



## **PRESS RELEASE- CORPORATES LEND A HELPING HAND**

### **Qualitas Medical Group Supports Conservation of the Great Apes**

BUKIT MERAH, 19 AUGUST 2016- Earlier today, Qualitas Medical Group (Qualitas) handed over medical equipment in aid of the medical unit of the Bukit Merah Orang Utan Foundation.

According to Dr. Junaidi Ismail, the Associate Director of Business Development and Marketing, at Qualitas, Qualitas has already been participating in various social responsibility efforts. He said *"We do have many CSR programmes and we are proud to extend this to the Orang Utan Community"*.

During his speech, Dr. Junaidi had commended YBhg. Tan Sri Datuk (Dr) Haji Mustapha Kamal for his efforts - in terms of energy and finances - in making the Orang Utan Island ex-situ project into a reality. Dr. Junaidi also said *"As corporate body that operates in Malaysia, it is important to support the Orang Utan Island Foundation and help make it sustainable. This is important not only for future Malaysians, but also for people across the globe to visit the Orang Utans- the only great apes that are exclusive to this region."*

Qualitas had handed over various medical equipment inclusive of a benchtop autoclave, a stainless steel incubator, sterile disposable inoculating tubes as well as a bacinerator in order to help equip the medical facility located on-site for infant Orang Utans.

*"The Orang Utan Island, which was once known as Pulau Panjang was specifically chosen as the climate and vegetation on the island closely resembles that of Borneo and Sumatra, the native lands of the Orang Utans"* said Dr. D. Sabapathy; CEO and Veterinary Surgeon at the Bukit Merah Orang Utan Island Foundation.

The facility was first opened to the public in February 2000, and visitors could view the animals ranging about in the initial open exhibit from a viewing platform located about 10 meters from the island lakeside. By 31 August 2001, a secure tunnel within the open exhibit was constructed and opened to the public where human visitors find themselves within the fenced enclosure while the orangutans ranged freely.

Moving forward, the foundation hopes that the Orang Utan Island will not only continue to help deliver conservation education and awareness to schoolchildren, school teachers, colleges, universities and the public; but also help facilitate scientific ex-situ research on the Bornean Orang Utan.

In addition to that, they also hope to help deliver practical knowledge and skills to undergraduates from the relevant majors in in-situ and ex-situ conservation and management of the Bornean Orang Utan; while training, developing and enhancing the capacity of not only rehabilitation and zoo staff, but also students and practitioners of veterinary medicine in the diagnosis, treatment and care management of the Orang Utan.

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### **About the Orang Utan Island:**

The Bukit Merah Orang Utan Island covers an area of 35 acres of which 15 acres has been developed for Education and Research Programme. The main objectives of Orang Utan Island:

- Support and assist the Government via its agencies in carrying out orangutan research, education, development, conservation, and rehabilitation programmes, as well as in drawing up protection policies;
- Garner the support of individuals, corporations, private organisations, government agencies and societies, universities, schools and non-government agencies via donations or assistance;
- Serve as a comprehensive national resource centre for information on orangutans, orangutan research, and link to collaborations with other related information centres worldwide.

To date, the Orang Utan Island comprises of the Infant Care Unit (ICU), a Parasitology laboratory, Education Centre, Research Corner, Theatre Room and Research Centre. We now in process of setting up Clinical microbiology laboratory sponsored by Qualitas Media Group.

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### **About Qualitas Medical Group:**

Qualitas Medical Group (Qualitas) is one of the leading primary healthcare providers in Malaysia as well as across the Asia-Pacific Region that offers a comprehensive range of primary healthcare services.

Founded in 1997, Qualitas was formed with the aim of developing an integrated network of primary healthcare practices to deliver quality healthcare to the community, in a cost-effective manner.

Today, Qualitas operates a wide network of General Practice (GP) clinics, as well as dentist clinics, diagnostic and pathology centres across the Asia Pacific region supported by over 1300 medical doctors, dentists and supporting personnel, backed by more than 250 medical clinics, dental clinics (including a dental laboratory), medical imaging centres, pathology lab and a fertility centre in the region.

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