

**NEWS RELEASE** 

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# MORE THAN 3,500 PARTICIPATE IN MALAYSIA'S LARGEST MASS-PARTICIPATION CYCLING EVENT ON CLOSED ROADS

## OCBC Cycle Malaysia: A Cycling Spectacle at Dataran Merdeka!

**KUALA LUMPUR, 16 October 2011 –** Cycling mania swept through Dataran Merdeka today, as thousands of cyclists got on their bikes and rode through Kuala Lumpur in the inaugural OCBC Cycle Malaysia. More than 3,500 participants registered for the three-day cycling extravaganza, the largest mass-participation cycling event to be held on closed roads in Malaysia.

"The response to the first-ever OCBC Cycle Malaysia has been phenomenal," said Chris Robb, Managing Director of Spectrum Worldwide – the event owners and organisers. "Our vision was to provide a cycling platform that catered to cyclists of all skill levels, to encourage a wholesome and healthier lifestyle through cycling. To be the first community cycling event on closed roads in Kuala Lumpur – allowing cyclists to ride freely without having to worry about traffic – is a unique privilege. The past two days have truly exemplified the cycling spirit of Malaysia and we are already looking forward to OCBC Cycle Malaysia 2012. I would like to thank Dato' Sri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, all our sponsors, partners and particularly the Kuala Lumpur authorities, DBKL and the Traffic Police, without whose valuable support, this event would not have been possible.

The day's proceedings kicked off at 6.30am with the 52km Challenge, enjoyed by over 1,700 amateur cyclists. Khairul Naim Azhar crossed the line in first place, followed by Mohd Rizal Tisin and Muhamad Nur Syafiq Suhaimyin second and third place respectively. The first female



cyclist across the finish line was Siti Suhana Sulaiman, ahead of Nurul Nurlizawati M Sharif and Sian Wilson in second and third.

Dato' Sri Ahmad Shabery Cheek, Minister of Youth and Sports, flagged off the 21km Community Ride at 9.00am before joining the 1,200 riders. The Minister was also joined by 80 other cyclists from the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Not to be outdone, title sponsors OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad showed up with a strong contingent of 400 riders led by their Director & CEO, Mr. Jeffrey Chew. Over 80 cyclists then rode in the Polygon Foldies Community Ride, a special category organised for the folding bike community.

Mr. Chew said the Bank had invested more than RM2 million in the event in line with its corporate values and quest to contribute actively to the community in a wholesome manner.

"I am excited that this day has finally arrived and seeing more than 3,500 participants is sheer delight. OCBC Cycle Malaysia provides an ideal platform to promote not only a healthy lifestyle, but also the spirit of teamwork and togetherness, hallmarks of our national culture. This also augurs well for the practice of OCBC's core values, and is in line with our ongoing commitment to engage more significantly with the community," he said.

OCBC Cycle Malaysia spanned an action-packed weekend with five cycling categories comprising The Challenge (52km), The Community Ride (21km), Mighty Savers<sup>™</sup> Kids Rides (4km), the Tricycle Ride (100m), the Polygon Foldies Community Ride (21km), and the by-invitation-only Kenny Heights Ultimate City Race 2011 for professional cyclists.

The 52km Challenge and 21km Community Ride recorded the highest number of participants, with cyclists riding along a 10.5km route which passed through some of Kuala Lumpur's iconic landmarks such as the PWTC, KL Tower, Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve and KLCC. The Foldies category, sponsored by Polygon, was a first-of-its-kind for OCBC cycling events in the region and was created exclusively for the huge following of folding bike enthusiasts in Malaysia.

Endorsed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Malaysian National Cycling Federation, OCBC Cycle Malaysia is also supported by Doubletree by Hilton, Shimano, F2P, BaikBike.com,



Polygon, Kenny Heights, Avenue K, MixFM, 100Plus, The Expat Group, Gleneagles Kuala Lumpur and Cycling Malaysia Magazine, with the New Straits Times Press as its media partner.

## Sunday's Results

Category	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3rd
52km Challenge	Khairul Naim Azhar	Mohd Rizal Tisin	Muhamad NurSyafiq
(men)			Suhaimi
52km Challenge	Siti Suhana Sulaiman	Nurul Nurlizawati M	Sian Wilson
(women)		Sharif	

#### # # End # #

### About Spectrum Worldwide

Spectrum Worldwide is a leading event management and experiential marketing company operating throughout the Asia Pacific region. For more than 20 years, Spectrum Worldwide has created and managed tailored experiences that not only bring to life our clients' brands, but also provide opportunities for companies to showcase their core values in a memorable and compelling way. Through long-standing partnerships with multi-national companies throughout the region, Spectrum Worldwide has consistently delivered groundbreaking, iconic events including the annual OCBC Cycle Singapore, the Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore and most recently the Red Bull Speed Street Singapore and KL. Spectrum's approach centres on understanding clients' needs, and designing and delivering the best event solutions based on our years of experience. For more information, go to: <u>www.spectrumworldwide.com.sg</u>

#### About OCBC Bank

OCBC Bank is the longest established Singapore bank, formed in 1932 from the merger of three local banks, the oldest of which was founded in 1912. It is now the second largest financial services group in Southeast Asia by assets and one of the world's most highly-rated banks, with an Aa1 rating from Moody's. It is also ranked by Bloomberg Markets as the world's strongest bank.



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 over 500 branches and representative offices in 15 countries and territories, including more than 400 branches and offices in Indonesia that are 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. Its asset management subsidiary, Lion Global Investors, is one of the largest private sector asset management companies in Southeast Asia. Private banking services are provided by subsidiary Bank of Singapore, which has been ranked among the top three private banks in Singapore.

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