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WHAT IS 5S?

CDC CONQUERED MT. KINABALU

How to utilise EPF For
First-Time Home Buyers

**ePerolehan Tarik Minat
Tajikistan**



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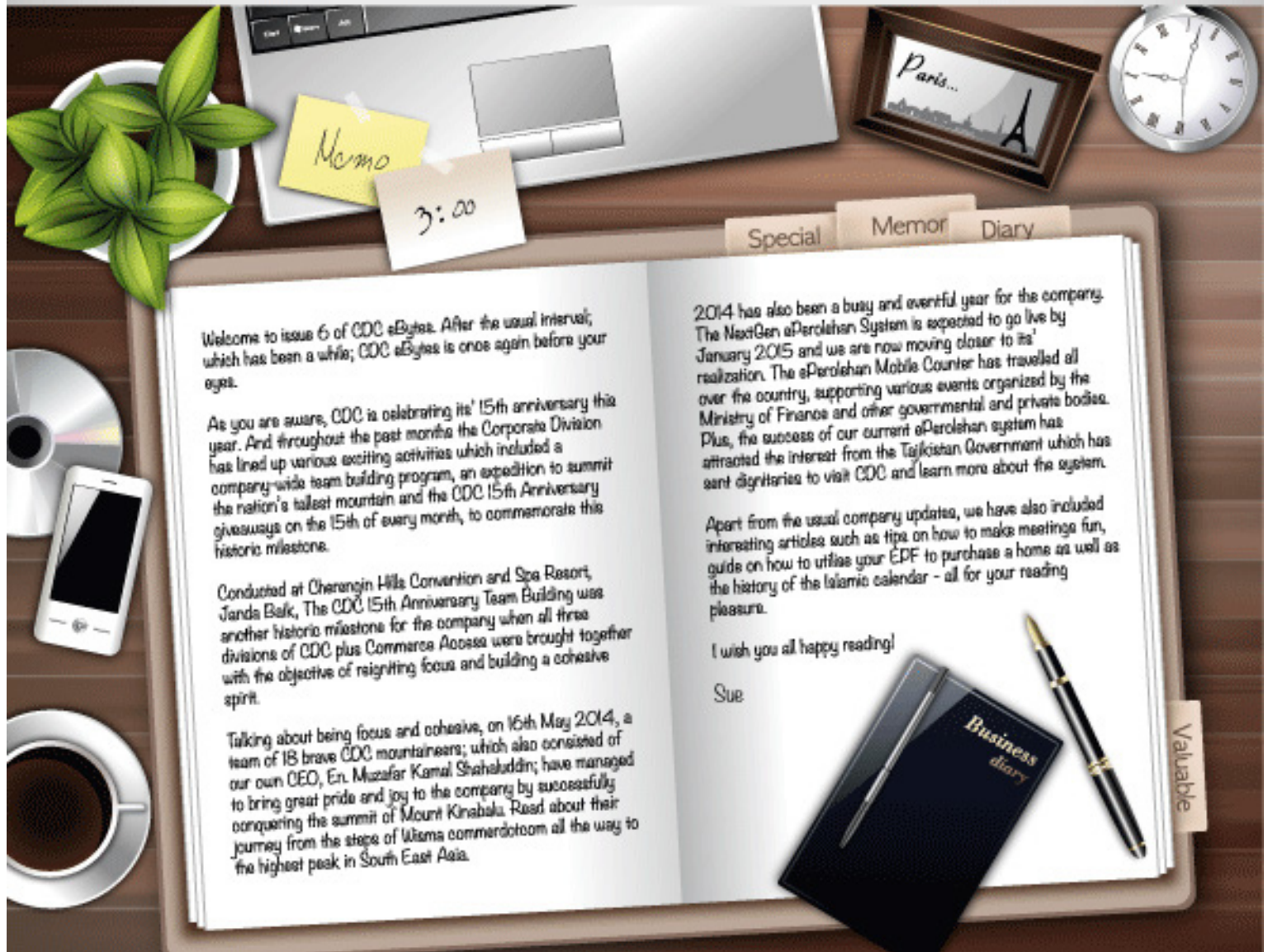
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Welcome to issue 6 of CDC eBytes. After the usual interval, which has been a while, CDC eBytes is once again before your eyes.

As you are aware, CDC is celebrating its' 15th anniversary this year. And throughout the past months the Corporate Division has lined up various exciting activities which included a company-wide team building program, an expedition to summit the nation's tallest mountain and the CDC 15th Anniversary giveaways on the 15th of every month, to commemorate this historic milestone.

Conducted at Cherengin Hills Convention and Spa Resort, Janda Baik, The CDC 15th Anniversary Team Building was another historic milestone for the company when all three divisions of CDC plus Commerce Access were brought together with the objective of reigniting focus and building a cohesive spirit.

