



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Bankers as Guardians of Public Trust Told to Uphold Integrity and Have Zero Tolerance for Corruption**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 14 May 2018** – Bankers were reminded today as guardians of public trust, to uphold integrity and have zero tolerance for corruption.

Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers (AICB) chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim said this in his opening address at the 2nd Chartered Banker Conferment and 21st Graduation Ceremony held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre on May 12th, 2018.

Directly addressing over 1,600 graduates, Tan Sri Azman emphasised that bankers must have zero tolerance for corruption, as the profession demands the highest levels of integrity and upholding of public trust. “May I remind you today, that the very heart of banking is still trust. We are in the business where people put their money in banks because they trust us, hence our responsibility to protect the integrity and stability of the banking system, which underpins public trust and confidence in the financial industry,” he said.

In his special address, guest of honour Bank Negara Malaysia Governor, Tan Sri Muhammad Ibrahim added that as “guardians of public trust”, bankers must protect the system against any threats, including protecting against abuse, misconduct and exploitation.

“No banker should tolerate misselling of products to customers which are not suited to their needs. No banker should tolerate charging excessive and hidden fees to unsuspecting customers and use these fees to excessively enrich themselves. No banker should tolerate unethical and illegal behaviour of a fellow colleague. No banker should tolerate any wrong doing or misconduct. The currency of bankers is not money but trust. Loss of trust is calamitous for the profession.”

Governor Muhammad said AICB, the professional body for banking, played a crucial role in Malaysia in upholding the values of honesty and integrity and ensuring professionalism, trust and confidence through its Chartered Banker accreditation.

“The syllabus for this qualification places importance on ethics and professional standards. The requirement for fresh graduates to undergo an induction course on ethics is also a good starting point. There are other initiatives in store, we will step up efforts to ensure that the roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of leaders of financial institutions are clear and transparent. To this end, consultations with the industry will be conducted this year on proposals to sharpen accountability of individuals holding senior roles.”

Governor Muhammad added that effective 1 July 2018, it will be a requirement for financial institutions to screen all new hires for their employment history and criminal records. “Financial institutions will be required to keep proper records related to employees and to provide the required information when requested by another institution. This will guard the system against disreputable staff and enact barriers against potential threats to the integrity of the system.”

Earlier, Tan Sri Azman encouraged graduates to aim to be recognised as Chartered Bankers, the “gold standard” in banking qualifications offered by the Institute and conferred jointly with its strategic partner, the Chartered Banker Institute, UK.

Thirty-two eminent bankers were jointly-conferred the Fellow Chartered Banker and Chartered Banker status along with over 1,600 graduates for AICB’s various professional banking qualifications.

Among the Fellow Chartered Banker conferees were Dato’ Sri Mohamed Nazir Tun Abdul Razak, Chairman of CIMB Group; Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Mohd Munir Abdul Majid, Chairman of Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd; Mr Lee Lung Nien, CEO of Citibank Bhd; Dato’ Lee Kok Kwan, Non-Independent Director of CIMB Bank Bhd and Bank Negara Malaysia Deputy Governors Datuk Abdul Rasheed Ghaffour and Ms Jessica Chew Cheng Lian.

Among the 26 recognised as Chartered Bankers were: Dato’ Sulaiman Mohd Tahir, Group CEO of AMMB Holdings and CEO, AmBank Bhd; Datuk Maimoonah Mohamed Hussain, Group MD of Affin Hwang Investment Bank Bhd; YM Raja Teh Maimunah Raja Abdul Aziz, CEO of AmInvestment Bank Bhd; Dato’ Wan Kamaruzaman Wan Ahmad, CEO of Kumpulan Wang Persaraan (Diperbadankan); Mr Kamarul Ariffin Mohd Jamil, CEO of Affin Bank Bhd Group; Dato’ Kong Sooi Lin, CEO of CIMB Investment Bank Bhd; Mr Arsalaan Ahmed, CEO of HSBC Amanah Malaysia Bhd; Mr Domenic Fuda, Group Managing Director and CEO of Hong Leong Bank Bhd; Mr Joel Kornreich, Group CEO of Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd and Mr Mahesh P. Rupawalla, CEO of Alliance Investment Bank Bhd.

Additionally, the Chartered Banker status was also conferred posthumously to the late Dato' Sri Lee Kong Lam, the former Deputy Chairman of Public Bank Bhd, whose family accepted on his behalf.

AICB Chief Executive Prasad Padmanaban said the Institute's membership has risen from 12,000 in December 2017 to over 17,000 to date, with international members in Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar and Maldives. The number of graduates has also risen by over 20% in 2017 from 2016, with a parallel rise in enrolments and passes for all eight of its qualifications. "Quality talent is essential in maintaining high standards in the banking industry. Being cognisant of this, we continue to embark on strategic initiatives to enhance the quality and relevancy of our qualifications with the aim of future-proofing talent for the banking industry. We are proud that our members are well-equipped with professional qualifications to be ambassadors for a new banking era."

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**About AICB**

The Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers (AICB) is the professional body for the banking industry in Malaysia. The Institute is governed by a Council comprising representatives from Bank Negara Malaysia, The Association of Banks in Malaysia, and the Malaysian Investment Banking Association. AICB's aim is to elevate professional and ethical standards of banking practitioners and create a banking workforce which subscribes to high standards of professional conduct, knowledge and competence. AICB has provided banking education for 41 years and was rebranded as a professional body in 2014. It was previously known as The Institute of Bankers Malaysia (IBBM).

For more information on AICB: [www.aicb.org.my](http://www.aicb.org.my).

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