

For Immediate Release

**PRESS RELEASE**

1 November 2023

**K.A.M.I. initiative under the CIMB Islamic Safe Space programme successfully nurtures 40 new peer Supporters**

KUALA LUMPUR: Teach For Malaysia (“TFM”), in collaboration with Thrive Well and CIMB Islamic Bank Berhad (“CIMB Islamic”) have successfully trained 40 new peer supporters, consisting youths and parents through the K.A.M.I. (“Keluarga Akrab Mencapai Impian”) initiative under CIMB Islamic’s Safe Space programme.

Started in 2020, the programme is aimed at building peer supporters amongst youths and parents with basic mental health first aid skills, equipping them with the necessary emotional resilience and listening skills to provide that initial assistance to those in crisis before receiving professional help. The Safe Space programme was a response to the spike in mental health concerns at the height of the pandemic, particularly those from the lower income groups who had barriers to accessing professional mental health services.

To date, the K.A.M.I. initiative under CIMB Islamic’s Safe Space Programme has positively impacted approximately 500 low-income families within the Shah Alam district. This year alone, this initiative has delivered over 60 hours of training to parents and adolescents in basic mental health skills and conducted 70 hours of school readiness screenings for school children. In 2022, the programme conducted over 50 hours of training. Other efforts under the Safe Space Programme in 2023 include a community outreach, where volunteers from CIMB Islamic, together with Thrive Well and TFM, distributed 180 mental health care packages to the Taman Bukit Subang community, consisting stationery items, food and drinks and stress reliever tools.

“I have been sending my three kids to the K.A.M.I. Juara programme for the past two years and I can see how much it has impacted their self-esteem, self-confidence, and performance in school. They are much braver now to speak up in class and to ask their teachers for what they want and need - they ask for opportunities,” said N.J., a parent and participant of K.A.M.I. Sembang - the parents’ programme.

“In the programme, we ensure that we create a safe space for all as we cover sensitive topics such as bullying, anxiety, family conflict and how this impacts our mental health. Participants are also required to organise a community day to raise awareness about mental health. We can really see the difference in their confidence and communication skills before and after the programme,” shares Elisha Othman, Managing Director and Clinical Psychologist at Thrive Well.

Ahmad Shahrman Mohd Shariff, Chief Executive Officer, CIMB Islamic said, “CIMB Islamic has always been cognisant of the importance of preserving the welfare of the surrounding communities. We recognise the need to not only provide help for those in need of mental health support, but also their support system which includes their loved ones. As such, we are pleased to see the K.A.M.I initiative under the CIMB Islamic Safe Space programme is positively impacting and improving family ties and connections, and we continue to look forward to playing an active role in ensuring access to mental health care is available for all levels of society.”

The K.A.M.I. initiative consists of three levels, namely Basic, Advanced and Ambassador. The current cohort has successfully completed the advanced level and more than half of the participants have also completed the Basic level. K.A.M.I. aims to build self-awareness, emotional resilience and healthy communication within families. These 40 graduates of K.A.M.I. have completed their Advanced level of training and selected graduates will be moving on to the Ambassador level where they will be further trained to become peer-supporters in their communities.

This year's programme has been made possible with CIMB Islamic's contribution amounting to more than RM360,000, which brings the total accumulated investment to approximately RM460,000, solidifying CIMB Islamic's commitment on mental wellbeing.

### **About Thrive Well**

Thrive Well is a social enterprise with a mission to expand trauma-informed community mental health services to individuals, communities and organisations, particularly the marginalised and high-needs communities, in a sustainable manner.

### **About Teach For Malaysia**

#### **Who we are:**

Teach For Malaysia is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, on a mission to give all children the opportunity to attain an excellent education. We partner with the Ministry of Education to reach high-need public schools. It is one of the 60 partners of the prestigious global education network, Teach For All.

Since 2012, Teach For Malaysia has been building a transformational movement in our education system by placing the country's most promising leaders as full-time teachers in some of Malaysia's most high-need schools to combat education inequity. In 2020, we expanded our work to also train and coach in-service public school STEM teachers through the 2-year Program Duta Guru (PDG). PDG is a development programme with the objective to empower teachers to be highly competent and committed; serving as role models to enhance higher-order thinking skills (HOTS) through STEM education as a foundation to being a competitive nation.

In response to the pandemic, TFM is committed to a 2023 Education Recovery Plan that develops teachers and supports educational stakeholders to navigate the digital divide, socio-emotional wellbeing concerns, on top of adopting innovative teaching techniques and methodologies to engage with students.

#### **Our impact:**

##### **The largest pipeline of youth empowerment in education**

Since our launch in 2012, our movement of over 583 Teach For Malaysia Fellows, Program Duta Guru Teachers and Alumni, across 9 cohorts has impacted more than 164,200 students in over 308 schools across 10 states in Malaysia.

You can find out more in our [2020 Impact Report](#).

## About CIMB

CIMB is one of ASEAN's leading banking groups and Malaysia's second largest financial services provider, by assets. Listed on Bursa Malaysia via CIMB Group Holdings Berhad, it had a market capitalisation of approximately RM54.0 billion as at 30 June 2023. It offers consumer banking, commercial banking, wholesale banking, transaction banking, Islamic banking and asset management products and services. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, the Group is present in nine ASEAN nations (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam, Myanmar and Philippines). Beyond ASEAN, the Group has market presence in China, Hong Kong, India, South Korea, the US and UK.

CIMB has one of the most extensive retail branch networks in ASEAN with 601 branches and around 33,000 employees as at 30 June 2023. CIMB's investment banking arm is one of the largest Asia Pacific-based investment banks, which together with its award-winning treasury & markets and corporate banking units comprise the Group's leading wholesale banking franchise. CIMB is also the 92.5% shareholder of Bank CIMB Niaga in Indonesia, and 94.8% shareholder of CIMB Thai in Thailand.

---

### For more information, please contact:

**Felicia Tan**

Marketing Manager

Teach For Malaysia

Tel: +6017 3711 571

Email: [felicia.tan@teachformalaysia.org](mailto:felicia.tan@teachformalaysia.org)

Website: [www.teachformalaysia.org](http://www.teachformalaysia.org)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/teachformsia>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/teachformalaysia>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/teachformsia/>

- End of Document-