

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REVIEW

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*Dr. Hjh. Yatela
Zainal Abidin*

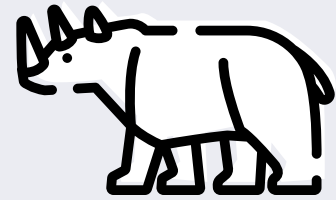
Financial year 2018/2019 was a rewarding year for YSD. We witnessed the successful conclusion of several major projects under the Environment pillar, with significant impact chartered under each of these projects.

On 7 December 2018, we officially handed over the reforestation and rehabilitation of Orangutan Habitats in the Bukit Piton Forest Reserve to the Sabah Forestry Department. After 10 years of working on the project with a commitment of RM25 million, we celebrated several major achievements. A total of 300,000 seedlings of more than 95 species of trees were planted across 5,400ha of land. The population of orangutans, which was dwindling, has stabilised and they are now well-distributed in the area. Our efforts also resulted in the reclassification of the area from Class II Commercial Forest to Class I Protected Forest or Totally Protected Area in 2012.

A month later, we also officially handed over the Sime Darby Plant-A-Tree Jentar project to Sime Darby Plantation. A collaboration between YSD, Sime Darby Plantation and the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), a total of 60



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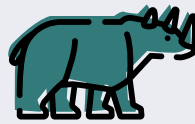
threatened species are now growing on a 160-hectare plot of land set aside by the company in its Jentar estate in Temerloh, Pahang, that could potentially create a wildlife corridor that is connected to the adjacent Krau Wildlife Forest Reserve. The project features the largest collection of Endangered, Rare and Threatened (ERT) tree species in a single oil palm plantation area in Malaysia. FRIM's invaluable input led to the project now serving as an arboretum of ERT tree species open to the public, so that they may access precious seedlings and be part of conservation efforts to preserve these tree species.

In total, both projects contribute close to 500,000 trees to more than 1.5 million trees already planted under four major projects supported by YSD; the two others being the Kinabatangan RiLeaf Project with Nestlé Malaysia; and the peat swamp protection and rehabilitation project in the Raja Musa Forest Reserve with Global Environment Centre (GEC). We plan to continue our reforestation efforts with the Creation of Stepping Stones project in Sime Darby Plantation's Kamunting Estate in Sungai Siput, Perak. The project, to be implemented over two years until 2021 with a commitment of RM2 million, will see the planting of 70,000 trees on 95ha of land in suitable areas within the estate. The project aims to connect the forest patches within the estate, which is situated nearby the Kledang Saiong Permanent Forest Reserve, to act as a corridor for wildlife.

YSD is also embarking on the YSD Huluran Kasih, a programme dedicated towards increasing the spirit of volunteerism among Sime Darby



YSD supports more than **400** underprivileged students a year



YSD had committed **RM15.7 million** towards saving the species from the brink of extinction



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employees. This programme emphasises the importance of collaborating with Sime Darby Plantation, Sime Darby Property and Sime Darby Berhad and we intend to take our relationship further. We have begun to rope in employees from the three companies as volunteers during distribution of festive assistance and disaster relief efforts but we would like to do more. We shall officially launch the programme in September 2019 in conjunction with Malaysia Day. What better way to celebrate the unity and diversity of our nation by launching a programme that aims to inculcate the spirit of helping those in need without prejudice.

The importance of living in a world without prejudice was also front and centre during the YSD International Women's Day 2019 event, which was attended by the employees of all three Sime Darby companies. This flagship event of ours saw full support from employees, most of whom wore purple in conjunction with the official colour of the day. The event saw the launch of Sime Darby Plantation's Female Development Programme, the first programme of its kind to be implemented in the global palm oil industry. The programme is aimed at honing the skills of female employees towards making them leaders in their respective industries. The event also featured three sharing sessions that touched on the many ways in which women continue to face systemic challenges in their lives. The personal story of Yayasan Peneraju pioneer Raja Azura Raja Mahayuddin brought tears to the eyes of many participants in the room. She has truly weathered such significant trials and tribulations to





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attain an eminent position in her career. So powerful was her story that many employees conveyed their feelings on the impact of her story to me weeks after the event.

At YSD, we recognise that women and girls still have many hurdles to cross towards achieving career fulfilment, talent development and success, and we are committed to lending them a helping hand. This is the reason for our determination to recruit more girls in our youth sports development programmes, particularly the Sime Darby Football Development Programme. The inaugural YSD Chairman's Trophy last year featured one all-girls team called the SJSC Supergirls who had beaten the all-boys team Pagustas U-12. We were bowled over by their skills on the field, and we are hoping to help more girls to develop their talent in sports.

We are also casting our nets wider in terms of providing educational opportunities to those in need. YSD will be offering bursaries for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes soon. We hope to support more than 400 underprivileged students a year, with an annual commitment of more than RM6 million, to complement governmental efforts to focus on TVET as a stepping stone for students from the B40 category to obtain job opportunities.

YSD also recognises there is a crucial need to save our endangered species from the brink of extinction and we realise that the time to do so is now or never. We have already lost the Sumatran rhinoceros with the recent passing of Tam, Malaysia's last male rhino, on 27 May 2019. We are deeply saddened by his death, as we spent close to a decade supporting Tam and three other rhinos. YSD had committed RM15.7 million towards saving the

species from the brink of extinction, which ceased in 2017 once the Federal Government announced that it was allocating RM11.9 million towards the breeding programme helmed by the Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) and Borneo Rhino Alliance (BORA).

Over the years, we have been forced to watch them die, one by one. Only Iman, Malaysia's last rhino, remains. Tam's death is a reminder that we need to act urgently to save Malaysia's remaining endangered species. The next species that deserves our utmost attention is the Malayan tigers. Scientists have already announced that the species is headed towards extinction in the wild within 10 years if we do not act quickly to save it. At YSD, we are doing our part, engaging with relevant stakeholders and investing in initiatives to save the species. We strive to do so to the best of our abilities, for the benefit of future generations.

We would not be able to do all this without support from our donors, beneficiaries and stakeholders. I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for their continuous support over the years, providing us with opportunities to make a positive impact for a better future. I would also like to thank our governing council members who continue to provide guidance and support for all our efforts thus far, allowing us to make great strides. To my dedicated team, thank you for your perseverance and dedication towards ensuring our initiatives achieve their desired goals, as well as ensuring that donations entrusted to the Foundation are accounted for through good governance. I hope that we continue to make a larger impact in all areas of our five pillars as one of Malaysia's prominent corporate foundations, bringing brighter futures to communities, the nation and the world.



Sime Darby Property Berhad Non-Independent Non-Executive Chairman Tan Sri Dr. Zeti Akhtar Aziz handing over a memento from YSD to Dato' Sri Amrin during his farewell event.

This year, YSD bade farewell to our former Governing Council Member Dato' Sri Amrin Awaluddin, who previously served Sime Darby Property Berhad as the Group Managing Director. We would like to record our sincerest appreciation for his contribution and support, and best wishes for his current and future undertakings.