

OCBC BANK NAMED MALAYSIA'S SME BANK OF THE YEAR BY ASIAN BANKING & FINANCE

Kuala Lumpur, 16 July 2018 – OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad (OCBC Bank) has been adjudged Malaysia's SME Bank of the Year by *Asian Banking & Finance* for attending to the needs of small and medium sized companies holistically, particularly in the digital space.

Speaking after the awards ceremony at Shangri-la Hotel in Singapore, Mr Tim Charlton, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief of *Asian Banking and Finance*, said for 2017, OCBC Bank performed admirably both in Malaysia and across the region, bagging also the top award for Indonesia.



L-R: Mr Tim Charlton, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief of Asian Banking and Finance presenting the award to Mr Wong Chee Seng, Head of Emerging Business, OCBC Bank (Malaysia) Berhad

“OCBC Bank has proven itself again by promoting best practices, particularly through its digital innovations. In 2017, the Bank strengthened its e-commerce and payment options for customers which resulted in a four-fold increase in the number of merchant customers, clinching it a top two position against Bank Negara Malaysia’s KPI for merchant acquisitions.

“OCBC Bank was also the first in Malaysia to introduce an app that allows customers greater flexibility and convenience in the way they access banking products and services using their mobile phone.

“Underpinning these was its new dedicated team that oversaw the acquisition of over 700 accounts during the course of the year,” he said.

The winners were judged on their levels of innovation, effectiveness and dynamism to react to changes in the market and take on progressive opportunities.

The selection panel comprised judges from KPMG, Deloitte Consulting, Ernst and Young Advisory LLP and Accenture.

OCBC Bank’s Head of Emerging Business, Mr Wong Chee Seng, said the award means a lot to the Bank in its sustained journey towards offering cutting-edge solutions to its customers.

“The award marks not only our strength and commitment to providing the most efficient banking solutions to SMEs but also underlines our quest to hone our internal capabilities and workforce to deliver optimal results using the digital platform as extensively as we can,” he said.

Mr Wong expects the Bank’s portfolio of SME customers to continue to grow in time to come.

“We believe the time is ripe for SMEs to resume their growth trajectory, which has been somewhat hampered in the past few years due to the economic conditions, and we are set to play our part in this aspect of the country’s vision,” he said.

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 is consistently ranked among the World’s Top 50 Safest Banks by Global Finance and has been named Best Managed Bank in Singapore by The Asian Banker.

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 590 branches and representative offices in 18 countries and regions. These include over 320 branches and offices in Indonesia under subsidiary Bank OCBC NISP, and more than 100 branches and offices in Hong Kong, China and Macao under OCBC Wing Hang.

OCBC Bank's private banking services are provided by its wholly-owned subsidiary Bank of Singapore, which operates on a unique open-architecture product platform to source for the best-in-class products to meet its clients' goals.

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