Talking about being focus and cohesive, on 16th May 2014, a team of 18 brave CDC mountaineers, which also consisted of our own CEO, En. Muzafar Kamal Shahaluddin, have managed to bring great pride and joy to the company by successfully conquering the summit of Mount Kinabalu. Read about their journey from the steps of Wisma Commodotcom all the way to the highest peak in South East Asia.

2014 has also been a busy and eventful year for the company. The NextGen ePerolehan System is expected to go live by January 2015 and we are now moving closer to its' realization. The ePerolehan Mobile Counter has travelled all over the country, supporting various events organized by the Ministry of Finance and other governmental and private bodies. Plus, the success of our current ePerolehan system has attracted the interest from the Tajikistan Government which has sent dignitaries to visit CDC and learn more about the system.

Apart from the usual company updates, we have also included interesting articles such as tips on how to make meetings fun, guide on how to utilize your EPF to purchase a home as well as the history of the Islamic calendar - all for your reading pleasure.

I wish you all happy reading!

Sue





How to utilise EPF For First-Time Home Buyers

How exactly does EPF help with buying your first home?

It allows members to withdraw their savings in Account II to finance the purchase of a home. Typically the funds are put as a down payment, to pay monthly loan instalments, reduce/redeem housing loan, or if one is going for My First Home Scheme which doesn't require down payment, the money from EPF will help cover other charges like strata titles, legal fees, etc.



Who is eligible?

- Malaysian citizen
- A Malaysian citizen who have withdrawn your savings under Leaving The Country Withdrawal before 1 August 1995 and then choose to re-EPF
- Non-Malaysian citizens who became a member before August 1, 1998 or getting a Permanent Resident (PR)
- Member has not attained 55 years of age on the date the application is received by EPF
- Members have at least RM 500.00 in Account II

What are the conditions?

- Buying a house (bungalow / terrace / detached / apartment / condo / studio apartment / service apartment / townhouse / SOHO or shop with residential units.)
- Home purchase financing through:

(i) Housing loan from any institution as follows:

- Financial institutions licensed under the Banking and Financial Institutions Act 1989 (BAFIA)
- Central Government/State or other government financial agencies
- Employer members
- Co-operation / collaboration company licensed (approved by the Co-operative Commission of Malaysia).
- Licensed insurance company approved by Bank Negara Malaysia
- Lenders approved by the Board;

(ii) Cash

- Members who have signed a Sale and Purchase Agreement shall not exceed three (3) years from the date the application is received by the EPF.
- Members who have not made withdrawals or those who have withdrawn to buy a first home and have to sell or dispose of ownership, and then buy a second home. Proof of sale / disposal of first home ownership is required.
- Members who want to buy a house that has been acquired on hire purchase from the parties approved by the Board.
- Members who buy land to build a home on it as a package (the date of the land purchase and the date of the start of the construction must be within 6 months)

How much can an individual home buyer withdraw?

- The amount difference between the price of the home and total loan plus 10% of the home price
- The full amount of Account II
- The amount to be withdrawn must not be less than RM500.00

How much can a home buyer couple withdraw?

- The amount difference between the price of the home and total loan plus 10% of the home price
- The full amount of Account II from both accounts but based on the maximum amount that is allowed to be withdrawn
- The amount to be withdrawn must not be less than RM500.00

How much can a home buyer withdraw if applying for 100% loan?

- 10% of the home price
- The full amount of Account II (if amount is not less than RM500.00)

How much can a home buyer withdraw with no home loan?

- Amount of the home price plus 10% of the home price
- The full amount of Account II (not less than RM500.00)

(Information retrieved from KWSP website. For more information such as the required documents, please visit <http://www.kwsp.gov.my>)

Fruit for thought before making that substantial property purchase:

- Take your time to look around at the properties available
- Shop around for the best mortgage loans and packages
- Pre-check your credit, income and assets to know what's your credit score (amount of loan that you can take)
- Set a realistic budget on your monthly instalments according to what you can afford that's comfortable
- Make sure you have a long term plan on settling your home loan instalments
- Read and understand the fine print before you sign the dotted line





Petaling Jaya – Walau pun Tajikistan adalah sebuah negara bekas Kesatuan Soviet, namun Malaysia dijadikan contoh untuk rujukan sistem perolehan elektronik kerajaan. Ini selepas mereka dapati melalui kajian yang menunjukkan negara kita antara yang teratas didunia dalam implementasi sistem seperti itu.

Disamping itu juga, Malaysia adalah sebuah negara membangun Islam yang hampir mencapai tahap negara maju dan patut dijadikan contoh oleh Tajikistan yang 99.9 peratus rakyatnya adalah Muslim. Kenyataan ini dijelaskan oleh Pengarah Bits LLC, Mansur Hojiboboev, perunding teknologi maklumat untuk Kerajaan Tajikistan.

