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RHB TOUCH HEARTS PROGRAMME DELIVERS ON 42 COMMUNITY PROJECTS ACROSS ASEAN REGION

Kuala Lumpur – RHB Banking Group (“RHB” or the “Group”) continues to drive social and environmental sustainability through its group-wide Community Engagement programme, RHB Touch Hearts. The six-month long programme which culminated in a weekend of various on-ground community projects aims to promote volunteerism and inculcate the spirit of social accountability and community engagement amongst RHB employees.

Themed *Making Progress Happen for Everyone*, this year’s RHB Touch Hearts saw more than 14,000 RHB employees across ASEAN raising almost RM400,000 in funds to complete 42 humanitarian and environmental projects over the weekend. The 42 initiatives primarily focused on enhancing education and health, protecting the environment, and supporting marginalised and underprivileged communities in need.

“RHB Touch Hearts underlines our Group-wide commitment in enriching and elevating the lives of members of the communities within which we operate. This is in line with our Sustainability aspirations under RHB’s 5-Year (2022-2026) Sustainability Strategy and Roadmap, where we move towards empowering more than two million people across ASEAN by 2026 as well as promote environmental stewardship.

The livelihood of countless communities was negatively impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic and other natural disasters such as floods. As such, our RHB Touch Hearts programme this year puts emphasis on progressing together as the region moves towards greater economic recovery. We hope that our continued and sustained efforts in addressing social and environmental issues will create a ripple effect, radiating outwards to positively impact even more lives especially

amongst the underprivileged and vulnerable and to create greater awareness on the importance of environmental protection and conservation,” said Mohd Rashid Mohamad, Group Managing Director / Group Chief Executive Officer of RHB Banking Group.

Mohd Rashid was on the ground to support several of his many teams in Selangor during the RHB Touch Hears weekend. One of which includes a team in Serendah that worked on improving infrastructure, enhancing education resources, as well as increasing awareness on importance of health and wellness for 850 *orang asli* residents. He also rolled-up his sleeves to join another group of RHB team in cleaning up Sungai Air Hitam, a key water source for the residents of a village in Kajang.

Other notable projects that took place include the construction of an underground water well to provide clean water benefitting B40 students, teachers and staff of a *Tahfiz* school in Kuantan, Pahang. The CSR activities at the school also created a more conducive and green classroom and school environment with the installation of new water taps to promote water efficiency, energy efficient lights, and recycling bins, alongside reinforcing the importance of sustainability and improving financial literacy amongst the students.

On the East Malaysia front, a total of 150 employees in within the Sarawak Region got together to protect the environment and wildlife in Samusan Wildlife Sanctuary, Sematan. The project involved RHB employees planting a total of 425 native and food trees that will help strengthen the rainforest and improve wildlife habitat, as well as provide shelter and food supply for wildlife in Sematan.

In recognition of the Group’s efforts in creating sustainable positive impacts, RHB was recently awarded ‘World’s Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility’ and ‘Asia’s Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility’ at the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2022 ceremony.
