

VISUALLY IMPAIRED CYCLISTS RIDE WITH OCBC STAFF TO COMPLETE 265 KILOMETRE KL-TAMAN NEGARA EXPEDITION

Kuala Lumpur, 16 December 2015 – Twenty visually impaired cyclists successfully completed a 265 kilometre Kuala Lumpur-Taman Negara expedition recently, thanks to their sheer grit and the collaborative spirit of their visually sighted counterparts.

As part of the preparation for the journey, OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad (OCBC Bank) had donated ten tandem bicycles to the Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB) for the expedition. The Bank then went the extra mile by sending fourteen staff volunteers to ride along with the other riders as well.

According to MAB Vice President Dr S. Radha Krishnan, the 40 blind and sighted participants underwent two months of intense training to enhance their endurance levels prior to the expedition.

During the expedition, they were supported by eight traffic policemen from Polis Di Raja Malaysia and a medical squad from Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam Malaysia (JPAM), with further assistance from Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL). Apart from bicycle sponsors OCBC Bank, Ekovest Berhad also chipped in to sponsor the accommodation and cycling jerseys.

Recounting her experience during the expedition, one of the MAB cyclists, Siti Huraizah, said the tandem cycling expedition was as tough as her earlier climb up Gunung Tahan.

“The hilly road really tested my strength in cycling,” she said.



OCBC Bank staff and the visually impaired setting out on their journey to Taman Negara

“The Association would like to thank OCBC Bank for their contribution both through the provision of bicycles and staff volunteers. We had initially asked merely to borrow OCBC Bank’s tandem bicycles that are used at the *OCBC KL Car Free Morning* but we were pleasantly surprised when they informed us they would rather give us 10 new ones instead.

“We are grateful for their act of kindness and are sure it will continue to go a long way toward nurturing a sense of camaraderie and healthy living among both the blind and the visually sighted,” Dr S. Radha Krishnan said.

OCBC Bank Recreation Club President Mahathir Mohamed Ali, who rode along with the expedition, said the Bank was pleased to have been part of yet another cycle-themed CSR effort, this time with the MAB.

“We hope the health and social benefits that the 10 tandem bikes brought to the participants through the expedition will continue to be enjoyed well beyond,” he said.

MAB’s expedition from Kuala Lumpur to Taman Negara was part of its on-going plan to enhance bonding and strengthen endurance levels among the Association’s members. It also aimed at fostering social interaction and increasing the propensity for healthy living and sporting activities among the blind.

OCBC Bank has been at the forefront of cycling with its title sponsorship of the twice-monthly *OCBC KL Car Free Morning*, donation of tandem bicycles to the disabled, sponsorship of universities’ cycling efforts, and the recently concluded 42km *OCBC Cycle Kuala Lumpur 2015*.

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. Recognised for its financial strength and stability, OCBC Bank has been ranked Asean’s strongest bank and among the world’s five strongest banks by Bloomberg Markets for five consecutive years since the ranking’s inception in 2011.

OCBC Bank and its subsidiaries offer a broad array of commercial banking, 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 regions. These include the more than 330 branches and offices in Indonesia under subsidiary Bank OCBC NISP, and more than 90 branches and offices in Hong Kong, China and Macau under OCBC Wing Hang.

OCBC Bank's private banking services are provided by its wholly-owned subsidiary Bank of Singapore, which has received increasing industry recognition as Asia's Global Private Bank, and was voted "Outstanding Private Bank in Southeast Asia in 2014" by Private Banker International.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the oldest and most established life insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia. 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



Mr Ong Eng Bin, CEO of OCBC Bank (extreme left, in white T-shirt) flagging off the 40 blind and sighted participants at the MAB headquarters in Brickfields. On the extreme right, holding the Malaysian flag, is Dato' Lim Keng Cheng, Managing Director of Ekovest Berhad.