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Bank helps those ‘Living with HIV’

MAKING IT BETTER: Standard Chartered Bank invests in staff education to spread awareness of HIV/AIDS

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INITIATIVES such as Standard Chartered Bank’s Living With HIV is helping to make the lives of those stricken by the virus easier.

The bank encourages its staff to spread awareness of HIV/AIDS prevention and to help patients to cope with the disease. Under the programme, staff are also educated to eliminate any irrational fears and preset notions of the disease.

Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Bhd managing director and wholesale banking co-head Saif Malik said the objective was to educate the bank’s clients and affiliates through talks and seminars on HIV/AIDS from time to time.

“The programme is part of Standard Chartered’s global corporate social responsibility campaign, which has been getting positive feedback since it was started 15 years ago,” he said.

Saif said the bank had always stood by its no discrimination policy for its staff. It also helps to finance the medical bills of employees diagnosed with HIV.

“We encourage our employees to go for health tests and check ups. If they are found to carry the virus, we will cover their treatment costs as long as they are working for the bank,” he said.

The bank recently commemorated World Aids Day, which falls on Dec 1 annually.

Living With HIV trainers are bank staff volunteers. They give talks to promote awareness of

HIV/AIDS prevention at Menara Standard Chartered in Jalan Sultan Ismail. There were quizzes and games, and cupcakes and cookies were sold to raise fund for Living With HIV projects.

Peh Mui Sim 44, who works at the bank’s legal department, said she joined the programme seven years ago to learn about the disease after seeing a child with HIV.

“I was sad to see the child suffering from HIV. I am a mother and with the knowledge I have acquired, I hope to teach my children and everyone around me about the risk of HIV infection and that prevention is better than cure,” she said.

The bank personnel also formed a human World Aids Day Red Ribbon at the tower entrance staircase.



Saif Malik (in red tie) and colleagues mark World Aids Day at Menara Standard Chartered. Pic by Muid Zaaba Zakeria