



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AirAsia contributes RM121,750 to the National Higher Education Fund Corporation to aid underprivileged students**

**SEPANG, 12 DECEMBER 2017** - AirAsia, the world's best low-cost airline today announced its contribution of RM121,750 for the National Education Saving Scheme (SSPN-i) account deposit under the National Higher Education Fund Corporation Program.

The airline's contribution towards the savings scheme will be utilised under the *Geran Sepadan* for standard one students at government aided schools for SSPN-i of RM50 per student. Through this contribution, the fund is set to benefit 2,435 pupils.

A cheque presentation ceremony was held today at the AirAsia headquarters, RedQ, where Aireen Omar, Chief Executive Officer of AirAsia Berhad presented the mock cheque to Wan Ahmad bin Wan Yusoff, Chief Executive Officer of the National Higher Education Fund Corporation and witnessed by YB Datuk Dr. Mary Yap Kain Ching, Deputy Minister of Higher Education Malaysia to aid underprivileged students.

**Aireen Omar, Chief Executive Officer of AirAsia Berhad** said, "We are pleased to contribute towards the future of our children and to support the National Higher Education Fund Corporation in helping students in need. There is an abundance of talents in the country that will go far through beneficial programmes and assistance such as having the sufficient funds to help the children. Through SSPN-i, we hope that parents will also take this opportunity to actively start saving for their children from now on to be able to support them throughout their education chapter.

**Mastura Mohd Khalid, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the National Higher Education Fund Corporation** said, "Thank you to Air Asia Berhad for donating to the educational savings instrument. We hoped that this contribution can be a catalyst for parents to start and continue to save consistently. This can also potentially motivate the students to be more diligent in their revisions and studies while pursuing higher education."

Earlier this year, BIG Prepaid MasterCard and the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) also joined hands to encourage students to make payments to PTPTN from 25 March to 31 August 2017, where they will be in the running to win AirAsia BIG Points. The winner of the 100,000 AirAsia BIG Points, Nik Azizah binti Nik Amrah, was announced during the ceremony today.

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## **About AirAsia**

AirAsia, the leading and largest low-cost carrier in Asia by passengers carried, services an extensive network of more than 120 destinations. Since starting operations in 2001, AirAsia has carried more than 400 million guests and grown its fleet from just two aircraft to over 200. The airline is proud to be a truly Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) airline with established operations based in Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines as well as India and Japan, servicing a network stretching across Asia, Australia and New Zealand, the Middle East and the US. AirAsia has been named the World's Best Low-Cost Airline at the annual Skytrax World Airline Awards nine times in a row from 2009 to 2017. AirAsia was also awarded World's Leading Low-Cost Airline for the fourth consecutive year at the 2016 World Travel Awards, where it beat a field of full-service carriers to become the first ever low-cost carrier to win World's Leading Inflight Service.

## **About National Higher Education Fund Corporation**

The National Higher Education Fund (PTPTN) was established under the National Higher Education Act 1997 (Act 566) with the main objectives to provide loans to eligible students at higher learning institutions, provide saving schemes, and manage funds for higher education.

The National Education Savings Scheme (SSPN-i) is a scheme or savings established by the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) for higher education purposes. The scheme offered is Shariah-compliant which has applied the concept of "*Wakalah Bil Istithmar*" whereby depositors appoint PTPTN to manage their deposits for investments purposes.

For more information, visit [www.ptptn.gov.my](http://www.ptptn.gov.my) or call Careline PTPTN at 03-2193 3000.

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