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RHB FOUNDATION AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS TO HIGH ACHIEVERS FROM UNDERPRIVILEGED FAMILIES

Kuala Lumpur – RHB Foundation, the community engagement arm of RHB Banking Group (“RHB” or the “Group”), awarded scholarships to students from underprivileged families (“B40”) who have shown excellent academic performance under its RHB X-Cel Star Scholarship Programme (“RHB X-Cel Star”). RHB X-Cel Star provides selected youths from underprivileged families, with a full scholarship to further their studies in local public universities, selected based on their academic achievements in their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia Examinations.

The scholarship is part of the wider RHB X-Cel Programme (“RHB X-Cel”), a holistic academic excellence programme that focuses on supporting the academic progression of B40 students from Form 4 and 5 to institutions of higher learning through a structured learning and development programme. RHB X-Cel academic excellence programme has benefited more than 6,400 underprivileged students nationwide since 2018.

“RHB Foundation has awarded scholarships to 38 students to-date, and we aim to empower another 22 scholarship recipients under RHB X-Cel Star by end of this year. RM4.2 million has been set aside to fund the scholarships. We are indeed proud of the achievements and progress made by all our students, and hope that their success will encourage others to work harder

towards a better future,” said Tan Sri Ahmad Badri Mohd Zahir, Chairman of RHB Foundation who is also Chairman of RHB Banking Group.

Muhammad Wafiuddin bin Jemain, who is a second-year Undergraduate degree student pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science and also one of the Top Scorers of the RHB X-Cel Star Scholarship Programme said, “The RHB X-Cel Programme has enabled me to independently study without having to rely too much on my parents. As I do not come from a privileged background, I always feel a sense of guilt to ask for large amounts of money from my parents. Hence, this programme provides me with the opportunity to focus on pursuing my studies and at the same time, manage my expenses independently.”

The RHB X-Cel Star Scholarship Programme supports a diverse range of academic majors to prepare scholarship recipients in becoming the workforce of the future. Among the various undergraduate degree pathways that are being offered by RHB Foundation, RHB X-Cel Star scholarship recipients comprise of students studying Data Analytics, Computer Science, Environmental Management as well as various Engineering Programmes.

“RHB X-Cel Star has also equipped us with various skill sets in addition to helping us progress academically. We were trained in effective communication and public speaking, as well as building confidence. I had also acquired some interview techniques and impactful presentation skills. It has certainly helped in boosting my confidence and encouraged me to go beyond my comfort zone. I am certain that these soft skills will help to shape me in becoming a better employee in my future career,” said Soh Ai Ling, a first year Bachelor of Information Systems student.

RHB Foundation has been an active proponent in enriching and empowering underprivileged children and youth from low-income and B40 communities. Under its “Nurturing Future Generations” pillar, RHB Foundation aimed at providing equal opportunity to students from B40

households to excel in their studies and have access to higher education, ultimately improving their families' socio-economic standing.

RHB was recently awarded with two awards at the 14th Annual Global CSR and ESG Summit & Awards 2022 by Pinnacle Group under the categories of 'Best Community Programme' and 'CSR and ESG Leadership Award'. The Group was also awarded Asiamoney's Best Bank Award for being 'Malaysia's Best Bank for CSR 2022'. These awards were in recognition of the RHB's initiatives to create sustainable positive impacts by enriching and empowering members of the community, in particular the lower income or B40 community, through various CSR programmes.