Mansur merupakan salah seorang ahli delegasi seramai tujuh orang daripada negara Asia Tengah berkenaan. Delegasi itu mengadakan lawatan sambil belajar ke Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia dan Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd, pembangun dan operator sistem ePerolehan untuk Kerajaan. Lawatan pada 20 dan 21 November 2013 merupakan sesi 'pembuka mata' untuk mereka.

Di Kementerian Kewangan, Putrajaya, delegasi telah diberikan taklimat oleh para pegawai Kementerian tentang dasar dan tadbir urus yang dilakukan oleh Kerajaan. Mereka juga diberitahu bagaimana dasar yang diterapkan membantu membangunkan bidang perniagaan terutama sekali industri kecil dan sederhana negara.

Mereka kemudiannya dibawa ke ePerolehan Centre (ePC), Pusat Transformasi Bandar (Urban Transformation Centre – UTC) Kuala Lumpur di Pudu Sentral. Di sana mereka melihat sendiri bagaimana fungsi ePC dapat membantu perkembangan penggunaan ePerolehan dan para pembekal yang memerlukan perkhidmatan penggunaan sistem.

Hari berikutnya pula delegasi melawat ke ibu pejabat CDC di Petaling Jaya dan diberi taklimat tentang peranan syarikat berkenaan dalam implementasi sistem ePerolehan dan perkembangan projek di Arab Saudi.

Penganalisa Perolehan Bank Dunia yang bersama delegasi, Dilshod Karimova amat berminat keatas apa yang CDC telah tunaikan selakal ini. Beliau juga berkata adalah amat baik sekiranya Tajikistan mempunyai satu sistem perolehan seumpama ePerolehan dan organisasinya bersedia untuk membantu negara berkenaan jika mereka mengambil keputusan untuk mengimplementasikannya kelak.

Pada 4 Jun sehingga 6 Jun 2014, ePerolehan telah menyertai Pameran Tahunan Perusahaan Kecil dan Sederhana 2014 (SMIDEX 2014), anjuran bersama Kementerian Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan Industri (MITI) dengan SME Corp. di Pusat Konvensyen Kuala Lumpur (KLCC) bermula dari pukul 10 pagi hingga 6 petang.

Acara perasmian disempurnakan oleh YAB Perdana Menteri, Dato Seri Mohd Najib Tun Razak yang diadakan pada hari ini pada pukul 3 petang.

Program SMIDEX 2014 edisi ke - 17 telah berjaya mengumpulkan hampir 150 organisasi syarikat pelbagai latar belakang.

Melalui program ini, ia membuka ruang rundingan perniagaan sesama peserta yang terdiri daripada perusahaan kecil dan sederhana (PKS) dan syarikat multinasional. Peserta antarabangsa yang turut hadir termasuk dari India, Itali, United Kingdom, Singapura dan Turki.

Kaunter ePerolehan dibuka kepada umum dibawah nama Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia dan turut berkongsi kaunter bersama dengan Seksyen Dasar dan Pelaksanaan GST, Bahagian Cukai.

Antara organisasi lain yang terlibat seperti Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad, dan Petronas Gas Berhad, Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad dan SIRIM Berhad.



Time flies and here we are at the first month of the 4th quarter of 2014. The Corporate Division would like to take this opportunity to recap some key messages that was communicated by the Management team during the last CDC Directions session. This refresher would serve as a good base to understanding the key messages relayed as only 140 staff attended the event. Thus, this recap will act as clear guidance for all of us for the year 2014.

Recap of 2013

In a nutshell, 2013 was a successful year for commercedotcom. Congratulations to all of us!

- We have achieved Government procurement value of RM17B via ePerolehan. That's a 10% increase compared to the 2012 Government procurement value.
- The 2013 total company revenue is RM123 M vs. RM117.2 M in 2012.

Besides the revenue collection, other factors have also contributed to the success of the company. These non-revenue-oriented achievements have helped set an excellent foundation for the company to thrive in 2014 and beyond.

