



砂拉越華文獨立中學董事會聯合總會
The Sarawak United Association of Private
Chinese Secondary School Management Board

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**The Sarawak United Association of
Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board
Press Statement
25 August 2022**

**PRESENTATION OF RM10 MILLION EDUCATION
GRANT TO SARAWAK INDEPENDENT CHINESE
SECONDARY SCHOOLS BY PREMIER OF SARAWAK**

1. The Right Honourable Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak, presented the education grant of RM10 million to The Sarawak United Association of Private Chinese Secondary School Management Board at the Premier Office at 3:00pm, 25th August 2022. This is the 9th allocation of education grant by the Sarawak Government to the 14 Independent Chinese Secondary Schools (ICSS) in Sarawak.
2. Since the first allocation of RM3 million grant in 2014, the 14 Independent Chinese Secondary Schools have been receiving financial aid from Sarawak Government every year with an annual increment of RM1 million – RM4 million in 2015, RM5 million in 2016, RM6 million in 2017, RM7 million in 2018, RM8 million in 2019, RM9 million in 2020, and RM10 million in 2021. The total allocation of grant in the last 8 consecutive years is RM52 million. We are grateful towards both the Right Honourable Premier and Sarawak Government for recognizing the positive contribution of Chinese Education in the development of the state and the country, and continuously supporting our endeavor by allocating annual financial grants and other educational resources to the Chinese Schools.
3. With the change in environment and globalization, particularly in a multi-racial, multi-cultural and multi-religious country like Malaysia, adopting open policies including education is wise and realistic. Although independent Chinese secondary schools are not a part of the nation's mainstream education, they share the same noble objectives of all National (SMK) and National-type (SMJK) secondary schools in Malaysia to provide quality education and have been playing a shared-role in the country's development and nation building. It is therefore our appeal to the Federal Government that the independent Chinese secondary schools to be treated equally and share the same national resources as other secondary schools in the country.
4. Being private schools, independent Chinese secondary schools do not receive funding from the Federal Government. The main source of income for these schools is generated through donations from the private sector and the public, a small part from the school fees.

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Almost all independent Chinese secondary schools incurred huge deficits. The operating of the 14 Independent Chinese Secondary Schools in Sarawak has incurred a total operational expenses of around RM35 million annually, of which about RM10 million are supported by sundry collections and donations from the public and Chinese community. In other words, the schools are running on deficits totaling to about RM25 million every year. The annual educational grant by the Sarawak Government is an opportune help to the 14 Independent Chinese Secondary Schools in relieving the financial burden, especially to those schools with low enrollments.

According to a statistic published by the Association dated July 2022, it is found out that there are 7,281 students enrolled in Sarawak Independent Chinese Secondary Schools in 2022, non-ethnic Chinese students comprised around 3.02% of the students, and there are 510 teaching staff.

5. During the presentation of the RM9 million education fund on 9th June 2020, the Right Honourable Chief Minister of Sarawak (title restyled to the Premier of Sarawak in February 2022) Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg recommended setting aside part of the education grant as the employee benefits for Chinese Independent Secondary Schools, instead of utilising all on the school development, facilities and infrastructure upgrade or operational expenses. This signifies the importance the Right Honourable Premier places on Chinese education and the vital roles he sees the Independent Chinese Secondary Schools and their employees play in moving the country's educational excellence well into the future. RM633,950 was granted to a total number of 620 employees of Sarawak Independent Chinese Secondary Schools in 2020. RM647,900 was granted to 633 employees in 2021.
6. Operating as private schools with no funding from the Federal Government, independent Chinese secondary schools need to collect school fees from the students to keep the schools running. However, to ensure affordable education, school fees collected are quite minimal. However, for those who enroll in Independent Chinese Secondary Schools and are financially not well off, we do provide various kind of assistance.
7. There is still a lot that needs to be achieved and with so many progressive changes happening in Sarawak, we hope that the Chinese communities and the Sarawak Government would continue to work together to pursue a comprehensive recognition of UEC (Unified Examination Certificate) throughout Malaysia.
8. All these years, the Chinese Community has been taking upon themselves the responsibility to sustain the Independent Chinese Secondary Schools in Sarawak and contributing their efforts relentlessly towards the development of Independent Chinese Secondary Schools. This is especially true in constructing new infrastructure and improving the existing facilities of the schools. We wish to acknowledge the relentless support and contributions of the Chinese Community as we continue our journey preserving and developing vernacular education as part of academic advancement in the country.