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**HSBC MALAYSIA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS
TO DESERVING MALAYSIANS FOR 2008**

HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad in their efforts to provide the needy with opportunities to pursue higher education in Malaysia has this year awarded thirty scholarships. Twenty-five undergraduates and four post-graduate students were awarded scholarships totalling RM530,000.

This year also marks the seventh year of HSBC scholarships and to date the Bank has awarded a total of 205 awards totalling over RM3.9 million to deserving Malaysians. The HSBC Scholarship Award for undergraduates is aimed at providing financial education support for students from Malaysia's low-income bracket to pursue their higher education locally.

With the HSBC scholarship programme, both undergraduate and Master's degree students will have the opportunity to focus on improving their education without having to worry too much about their financial burdens.

"Education is one of the key to development and success. By investing in education, we seek to provide opportunities to those who might otherwise miss out on the chance to strive for a better life through higher education," said Irene Dorner, deputy chairman and chief executive officer, HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad.

The twenty-nine recipients of the HSBC scholarship awards are made up of twenty-five undergraduate students including two HSBC employees' children studying various courses in local universities and colleges and four Master Programme students.

The HSBC Scholarship award programme, unlike many other scholarship programmes offered, is awarded based firstly on a needs basis and only thereafter on academic excellence. There are also no restrictions on fields of studies and recipients are also not bonded to serve in the bank.

more

HSBC Malaysia Awards Scholarships/2

The HSBC Scholarship Awards is one of the many initiatives undertaken by the bank in the area of education. Amongst others, HSBC is involved the Project to Improve English in Rural Schools (PIERS) and Reading and Writing Project (RAW).

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HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad

HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the HSBC Group. The HSBC Group, with more than 9,500 offices in 85 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa and US\$2,547 billion at 30 June 2008, is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

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