Corporate

- FutureGov Awards 2013 : Procurement Programme of the Year
- Financial Inclusion & Payments System Award 2013: Livelihood Linkage for Small to Medium Sized Rural Areas Enterprise Category - eP@Desa: Expansion of ePerolehan Services to Rural Areas
- Reveal & implementation of new commercedotcom brand company-wide.
- Publication of the eP Whitepaper "GEP As a Means to Maximise the Effectiveness of Public Spending"
- Partnership with MICG & UITM Shell Eco Marathon
- 35 press releases issued

Operations

- Enabled 22,610 suppliers
- Conducted 57,500 Government Extended Handholding sessions
- eP Training: 7048 trained (Government & suppliers)

Technology

- Production Data Centre Infra Upgrade (VM Server)
- 26 eP Change Requests completed & ported
- Maintained MS ISO/IEC 27001:2007 Information Security Mgmt. System Certification
- Operation Mgmt. System implemented

NextGen eP

- NextGen eP Project kick off
- 1,500 people completed the NextGen eP Change Management survey
- Functional Requirement Blueprint Sign Off
- Completed Change Impact Assessment
- Defined the adoption approach for 235,000 PTJ and 18,000 Ministry users readiness
- User Interface Build completed

What lies ahead in 2014

Heading towards our **future direction in becoming the benchmark leader in public sector e-procurement**, 2014 will be the most important year in the history of commercedotcom. This is because it would be the last year that would determine our successful breakthrough to the next level. This breakthrough is crucial as it will enable the overall transformation of commercedotcom.

A successful breakthrough would require us to make a quantum leap by reinventing and transforming ourselves, not only system-wise, but company-wide. Subsequently, transformation in processes, people and culture will be required in order to achieve the desired results.

2014 is also an important year for us here as it marks our 15 years since inception. This milestone marks the coming of age for commercedotcom and we are ready to evolve.

The strategic theme this year revolves around three types of commitments. We are proud to say that we are committed to change, committed to deliver and committed to excellence. This year, commitment will be the key driver, pushing us to make that quantum leap.

2014 targets

- RM18 B procurement value through ePerolehan
- RM125 M revenue consisting of:
 - RM24 M from Supplier Revenue
 - RM1 M from SPE Transaction Revenue
 - RM100 M from Government Transaction Revenue

In order to make all this happen, an overall transformation needs to take place. This will enable the company to embrace new industry standards that would enable world class customer service, supported by technology, processes and people.

Pledge

I, on this day pledge to commercedotcom that I will be wholeheartedly admit to be Intrapreneurial; creating opportunities, innovative and make things happen,
I am Committed; because my name is on it, I am in control,
I will always Do the Right things because a clear conscience is priceless,
I will Collaborate with all my colleagues because together, we can stand tall in a world that is constantly changing;

I, collectively with my colleagues will make sure this pledge will be "fulfilled!"
For 2014 we hereby commit ourselves:

1. To reinvent ourselves
2. To deliver the set targets
3. To commit towards excellence, new CDC

I,CDC, We CDC!



Petaling Jaya, 11 Jun 2014 – Lebih seratus orang peserta Pusat Seheniti Gagasan Badan Ekonomi Melayu (PS GABEM) di Hotel Taiping Perdana mendapat nasihat berguna daripada usahawan yang berjaya. Kali ini Datuk Haji Ariffin Abu Talib mengimbau pengalaman beliau sebagai seorang peniaga bertaraf antarabangsa yang boleh dijadikan teladan.

Sebagai seorang kontraktor, Datuk Haji Ariffin adalah salah seorang daripada sepuluh yang dipilih oleh kerajaan Malaysia untuk membangunkan semula negara Bosnia Herzegovina pada 1990an.

Program sehari yang berlangsung pada 10 Jun baru lalu adalah program tetap yang dianjurkan dari tempat ke tempat oleh GABEM agar mendapat capaian yang lebih meluas. Antara jabatan, agensi kerajaan dan syarikat berkaitan kerajaan (GLC) yang terlibat adalah Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM), TEKUN Nasional, SME Bank, Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia, MARA, dan tidak ketinggalan ePerolehan yang disokong oleh Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd (CDC).

Objektif PS GABEM adalah untuk menyampaikan perkhidmatan yang berguna kepada usahawan Bumiputera. Peserta program boleh mendapat pelbagai khidmat nasihat berkaitan pemudah cara perniagaan dan pinjaman daripada jabatan, agensi dan GLC yang terbabit.

Peranan ePerolehan yang disokong oleh CDC adalah amat penting bagi usahawan Bumiputera kerana dengan menjadi pembekal yang berdaftar dengan Kerajaan melalui ePerolehan dapat menjana perniagaan yang lebih luas. Penyertaan kedua-dua organisasi pada program tersebut bukan saja memberi kesedaran malah membuka peluang kepada mereka untuk berurus niaga dengan Kerajaan.

Kerjasama Unit ePerolehan dan CDC didalam mempromosi dan mencetus kesedaran golongan usahawan adalah usaha yang berterusan kerana penggunaan sistem itu dengan meluas membantu kemajuan ekonomi negara. Program PS GABEM membantu kedua-dua organisasi untuk bertemu secara langsung golongan sasaran yang telah ditentukan.



"KALAU
SUDAH
JODOH
TIDAK
KE MANA."



