



Australian High Commission, Kuala Lumpur

MEDIA RELEASE

13 FEBRUARY 2018

MALAYSIAN YOUNG LEADER WINS AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AWARD

Congratulations to Redza Shahid Ridzuan from Malaysia on being selected to participate in the 2018 Australia-ASEAN Emerging Leaders Program (A2ELP).

Redza is co-founder of *Grub Cycle*, which raises awareness of waste in the food industry by making surplus food available at low cost, and subsidising staples for marginalised communities in Kuala Lumpur.

Redza holds a degree in accounting from Universiti Teknologi Mara and worked in financing for the oil and gas industry, before joining angel investment firm Qeerad.

After following the Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre's (MaGIC) Global Accelerator Program, Redza founded *Grub Cycle* with three friends.

Grub Cycle has since raised grants and investment of around USD 250,000 and gained the support of Mountain Partners, MaGIC, myHarapan, Cradle, SUPERB TERAJU, Alliance Bank and Manulife.

A2ELP is an Australian Government initiative that recognises young social entrepreneurs in Australia and ASEAN nations who are addressing critical challenges facing the region including the environment, agricultural production, education, health and ageing populations.

High Commissioner, Andrew Goledzinowski, said "This is wonderful recognition for Redza and the contribution he is making to address the problem of food waste".

As part of the broader three-month A2ELP program, Redza will join emerging leaders from Australia and all 10 ASEAN nations for an intensive incubation program in Melbourne and Sydney in March to explore the role of business in driving social change, enhance his understanding of the risks and potential of social ventures, and learn techniques to develop his enterprise and maximise its impact.

The 2018 A2ELP cohort will also join 2017 A2ELP alumni at events associated with the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit. The Summit, to be held on 16-18 March 2018 in Sydney, will mark the first time that Australia hosts all ten ASEAN leaders. It will provide an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen ASEAN-Australia relations and deepen Australia's strategic and economic partnership with Southeast Asia, in line with the Australian Government's 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper.

A2ELP is funded by the Australia-ASEAN Council (AAC), which was established in 2015 to generate opportunities for Australian business, education, science and innovation and the arts to work with partners in Southeast Asia.

For more information on A2ELP the AAC, visit www.dfat.gov.au/aac

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