

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **GREAT EASTERN LIFE AWARDS RM610,000 WORTH OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO DESERVING STUDENTS**

9 deserving students receive financial aid to pursue their undergraduate studies

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**Kuala Lumpur, 18 August 2016** – Great Eastern Life Assurance (Malaysia) Berhad (Great Eastern Life) presented nine (9) students with scholarships worth a total of RM610,000 to pursue their tertiary education through the Great Eastern Supremacy Scholarship programme. The scholars were selected from thousands of applicants nationwide through a rigorous selection process which began in March 2016, with consideration given to their academic results, financial position and leadership qualities. Since its establishment in 1998, the programme has helped to realise the dreams of 157 outstanding individuals through scholarships worth more than RM11.09 million.

The award presentation ceremony was presented by Director and Chief Executive Officer of Great Eastern Life, Dato Koh Yaw Hui and accompanied by Senior Vice President and Head of Human Capital, Mr Dennis Tan Koh Tiong. Parents and immediate family members of the recipients were also present to witness the occasion.

“It brings me great pleasure to see the faces of proud parents celebrating this momentous achievement of their children. As a parent myself, nothing would make me happier to see my children succeed in life and given the opportunity to realise their potential and achieve their aspirations,” said Dato Koh as he delivered his speech in congratulating the scholars.

Out of the nine (9) recipients, five (5) of them have expressed their plans to pursue undergraduate programmes in local public universities whereas the remaining four (4) will further their studies in local private universities. Both Dato Koh and Mr Dennis Tan were impressed by each of the scholars’ academic excellence and active involvement in extracurricular activities as they shared their inspiring life stories.

For **19-year-old Jason Siaw**, his achievement in obtaining the scholarship is definitive proof that persistence and passion is fundamental to attain success. As a national table tennis player, his commitment to the sport had earned him a second-runner up position at the previous SEA Junior Championships. Even with a busy schedule of practices, he worked hard to maintain a high standard of academic excellence at school. Jason will continue his studies in the field of accounting at Monash University Malaysia and will continue building on his passion for table tennis.

**20-year-old Ng May** and **19-year-old Muhammad Habib bin Muhammed** were overjoyed to be selected for the scholarship as the achievement opened a window of opportunity to achieve their dreams of studying in a prestigious institution. Coming from single-parent families, the financial aid from the scholarship will ease their burdens and greatly help them focus on their life goals ahead. Ng May will be reading Law at University Malaya while Muhammad Habib will pursue Information Technology at Universiti Teknologi Petronas.

The annual Great Eastern Supremacy Scholarship programme is part of the company's efforts in championing people development and nurturing young Malaysian talent which draws parallels to the national Financial Sector Blueprint. The blueprint is aimed to evolve the financial ecosystem so that it may best serve a high-income economy as Malaysia transitions into developed nation status by 2020.

Dato Koh added, "With the implementation of the Life Insurance and Family Takaful Framework by Bank Negara Malaysia and a target of 75 percent national coverage rate by 2020, we foresee that more young talent will be needed to drive the industry upwards. Talent development will become an increasingly crucial strategy to stay relevant in this evolving industry and hence, we are confident our scholarship programme will be pivotal in providing the talent pool we need to continue leading the industry."

True to the company's commitment in developing human capital, it has been voted as one of Malaysia's 100 Leading Graduate Employers for seven consecutive years running. As the leading life insurance company in Malaysia, Great Eastern Life presents a valuable opportunity for fresh talents to build a promising career in the financial sector.

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## **ABOUT GREAT EASTERN LIFE ASSURANCE (MALAYSIA) BERHAD**

Great Eastern Life began its operations in 1908 as a branch office of The Great Eastern Life Assurance Company Limited. The Malaysian operations were subsequently transferred to a locally incorporated public company, Great Eastern Life Assurance (Malaysia) Berhad under the Scheme of Transfer of Business. The Company was certified by The Malaysia Book of Records in 1998 as “The Oldest and Largest Life Insurer” in Malaysia.

With more than a century of experience and solid financial foundation, Great Eastern Life has RM70.1 billion in assets, over 3.0 million policies in force and a network of 17,000 agents nationwide as at 31 December 2015. To date, Great Eastern Life has 21 operational branch offices and products include life insurance plans, investment-linked plans, mortgage protection, business protection, employee benefits, medical insurance and group health benefit schemes. Great Eastern Life Assurance (Malaysia) Berhad is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Great Eastern Holdings Limited (GEH) and its ultimate holding company is Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited (OCBC).

## **ABOUT GREAT EASTERN HOLDINGS LIMITED**

Great Eastern is the oldest and most established life insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia.

With S\$68.1 billion in assets and over 4 million policyholders, it has three successful distribution channels - a tied agency force, bancassurance, and a financial advisory firm, Great Eastern Financial Advisers. The Group also operates in Indonesia and Brunei and has a presence in China as well as a representative office in Myanmar.

It was named Life Insurance Company of the Year at the Asia Insurance Industry Awards in 2011 and 2013 by Asia Insurance Review. The Great Eastern Life Assurance Company Limited has been assigned the financial strength and counterparty credit ratings of "AA-" by Standard and Poor's since 2010, one of the highest among Asian life insurance companies. Great Eastern's asset management subsidiary, Lion Global Investors Limited, is one of the largest private sector asset management companies in Southeast Asia.

Great Eastern is a subsidiary of OCBC Bank, the longest established Singapore bank, formed in 1932 from the merger of three local banks, the oldest of which was founded in 1912. It is now the second largest financial services group in Southeast Asia by assets and one of the world's most highly-rated banks, with an Aa1 rating from Moody's. Recognised for its financial strength and stability, OCBC Bank has been ranked Asean's strongest bank and among the world's five strongest banks by Bloomberg Markets for five consecutive years since the ranking's inception in 2011.

For more information, visit [greateasternlife.com](http://greateasternlife.com)