

**PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

## **MERCY MALAYSIA TOGETHER WITH AIRASIA FOUNDATION LAUNCHED SCHOOL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME IN KELANTAN**

**TUMPAT, KELANTAN, OCTOBER 17, 2015** – MERCY Malaysia in collaboration with AirAsia Foundation launched the School Preparedness Programme in Kelantan today. The School Preparedness Programme, run by MERCY Malaysia's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) department, is funded by AirAsia Foundation through a donation of RM335,000 to address needs of at-risk areas in Kelantan and Perak.

In Tumpat, Kelantan, the programme running at Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Kampung Laut is attended by a total of forty students and four teachers. The aim of the programme is to educate children on the crucial actions that need to be taken in dealing with disasters, particularly floods. This is in view that children are usually among the most vulnerable and most severely affected by displacements due to disaster – both mentally and physically.

The programme consists of two phases and runs for a duration of a year. Phase One consists of workshops and activities that focus on disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and climate change adaptation. Participants are trained to be observant towards their surroundings and to take action should they come across obstacles that may be hazardous when disaster strikes. Participants are also taught how to put together a "Grab Bag" or a three-day survival pack. Phase Two is a refresher programme which also allows MERCY Malaysia to measure the effectiveness of the programme for future improvements.

"The children here live in an area known to be prone to flooding. Just last year, Kelantan was hit by its worst flooding disaster and Tumpat was not spared. Local infrastructure was devastated and its effects can still be seen up till today and residents have not fully returned to normality. MERCY Malaysia believes that the School Preparedness Programme is crucial to ensure the survival and preparedness of children and their families during an emergency situation. The idea behind it is to instil a more proactive stance on dealing with disasters from a young age," said Megawati Md Rashidi, General Manager of Communications and Fundraising, MERCY Malaysia.

"AirAsia Foundation has been an active supporter of MERCY Malaysia's relief aid missions in times of need. At the same time, we find that it is just as important to ensure that vulnerable groups are prepared to face future challenges. By funding this pilot School Preparedness Programme, we join MERCY Malaysia in its initiative to spur a change in how Malaysians prepare and respond to calamities, especially among the young. We would definitely like to see the children put in practice and share their learning with their family members and peers," said AirAsia Foundation Executive Director, Yap Mun Ching.

The MERCY Malaysia School Preparedness Programme is a year-long programme that involves 30 primary schools in Malaysia. Since its commencement in August 2015, MERCY Malaysia has successfully conducted its training in 4 schools in the two states. Upon completion, the programme is expected to equip 60 teachers and 1,200 students to conduct further peer-to-peer sharing.

In March 2015, AirAsia Foundation donated RM 902,447 to MERCY Malaysia from the AirAsia Group's 'East Coast Relief Fund' campaign conducted between January 1-18, 2015. Apart from the School Preparedness Programme, AirAsia Foundation's donation to MERCY Malaysia also goes into funding the purchase new equipment for rural clinics in Kelantan, Pahang and Sarawak. A portion of the funds is also allocated to fund a water project benefiting Orang Asli communities.

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**About MERCY Malaysia**

MERCY Malaysia is a non for profit organisation focusing on providing medical relief, sustainable health related development and risk reduction activities for vulnerable communities in both crisis and non-crisis situations, both locally and internationally. MERCY Malaysia recognises the value of working with partners and volunteers as well as providing opportunities for individuals to serve with professionalism. We uphold the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief and hold ourselves accountable to our donors and beneficiaries. For more information, please proceed to [www.mercy.org.my](http://www.mercy.org.my)

**How is MERCY Malaysia funded?**

To ensure independence and impartiality, MERCY Malaysia relies on donations from the general public for financial support. A portion of our income is obtained from institutional donors, individual government grants and other international organizations, which are given on project basis. MERCY Malaysia spends 80% if its income in carrying out its relief operations and support.

**Important Note to Media: Usage of Wordmark MERCY Malaysia**

In order to avoid confusion with other organisation(s) that uses "Mercy" as the organisation's name or part of the organisation's name, please take note that in addressing the name of our organisation, the wordmark for MERCY Malaysia is with capitalised "MERCY", followed by the word "Malaysia". When describing the organisation, the term "MERCY Malaysia" must always be used in full, and should not be partially referred to as "MERCY", or "Mercy". Thank you for your cooperation.

**About AirAsia Foundation**

AirAsia Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the AirAsia Group. AirAsia is firmly committed to the philosophy that no corporation can live apart from the community it serves. As a truly ASEAN Airline, AirAsia was at the forefront of relief efforts in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, Asian Tsunami (2004), Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar(2008) and Typhoon Nesat in the Philippines (2011). AirAsia also undertook fund-raising initiatives in aid of rehabilitation efforts after the Sichuan earthquake (2008) and the earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Fukushima, Japan (2011) and Nepal earthquake (2015).



**LIST OF SCHOOLS ON THE SPP WITH AIRASIA FOUNDATION 2015:**

No	State	Name of School	Number of Participants	Total Participants Based on State
1	Perak	SK Bidor	40	393
		SK Tualang Sekah	36	
		SK Tok Pelita	40	
		SK Lubuk Kawah	40	
		SK Bukit Merah	40	
		SK Sungai Batu	40	
		SK Haji Mahmud	40	
		SK Changkat Jong	40	
		SK Seri Aman	38	
		SK Raja Muda Musa	39	
2	Daerah Tumpat, Kelantan	SK Simpangan	40	398
		SK Bendang Pak Yong	39	
		SK Teluk Jering	40	
		SK Pulau Beluru	40	
		SK Sungai Pinang	39	
		SK Kampung Laut	40	
		SK Seri Kampung Laut	40	
		SK Morak	40	
		SK Palekbang	40	
		SK Kebakat	40	
3	Daerah Tanah Merah, Kelantan	SK Kampung Panjang	39	388
		SK Sokor	41	
		SK Ladang Kerilla	41	
		SK Sri Suria 1	28	
		SK Tebing Tinggi	40	
		SK Suria 2	39	
		SK Tanah Merah 2	40	
		SK Bukit Panau	40	
		SK Belimbing	40	
		SK Suria 3	40	



**'GRAB BAG' ON DISPLAY**



NO.	ITEMS	QTY
1	Bag	1
2	Hygiene Kit	1
3	Kain Sarong / Blanket	1
4	Canned Sardines	1
5	Mineral Water 1.5 ltr	1
6	Knife	1
7	Lighter	1
8	Zip Bag Document	1
9	Rain Coat	1
10	Clothes (Tshirt & Seluar Track)	1
11	Torch Light	1
12	Radio	1
13	Teddy Bear	1