

BIBD CELEBRATES NINE GRADUATES OF ITS BIBDSEED PROGRAMME

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2019 - Bank Islam Brunei Darussalam (BIBD) yesterday celebrated nine new successful women entrepreneurs who have recently graduated from the bank's BIBDSEED Programme (Special Underprivileged Mothers Empowerment Entrepreneurship Development).

The businesswomen, who made up the first batch of the BIBDSEED Programme, are set to become BIBD SME360 clients following the signing of an agreement with the bank yesterday during a ceremony held in the capital to celebrate the graduates and launch the second cohort of BIBDSEED programme.

Once becoming BIBD SME360 clients, all the MSMEs (the BIBDSEED graduates) will be mentored and guided by their Relationship Managers.

They will also have access to financing provided by BIBD SME360 to help the expansion of their businesses.

One single mother has already began operating her premium gifts and merchandise store, Samalindang Gallery, at the newly launched BIBD Connects at Taman Mahkota Jubli Emas (TMJE) in in the city centre.

Three other graduates of the programme will be operating their business from food kiosks, while the remaining five will pursue their respective business interests.

BIBD's Head of Government Relations and Special Projects, Haji Mohammad Yusri bin Haji Wahsalfelah, in his opening remarks during the ceremony commended the resilience and patience of the graduates throughout the programme.

"Not only they have overcome challenges but they have taken the opportunity to be more proactive and innovative in their respective businesses in terms of product presentation based on current trends," he said.

He then told the upcoming participants of the second cycle of the BIBDSEED programme to emulate the qualities of graduates of the first batch and stay determined throughout the programme.

"You should make it a practice to keep seeking advice from your mentors and from the graduates of the first batch of the BIBDSEED programme," he said, adding that such practice would be beneficial for the new participants.

He added BIBDSEED programme recently won the '3G Women Empowerment Programme' Award at the 4th Global Good Governance Awards.

“This is a testament of BIBD and its strategic partners’ commitment to ensure that participants of our BIBDSEED programme will become successful at the end of the programme.”

Haji Mohammad Yusri also thanked the parties involved including stakeholders from the Brunei government in ensuring the success and sustainability of the programme.

The launch of the next cohort of the BIBDSEED programme signifies BIBD’s commitment to support the Wawasan 2035 of creating a pro-business economy and empowering entrepreneurs to greatly contribute to Brunei’s economy.

Present to hand over certificates to the graduates of the first cohort of BIBDSEED programme was BIBD’s Deputy Managing Director, Hajah Noraini Haji Awg Sulaiman.

Hajah Noraini also witnessed a signing ceremony to launch the second cycle of the BIBDSEED programme and welcome its participants.

Representing the bank during the signing was Haji Mohammad Yusri.

About BIBDSEED

Launched in 2018, the fifteen-month BIBDSEED Programme (Special Underprivileged Mothers Empowerment Entrepreneurship Development) aims to transform underprivileged mothers into successful and resilient entrepreneurs able to compete in both local and international markets. This is made possible through the creation of business opportunities via capacity building platform for mothers who do not have the means towards development of a Muslimah entrepreneur that holds traits such as self-sustaining and robustness.

The long-term goal of the programme is also to see the participants becoming financially independent and contribute significantly to the sultanate’s economic growth.

The objectives of BIBDSEED include the development of human capital to embody successful entrepreneurs, improve productivity and services through innovation and automation with the latest business practices, and to uplift their living conditions through business acumen, knowledge and optimal trading to adapt them into the business ecosystem.

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About BIBD

BIBD is the largest financial institution in Brunei Darussalam, leading the market in terms of assets, financings, and deposits, with a vision to become globally recognised as the benchmark Islamic Finance Institution.

BIBD is headquartered in Bandar Seri Begawan with the largest network of branches and ATMs located strategically in all four districts of Brunei Darussalam.

In 2018, BIBD was ranked second strongest bank in South East Asia and top ten Asia by The Asian Banker. BIBD is one of the safest banks in the world and holds an impressive credit rating of A- by Standard & Poor's, the highest for a Bruneian bank and among the highest in the region. BIBD has been named the "Best Retail Bank in Brunei" by The Asian Banker for six consecutive years from 2013 to 2018.

For more information on any of BIBD's other products or services, please log on to the BIBD website at www.bibd.com.bn, visit your nearest BIBD branch or get in touch with the BIBD Contact Centre at 2238181.