

POST-EVENT NEWS RELEASE

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RHB CHAMPIONS 43 SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN SIX COUNTRIES

Kuala Lumpur – The RHB Banking Group (“RHB” or the “Group”) continues to champion social and environmental cause through its annual RHB Touch Hearts initiative by delivering 43 impactful humanitarian and environmental conservation and preservation projects in six Southeast Asia countries.

“The RHB Touch Hearts 2023 is a group-wide activity that focuses on environmental conservation and preservation, uplifting and empowering communities. It also aims to promote and encourage the spirit of volunteerism among more than 14,000 employees across six countries in the ASEAN region where we operate. The initiative reaffirms our raison d’être of ‘Making Progress Happen for Everyone’ by championing causes that contribute towards the betterment of the communities and contribute towards greener practices,” explained Mohd Rashid Mohamad, Group Managing Director/Group Chief Executive Officer of RHB Banking Group.

“Of the 43 projects we ran this year, 22 initiatives were environmental conservation, where our RHB team had planted more than 5,400 trees, of which 4,000 are mangrove trees, across various locations in Malaysia in collaboration with Universiti Pertanian and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (“FRIM”), to name a few. These activities aim to contribute to the country’s effort to reduce carbon emissions and protect the mangrove ecosystem. We will continue to monitor the growth of these trees and work with relevant parties to determine their impact in the long run,” added Mohd Rashid.

This is RHB’s sixth year of running the Touch Hearts initiative. This year, the Group had 37 projects in Malaysia and six throughout the rest of Southeast Asia. In Malaysia, the projects were grouped into three pillars: uplifting communities, conserving the environment, and empowering the young generation through education. Employees spent six months raising funds to support their projects leading up to the day of their respective community and environmental initiatives.

“RHB Touch Hearts 2023 carried the theme of ‘It Starts With Us’, which sought to identify and implement innovative and meaningful ways to contribute to the communities’ wellbeing and protect the environment in line with our Sustainability aspiration to become a sustainably responsible financial services provider by promoting sustainable and inclusive growth and nurturing not just our employees and customers but also the communities,” added Mohd Rashid.

Mohd Rashid was on the ground to support several RHB teams during the RHB Touch Hearts weekend. One of which includes a team in Kampung Rantau Panjang, Klang, Selangor, who worked on improving the livelihood of more than 50 fishermen and the environment by providing financial assistance to aid infrastructure development, improving fishing equipment and facilities, as well as cleaning the river.

The Group also enhanced its efforts to reduce carbon emissions by planting over 4,000 mangrove trees in various locations nationwide. Mangrove trees are effective natural storm barriers, stabilise the coastline and protect water quality. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (“UNFCCC”) also highlighted that mangrove trees can absorb carbon emissions released from automobiles and increase the amount of carbon sequestration. With this in mind, Mohd Rashid, together with YBhg. Tan Sri Ahmad Badri Mohd Zahir, Chairman of RHB Banking Group, rolled up their sleeves to join RHB employees in Denai, Sabak Bernam, to plant over 530 mangrove trees along the Denai coast to protect a nearby village against coastal flooding due to climate change. The mangrove tree planting activity aims to benefit over 18,000 Sungai Air Tawar, Sabak Bernam residents. Meanwhile, another group of RHB employees planted over 880 mangrove trees in Sarawak at the Samunsam Wildlife Sanctuary in Sematan to help preserve the rainforest and improve wildlife habitat.

Since its inception in 2016, the RHB Touch Hearts initiative has left an indelible mark on communities. With over 240 community and environmental projects completed thus far, it has touched more than 100,000 lives across the ASEAN region. “Through our collective efforts, we hope to create a ripple effect to positively impact even more lives, especially among the underprivileged and vulnerable, and create greater awareness of the importance of environmental protection and conservation,” added Mohd Rashid.