

## Axiata Announces new leadership positions for the Group

Vivek Sood appointed as the Group's New Chief Executive Officer

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 24 March 2023** – Axiata Group Berhad ("Axiata" or "the Group"), one of Asia's leading telecommunications groups, today announced the appointment of Vivek Sood as its new Group Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Managing Director, effective 24 March 2023.

Vivek Sood is an experienced telecommunications executive with over two decades of industry experience in multiple countries. Vivek is no stranger to Axiata, where he has served as its Group Chief Officer ("CFO") for almost 6 years. Whilst maintaining his CFO role, Vivek was also appointed as one of the joint interim CEOs for the Group last year.

In his new role at Axiata, Vivek will lead the company's strategic growth initiatives, including the expansion of 5G and digital infrastructure and service offerings. He will also be responsible for driving innovation, improving the customer experience across operating companies throughout Asia and creating value for shareholders.

Axiata also announced the appointment of Dr Hans Wijayasuriya as Group Executive Director ("ED") and CEO of Telco Business. Hans, a Telecommunications veteran counting 30 years in the industry was also joint interim CEO together with Vivek Sood and has held leadership positions across the Group for many years.

Tan Sri Shahril Ridza Ridzuan, Chairman of Axiata, said: "The Board is happy to appoint Vivek as our new Group CEO and have Dr Hans take the position of Group ED. Their track record of success as our joint interim CEOs puts them in the ideal position to lead Axiata into the future and ensures continuity of our strategies."

"The completion of the Celcom-Digi merger at the end of last year was due to their skillful leadership in closing a complex transaction. That has created the largest Malaysian telco, under the capable leadership of the best Malaysian talent in our Group. This allows Axiata to now focus on our strategic goals in our other markets, primarily South Asia and Indonesia, and to drive further innovation and value in our digital infrastructure and services businesses."

Vivek Sood, in accepting the appointment said, "Taking over as new CEO is exhilarating and overwhelming. Axiata is a great company with a clear vision of Advancing Asia, serving its customer and empowering societies. After many years in telco and six years as Group CFO and most recently interim CEO, I understand our goals, aspirations and challenges. With smart leaders and extremely talented employees, I am confident in leading Axiata to an exciting and transformational journey of Telco to TechCo. I am delighted to have Hans as a partner as well as the senior leadership team in this journey. I thank the Board of Axiata in having trust and confidence in me."

With Vivek's promotion as the Group CEO, Lila Azmin Abdullah is now appointed as the Acting Group CFO. Lila is currently the Group Chief Corporate Development Officer at Axiata, and she brings with her over 25 years of experience and joined Axiata from UEM Group, where she was the Director of Group Corporate Finance.

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About Axiata

In pursuit of its vision to be The Next Generation Digital Champion, Axiata is a diversified telecommunications and digital conglomerate operating Digital Telcos, Digital Businesses and Infrastructure businesses across a footprint spanning ASEAN and South Asia.

## Axiata Group Berhad (242188-H)

Axiata Tower, 9 Jalan Stesen Sentral 5, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, 50470, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia Tel: +603 2263 8888 Fax: +603 2263 8811 www.axiata.com The Group has controlling stakes in market-leading mobile and fixed operators in the region including 'XL' and 'Link Net' in Indonesia, 'Dialog' in Sri Lanka, 'Robi' in Bangladesh, 'Smart' in Cambodia and 'Ncell' in Nepal while 'CelcomDigi' in Malaysia is a Key Associate Company. Axiata's regional digital business verticals comprise 'Boost' a fintech company, and 'ADA', a digital analytics and AI company. 'EDOTCO' is among the top 10 independent TowerCos globally, operating in nine countries to deliver telecommunications infrastructure services.

As a committed and long-term investor, the Group actively supports and drives young talent development; community outreach; as well as climate change initiatives. Axiata's broader goal of Advancing Asia aims to piece together the best in the region in terms of innovation, connectivity and talent to drive digital inclusion and sustainable progress across our markets. Find out more at <u>www.axiata.com</u>

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