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Reaching out for a good cause

Company chips in to help raise AIDS awareness

CHEVRON Malaysia Limited (Chevron) raised RM8,000 towards improving the lives of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The contribution to the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) was raised from a number of activities held in celebration of World AIDS Day 2009.

In addition to raising cash funds, Chevron employees also rallied to collect essentials such as canned food, packet drinks, diapers, new books and much more.

The contributions will be channelled to projects and shelters related to HIV/AIDS such as Rumah Nur Salam.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony at the energy company's headquarters in Menara Milenium, Chevron's Area Marketing Support Manager Albert Lim said the company believed that helping to eradicate epidemics such as HIV/AIDS was a clear example of how long-term business interests and commitment to corporate responsibility are intrinsically linked.

"For a battle that takes place 365 days a year, we know that World AIDS Day is really just a symbol, an opportunity to raise awareness to greater heights and make a difference.

"And every effort counts, no matter how small, as was evident from the strong support of the public and staff alike during our charity sale.

"If information empowers and saves lives, I'm happy to note our activities are kicking off 2010 on the right note," Lim said.

Malaysian AIDS Foundation

executive director Bakhtiar Talhah said the number of people involved in campaigns such as Chevron's indicates that people do care about HIV and AIDS, even if the topic is no longer new and only received occasional news coverage.

Speaking on the theme Universal Access and Human Rights, he said there was still no cure for HIV and taking away the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS would not solve anything.

Depriving HIV-positive people or people from high risk groups of their human rights will deprive everyone of access to solutions.

Protecting and promoting individual human rights also protects communities as new infections can be prevented and people who have HIV can live free from discrimination and continue to contribute to their families, communities and countries.

Here you go: Lim presents the donation box to Bakhtiar (right) during the event.

