

BIBD INKS MOU WITH AGROMEIQ TO FURTHER DEVELOP CAPABILITIES OF ALAF STUDENTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 15th, 2017 - BIBD today reached another milestone with the signing of a MoU with AgromelQ for the implementation of its Sprout (iQ) Farm.

The collaboration will see thirty ALAF students participate in the four-month programme where they will have access to the locally-developed mobile app which provides guidance on farming processes and fundamentals of starting their own farm. At the same time, Agrome IQ will be giving weekly sessions to the participants on the evolving methods of farming.

Yang Mulia Hjh Noraini binti Haji Sulaiman, BIBD Deputy Managing Director and BIBD ALAF Board of Trustee chairperson commented on the ceremony, “Alhamdulillah, it has always been our prerogative to further improve the capabilities of our ALAF participants, and also the people of the nation to be more self-dependent by developing their skillsets. We believe that this is one of the most important tools in life, which will become a powerful catalyst for improvement. In shaa Allah, we aim to further improve the impact and sustainability of the ALAF programme along with the success of its students, which will lead to them contributing towards a more dynamic Bruneian economy.”

This collaboration is part of BIBD’s efforts to further improve the ALAF platform, which is supported by educational monitoring, guidance, camps and visits. At the same time, the programme also encourages its participants to better understand the benefits of farming, and also nutritional healthy eating from the crops they grow. BIBD will also provide the participants with a farming area to grow their own crops, so that they will be able to reap the rewards of their efforts.

The Sprout (iQ) app is aimed at people living in urban areas wanting to utilize their limited space into sustainable farms. The app also provides daily reminders and notifications on how to best your crops.

About The ALAF Programme

The BIBD ALAF (Advocating Life-Long Learning for An Aspiring Future) programme currently supports the development of more than one hundred and forty students. The programme is kept sustainable by collaborated efforts from both public and private efforts which include BIBD's own charity expeditions for ALAF, generous contributions from corporate agencies as well as the general public.

The ALAF Programme, launched in May 2013 by Her Royal Highness Paduka Seri Pengiran Anak Isteri Pengiran Anak Sarah, 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. This will lead to constant efforts and close collaboration between all parties to ensure the successful implementation and provision of assistance to the ALAF Programme.

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 the ALAF Programme, BIBD hopes to align its support to His Majesty's 2035 vision of obtaining a 100% level of education for everyone, directly having an impact on reducing 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.

How can the public support the ALAF Programme

Members of the public wishing to contribute into the BIBD ALAF Programme fund may do so with a minimum donation of B\$1.01 into the BIBD ALAF account at 1018181811 via 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.

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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 is one of the safest banks in the world and has maintained an impressive credit rating of A- by Standard & Poor's since 2015, the highest for a Bruneian bank and among the highest in the region. BIBD has been named the "Best Retail Bank in Brunei" by The Asian Banker in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

For more information on any of BIBD's other products or services, please log on to the BIBD website at www.bibd.com.bn, visit your nearest BIBD branch or get in touch with the BIBD Contact Centre at 2238181.