KUALA LUMPUR: As one of its initiatives to support education, Affin Bank Berhad and Affin Islamic Bank Berhad contributed RM4.5 million from its Zakat funds to Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) to build an Islamic Student Centre.

This commercial Islamic Student Centre, which is called "Kompleks At-tijarah Affin-UiTM", is located strategically at the main entrance of UiTM Puncak Alam Campus. With an estimated building space of 2,665.44 sq ft, the centre will be divided into four main components, which are Social Welfare Centre "Rukhsah", Food and Drinks, "Dakwah" Centre and Health Centre. This facility with the four components is designed to aid the students into becoming better Muslims.

The Islamic Student Centre will be opened to the students of UiTM and the general public as both commercial and spiritual centres. Overall, the centre will have a total of 36 units allocated for students' accommodation, "Musolla" for prayers, food court, restaurants, banks, other retail and commercial outlets. The units allocated for commercial outlets will be rented to interested parties and the proceeds from the rental will be channeled to the UiTM Endowment Fund, which will subsequently be distributed to all deserving UiTM students.

"The Zakat contribution is our way to assist the students in getting better access to education and to further support the university's campus development. The contribution will also help the university to have a dedicated Islamic centre for students to gather and conduct spiritual activities that benefit them and the public," says Dato' Zulkiflee Abbas bin Abdul Hamid, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Affin Bank, when presenting the RM4.5 million Zakat contribution to the Vice Chancellor of UiTM, Tan Sri Dato’ Sri Prof. IR. Dr. Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar, FASc at the ‘Majlis Malam Simfoni Kasih’ event held at Dewan Agung Tuanku Canselor (DATC), UiTM, Shah Alam.

At the event, Affin Islamic also presented an additional RM150,000 Zakat contribution to Tabung Zakat UiTM (UiTM Endowment Funds) to assist deserving students to finance their education needs at the university. The contribution was presented by Encik Kamarul Ariffin Mohd Jamil, Chief Executive Officer of Affin Islamic.

Tabung Zakat UiTM is an organization established within UiTM to manage Zakat funds received from financial institutions and other organisations for the benefit of the university and students' education according to Shariah principles. The Zakat contribution by Affin Bank and Affin Islamic will be used to further enhance the well being of students through education, social welfare activities and to develop the mental and spiritual strength of the students.

"Affin Bank and Affin Islamic have always worked closely with UiTM to support the welfare of the students. Therefore, these Zakat contributions today are part of our initiatives that are carried out for their benefit and to show the Bank’s commitment to propel the country’s education development," says Encik Kamarul.

Affin Bank and Affin Islamic started contributing to students’ education since 2011 and to-date, a total of RM8.95 million has been contributed for education development. These contributions are the Bank’s way of giving back to the community, and for Affin Islamic, it will help the poor and needy students which are part of “asnaf.”