This time around, eBytes approached two of our commercedotcom colleagues; Suhairy Jusoh and Afidah Kamaruddin who chose their life partners among our co-workers.

The duo shared their experiences married to colleagues and reminisce the sweet memories with their partners that led to them tying the knot.

For Suhairay, working under the same roof with wife Alyah Annour Sharif doesn't restrict his activities or friendship with other colleagues. He, on the other hand, feels that now it is easier for him to share stories and discuss problems at work with his spouse.

To him trust and understanding are very important in a relationship.

"I know my wife since our university days, and I have the heart for her since then. It is a coincidence that we work at the same place and I took the opportunity to take our relationship to the next level", said Suhairay who got married to Alyah in 2008 and is now bestowed with three children.

On the other hand, for Afidah Kamaruddin and her husband, Mohd Rahmat Mohd Kadim, working together meant their conversations revolve more around work even at home.

"I feel it's fun that we work at the same place because we feel very close to each other, however, we can't be too dependent to our spouse especially in terms of work. Our partner should also be independent in some matters", Afidah said.

The mother of twin baby daughters admits that working at the same place as her husband made car-pooling possible and save them on commuting expenses.

Afidah and Mohd Rahmat tied the knot in 2005 after a courtship of less than a year and the happy occasion was also celebrated by their commercedotcom colleagues.



The months of training, conditioning and acclimatisation put the 18 member team of CDC Mt. Kinabalu Climbing Expedition in good stead to conquer the highest mountain in the country. Not content to just scale up the 4,095m peak, the group took the harder route through the Via Ferrata on 16 May 2014.

The team reached the start of their climb at Timpohon Gate at around 9.15am, 15 May. They straight away ascended towards Pendant Hut situated at 3,289m.

The climb started easily, however, the skies opened up halfway through making the steps and boulders along the way treacherously slippery. Plummeting temperatures made the experience tougher for the climbers.

Worse was to come for the team as they experienced first-hand the effect of Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) when everyone was overcome with dizziness, nausea and vomiting. To remedy the situation they had to descend a bit and take a breather.

After about six hours of climbing, the team finally reached Laban Rata and qualified to go through Via Ferrata by virtue of them reaching the place before 4pm for the necessary briefing and dinner. The night was spent at Pendant Hut nearby.

It was an early day for the CDC representatives as by 2.30am, 16 May they had to begin their 2.72km ascent to Low's Peak, the summit of Mt. Kinabalu from Sayat Sayat Gate (3,668m). Although the clamber was more challenging than the day before with steeper climbs done in the dark (illumination was provided only by head lamps) and steeper cliffs plus rain with cold strong winds that made the trek soggy and slippery; all made it to the top within about three hours.

Rejoice was cut short for the team as they had to descend and reach Sayat Sayat Gate at 8am to be on time for the Via Ferrata route; they only had time for a breather, unfurl CDC flags and took snapshots. Via Ferrata is referred to a site where a steel cable running through the length of the climb acts as the basic aid to help climbers ascent.

The Walk the Torq Via Ferrata on Mt. Kinabalu; at 3,776m; is recognised by Guinness World Records as the highest in the world also has iron rungs to lessen the risk of climbers falling the steep and slippery rock face.

After successfully attempting the Via Ferrata, the team ascended to leave Mt. Kinabalu and reached its foot at Timpohon Gate at around 5pm.

It was sheer determination that had brought the team to the top of Mt. Kinabalu. Collaboration among the 18 members laid the foundation for accomplishments they achieved in the expedition.

The climb also symbolises the journey CDC underwent to be where it is now; with ePerolehan, the leader in Government Electronic Procurement provider for the Ministry of Finance, Malaysia. Celebrating its 15 years, the company overcame challenges with strong intrapreneurial skills, fully committed in all undertakings, always do the right things and solid teamwork, values that became the core of how CDC operates.





CDC Conquered Mt. Kinabalu



WHAT IS 5S?



Structurise

Keep needed items and store or dispose of unneeded items.

Systemise

Keep needed items in the correct place for easy and immediate retrieval.

Sanitise

Keep all aspects of the workplace clean.

Standardise

Standardise the best practices in the workplace.

Self-discipline

Maintain and further develop the standards achieved and continue best practice.

Tips: Daily 5S for everyone before Finishing Work

1. Trash the unwanted items from the desk, tray and shelving.
2. Complete the IN or move to KIV (without OUT) Tray. Send documents to their home.
3. Clean desk, shelving & keyboard with slightly wet tissue/cloth; clean monitor screen with tissue + a drop of water.
4. Check daily schedule on "Things to do List" and complete them if feasible.
5. Switch off computer / turn off other switches / close (lock if needed) all cabinets and doors.

