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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**PHARMANIAGA, NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF BIOTECHNOLOGY MALAYSIA TO COOPERATE IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ON VACCINES**

**SHAH ALAM, 1 NOVEMBER 2021** – Pharmaniaga Berhad (Pharmaniaga) will work closely with the National Institutes of Biotechnology Malaysia (NIBM) in the various areas of Research & Development (R&D) on vaccines that Malaysia aims to produce.

The co-operation is sealed with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Pharmaniaga’s wholly-owned subsidiary Pharmaniaga Research Centre Sdn Bhd and NIBM, today.

The MOU was signed by Pharmaniaga Group Managing Director Datuk Zulkarnain Md Eusope and NIBM Acting Chief Executive Officer/Agro-Biotechnology Institute Malaysia Director Dr Seetha Jaganathan King. The announcement of the MOU was made to Prime Minister YAB Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob at the launching of the National Vaccine Development Roadmap and Malaysian Genome & Vaccine Institute.

Datuk Zulkarnain said the R&D co-operation between both parties will spur further pertinent efforts in the pharmaceutical industry to help the Government in protecting the national interest by having locally developed and produced vaccines to fulfil the needs of the *rakyat*.

“Malaysia has been relying on the importation of vaccines as currently there are no human vaccines being developed and produced locally. The closest is the fill and finish manufacturing of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine by our wholly-owned subsidiary Pharmaniaga LifeScience Sdn Bhd (PLS).

“Thus, backed by our valuable experience with Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine, we will work together with NIBM in many areas of R&D and training on vaccines so that Malaysia will be able to develop and produce various types of vaccines for babies, children and adults in the near future.

“We are confident with the outcome of this co-operation as PRC has more than 300 professional scientific workforce, and it has developed more than 240 generic drugs which we later manufacture on our own for the local and international markets.

“Indeed, this co-operation will also be another step towards building national readiness against any pandemic in the future, as well strengthen Pharmaniaga’s plan to establish world’s first halal vaccine manufacturing plant in Malaysia,” he said.

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Pharmaniaga is the product registration holder and sole distributor of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine in Malaysia and has supplied 20.4 million doses of the vaccine to the National COVID-19 Immunisation Programme. Its high-tech EU certified plant, PLS has the capacity to manufacture 4 million doses of fill and finish Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine a month and currently supplies the vaccine needs of the private market.

Pharmaniaga is the leading pharmaceutical Company of Boustead Holdings Berhad group of companies, and together with Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera, are the major shareholders of the Company.

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### **About Pharmaniaga Berhad**

Pharmaniaga is the leading pharmaceutical company of Boustead Holdings Berhad Group of Companies, which together with the Armed Forces Fund Board, are the major shareholders of the Company. Listed on the Main Board of Bursa Malaysia, Pharmaniaga's core businesses are generic pharmaceuticals manufacturing; research and development; marketing and sales; warehousing and distribution of pharmaceutical and medical products; supply, trading and installation of medical and hospital equipment as well as community pharmacy.

With a vision to be the premier Malaysian pharmaceutical company, Pharmaniaga is guided by its philosophy of 'Do It Right Always' and is empowered by its motto of Passion for Patients. Strengthened by nine manufacturing plants, nationwide logistics and distribution in Malaysia and Indonesia as well as products registered in 15 countries, Pharmaniaga Group is positioned to be a regional player in the international pharmaceutical arena.

### **About NIBM**

NIBM is established as a catalyst for the acceleration in growth of the Malaysian biotechnology industry pursuant to National Biotechnology Policy. NIBM is responsible to promote a knowledge-based economy through the establishment of a sustainable ecosystem of research, development, innovation, and commercialization in the areas of agriculture, pharmaceutical and genomic biotechnology through its three institutes namely Agro-Biotechnology Institute Malaysia ('ABI'), Malaysian Institute of Pharmaceuticals and Nutraceuticals ('IPHARM') and Malaysia Genome Institute ('MGI'). NIBM has entered into various collaborative arrangements with other parties in its efforts to catalyse and accelerate the growth a competitive Malaysian biotechnology industry.

### **Forward-looking statement**

This release may contain certain forward-looking statements with respect to the financial conditions, results of operations and business of the Group and certain plans and objectives of Pharmaniaga Berhad with respect to these items. By their nature, forward-looking statements involve risk and uncertainty because they relate to events and depend on circumstances that will occur in the future and there are many factors that could cause actual results and developments to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements.

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Issued for Pharmaniaga Group by Corporate Communications Department, Pharmaniaga Berhad. For media enquiries, please contact Dato' Zuhri Iskandar Kamarzaman, Corporate Services Deputy Director of Pharmaniaga Berhad at 03-3342 999 ext 434 or by email [zuhri@pharmaniaga.com](mailto:zuhri@pharmaniaga.com).