

# JAPAN FOODS HOLDING LTD

(Company Registration No.: 200722314M)  
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## Japan Foods recognised for third straight year at SIAS 19<sup>th</sup> Investors' Choice Awards 2018

- *Named Runner-Up in the "Most Transparent Company – Hotel / Restaurant" award category*
  - *This is the second award received by the Group in 2018*

**SINGAPORE, 26 September 2018 – Japan Foods Holding Ltd.** ("Japan Foods" and together with its subsidiaries, the "**Group**"), a leading Japanese restaurant chain, has clinched its second award in 2018 for good corporate governance and its third consecutive award at the 19<sup>th</sup> SIAS Investors' Choice Award 2018.

Japan Foods' was named Runner Up in the "**Most Transparent Company Award – Hotel/Restaurant**" category for good corporate governance and transparency practices. This is the Group's third SIAS Investor Choice Award in this category. The Group was named, "Most Transparent Company (Overall Winner for Catalist)" and won the "Transparency Award - SMEs" at the SIAS Investors' Choice Awards in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

This year, companies were shortlisted based on a four-step selection process, which include a Global Industry Classification Standard scorecard developed for SIAS by the NUS Business School's Centre for Governance, Institutions & Organisations. They are then screened based on Thomson Reuters' Stock Report Plus, which comprised analyst ratings of earnings, fundamentals, relative valuations, risks, price momentum and insider trading. Companies are then reviewed and nominated by industry stakeholders before going through the final selection committee.

This is Japan Foods' second award in 2018. At the Singapore Corporate Awards 2018 in July, it clinched the Best Managed Board (Gold) for companies with less than S\$300 million in market capitalisation, in recognition of company boards that adopt best practices in transparency, accountability, performance orientation, good processes and practices, providing a multi-dimensional

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view of board effectiveness, and underscoring the importance of human capital practices at the board level

**Mr Takahashi Kenichi, Executive Chairman and CEO of Japan Foods**, said: *“We are extremely honoured to have our efforts in corporate governance recognised for the third consecutive year by SIAS. We have a strong Board of Directors that has always underlined the importance of good corporate governance practices and this award reflects our continued commitment towards best practices in transparency. We believe we have laid strong foundations that will continue to hold the Group in good stead for many years to come.”*

Two out of four of Japan Foods’ directors are “Chartered Directors (CDir)” conferred by the Institute of Directors, United Kingdom (“UKIoD”). Mr Tan Lye Huat and Mr Eugene Wong are the only two directors in Singapore to have earned this professional qualification for directorship development that helps directors consolidate their knowledge, skills and experience to ensure that they are able to respond to today’s changing business landscape and tailor solutions to address an organisation’s issues.

**Mr Wong**, who is the **Group’s Non-Executive Vice-Chairman**, said: *“As a Board, we are very serious about our responsibilities towards all stakeholders, including minority shareholders and that drives us as individuals to improve our own knowledge and expertise through seeking professional qualification.”*

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## **About Japan Foods**

Established in Singapore in 1997 and listed on the Catalist Board of the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited in February 2009, Japan Foods is one of the leading Japanese restaurant chains in Singapore. As at 30 June 2018, the Group operates 51 restaurants in Singapore under various brands, such as “Ajisen Ramen”, “Osaka Ohsho” and “Menya Musashi”.

Over the years, Japan Foods has successfully expanded its restaurant network of the “Ajisen Ramen” brand and has also created its own “Dutch Baby Cafe”, “Fruit Paradise”, “Ginza Kushi Katsu” and “Japanese Gourmet Town” brands. The Group is focused on innovation and aims to continuously refresh the dining experience of its customers.

The Group has expanded beyond Singapore. As at 30 June 2018, there was 1 restaurant in Malaysia and 2 restaurants in Vietnam operated by the Group’s sub-franchisees under the “Ajisen Ramen” brand. The Group also has interests in 1 restaurant in Indonesia, 8 restaurants in Hong Kong and 10 restaurants in China operated by its associated companies under the “Menya Musashi” brand.

Japan Foods was named the “Most Transparent Company (Catalist)” at the 17th SIAS Investors’ Choice Awards in 2016 and also awarded the “Transparency Award – SMEs” at the 18th SIAS Investors’ Choice Awards 2017. In July 2018, the Group received the “Best Managed Board Award (Gold)” at the Singapore Corporate Awards 2018.

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*Issued on behalf of Japan Foods Holding Ltd by*

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*This news release has been reviewed by the Company’s sponsor, CIMB Bank Berhad, Singapore Branch (“Sponsor”) for compliance with the Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (“SGX-ST”) Listing Manual Section B: Rules of Catalist. The Sponsor has not independently verified the contents of this news release. This news release has not been examined or approved by the SGX-ST. The Sponsor and the SGX-ST assume no responsibility for the contents of this news release, including the correctness of any of the statements or opinions made or reports contained in this news release. The contact person for the Sponsor is Ms Tan Cher Ting, Director, Investment Banking, CIMB Bank Berhad, Singapore Branch, at 50 Raffles Place, #09-01 Singapore Land Tower, Singapore 048623, Telephone: +65 6337 5115.*