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The Edge CEO Morning Brief, Malaysia

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THE Edge Media Group and its partners — OCBC Bank Malaysia, Mercedes-Benz Malaysia and ARTELIA — will be honouring Corporate Malaysia's best-performing listed companies and top responsible organisations at the 16th edition of The Edge Billion Ringgit Club (BRC) awards ceremony on Sept 23.

"It is important to celebrate excellence. When excellence becomes an ingrained practice, industry standards and productivity naturally go up. On top of measurable financial performance, many of our winners also dedicate considerable resources to strengthening communities, demonstrating how business excellence can serve as a catalyst for broader prosperity. We look forward to celebrating Corporate Malaysia's best at the gala dinner on Sept 23," says The Edge Media Group publisher and group CEO Datuk Ho Kay Tat.

OCBC Bank Malaysia Bhd CEO Tan Chor Sen weighs in on the importance of building success for the long haul for the benefit of all stakeholders.

"As the founding partner of The Edge Billion Ringgit Club Awards, our message is clear: true success is built on consistency, resilience and a long-term view. These awards honour companies that demonstrate excellence, not just in financial performance but also in leadership, governance and sustainable growth. We hope the recognition inspires Corporate Malaysia to continue striving for smart, responsible progress that benefits both the economy and society. We applaud the winners for their grit, guts and gumption — qualities that define enduring success," Tan says.

"Being the main partner of The Edge Billion Ringgit Club for 16 consecutive years is a responsibility we take seriously. It reflects our belief in upholding the same high standards the award represents. Our own recognitions — from Bank of the Year to accolades in sus-

BY CINDY YEAP
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tainability, talent development and corporate responsibility — are a testament to our commitment to excellence. These achievements show that we are not only proud supporters of the award but also active practitioners of the values it celebrates," Tan adds.

Mercedes-Benz Cars Malaysia, the official car for the BRC, returns as a partner for the 11th year "to recognise organisations that achieve exceptional results while creating value beyond financial performance".

"At Mercedes-Benz Malaysia, we believe lasting success is built on a foundation of innovation, responsible business practices and a commitment to people, all of which build resilience amid today's dynamic market environment. These awards are a reminder that true leadership combines performance with purpose, inspiring companies that aim higher and deliver sustainable progress for the future," says Amanda Zhang, CEO and president of Mercedes-Benz Cars Malaysia and head of region of Mercedes-Benz Cars SEA II.

"Excellence at Mercedes-Benz is rooted in a rich heritage of craftsmanship, combined with innovation in performance, design, safety and sustainability. We offer customers a diverse variety of choices across internal combustion engine (ICE), plug-in hybrid and fully electric models. This ensures we continue to meet evolving customer expectations while setting benchmarks for the future of mobility," she adds, noting that this philosophy comes to life in the iconic Mercedes-Benz G 580 with EQ Technology, which combines off-road capability with the benefits of electric mobility and the Mercedes-AMG GT 63 4MATIC+ Coupé, showcasing its motorsport DNA reimagined for the road.

China Pottery (M) Sdn Bhd's ARTELIA, the official distributor of Noritake fine porcelain in Malaysia, comes in as a supporting partner for The Edge BRC awards this year to "honour organisations and leaders who raise the bar for Corporate Malaysia".

"The BRC Awards have, over the years, come to represent one of the highest recognitions of corporate excellence in Malaysia. It is not just about celebrating financial performance but also about acknowledging resilience, strategic foresight and leadership in shaping Malaysia's corporate landscape. At ARTELIA, we share these same values of striving for excellence and creating meaningful impact ... We believe in supporting initiatives that inspire others to achieve higher standards and drive the country forward," says ARTELIA managing director Alex Toh.

The trophy design and commemorative plate for The Edge BRC 2025 are by ARTELIA.

OCBC's Tan notes three 'Ps' in relation to progress ahead of this year's gala dinner: "We look forward to celebrating your well-earned success. For those who didn't make the list this year, we encourage reflection on progress — especially in the areas of people, profit and planet. If you've improved from last year, that is a win in itself. When this mindset becomes a habit, greater achievements will surely follow."

"We believe that doing good and doing well are not mutually exclusive — they are mutually reinforcing. At OCBC, every initiative is grounded in integrity, respect, and accountability. We take a long-term view in our decision-making, focusing on creating sustainable value for our clients, communities, and shareholders. Responsible banking is not a trade-off; it is a strategic imperative," he elaborates.

