



Teaching women business skills

AID: The Caltex Sew4Life skills training and entrepreneurship programme trained 27 poor women from Lembah Subang to help them earn higher incomes

IT was a defining moment for 27 mothers from the lower income group when they successfully completed the Caltex Sew4Life skills training and entrepreneurship programme recently.

The programme is a joint effort by Chevron Malaysia Ltd and MyKasih Foundation.

Caltex Sew4Life is a five-month community project aimed at empowering women with new skills to acquire financial stability through weekly workshops conducted by MyKasih Foundation.

The women are from Lembah Subang, and are either sole breadwinners of their families or have many dependants.

To kick off the programme, Chevron contributed RM54,000 to MyKasih Foundation, which included start-up loans for women who show promise as entrepreneurs.

Loans would be paid back to MyKasih Foundation to fund new trainees to make the programme self-sustaining.

According to Chevron Malaysia Ltd country chairman Jeremy Oh,

the programme has been successful in terms of achieving self-sustainability and community savings in many areas.

"The programme provides enterprising women with relevant skills in order to obtain higher incomes," he said.

Chairman and co-founder of MyKasih Foundation Dr Ngau Boon Keat thanked Chevron for its support.

"This collaboration between Chevron and MyKasih is a reflection of our common objective to improve the well-being of the productive poor through skills training and income-generation projects," said Ngau.

"I hope the success of this programme will inspire more organisations and individuals to devote their time and resources in helping the underprivileged. I hope MyKasih's welfare recipients will seize this opportunity to carve a better future for themselves and their families," added Ngau.

The current trainees also man-

aged to raise funds for future trainees through the sale of their works in the *Driving Change with Caltex* reality TV show project last month in which celebrities Henry Golding and Andrea Fonseka used their influence and contacts to raise RM309,725 in three days towards the MyKasih Foundation.

As part of the graduation ceremony, the trainees also had a one-day display and sale of selected products at Menara Milenium, Pusat Bandar Damansara, while their other products will be sold on the MyKasih Foundation website.

Caltex Sew4Life is powered by Chevron's Energy for Learning global initiative. The initiative aims to support learning-based programmes, which help people acquire knowledge, gain new skills or be exposed to different ways of thinking. It targets groups who do not have the opportunity to benefit from mainstream education.

For more information on Caltex Sew4Life and how to support the community, visit www.mykasih.com.my.



Graduates of Caltex Sew4Life selling their products at the Menara Milenium lobby.