

Bondweb, Thomson Reuters to deliver pricing data globally

Move expected to boost liquidity in local bond market

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BONDWEB Malaysia Sdn Bhd (BWM), a bond pricing agency, has teamed up with news agency Thomson Reuters to deliver pricing data globally — a move expected to help boost liquidity in the Malaysian bond market.

The two parties yesterday concluded an arrangement whereby BWM's extensive range of Malaysian bond prices will be made available for delivery across Thomson Reuters products.

BWM currently delivers evaluated prices for nearly 2000 unlisted Malaysian bonds daily.

The arrangement will enable customers to receive daily evaluated pricing on more than 65,000 Asian illiquid and structured products

through a single access.

"It's a great step towards making the Malaysian ringgit bond market more accessible and attractive.

"A whole new spectrum of users will now have access to our data," BWM chief operating officer Meor Amri Meor Ayob told reporters yesterday.

He said there is a need to provide evaluated prices on Malaysian bonds, as only about one per cent of bonds in the Malaysian market are traded on a daily basis.

"Ninety-nine per cent of them are not traded, so how do you find the price (for those)? That's where we come in with evaluated prices," he explained.

An evaluated price is an opinion by the bond pricing agency on what constitutes a fair price for a particular bond.

Only with this necessary information would investors be keen enough to explore trading opportunities, he said.

"This will enhance Malaysian liquidity, in the sense that international players will come in to the market if you have evaluated prices available. From there, they would think about whether to invest in Malaysia or not," said Simon Soo Hu, managing director of Reuters Malaysia.

He said Thomson Reuters' goal was to provide one single source of data for Malaysian financial institutions investing abroad.

"For the international institutions, we aim to become the primary source for Islamic content in the world by providing trusted data," he added.



ACCESS TO EVALUATED DATA: Meor Amri (right) and Soo fielding questions at the press conference.