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Noting that “reaching the billion-ringgit mark is an achievement in itself”, Mercedes-Benz’s Zhang adds: “The pursuit of excellence is an ongoing journey and we encourage all BRC members to continue pushing boundaries, driving innovation and making a positive impact. It is this business philosophy that has guided Mercedes-Benz for over a century and continues to shape how we deliver vehicles and experiences that stand the test of time.”

Toh weighs in on the need for sustainable excellence: “At ARTELIA, we believe that excellence is not a single milestone but an ongoing pursuit. The BRC Awards remind us that every effort, every step taken with integrity and vision, contributes to building a stronger, more vibrant Malaysia.

“For us, excellence is about the marriage of artistry, craftsmanship and relevance. Every piece we create is designed with the philosophy that it must not only be beautiful but also meaningful, timeless and representative of the values it carries.”

Paying homage to the awards’ partners, Ho says, “I thank our distinguished partners, OCBC Bank Malaysia and Mercedes-Benz Cars Malaysia for their steadfast support in honouring and celebrating Corporate Malaysia’s continued excellence and welcome ARTELIA as a partner. Without their ardent support, The Edge BRC awards ceremony and gala dinner would not be Corporate Malaysia’s most anticipated and prestigious annual gathering that it has become.”

About the awards

Started in 2010, the BRC recognises sustainable excellence in companies with a market capitalisation of more than RM1 billion. The billion-ringgit cut-off serves as an aspirational target for dynamic smaller companies. Companies are added to the list automatically on the cut-off date of March 31 annually and are evaluated on growth in profits, return on equity (ROE) and total return to shareholders over a rolling three-year period, plus commitment to corporate responsibility (CR).

Apart from their respective Bursa Malaysia-defined industry or sectoral peers, BRC members are also ranked against companies with similar market capitalisation through the Super Big Cap (companies with more than RM40 billion market cap) and Big Cap (companies with RM10 billion to RM40 billion market cap) categories.

Results are independently audited by Deloitte Malaysia.

In addition to sectoral awards for highest profit growth, ROE and total return as well as The Edge BRC Best CR Initiatives, key awards include Value Creator: Malaysia’s Outstanding CEO; and the coveted The Edge BRC Company of the Year.

Previous Company of the Year winners were Gamuda Bhd (2024), Mega First Corp Bhd (2023), Frontken Corp Bhd (2022), Vitrox Corp Bhd (2021), Hartalega Holdings Bhd (2020), Press Metal Aluminium Holdings Bhd (2019), Petronas Dagangan Bhd (2018), AirAsia Bhd (2017), Nestlé (M) Bhd

(2016), Tenaga Nasional Bhd (2015), Dutch Lady Milk Industries Bhd (2014), DiGi.Com Bhd (2013), Genting Bhd (2012), QL Resources Bhd (2011) and Supermax Corp Bhd (2010).

Past winners of the Value Creator: Malaysia’s Outstanding CEO award include the late Tan Sri Teh Hong Piow, chairman of Public Bank Group (2010); CIMB group chairman Datuk Seri Nazir Razak (2010); AMMB Holdings Bhd chairman Tan Sri Azman Hashim (2012); AirAsia group CEO Tan Sri Tony Fernandes (2012); former S P Setia Bhd president and CEO Tan Sri Liew Kee Sin (2013); former Malayan Banking Bhd president and CEO Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar (2013); Sunway Group chairman Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah (2014); Axiata Group Bhd president and group CEO Tan Sri Jamaludin Ibrahim (2014); Khazanah Nasional Bhd managing director Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar (2016); the late Tan Sri G Gnanalingam, Westports Holdings Bhd executive chairman (2017); Dialog Group Bhd executive chairman and co-founder Tan Sri Ngau Boon Keat (2018); QL Resources Bhd executive chairman Chia Song Kun (2019); Maybank president and CEO Datuk Seri Abdul Farid Alias (2021); Batu Kawan Bhd chairman and Kuala Lumpur Kepong Bhd CEO Tan Sri Lee Oi Hian (2022) as well as Tan Sri Tay Ah Lek, managing director and CEO of Public Bank Bhd (2024).

The Value Creator: Malaysia’s Outstanding CEO award was not given out in 2011, 2015, 2020 and 2023.