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THE Royal Bank of Scotland Bhd (RBS), RHB Investment Bank Bhd and Standard Chartered Bank Bhd (StanChart) walked away with the BluePrint Award for Outstanding Deal of The Year at the RAM League Awards 2009 — for their collaboration with Gulf Investment Corp in issuing RM1 billion of fixed-rated bonds.

At the event in Kuala Lumpur last night, a total of 32 awards in 12 categories were handed out within the Lead Manager Awards and for Awards of Distinction.

Under the Lead Manager Awards, CIMB Investment Bank Bhd took home three wins — Lead Manager Award for Number of Deals and Lead Manager Award Islamic (Number of Deals) and the Award for Issue Value (Islamic).

Maybank Investment Bank Bhd, meanwhile, bagged the Lead Manager Award for Issue Value, which recognises the institutions leading positions in RAM's league table.

In the Award of Distinction, CIMB took home Malaysia's Top Lead Manager — Corporate Sukuk Market and Malaysia's Top Lead Manager — Corporate Bond Market.

RAM Holdings Bhd chairman Tan Sri Siti Norma Yaakob said the RAM League Awards reflects the growth of the domestic debt capital market, highlighting the industry fore-runners.

"As rapid market evolution means that what was considered innovative three years ago may now be just 'plain vanilla', we need to constantly strive for excellence," she said.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri

3 banks pick up award for outstanding deal of the year



Muhyiddin (centre) and Siti Norma (sixth from left) posing with representatives of award-winning companies at the RAM League Awards 2009 event held in Kuala Lumpur last night

Muhyiddin Mohd Yassin, the guest of honour, said Malaysia's bond market is now the third largest in Asia (excluding Japan), and has achieved international recognition as the largest issuer of Islamic securities in the world.

He said the present economic crisis has presented the country with an opportunity to attract funds from non-traditional sources, including the Middle East, as well as investors seeking alternatives to conventional financial instruments.

Islamic finance has particularly huge potential, with global Islamic assets currently worth RM750 billion and expected to exceed RM1 trillion by 2010.

"The rising demand has facilitated the development of new Is-

lamic financial instruments in the market," he said.

Muhyiddin said, last year, about 60 per cent of the world's sukuk issuance originated from the domestic capital market, underscoring Malaysia as leader in the global sukuk market. Another RM6.4 billion was issued in the first quarter of this year.

He said the present global financial turmoil has awakened policymakers in developed countries that there could be no meaningful or sustained economic recovery without a functioning banking and capital market system.

"I hope the industry will continue pioneering new areas and innovative instruments in both conventional and Islamic finance. On the government's part, we will continue to take requisite measures to ensure the Malaysian market remains attractive and highly competitive," Muhyiddin said.

Established in 2004, the RAM League Awards recognises outstanding institutions for their technical, professional and leadership contributions that have advanced the domestic debt market.

Since RAM's inception in 1990, the company has rated more than 1,500 issues of debt securities valued at about RM570 billion.