



MEDIA RELEASE

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SINGAPORE'S AL-IRSYAD & PESANTREN SABILIL MUTTAQIN SET UP AN ISLAMIC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN INDONESIA

Singapore's Madrasah Al-Irsyad Al-Islamiah is collaborating with Pesantren Sabilil Muttaqin (PSM) in Indonesia to enhance the education standards of the network of schools under PSM. The collaboration kicks off with the setting up of Islamic International School PSM in Magetan, East Java. The school has begun its operations in July 2008, when the new academic year commenced.

2. The scope of the collaboration covers these four key areas :
 - i. Capacity building of teachers
 - ii. Upgrading and modernizing of curriculum
 - iii. Institutionalising best practices in education
 - iv. Strengthening governance and management
3. The transfer of educational technology and systems will almost be similar in approach to the pseudo built-operate-transfer mechanism, where Madrasah Al-Irsyad will handhold the Indonesian local team to implement the educational technologies in the new school. Subsequently, the whole set up will be periodically accredited and audited to ensure that quality standards are sustained and enhanced.
4. According to Mr Razak Mohamed Lazim, Executive Director of Madrasah Al-Irsyad, "apart from being attracted to the balanced education that Al-Irsyad is providing, it is our experience in successfully setting up Al-Irsyad Satya in Bandung that brought PSM over to collaborate with us."
5. The training of teachers and the development of the academic curriculum for the newly set-up school, Islamic International School PSM, will be supported through a grant of S\$306,000 by Singapore's Temasek Foundation.
6. Mr Goh Geok Khim, Chairman, Temasek Foundation said: "It is important for a newly set-up school to be established with good processes and systems, and be equipped with well-trained staff. Over time, this school will eventually be a model school for other schools in Surabaya to emulate to raise their standards of education."
7. It is aimed that through such a comprehensive capacity building program, the network of schools under PSM will produce quality graduates who are highly employable due to their contemporary outlook and ability to fit into the modern world and economy.

8. The official launch of the Islamic International School PSM on 25th August in Surabaya will be witnessed on the Singapore side by Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Singapore's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Minister in-charge of Muslim Affairs; and Hj Mohd Alami Musa, President of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis). Indonesia will be represented by its Minister of Religious Affairs, Mr Maftuh Basyuni and Minister of Communications and Information, Dr Mohammad Nuh.

PROGRAMME FACTSHEET

9. PROJECT PHASES

The collaboration between Al-Irsyad Singapore and PSM will be a long-term project to develop every aspect of the new school with internationally benchmarked systems and operations that will eventually be cascaded to the other PSM schools. As such, the project will be conducted in phases where :

- i. Phase I : School Setup (2 years)**
This involves the transferring of educational technologies and systems to start the operation of a new school.
- ii. Phase II : School Benchmark (3 years)**
This involves the benchmarking and accreditation of the educational technologies to a standard that it is able to transfer the technologies.
- iii. Phase III : School export (year 6 onwards)**
This involves the actual cascading of the new technologies to other PSM-affiliated schools.

IMPACT

10. While the project is focused on the development of a new modern school for PSM, in the long run, the project will eventually raise the education standards and systems of some 200 other schools under PSM in East Java through the influence and cascading effect that the model school will have over the other PSM schools.
11. Its benefits will see 75,000 students getting better education attainment through the improved teaching methodologies adopted by the 5,000 teachers who will be upgraded with professional teaching certification.

FUNDING

12. The new PSM International Islamic School (IIS) is officially founded by Bapak Dahlan Iskan, a self-made prominent businessman in the field of media, newsprint and electricity. Pak Dahlan runs 140 companies, of which 100 are in media sector (print and TV) throughout major cities in Indonesia, under the Jawa Pos Group.

13. As founder, Bapak Dahlan is also funding the setup of this new school for PSM.
 - I. This collaboration has also been given a boost with the S\$306,000 (Rp 2 billion) technical assistance grant from Temasek Foundation for the initial phase of the project.
 - II. The technical assistance grant from Temasek Foundation is to fund the training of teachers and the development of academic curriculum for the new school.

PROGRESS

14. Al-Irsyad Singapore was chosen as a partner by PSM after five members of their key board members spent one week in Madrasah Al-Irsyad in December 2007 to understudy the education system that Madrasah Al-Irsyad offers.
15. Subsequently, key leaders of the new school spent another one month in Madrasah Al-Irsyad in March 2008 in a leadership internship program to further plan for the setting up of IIS PSM.
16. A two-week school attachment program was subsequently attended by 18 new recruited teachers in Madrasah Al-Irsyad in June 2008. The attachment covers the areas of :
 - i. Academic systems and processes of the school
 - ii. The Singapore curriculum and its implementation in the classroom
 - iii. Modern instructional skills and methodologies.
17. IIS PSM is already in operation since July 2008, taking in students at the Kindergarten levels 1 and 2, and Primary 1 and Primary 2.
18. Al-Irsyad Singapore trainers were in Magetan to assist in the opening of IIS PSM. Continuous training has been planned throughout the academic year to enhance the capacity of IIS PSM.