PRESS RELEASE

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Bank Muamalat and TAEL Partners Collaborate to Establish US$100 Million Islamic Fund

Kuala Lumpur, 1 June 2011: Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad, a leading Islamic financial institution in Malaysia, and TAEL Partners, an ASEAN-based investment management firm, today signed an agreement which will lead towards the establishment of a new Islamic fund in Labuan, TALE Tijari L.P. Pursuant to the agreement signed today, Bank Muamalat, through its Labuan Offshore branch and TALE One will make commitments totaling US$100 million to a US$-denominated sukuk issuance programme.

The proceeds raised from the programme will be channeled to TALE Tijari to fund its investments. TALE Partners and Bank Muamalat will be tapping other offshore-qualified investors to raise the size of the sukuk programme over time.

The Fund aims to be the preferred financial partner to businesses and corporations in South East Asia and will promote the development of Islamic mezzanine finance to complement traditional bank funding in this region.

Tan Sri Dr Munir Abdul Majid, Chairman of Bank Muamalat said, “The Bank’s participation in this venture represents a step forward in diversifying our activities, not only in traditional Islamic banking, but also towards mezzanine or credit-backed funding arrangements on a regional scale. It will further enable us to tap on the regional footprint offered by TALE Partners, which currently has a presence in major capital cities in the ASEAN region including Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Jakarta and Bangkok. The establishment of the Shari’ah-compliant TAL Tijari fund in Labuan will also be in line with the government’s promotion of Malaysia as the region’s foremost international Islamic finance hub”.

As the maiden Shari’ah-compliant fund under the “The Asian Entrepreneur Legacy” umbrella, TAL Tijari will leverage on the track record of the TAL management team. TAL Partners launched its flagship conventional fund, The Asian Entrepreneur Legacy One L.P. in September 2007 and has to date, made investments in excess of US$900 million.

Ms. Loong Mei Yin, TAL’s Managing Director said, “We are indeed honoured to partner Bank Muamalat to jointly anchor our maiden Shari’ah compliant fund. TAL Tijari is well
positioned to capitalize on the growth of Islamic finance by offering an alternative asset class which complements the existing Shari‘ah-compliant product offerings in the regional market.”

Dr. Munir added, “I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Labuan Financial Services Authority for their support in welcoming the idea for TAEL Tijari and the sukuk issuance programme to be established in the jurisdiction of Labuan”.

Ms. Loong also said, “Currently, the Islamic wealth and fund management industry is typically focused on traditional portfolio investments, ranging from Islamic money market and sukuk instruments to regional and global Shari‘ah-compliant equities, with lesser emphasis placed on Shari‘ah-based structured/credit-backed funding and alternative investments. We believe that TAEL Tijari’s investment model of offering Shari‘ah-compliant mezzanine and credit-backed funding arrangements could add further breadth to the range of activities available in the Islamic financial sector”.

The success of TAEL Partners and its flagship fund TAEL One has led to this collaboration with Bank Muamalat for the establishment of TAEL Tijari. TAE Tijari – where “tijari” means merchant or businessman in Arabic but which may also connote commerce or business in more generic terms – will undertake Shari‘ah-compliant investments primarily comprising the provision of mezzanine/credit-backed funding arrangements and financing solutions to businesses and corporations in the South East Asian region. Bank Muamalat’s Shari‘ah Committee will preside as TAEL Tijari’s Shari‘ah Supervisory Board.

TAEL Tijari is expected to commence operations in June 2011. It will be formed as a limited partnership in Labuan pursuant to the Labuan Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Partnerships Act 2010 and is intended to be registered as an Islamic private fund with the Labuan Financial Services Authority pursuant to the Labuan Islamic Financial Services and Securities Act 2010.

About TAEL Partners

- TAEL Partners is an investment management firm that has excelled in being a financial partner to Asian businesses and corporations. TAEL Partners is founded and managed by a senior team of experienced professionals led by Mr. Michael Sng, Ms. Loong Mei Yin and Ms. Ati Sugiharti (“Management Team”), who have careers in investment banking spanning over 60 years collectively. The Management Team was previously part of the senior management team of UOB Asia Limited, the successful investment banking franchise of United Overseas Bank Limited of Singapore.

- The first fund established by TAEL Partners is The Asian Entrepreneur Legacy One, L.P. ("TAEL One"), an exempted limited partnership registered in the Cayman Islands. TAEL One is a pan-ASEAN investment fund. The current fund size of TAEL One is US$551 million and its investor base is made up of institutional investors from the ASEAN, European and the Middle East regions. Since its inception in September 2007, TAEL One has generated gross returns on average capital utilized in excess of 20% per annum without any asset impairment, despite challenging global market conditions. The General Partner of TAEL One is TAEL One Partners Ltd, an exempted company incorporated in the Cayman Islands. Please visit www.taelpartners.com for further information.

About Bank Muamalat

- Bank Muamalat is one of two standalone domestically owned Islamic Banks in Malaysia. The Bank is a full-fledged Islamic financial institution that operates under the Islamic Banking Act, 1983 of Malaysia. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, Bank Muamalat provides an array of Shari‘ah-compliant banking products and services, supported further by subsidiaries involved in Islamic venture capital businesses and Islamic investment management services.

- The Bank was established on 1 October 1999 from the Islamic banking divisions of Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Berhad, Bank of Commerce (M) Berhad and BBMB Kewangan Berhad. Bank Muamalat has
since grown to become a leading Islamic financial institution which leverages on its strong staff force of 1,744, a nationwide network of 52 branches, 3 service centres throughout Malaysia plus an offshore branch in Labuan, to provide customers with a broad range of products and services tailored to meet their specific requirements. For the 9-months period ended 31 December 2010, the Bank Muamalat Group recorded an unaudited net profit of RM99.3 million. Total asset size and shareholders’ equity for the Bank Muamalat Group stood at RM15.9 billion and RM1.3 billion respectively. Its risk-weighted capital ratio as at end December 2010 stands at a healthy 18.4%. Please visit www.muamalat.com.my for further information.

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Issued on behalf of Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad and TAEL Partners Ltd. For more information, please call (i) Raja Sa’adi Raja Amrin of Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad at +603-2059 1350; or (ii) Ms Schutz Lee of TAEL Partners Ltd at +65-9368 8122 or +65-6500 0910.