



## CIMB Principal sets RM30b assets target by year-end

by **Darlene Liew**

FD@bizedge.com

KUALA LUMPUR: CIMB-Principal Asset Management Bhd is confident of achieving RM30 billion assets under management by year-end, up from RM22.1 billion in 2009, said its CEO J Campbell Tupling.

He said the company was positive about achieving the target due to the improved market sentiment.

"Besides, demand from institutional and retail investors is continuing to rise," Tupling told reporters at the launch of CIMB-Principal Australian Equity Fund yesterday.

The new fund would feed into the Schroder Australian Equity Fund, an Australian-domiciled fund that strived to outperform

the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index over the medium-to-long term, he said. "The Australian market presents exciting opportunities as it is the only major economy that has avoided a technical recession in 2009, recording only one quarter of contraction in gross domestic product," said Tupling.

"Historically, Australia's economy expanded in the last 17 years and offered attractive stocks that benefited from the expansion such as mining, banking and consumer staples stocks, among others."

CIMB Principal chief investment officer Raymond Tang added the fund would invest at least 95% of its

net asset value (NAV) in the Australian equity fund with a focus on companies with sustainable competitive advantage in the long term.

"We expect the fund to generate an annual return of between 10% and 15%," he said, adding that up to a maximum of 5% of NAV would also be maintained in liquid assets.

CIMB-Principal Australian Equity Fund, the company's third fund launch this year, has an approved fund size of 600 million units with an initial offer price of 25 sen per unit. The minimum initial investment is RM1,000.