

Press Release

AirAsia helps East Coast schools and clinics rebuild and prepare better to face future challenges with Mercy Malaysia



East Coast Flood Relief Fund

Donation to fund clean up and repair of schools and hospitals

KOTA BHARU, 20 Mar 2015 – AirAsia Foundation today announced it raised a total of MYR902,447 in support of MERCY Malaysia from its 'East Coast Relief Fund' campaign. The donation, which comprise public and AirAsia staff contributions collected onboard all AirAsia and AirAsia X flights between Jan 1-18, 2015, will fund two of the disaster relief organisation's core recovery programmes.

"The success of this campaign shows again the generosity of AirAsia guests in helping those in need. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to donors who trusted us with their contributions. We will ensure that the funds go into helping communities that are most in need build their resilience to face future challenges," said AirAsia Berhad Chairman and AirAsia X Group CEO Datuk Kamarudin Meranun. Datuk Kamarudin, who is also a Trustee of AirAsia Foundation, presented the donation cheque to MERCY Malaysia President and Executive Council Member Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Kota Bharu today.

AirAsia Foundation will be the main funder of MERCY Malaysia's School Preparedness Programme to increase the capacity of schools and students to respond to future disasters. The programme, designed by MERCY Malaysia to promote a culture of preparedness and awareness of emergency procedures, will be carried out in 30 primary schools in disaster-prone areas in Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Sarawak.

"Many were severely affected by the monsoon flood that hit our country last December, making it crucial to be well prepared to which MERCY Malaysia will be focusing on children as they are often the ones most vulnerable to dangers and risks that might occur. They also spend most of their time in school so it is vital to ensure that they are safe," said MERCY Malaysia's president, Dato' Dr. Ahmad Faizal Perdaus.

Over the next one year, MERCY Malaysia's team will be conducting 30 workshops in each of the two phases, training 1,200 students and 60 teachers on the School Preparedness program. This will enable them to then conduct selected modules of the disaster risk preparedness programmes for their respective school. Teaching students about disaster preparedness will further help to build greater awareness across the whole community.

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"It is heartening to know that AirAsia Foundation acknowledges the importance on being prepared. We are truly grateful to have AirAsia Foundation as one of our biggest supporter of our School Preparedness Programme. The programme will increase the capacity of schools to respond to natural disasters, namely floods and also increase community awareness about the importance of disaster preparedness and how to remain safe in these situations.," added Dato' Dr. Ahmad Faizal Perdaus.

For immediate implementation by MERCY Malaysia is the Clinic Refurbishment Project which will see AirAsia Foundation contributions go into purchasing new medical equipment for 14 rural clinics in Kelantan and Pahang. This will include new hospital beds, medical and disposable supplies and health check-up and screening equipment to resume services at its optimum capacity.

Other than the fund-raising effort, AirAsia also contributed to nationwide relief efforts in December 2014 and January 2015 by providing free flights and cargo transportation for aid missions. In total, AirAsia transported more than 28 tonnes of food, water, clothes and medical supplies on behalf of relief organisations. The airline also provided free flights for more than 200 medical personnel and volunteers travelling to Kelantan to bolster the strength medical teams in severely affected areas.

"As a people's airline, we are committed not only to helping survivors rebuild their lives but it is also important for us to help address their immediate needs at the time of crisis. AirAsia is in a unique position to be able to help in relief efforts through our flights, so we stepped up and joined efforts around the country," said AirAsia Berhad CEO Aireen Omar.

In addition to MERCY Malaysia, organisations assisted included the National Security Council, Imam Response and Relief Team (IMARET), IKRAMHealth, INSAF Malaysia Technical Relief, Malaysian Relief Agency, The Malaysian Bar, Pemuda Umno, OSCAR Mission Kelantan, Malaysia Airports, Muslim Care Malaysia, Yayasan Amal Sabah and Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia Sarawak.

For future updates on the above initiatives, the public can log on to AirAsia Foundation's Facebook (fb.com/AirAsiaFoundation) and microsite (airasiafoundation.com/relieffund).

The AirAsia Group is firmly committed to the philosophy that no corporation can live apart from the community it serves. As a truly Asean airline, we will always extend a helping hand to the communities we serve in their time of need.

AirAsia was at the forefront of relief efforts in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines (2013), Asian Tsunami (2004), Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (2008) and Typhoon Nesat in the Philippines (2011), including fund-raising initiatives in aid of rehabilitation efforts after the Sichuan earthquake (2008) and the earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Fukushima, Japan (2011).

AirAsia has also supported the recovery of Bali, Indonesia, after the terrorist bombings in 2005, by giving away 12,000 free seats on its flights. It mounted rescue flights from Bangkok to Kuala Lumpur in November 2008 to help people stranded by the closing of the airport in Bangkok. Similar rescue efforts were extended in Padang and Jakarta in October 2009 to help those affected by the 7.6-magnitude earthquake that hit Sumatra island.

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About AirAsia Foundation

AirAsia Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the AirAsia Group of airlines, is mandated to support the growth of social enterprises in ASEAN. Established in 2012, the Foundation aims to fulfill the group's objective of giving back to the communities of ASEAN by sharing its values of entrepreneurship, equal opportunity and innovation through its activities. In 2013, the Foundation led AirAsia Group's 'To Philippines with Love' campaign to raise funds in aid of Typhoon Haiyan relief and reconstruction efforts.

About the AirAsia Group

AirAsia, the leading and largest low-cost carrier in Asia, services the most extensive network with 87 destinations. Within 12 years of operations, AirAsia has carried over 200 million guests and grown its fleet from just two aircraft to over 140. The airline today is proud to be a truly Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) airline with established operations based in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines servicing a network stretching across all Asean countries as well as China, India and Australia. AirAsia was named the World's Best Low Cost Airline in the annual World Airline Survey by Skytrax for five consecutive years from 2009 - 2013.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Aziz Laikar
Communications, AirAsia
+6012 366 9745
azizlaikar@airasia.com

Daphne Cheah
Communications, AirAsia
+6012 653 8161
cheahuijen@airasia.com