For the first time in the company's history, all three division namely; Corporate, Technology and Operations plus Commerce Access Sdn Bhd (CA) gathered together at the programme - CDC 15th Anniversary Team Building. Conducted at Cherengin Hills Convention dan Spa Resort, Janda Baik, Bentong, Pahang it was divided into three sessions on 11 - 12 April, 25 - 26 April and 16 - 17 May 2014 respectively.

The objective of this team building exercise is to reignite our focus while cohesively moving towards from a position of strength, unity and shared values that equip us to face the challenges in moving forward.

The event was a success and everyone revelled in the activities and worked as a team to solve the problems presented by the organiser Equonxo Experience Sdn Bhd led by Lee Zen. Participants were so involved that they showed creativity in coming up with the solutions of solving the challenges.

The participants also showed good bonding with not only to their assigned team mates but also with the rest of the groups. Everyone showed high level of energy, motivation, commitment and collaboration with the spirit of the iCDC values.

The building of trust and being accountable for one another was the highlight of this team building exercise. This was possible because the participant showed the right attitude, skills and knowledge.

The team building facilitator highlighted this at the beginning of each session, with the right attitude, willingness to learn new skills and applying one's knowledge, anything is possible.

Like the saying goes; "The only disability in life is a bad attitude", by Scott Hamilton.

iCDC



Atas dasar keprihatinan dan sifat ikhsan, warga Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd (CDC) melaksanakan tanggungjawab sosial korporat melalui aktiviti kemasyarakatan dan kesukarelaan.

Pada 24 Mei 2014, 18 warga CDC yang diwakili oleh Bahagian Operasi, Government Management menganjurkan program ziarah ke Pusat Jagaan al-Fikrah, Sungai Sekamat, Selangor. Program ini dirancang khas untuk berkongsi hasil kemakmuran syarikat bersempena ulangtahunnya yang ke-15.

Di bawah inisiatif Persatuan Sukan dan Rekreasi Bahagian Operasi (Pesure), Pengerusinya Firdaus Yaacob berkata program ini mampu menjadi platform terbaik untuk warga CDC membentuk jati diri dalam menempuh pelbagai cabaran dalam kejaya dan kehidupan. Ini juga adalah aspek terpenting di dalam mengukur



berbentuk kewangan dan juga keperluan lain seperti keperluan dapur, pakaian, perabot, perkakasan elektrik, pokok hiasan dan lain-lain. Sumbangan disampaikan oleh En Afandi Baba, Naib Presiden Bahagian Operasi, dan En Hafidz Ahmad Zehnun, Naib Presiden Bahagian Korporat kepada Pengerusi Pusat Jagaan Al-Fikrah, Tn Haji Mohd Azmi Mohd Zain.

Sebagai simbolik lawatan, warga CDC telah menanam beberapa batang pokok hiasan. Mereka juga berkesempatan melawat ke kebun dan kawasan ternakan yang diusahakan oleh sukarelawan dan warga Al-Fikrah tersebut.

Secara keseluruhannya, program yang berjalan penuh kemesteraan ini dianggap berjaya melalui wakil CDC yang sentiasa mengamalkan nilai-nilai korporat ICDC yang memupuk kolaborasi demi mencapai objektif yang sama.

Jutaan terima kasih kepada ahli jawatankuasa dan semua yang terlibat dalam menyalurkan sumbangan.



kemahiran berinteraksi dan berkomunikasi dengan segenap lapisan masyarakat yang merupakan salah satu elemen penting dalam kerja harian Bahagian Operasi.

Mengenai pusat jagaan ini, ia ditubuhkan pada Julai 2012 dan diruskan oleh beberapa sukarelawan, manakala bantuan kewangan dihulurkan oleh pihak kerajaan, swasta dan individu prihatin. Sehingga kini seramai 65 penghuni di Al-Fikrah iaitu terdiri daripada warga emas, orang kelainan upaya (OKU) dan anak-anak yatim.

Setiap bulan pusat jagaan ini memperuntukkan sekurang-kurangnya RM30,000 untuk kos pengurusan.

Lawatan CDC ke sini diadakan lebih dari dua jam membolehkan warganya beramah mesra dengan para penghuni disamping menghulurkan bantuan dan sumbangan yang



Sebarang sumbangan lanjut amatlah dialu-alukan dan boleh disalurkan dengan menghubungi Pusat Jagaan Al-Fikrah di talian 03-67330715 atau 016-3359960 (HL Azmi)

Petaling Jaya, 14 March 2014 – In showing appreciation to the teams that won in their category at the Shell Eco-Marathon Asia 2014 held at Luneta Park, Manila, The Philippines on 7 February recently, UiTM (Universiti Teknologi MARA) held a dinner celebrating the success at Shah Alam. The race was a momentous occasion for the university as both squads that participated won their respective category.

