

**OCBC INVITING BRIGHT SPARKS FROM LOWER INCOME
FAMILIES TO APPLY FOR RM500,000 IN BOND-FREE
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Kuala Lumpur, 15 March 2007 – OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad is inviting bright school leavers from lower income families to apply for its yearly public scholarships.

The Bank is looking to award more than half a million Ringgit in scholarship money to fifteen students, who would each receive RM10,000 per year to help them with tuition fees and living expenses for the entire duration of their studies at local tertiary institutions. Applications close on 14 April 2007.

According to OCBC Bank's Head of Human Resources, Mr Cheah Syn Yeam, most of the successful candidates in previous years had scored at least four A's in their STPM or achieved a CGPA score of above 3.7.

"The OCBC public scholarships aim to provide financial assistance to students who are both needy and brainy, that is, those who come from low-income families and, at the same time, have excelled academically in their pre-university years.

"In determining the final list of successful candidates, we take into account applicants' academic performance, moral character, extra-curricular record and family income levels," he said.

The OCBC Scholarships were established in 1972 and remain among the few bond-free scholarships awarded to outstanding students who have gained admission into undergraduate studies at local tertiary institutions. Its primary objective is to provide financial assistance to students who excel academically and come from poor financial backgrounds to pursue their education in a field of their choice at local tertiary institutions.

For more information on the scholarships and to obtain the application forms, students can log on to www.ocbc.com.my.

About OCBC Bank

Singapore's longest established local bank, OCBC Bank, currently has assets of S\$151 billion and a network of over 370 branches and representative offices in 15 countries and territories including Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Hong Kong SAR, Brunei, Japan, Australia, UK and USA. This network includes more than 250 branches and offices in Indonesia operated by OCBC Bank's subsidiary, PT Bank NISP. OCBC Bank and its banking subsidiaries offer a wide range of specialist financial services, from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to global treasury and stockbroking services to meet the needs of its customers across communities.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the largest insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia, in terms of assets and market share, and its asset management subsidiary, Lion Capital Management, is one of the largest asset management companies in Southeast Asia. Additional information may be found at www.ocbc.com.

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