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## ISKUL SAMA DILAUT OMADAL

*To build young leaders among the local community  
(Malaysian citizen and stateless) through holistic education*



**Iskul E-News | April 2023**

Dear <<First Name>> ,

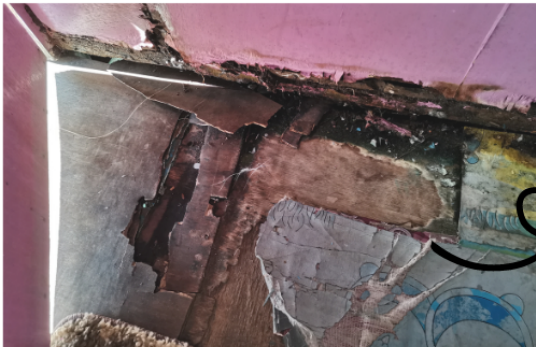
**Selamat Hari Raya! We hope you've had a good holiday season; Here's a small update on what we've been up to recently.**

At the end of 2022, we were proud to be awarded the Star Golden Hearts Award, one of ten winners selected from over 700 nominees. In a positive twist, we were cherry-picked from the ten winners for the Gamuda Inspiration Award (GIA); a RM120,000 grant, to go towards the sustenance of our school and efforts towards the people of Omadal Island. In December, this money was put to use; Pondok Iskul was fitted out with a new roof and flooring. The bridge leading to the school also got an upgrade, through a group effort by the stateless Bajau Laut community and Malaysians on the island. This inflation of our resources also allowed us to welcome new members to our team - the campaigns we run take up more energy than such a small team could handle, and this expansion takes some of the weight off our shoulders so we can avoid burnout and keep at our work! The means that these awards have given us have made a vast difference, and cemented our confidence in the impact that is made by every bit of support that comes our way. Click [here](#) to read the article on our win!

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Recognition such as this is what keeps us going, giving us the resources we need to continue our work. And it is very much in thanks to you that we are given these opportunities. Your support goes a long way, even if it is simply in sharing our story.

**Here's A Video By The Star On Our Work At Iskul!**

### Here's a rundown of what we've been up to on Omadal Island

- A big update we've been waiting to tell you about is our collaboration with Reef Check Malaysia on the 'Pejuang Laut' marine program. Through the initiative, carried out with funding efforts by the UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), we aimed to do two things; to educate the children in regards to marine awareness, resulting in modern knowledge that will help them take better care of their waters, and the marine life that inhabits them, and also to learn from

about the waters that they live in and above.



- We've piloted a waste management system, providing an avenue for 35 households on Omodal Island to have their plastic trash disposed of to Semporna town. Families in these rural parts of Sabah have long had to make do with no organised waste management system, a lack of facility which results in improper disposal that is harmful to both the residents and their waters. This initiative is also funded by UNDP SGP.
- The Iskul mini clinic also continues to provide first aid services to the stateless communities living on the island. Healthcare is a long standing concern that we battle on many fronts, and besides regularly run campaigns, accessible clinics are a vital beginning to addressing it. Our ability to run this clinic is currently financed by the goodwill of regular donors like you!
- Our team recently welcomed three new members: Cikgu Ayu who will be based on Omodal Island as a teacher, our new project manager Sazni, and Lalitha as our communications Intern.

One last bit of good news this month: our YouTube channel has taken off! Thanks to the funding from UNDP SGP, we train 10 youth to create content and make videos. We are officially a YouTube partner, which means that our channel is now a financial stream for us! So we call on you once again, to share our content with all your friends to get the word out - every person who watches even one video will be contributing to our work, and making sure we can continue doing what we do.

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On that note, we have several exciting things planned for this year, the most enticing of which has to be the resumption of the Pejuang Laut modules which will teach our students about marine life and the sea, give them the opportunity to learn to SCUBA dive, and involve them in marine related projects. This project is further supported by the NDI grant.

We also have lined up mental health training for both the Iskul team and our students, continuation of our basic literacy classes with 2 meals for 35 students (supported by Yayasan Hasanah Special Grant 2.0), and the onboarding of 15 new students in evening classes(funded by the GIA).

We look forward to writing to you soon with more updates on some of these projects; thank you for being with us on this journey!

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In case you missed it: for a more detailed look into our prior progress and activity, you can take a look at our report for the 2020-2021 year.

**[Download Our 2020-2021 Progress Report Here!](#)**

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### We at Iskul thank you for your time and support. Magsukul!

Your support is what keeps us going. The updates we get to bring to you happen largely in part because of you, and like minded people who see our cause as worthy. If you would like to help us continue to do this work, click on the link below to make a donation. Every little bit means the most to us!

**[Donate Towards Building Young Leaders on Omodal Island!](#)**

With gratitude this season,  
Iskul Team

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Follow our social media for more real-time updates!



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