Bangsar South City, Kuala Lumpur; as well as to offer RHB Relationship Managers a holistic suite of training programmes to equip them with the new product knowledge so as to be able to serve their customers better. Amid all these developments, Baker Tilly plans to further expand their SMEs portfolio as part of their growth ambitions to set new industry benchmarks; ensure high-quality standards, and achieve greater excellence.

- ### -

### **About Baker Tilly (Malaysia)**

Established in 1978, Baker Tilly is the sixth largest accounting and business advisory network in the Asia Pacific. We operate our headquarters in Bangsar South City, Kuala Lumpur - with offices in Batu Pahat, Johor Bahru, Kota Kinabalu, Labuan, Penang, Seremban, Tawau and Phnom Penh in Cambodia. With 33 partners and directors and over 600 professional staff, Baker Tilly provide high quality accountancy, business and financial advisory services to multinational corporations, organisations in the public sector, and smaller independent enterprises. We offer professional, meaningful advice that will add tangible value to businesses and help our clients achieve their goals.

As an independent member of Baker Tilly International, the eighth largest accountancy and business advisory network in the world with a combined income in excess of US\$3.8 billion, we have access to the expertise of more than 28,000 high-calibre professionals across 141 countries.

Our unique partnership with Ferrier Hodgson allows us to further extend our end-to-end services for our clients to include forensics & investigation, corporate recovery, restructuring, and insolvency management services. Ferrier Hodgson forms part of the Ferrier Hodgson Group, globally renowned for forensic services and insolvency management.

### **About the RHB Banking Group**

The RHB Banking Group is the fourth largest fully integrated financial services group in Malaysia. The Group's core businesses are streamlined into seven main business pillars, namely Group Retail Banking, Group Business & Transaction Banking, Group Wholesale Banking, Singapore Business Operations, Group Shariah Business, Group International Business and Group Insurance. Group Wholesale Banking comprises Corporate Banking, Investment Banking, Client Coverage, Group Treasury & Global Markets, Asset Management and Private Equity. All the seven business pillars are offered through the Group's main subsidiaries - RHB Bank Berhad, RHB Investment Bank Berhad, RHB Islamic Bank Berhad and RHB Insurance Berhad, while its asset management and unit trust businesses are undertaken by RHB Asset Management Sdn. Bhd. and RHB Islamic International Asset Management Berhad. The Group's regional presence now spans ten countries including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Myanmar. It is RHB Banking Group's aspiration to continue to deliver superior customer experience and shareholder value; and to be recognised as a Leading Multinational Financial Services Group.