

OCBC BANK STAFF REBUILD HOME FOR NEEDY FAMILY IN KELANTAN

Kota Bharu, Kelantan 10 June 2010 – The home of a needy family in Pasir Mas recently underwent long-overdue upgrading thanks to the efforts of 35 staff of OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad's Operations & Technology Division.

The Kuala Lumpur-based volunteers flew to Kelantan on their own time and expense last weekend to participate in the community development initiative to repair and reconstruct a disabled-friendly home.

The initiative was undertaken in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Malaysia and Yayasan Orang Kurang Upaya Kelantan (YOKUK). The cost of RM30,000 for building materials and other items for two houses, the first of which was completed last weekend, came from fund raising efforts by the staff of the Bank.

According to OCBC Bank's Head of Operations, Mr Lim Yau Seong, although the volunteers were not skilled builders nor contractors, they were able to carry out the required tasks with ease under the guidance of skilled personnel from Kelantan.

"The activities included site clearing, concrete and bricks laying as well as wall painting. I am pleased to say the participation quickly became more than a community effort on our part. We were ourselves learning as we rendered assistance to our newfound friends in Kelantan," he said.



35 OCBC employees participate in the community development initiative to repair and reconstruct a disabled-friendly home. (On the extreme right: OCBC Bank's Head of Operations, Mr Lim Yau Seong (in black T-shirt), and Puan Siti Faridah with her son).

The beneficiary family was all smiles when the project was completed and thanked the Bank for the effort.

The beneficiary, Puan Siti Faridah, 44, lives with her husband, 5 children and a niece. Her husband works as a labourer and she is a full-time housewife. Currently his meager income is supplemented by assistance from the Social Welfare Department. The house was in a dilapidated condition without any bathroom and the floor boards were destroyed by termites.

So, Habitat for Humanity planned a series of renovation exercises for the OCBC volunteers – reinforcing the walls, partitioning the bedroom and kitchen, and constructing a combined bathroom/toilet at the back of the house.

A beaming Puan Siti said: “I now have a comfortable house that is stable and which I can truly call home. I was so honoured that all of these volunteers came to help speed up the process.”

Commenting on the overall effort, Mr Lim Yau Seong said: “We are pleased to have been able to contribute, in a small way, towards the future of our needy friends. This is the least we could do for our brethren in other parts of the country.”

Earlier this year, the O&T Division organised a charity fair to finance a number of projects as part of their corporate social responsibility effort, raising RM60,000 in the process.



OCBC Bank employees replacing the floor boards of the house.

This is OCBC Bank’s third year of community development work in association with Habitat for Humanity. In March 2008, they kicked off the effort by building three homes and distributing schoolbags in the Banjaran village in Bandung, Indonesia. The trip also included visits and donations to three orphanages in Bandung.

About OCBC Bank

OCBC Bank, established in 1912, is the second largest financial services group in Southeast Asia by assets. It is among the world's highest rated banks, with a long term credit rating of Aa1 from Moody's. OCBC Bank and its subsidiaries offer a broad array of specialist financial services, ranging from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to treasury, insurance, asset management and stockbroking services.

OCBC Bank's key markets are Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Greater China. It has a network of more than 500 branches and representative offices in 15 countries and territories, including 382 branches and offices in Indonesia operated by its subsidiary, Bank OCBC NISP.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the largest insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia by assets, and its asset management subsidiary, Lion Global Investors, is one of the largest private sector asset management companies in Southeast Asia.

OCBC Bank offers Islamic banking products and services in Malaysia through its wholly-owned subsidiary, OCBC Al-Amin Bank Berhad.

For more information, please visit www.ocbc.com.my

About Habitat for Humanity Malaysia

Habitat for Humanity Malaysia is a non-governmental organization that welcomes to its work all people dedicated to the cause of eliminating poverty housing. Since its founding in the USA in 1976, Habitat has built, rehabilitated, repaired or improved more than 350,000 houses worldwide, providing simple, decent and affordable shelter for more than 1.75 million people. In Malaysia, Habitat was founded in 1998 in Sarawak. Habitat Malaysia has offices in Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur. Habitat Malaysia has built 100 houses to date.

For more information on Habitat's work in Malaysia, visit www.hfhmalaysia.org or send an email to info@hfhmalaysia.org

About Yayasan Orang Kurang Upaya Kelantan (YOKUK)

Since 1999, YOKUK has been working to improve the lives of the disabled. In addition to helping disabled people receive medical care, YOKUK provides therapy services and vocational training for its 3,500 members, a quarter of the disabled population of Kelantan.

To find out more about YOKUK, visit: www.yokuk.org