

## **BIBD ALAF CONTINUES STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THIRD YEAR OF ALAF SCHOLARSHIPS**

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### **For Immediate Release**

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - BIBD today handed over its BIBD ALAF (Advocating Life-long Learning for an Aspiring Future) programme scholarships to 46 recipients from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and Ministry of Education at the Indera Samudera Hall, The Empire Hotel & Country Club in Jerudong. Also at the event, the ALAF programme saw the inclusion of seven special needs students from the Ministry of Education's the Special Education Unit.

Present as the guest of honour to handover the BIBD ALAF scholarships to the recipients was Yang Berhormat Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Paduka Seri Setia Ustaz Haji Awang Badaruddin Bin Pengarah Dato Paduka Haji Awang Othman, Minister of Religious Affairs.

The event started with the recital of the Al-Fatihah and prayers, which was followed by welcoming remarks by BIBD Deputy Managing Director, Yang Mulia Dayang Hajah Noraini bti Haji Sulaiman, which was followed by a speech by the guest of honour.

The ALAF programme's fund is collected from efforts of the BIBD Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, which include BIBD charity expeditions for ALAF, along with generous contributions from corporate agencies as well as general public since its launch in May 2013 by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah.

The ALAF programme was developed in close partnership with the Department of Schools, Ministry of Education, and in 2015 a Memorandum of Understanding was also signed with the Islamic Studies Department from the Ministry of Religious Affairs that will lead to constant efforts and close collaboration between all parties, to ensure the successful implementation and provision of assistance to the ALAF programme. This year's addition means that the ALAF programme now has over a hundred students.

During the event, Progresif Cellular Sdn Bhd handed over a mock cheque worth BND7,645.00 for funds raised during the one-month BIBD ALAF SMS Campaign in November 2015. In further advocating their CSR initiative and its support

towards the ALAF Programme, the event also witnessed the announcement of its second BIBD ALAF SMS Campaign by Progresif Cellular Sdn Bhd, which will start in early March 2016. Members of the public will be able to make donation to the ALAF programme via its dedicated SMS in denominations of BND 1,5,10, 15 and 20 by typing “ALAF” and entering the amount selected, and sending it to 38988.

The ALAF programme provides the selected students with provisions for school and tuition fees, educational materials and welfare, as well as mentoring and counselling necessities amongst others. All these efforts are meant to ensure the absolute commitment of these students towards the development of their education, and prevent them from being bothered by other commitments. The ALAF programme will also continue to provide support and assistance to these students until the end of their respective educational requirements.

Through ALAF, BIBD hopes to align its support to His Majesty’s 2035 vision of obtaining a 100% level of education for everyone, which in turn is hoped to help reduce poverty. In Shaa Allah, this will lead Brunei towards a more prosperous and peaceful future, making Brunei populated with educated, highly skilful and successful individuals, in line with internationally set standards.

Members of the public wishing to contribute into the BIBD ALAF fund may do so with a minimum donation of B\$1.01 into the BIBD ALAF account at 1018181811. Contributing is further made easier as the public can utilise existing BIBD channels such as the BIBD Online website, BIBD Mobile app, BIBD ATM and CDMs, and BIBD branch counters. The public can also set up a BIBD Standing Instruction to ensure a monthly donation into the ALAF fund. As an added option, BIBD account holders can also use their accumulated BIBD Hadiah Points for cash conversion into contributions into the ALAF fund account.

The handing over of the ALAF scholarships was followed by the scholarship agreement signing between the recipients and BIBD. Signing on behalf of BIBD was Yang Mulia Haji Minorhadi bin Haji Mirhassan, BIBD’s Head of Government Relations and Special Projects in his capacity as BIBD’s Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, whilst signing on behalf of the selected scholarship recipients were their respective parents and guardians. The signing was witnessed by the recipients’ respective school heads and principals.

Also present at the award ceremony were Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries, Directors, Head of Departments from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Religious Affairs, along with members of the BIBD Board of Directors, Shariah Advisory Body and BIBD management.

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**About BIBD**

BIBD is the largest financial institution in Brunei Darussalam, leading the market in terms of assets, financings, and deposits.

BIBD is headquartered in Bandar Seri Begawan with fifteen branches and the largest network of ATMs located strategically in all four districts of Brunei Darussalam.

BIBD was ranked 42nd in terms of Soundness (Capital Asset Ratio) in the top 1,000 World Banks by “The Banker” in 2014. BIBD is one of the safest banks in the world and is given an impressive credit rating of A- by Standard & Poor’s in 2015, the highest in Brunei and among the highest in the region.

For more information on any of BIBD’s other products or services, please log on to the BIBD website at [www.bibd.com.bn](http://www.bibd.com.bn), visit your nearest BIBD branch or get in touch with the BIBD Contact Centre at 2238181.