

KNM GROUP BERHAD

No. 140/2017

6 November 2017

Issue Rating:

Guaranteed AAA

Outlook:

Stable

Issue Rating History:

Date	Rating	Outlook/Alert
29/09/16	AAA	Stable

Rating Rationale

TRIS Rating affirms the rating of “AAA” to KNM Group Berhad’s guaranteed bonds (Guaranteed Bonds). The bonds are guaranteed by the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF), a trust fund of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). CGIF is rated “AAA” by TRIS Rating. The issue rating reflects the credit worthiness of CGIF as the guarantor of the Guaranteed Bonds.

KNM is an investment holding company incorporated in Malaysia. Through its subsidiaries, KNM operates as a global process equipment manufacturer and turnkey systems provider mainly for oil and gas, petrochemicals, renewable energy, and power industries. The company was listed on the Bursa Malaysia Securities Berhad in 2003. Proceeds from the Guaranteed Bonds will be used to refinance project debt of KNM’s subsidiary in Thailand, Impress Ethanol Co., Ltd. (IEL), as well as to finance IEL’s bio-ethanol plant expansion and meet its working capital needs.

The rating of KNM’s Guaranteed Bonds is equalized with the rating of its guarantor, CGIF. Under the guarantee’s terms, CGIF provides an irrevocable and unconditional guarantee to cover 100% of the principal and interest payments for the Guaranteed Bonds, and its guarantee obligations rank at least pari passu with all other present and future unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of CGIF.

The rating of the Guaranteed Bonds also takes into account the following conditions, the likelihood of which TRIS Rating views as very low:

- Payment acceleration risk by the bondholders’ representative: The bondholders’ representative has the right to accelerate the Guaranteed Bond payments against the Issuer upon the occurrence of any event of default other than the Issuer’s non-payment. However, CGIF will no longer have obligations to make payments under the guarantee if the bondholders’ representative exercises this right.
- Foreign exchange rate risks: the bondholders might not receive the payment in Thai baht if CGIF determines that it is impossible or impracticable and that reasonable efforts have been made to obtain the baht. In such an event, CGIF may make an equivalent payment in US dollars or such other currencies as it may determine.

CGIF’s credit rating reflects its status as a supranational institution owned by the governments of the ASEAN+3 countries and the ADB, together called “contributors”. Its rating also reflects CGIF’s strong business platform and conservative risk management framework. The rating takes into consideration CGIF’s short operational track record and the challenges it faces in expanding its business.

CGIF was founded in 2010 under the initiative of 10 ASEAN countries, together with China, Japan, Korea, and the ADB. CGIF’s main objectives are to provide credit guarantees which allow eligible issuers to access regional local currency bond markets. Issuers can thus avoid currency and maturity mismatches by issuing bonds within the region. ADB is the trustee of CGIF. It holds in trust all of CGIF’s capital and is responsible for managing that capital. CGIF finances its

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operations solely from capital contributions. It is not allowed to borrow from any source, except for cash management purposes.

Rating Outlook

The “stable” outlook reflects the creditworthiness of CGIF and the expectation that CGIF will maintain a strong financial profile and a prudent risk management framework. The rating could face downward pressure if losses in the guarantee portfolio cause CGIF's financial profile to deteriorate significantly, or if there is evidence of weakening supports from the contributors.

KNM Group Berhad (KNM)

Issue Rating:

KNM21A: Bt2,780 million guaranteed bonds due within 2021

AAA

Rating Outlook:

Stable

Key Financial Statistics of the Guarantor

Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF), a trust fund of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Unit: US\$ million

	Jan-Jun * 2017	----- Year Ended 31 December -----				
		2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Income on investment	5.9	10.4	9.4	8.8	7.6	8.0
Income from guarantee	4.4	7.7	4.8	1.3	0.4	0.0
Total revenue	10.3	19.2	14.8	10.1	8.1	8.0
Net income from operations	5.2	10.8	8.2	3.6	2.7	4.1
Total assets	776	772.0	751.6	740.5	718.0	714.7
Total liabilities	40	44	29.0	24.0	2.7	0.8
Shareholders' equity	736	728	722.6	716.5	715.2	713.9

* Not annualised

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