

MEDIA RELEASE

OCBC BANK PROVIDES TANDEM BICYCLES FOR DISABLED COMMUNITY AT KL CAR FREE MORNING

Kuala Lumpur, 4 December 2014 – Since availing 100 bicycles for cycling enthusiasts to use at the monthly KL Car Free Morning two months ago, OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad has upped the ante by providing 10 tandem bicycles so the disabled community can participate as well.



L-R: Mr Ong Eng Bin, CEO of OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad; Tuan Syed Abdull Aziz, Director & CEO of OCBC Al-Amin; Tuan Idzawi bin Raja Ismail, Director of Culture, Arts & Sports, KL City Hall; Ms Mary Chen, Publisher of Challenges Media; Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib, Mayor of Kuala Lumpur; and Datuk Naim Mohamad, KL Car Free Morning Implementation Committee Chairman

The bicycles were presented today to Challenges Media, an organisation dedicated to promoting disability advocacy and inclusive community development, by OCBC Bank's Chief Executive Officer Mr Ong Eng Bin. The event was witnessed by Kuala Lumpur Mayor Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib and KL Car Free Morning Implementation Committee Chairman Datuk Naim Mohamad.

In addition to the monthly KL Car Free Morning events, Challenges Media will also use the tandem bicycles at other programmes that enable children and youth with disabilities to take part in and enjoy cycling.

According to Challenges Media Publisher Ms Mary Chen, who received the bicycles on behalf of the organisation, cycling is growing in popularity among the disabled and the contribution of the tandem bicycles is timely.

“We would like to thank OCBC Bank for this fine effort, for making the bicycles available to us. What’s also awesome is that the bicycles will enable children with learning disabilities to share in the joy of cycling together with their peers, teachers and family members and not just among themselves. This is a great way to inculcate social inclusion.

“Amongst the disabled community, tandem bicycles are currently used mainly by the blind. The *Challenges Tandem Cycle 4 Change* project will expand the cycling experience to other disability groups to enable children with learning disabilities to learn to cycle.

“People with learning disabilities make up the largest disability group amongst the various categories of disabilities in any country, including Malaysia. A third of Malaysians with disabilities registered with the Social Welfare Department have *learning* disabilities. Unfortunately, opportunities to exercise are two times less likely to be made available to persons of this large group, not to mention the opportunity to cycle.

“Many children and youth with learning disabilities in our programme cannot run well and have coordination issues. So cycling helps them to build leg muscles, left-right coordination and balancing skills, enabling them to walk and run better. And a great plus to having the OCBC Bank-sponsored tandem bicycles in our programme is that it promotes social inclusion as the special riders get to cycle together with a friend who could be a peer, parent, teacher or college or community buddy,” she said.

KL Car Free Morning, organised by Kuala Lumpur City Hall, is held from 7am every first Sunday of the month and features closed roads for people of all walks of life to cycle, handcycle, run, skateboard, rollerskate, rollerblade or simply walk. It starts from Dataran DBKL near Dataran Merdeka and leads participants through about 7 kilometres of major streets in Kuala Lumpur’s Golden Triangle.

According to Datuk Seri Ahmad Phesal Talib the provision of the tandem bicycles by OCBC Bank is a meaningful act especially since the disabled community can now participate more freely in the increasingly popular KL Car Free Morning as well as cycling in general.

“We are pleased that the Bank that provided 100 bicycles for the public to use during KL Car Free Morning is now making cycling even more inclusive as we steer KL towards being an even more accessible and inclusive city,” he said.

Mr Ong Eng Bin said the Bank is pleased to be closely associated with the KL Car Free Morning, and to bring it to the next level with the introduction of the tandem bicycles.

“OCBC is looking to further entrench itself in the cycling community and having these tandem bicycles at KL Car Free Morning is just one more step toward making cycling even more accessible to everyone including the disabled.

“Having cycled at the KL Car Free Morning myself I can attest to the fact that it is a pure pleasure to ride on closed roads that are free of traffic. And those who want to cycle but don’t have a bike can easily come to the OCBC Cycle booth to use a bicycle for free,” he added.

To use the OCBC bicycles, which feature those for both kids and adults, cyclists will need to show ID with photographic identification. Use of the bicycles is on a first come first served basis and there is no charge involved. All cyclists are responsible for bringing their own helmets which cannot be made available on a loan basis for hygiene reasons.

About OCBC Bank

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OCBC Bank and its subsidiaries offer a broad array of specialist financial and wealth management 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 over 630 branches and representative offices in 18 countries and territories. These include the more than 330 branches and offices in Indonesia operated by subsidiary Bank OCBC NISP and OCBC Wing Hang’s 95 branches in Hong Kong, China and Macau.

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 continues to gain industry recognition including being voted "Outstanding Private Bank in Asia Pacific" in 2013 by Private Banker International.

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

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