As the main sponsor for the UiTM Eco-Planet team, Commerce Dot Com Sdn Bhd (CDCSB), Executive Chairman Syed Azmin Syed Nor was also invited to grace the dinner. Accompanying him was CDCSB Chief Executive Officer, Muzafar Kamal Shahaluddin.

The UiTM Eco-Planet team won the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Urban Concept category while UiTM Eco-Sprint was triumphant in the Fuel Cell Prototype class.

Prior to dinner, advisors to the teams gave their remarks on the successes; the first by Dr. Norhashim Mohd Arshad of the Eco-Sprint squad. He said the victory owed to the hard work and dedication that began from the first Eco-Marathon challenge some four years ago and this year they are reaping the benefits.

Next was Ruwaidy Mat Rasul of the Design and Graphics Faculty, UiTM Melaka; he extolled the team work and collaboration that existed between the Eco-Planet team and his department. The cooperation he reiterated produced a racer that not only met all the necessary specifications but went on to win the competition.

At the end of his speech he also presented his department's proposed design for the next Eco-Marathon race.

YBhg Datok Prof Ir. Dr Ow Chee Sheng; advisor to the Eco-Planet team said during his speech that he encourages students to participate the Eco-Marathon because it is the best way to make them 'market-ready'. It is during such challenges young people can learn to spot mistakes and avoid them in the future.



Next up was Syed Azmin who congratulated both teams for their successes at the race. He experienced first-hand the challenges and obstacles the teams faced; found the race really interesting as he is into green technology and energy.

He further advised the students to continue doing research on green technology and energy as fossil fuel is a depleting source. It is not impossible some years in the future; he added; that RON 92 petrol could fetch RM100 a litre and that would affect the coming generations.

At the end of the programme UiTM Dean of Engineering Faculty handed over a memento to Syed Azmin as a gesture of appreciation.

How to Make Business Meetings Fun



eByter

Let's face it, very few people look forward to attending a business meeting. Depending on the subject and the participants, business meetings can be boring, and bored participants are usually not engaged participants. There are some strategies that meeting planners and managers can use to liven up business meetings, or even to make them fun. When your meetings are fun, your employees and colleagues are more likely to look forward to attending them and to participate to the best of their abilities.

Instructions

1. Play games. Start off the meeting with a fun ice-breaking game, preferably one that doesn't have anything to do with the agenda of the meeting. The best games provide insight into the meeting participants and inject humor into the meeting room.
2. Provide food. Everyone loves a free meal, and offering a meal or snack during the meeting can loosen everyone up and create a positive feeling.
3. Give everyone a small toy to play with. Even adults like toys, and tossing a rubber ball during a brainstorming session can help keep the ideas flowing and help everyone get a turn to speak. Modeling clay, toy cars, building blocks and other inexpensive toys can help meeting participants loosen up and have fun.
4. Incorporate celebration into the meeting. Celebrate the conclusion of a successful project, a new client or even an employee's personal milestone. Serve Starbucks coffee or simply offer a round of applause; the idea is to acknowledge the positive and build goodwill.
5. Take the meeting outside. Moving outside the regular meeting room can help get ideas flowing and help the participants think creatively.
6. Ask your employees what they think would make the meetings more fun. You might get answers like "Fewer meetings" or "Shorter meetings," but you also might get some good ideas about what your employees actually want.
7. Take a break. Sometimes just stopping the business portion of the meeting and taking a quick stretch break can make a meeting less tedious.

How to Make Business Meetings Fun



eByter

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How to Encourage Kids to Read

Reading skills are critical for preschool learning and childhood development, but sadly, many of today's kids would rather watch television or play a video game than read a book. Getting your kids to read can be a challenge, but with the use of quality children's books, it doesn't have to be an insurmountable one.



1

The first step to read to your child at an early age. Many people have fond memories of their parents reading them bedtime stories, and reading to your child will help foster a love of words and reading.



2

Fill your child's room with books. Kids who grow up with books all around them learn to think of books as friends, and allies in their pursuit of adventure and learning.



Van ePerolehan telah menjadi tumpuan oleh pihak Majlis Bandaraya Johor Bahru (MBJB) dalam usaha mereka untuk mengimplimentasikan kaedah yang sama terhadap kenderaan penyediaan perkhidmatan mereka.

Warga MBJB yang terdiri daripada enam orang para pegawai itu telah mengadakan tinjauan tersebut semasa menghadiri Program Kembara Kebajikan 1 Malaysia Family Care yang turut diadakan bersama dengan program Pusat Transformasi Komuniti Bergerak (Mobile CTC) di Pagoh, Johor pada 5 April lalu.

