Statement on Community

Another important aspect covering people relates to the Group’s sustainability pillar of “Returning to Community”. This covers the social outreach initiatives and centers on sharing the prosperity of the organisation with targeted groups in the community. In recognising the shared value between our business and the surrounding community, key initiatives carried out include promotion of sports excellence, empowering women, attachment trainings, medical outreach and pursuit of charitable-volunteerism endeavours.

Report on Youth Sports Development

The Sabah Academy for Rugby Excellence which was initiated since 2002, continues to reign as the Group’s sustainable sports development platform in promoting rugby in Sabah. Over years of partnership, the Group has become a brand name which is synonymous with rugby sports development in Sabah.

There are now 75 schools which are directly involved in the sports development programme throughout the state of Sabah. Rugby has been incorporated as an extra-curriculum activity in the participating schools and the teachers in-charge are trained by professional rugby coaches. Through the Academy, this programme has also been extended to students living in the remote areas in Sabah. Talented young players were given opportunities to undergo intensive training and to excel in the game. During the year, 25 talented school boys were identified and gathered in a residential school in Sandakan. While assisting them in their academic performance through private tuition classes, the boys are also exposed to structured training in the sports by professional rugby coaches.

Two major IJMP-supported rugby tournaments are held every year. In the reporting year, 33 school teams from all over Sabah participated in the IJMP/MSSS/SRU Rugby 10s in March 2013. About 350 students from different age groups participated in the IJMP/MSSS/SRU Rugby 7s which was held in July 2012.

Report on Empowering Women through Breast Health Awareness

Over the years, the Group has been promoting breast health awareness among the public and secondary school students in Sabah. Through the awareness programme, we learned that teenage girls in rural areas could be used as a mode to spread information on breast health related issues. In view of this, the Group has extended the awareness programme to schools since 2011. We aspire to replace their fear with facts to empower them to spread the message to their families and friends. Since starting the programme, we have reached out to over 1,000 teenage girls in rural areas, such as Beluran, Pitas and Paitan. In the recent outreach programme in Kg. Simpangan, Paitan, about 500 young girls attended the awareness talks and participated in breast self examination. The Group will continue this effort and reach out to more women in Sabah.
In addition, the Group has also engaged with other local NGOs in Sabah involved in breast health, such as the Sandakan Breast Health Awareness Committee and Kinabalu Pink Ribbon in promoting breast health awareness. In the reporting year, the Group contributed to their fund raising activities. Internally, it also organised numerous breast health awareness activities for its people. Breast health talks, prize-winning quizzes and clinical breast examinations by in-house nurses have been organised throughout the ‘Pink October’ initiative held in the month of October every year.

Report on Health Outreach to Surrounding Communities

The Group continues to support medical and health outreach programmes in the interior areas of the Sugut-Paitan region. It has worked closely with qualified doctors and nurses to provide basic medical care such as vaccinations, teeth extractions and healthcare consultations to villagers in rural areas. In the reporting year, our in-house hospital assistant and nurses have also conducted self hygiene talks for schoolchildren living in the villages adjacent to the Group’s operations in the Sugut region.

Report on Agri-Talent Attachment and Training

We continue to encourage local talent to pursue careers in the oil palm agribusiness sector. We have worked closely with local tertiary education centres in providing learning opportunities to undergraduates through attachment and placement training. During the financial year, the internship was extended to 23 candidates. The Group also participated in job placement programmes organised by local government agencies. In the reporting year, we invited 13 local young people to undergo intensive plantation training courses as part of the career development programme for local talent.

Report on Charitable Endeavours and Volunteerism

We encourage our people to volunteer in social-community related outreach outside of their workplace and beyond the working hours. Through these volunteering activities, we are able to give back to the community. Our employees’ volunteerism spirit is on the rise, ever since the first IJM Give Day Out initiative was introduced in 2011. Activities in which employees have participated include beach cleaning, regular ‘gotong-royong’ activities at the Sandakan Cheshire Home, World Aids Day awareness campaign, becoming volunteers at the annual Borneo Bird Festival and blood donation campaigns. In the reporting year, seven (7) blood donation drives were organised in the operating units. A total of 234 pints of blood, were donated and contributed to the local blood bank.