

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Group Corporate Communications
Level 31, Menara Bank Islam
No. 22 Jalan Perak
50450 Kuala Lumpur
Telephone 03 2088 8000
Fax 03 2781 2998
www.bankislam.com.my

BANK ISLAM CONTINUES TO EMPOWER SME ENTREPRENEURS

KUALA LUMPUR, Saturday, [23 November 2019]: Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad (“Bank Islam”) in partnership with Universiti Utara Malaysia (“UUM”) and SME Corporation Malaysia (“SME Corp”) held a graduation ceremony for 65 participants of SME Development Programme 2.0 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, today.

Organised for the second year, this programme aims to provide Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) with the skills and knowledge that are vital in improving their bankability and hone their competitiveness, especially in facing the current challenging economic environment.

The three-month training programme involves comprehensive and structured modules that include digitalisation, basic accounting, charting growth, human resource, branding and marketing, financial management and governance. It is designed to make the participants become more entrepreneurial and creating a more visible business for them.

The graduation ceremony was officiated by Encik Mohd Muazzam Mohamed, Bank Islam’s Chief Executive Officer; Prof. Dr Ayoib Che Ahmad, UUM’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and Encik Noor Azmi Mat Said, Chief Executive Officer of SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp.).

Encik Mohd Muazzam said, “SME has been the backbone of Malaysia’s economy, contributing 38.3% to GDP in 2018, compared 37.8% the year before. Hence, it is vital to have knowledgeable and skilful entrepreneurs that will continue to contribute to the well-being of the country.

“SME Development Programme offers a platform for developing the necessary skills and providing entrepreneurs with valuable insights in building successful enterprises. It is also important for these enterprises to achieve a better rate in credit scoring that will allow them to be more competitive, especially in the global market.”

“The enrolment for this programme has been encouraging. We have received double the number of participants for this second cohort. In this current economic climate, more people are willing to take the risk in striking on their own and opening their businesses. We need to equip them with the right know-how so that a more sustainable business can be achieved,” he further continued.

Since the introduction of this programme in 2018, UUM has been collaborating Bank Islam in providing the syllabus for the course. This year, SME Corp has been engaged to enhance the curriculum, to make it more relevant to the current business environment.

“We are in planning to continue to do this programme next year, and hopefully, we can collaborate with more experts in this field to further solidify our initiative towards empowering SME in the country,” Encik Muazzam explained.

Basing on the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, a government effort to reduce the nation’s income and wealth gap while building and maintaining a sustainable economy, Bank Islam will continue to extend services and contribution to the real economy in supporting economic growth. The vision is aligned with our Value Based Intermediation (“VBI”) strategic priorities that put emphasis, among others, on growing the Bank’s SME business.

Bank Islam's SME Banking Division has been operating for almost two years since its establishment on 1 January 2018. The Bank is in the right path in achieving its target of RM1 billion in term of financing disbursement for this year. As at to date, the Bank has disbursed RM782.5 million to support the SME segment.

Encik Mohd Muazzam added, we hope to introduce more exciting products and services in the market catering to every category of SME next year.

For further information, please visit www.bankislam.com.my

About Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad

Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad was established in 1983 as the nation's first Islamic bank. To date, the Bank has a network of 144 branches and more than 1,000 self-service terminals nationwide. To meet the diversity of the public's financial needs, Bank Islam offers more than 70 *Shariah*-based banking products and services which cater to Muslims and non-Muslims. For more information on Bank Islam products and services, visit www.bankislam.com.my or call Bank Islam Call Centre at 03-26 900 900.

For further information, please contact:

Wan Norkhairi Wan Samad Head, Group Corporate Communications Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad Level 31, Menara Bank Islam No. 22, Jalan Perak 50450 Kuala Lumpur Tel: 03-2782 1232 Mobile: 019-339 4491 Fax: 03-2781 2998 Email: wnorkhairi@bankislam.com.my Web: www.bankislam.com.my	Omar Atin Assistant Vice President Public Relations Group Corporate Communications BIMB Holdings Berhad Level 31, Menara Bank Islam No. 22, Jalan Perak 50450 Kuala Lumpur Tel.: 03-2781 2943 Mobile: 019-391 9144 Fax: 03-2781 2998 Email: omar@bimbholdings.com Web: www.bimbholdings.com
--	---