Selain van ePerolehan, wakil MBJB tersebut turut melawat kenderaan bergerak daripada pihak Suruhanjaya Syarikat Malaysia (SSM), Jabatan Pengangkutan Jalan (JPJ), Lembaga Penduduk dan Pembangunan Keluarga Negara (LPPKN) serta Kementerian Kewangan Malaysia.

Bukan hanya bertujuan membawa perkhidmatan kepada orang ramai semata-mata, tetapi penyertaan kaunter bergerak kali ini adalah sebagai sokongan terhadap merencanakan program dibawah anjuran Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat.

Justeru, majlis perasmianya telah disempurnakan oleh Timbalan Perdana Menteri, YAB. Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yang juga merangkap Ahli Parlimen Pagoh. Turut hadir ialah YB Dato' Sri Rohani Abdul Karim, Menteri Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat.

Lebih 2,000 orang hadir menjayakan program ini iaitu mereka yang terdiri daripada wakil agensi badan sukarela, pemimpin tempatan, wakil agensi kerajaan serta masyarakat setempat.

Antara aktiviti yang diadakan sepanjang hari tersebut ialah klinik kaunseling, pemeriksaan kesihatan percuma dan aktiviti kanak-kanak.





Congratulations to our 14 runners from commercedotcom who competed at the Brooks Run to Live Half Marathon 2014 . It was held on Sunday, 9 March 2014 at Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur.

More than 4,000 participants competed in the event that includes foreign runners of various countries.

It was no small feat for our 7 guys and 7 girls running colleagues who all completed the 10 Km category. The run was flagged off at 5:50 am.

The first of our runners, Muhamad Hadziq Ramzan broke the tape at around 7:00 am with a time of 1 hour 9 minutes which placed him 185 among 1,784 participants in the category. The last of our colleague reach the end of the race at about an hour later.

All of them received a medal and certificate each. We at commercedotcom greatly appreciate our colleagues' efforts at the run.

Participating in the run clearly shows that commercedotcom is not in dearth of able and capable people in its ranks. Running a 10 km race is tough that needs full commitment that extolls the spirit of I, CDC and is already strongly ingrained in our daily working lives. The quality can spur our inner strength to excel in all endeavours we take part.

iCDC



SEJARAH KALENDAR ISLAM


Permulaan penggunaan Kalendar Tahun Hijrah / Hijriah adalah hasil dari ilham Khalifah Ar-Rasyidin yang kedua iaitu Saiyidina Umar Al-Khattab radhiyallahu `anhu. Ini adalah turutan dari Kesatuan Arab yang ditubuhkan di bawah naungan Islam pada zamannya.

Ada satu riwayat lain yang mengatakan bahawa Gabenor Abu Musa Al-As'ari telah mengirinkan surat kepada Saidina Umar r.a minta beliau menjelaskan tentang tahun bagi tarikh surat/arahan Umar yang telah dihantar kepadanya. Maka dengan ini beliau (Umar r.a) mahukan satu kalendar / taqvim Islam yang khas untuk menggantikan tahun rujukan kalendar yang berbagai-bagai yang digunakan oleh bangsa-bangsa Arab dan bangsa-bangsa lain pada zaman itu.

Di kalangan bangsa Arab sendiripun ada berbagai-bagai kalendar yang digunakan seperti Kalendar Tahun Gajah, Kalendar Persia, Kalendar Romawi dan kalendar-kalendar lain yang berasal dari tahun peristiwa-peristiwa besar Jahiliah. Maka Umar telah memilih tahun yang terdapat di dalamnya peristiwa paling agung dalam sejarah Rasullullah s.a.w untuk dijadikan asas permulaan tahun pertama bagi kiraan kalendar / taqvim Islam.

Peristiwa tersebut adalah peristiwa hijrah Rasullullah saw dari Makkah ke Madinah. Ini adalah kerana dengan hijrah inilah permulaan pertolongan Allah kepada RasulNya dan agama Islam ditegakkan. Hasil dari itu, Kesatuan Arab lebih sistematik, bersatu dan tersusun serta mendapat berbagai-bagai kejayaan besar dan bertambah kuat hasil dari pilihan Umar itu.

Di antara kejayaan besar Islam waktu itu ialah kerajaan Kisra dapat ditumbangkan, Baitul Muqaddis dibebaskan dari Rom dan Masjidil Aqsa dibangunkan. Setelah Umar membandingkan kalendar tersebut dengan kalendar-kalendar Persia dan Romawi, didapati bahawa kalendar ini ternyata lebih baik. Maka dengan itu Umar mengisytiharkan Kalendar Tahun Hijrah adalah Kalendar / Taqvim Islam yang rasmi.



*so, verily, with hardship, there is relief.
Verily, with hardship, there is relief
[Surah Ash-Sharh 5-6]*